

NEWTOWN NEWS

***NĀ TE WHARE HAPORI O NEWTOWN / BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE***



***PIPIRI / JUNE 2022
MATARIKI EDITION***

***TŌ KOUTOU MAKAHINI HAPORI: MŌ NEWTOWN,
NĀ NGĀ TĀNGATA O NEWTOWN /
YOUR COMMUNITY ZINE: FOR NEWTOWN, BY NEWTOWNERS***

KIA ORA NEWTOWN

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on the past

Kia ora tātou,

Ngā mihi o te tau hou - happy new year! Matariki is the true new year of Aotearoa, marking the change of seasons from hōtoke / winter to koanga /spring. It's a time of reflection - remembering loved ones who have passed on; as well as a time of looking forward to the year to come. I think the whakataukī above, which is used by some to mark Matariki, really shows that Matariki kaupapa - remembering the past while moving into the future mindfully.

This Matariki period, I'd particularly like to honour all of those in our community who have were lost to Covid this year, but of course, it's a time to remember all of our losses. Today, I'm thinking about my friend's wonderful mum who died recently. She brought so much light, joy and laughs to many peoples' lives, in Newtown and much more widely. Ngā mihi mahana to the awesome people at Newtown's Mary Potter Hospice who made the last days easier for her and her whānau.

With this all in mind, I'm aiming to keep my eyes firmly fixed on the past when moving into this new year - whether that's taking extra Covid precautions for the vulnerable in our community, taking care of a friend, or cracking a joke or two.

Finally, you might see some te reo Māori words in this issue (and the Newtown News generally!) if you don't understand them, I really encourage you to crack open the awesome resource that is Te Aka / Māori Dictionary! maoridictionary.co.nz

Ngā mihi,

Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz / 04 389 4786

Cover image: Photo of Newtown 'Kotahitanga' / togetherness mural by local legend Kerb - check out his work at bit.ly/3agll6g . Editing support from Harriet Margolis - thanks!

Thanks for the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support 'em back!



Could this be your business?! We're looking for a new sponsor for the Newtown News. Contact me (details above)

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Notorious NEWZowner

BRONWYN AND KAT MET ON ZOOM TO KŌRERO MATARIKI & NEWTOWN

Ki te taha tōku whaea,
Nō Airani, nō Inarangi tōku tīpuna,
Ki te taha tōku matua,
He uri nō Tūwharetoa,
Ko Pīhanga, ko Tongariro hoki ngā
maunga,
Ko Taupo-nui-a-Tia te Moana,
Ko Ngāti Tūrangituku, ko Ngāti
Turumakina hoki ngā hapū,
Ko Ngāti Tūwharetoa te iwi.

Kat Tamaira's mother's family are from Ireland and England. Her father belongs to Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Tūrangitukua township and Waihi village. Kat has lived in Wellington for close to 21 years, and has spent half of that time in Newtown. She's had five different flats across both sides of the valley and currently lives on Adelaide Road, but her favourite is Coromandel Street: great trees, great houses and views from both ends.

Kat's mahi is in Thorndon, at the Alexander Turnbull Library. Her role as 'Research Librarian - Māori' is to make items accessible for the public, with a focus on Taonga Māori (precious Māori items). She works with all sorts of pieces, from Te Reo memes to early photographs and letters. Kat advises on Kaupapa Māori (Māori practices), and has worked with Iwi to support them to develop their own Whare Tāonga, places to hold significant photos and documents. She works with some pretty special pieces, including photographs of the Kapa Haka performance festival which became Te Matatini, photos from the first official Waitangi Celebration, and photos of Newtown during the Springbok tour. Kat also enjoys caring for items from across the Pacific - as she says, we are a Pacific nation too.

When she's not working, Kat dabbles in pottery and gardening, and likes watching dogs run up and down Lyall Bay beach. She also tries to keep up her

Te Reo Māori, and likes reading, though she says she doesn't read as much as a librarian should.

She spends a lot of time at the Newtown Library and the op-shops and reckons it's cool how we have a bit of a nightlife here too. In Kat's opinion the best things about Newtown are the cooking smells and music floating from peoples' back yards, and the different languages heard on the street, including Te Reo Māori. She's been stoked to hear more and more Reo Māori over the time she's lived here.

While she's not sure what she'll do for Matariki this year, Kat thinks it's a good time to eat together and remember those who have passed. One thing she loves about Matariki is that it's so local throughout Aotearoa. Different places celebrate different stars and they signify different things - it's all about responding to your own environment. It's important that we hold on to those differences, she says, we don't all have to be the same, we just need to not find other people's differences a problem.



TANGATA TIRITI

BY ZOE HIGGINS

Kia ora Newtown! Hope you all are staying warm and connected as we get close to Matariki. Part of my Matariki season this year is working on a project to help more people get information about the Treaty of Waitangi and the history of Aotearoa.

I work with an organisation called Tangata Tiriti – Treaty People. Our kaupapa is ‘The Treaty is for Everyone’ – we believe it’s important for everyone in Aotearoa to understand the Treaty and the relationships in it. The Treaty affirms the mana and sovereignty of Māori, and it also makes a place for other people to come here and live. Tangata Tiriti provides workshops and resources about the Treaty. We particularly work with groups who’ve migrated recently to New Zealand. (One of our current projects is working with volunteer translators to make Treaty resources in thirteen different languages!)

Pretty soon, our organisation will be printing an Easy Read book about the Treaty of Waitangi. Easy Read is a type of resource that uses simple English and illustrations to give a straightforward, easy-to-understand explanation of a topic. We made a first version of the book two years ago with help from IHC, and also translated it into New Zealand Sign Language. The book was so popular that school teachers and other educators started asking us about it. We decided to work on developing a new version – which is now ready to print, woohoo!

With the Aotearoa Histories curriculum launching, it’s really important that teachers and students have access to high-quality and accessible resources about the Treaty. These kinds of resources aren’t widely available, which is why teachers and learners have been really excited when they’ve seen sample copies of the Easy Read book. We want to resource families, learners, and educators to grow their knowledge and relationships in order to be part of a movement for transformational change towards honouring the Treaty. That way, Aotearoa can become a country where the mana of tangata whenua is upheld, and where all people feel a sense of belonging.



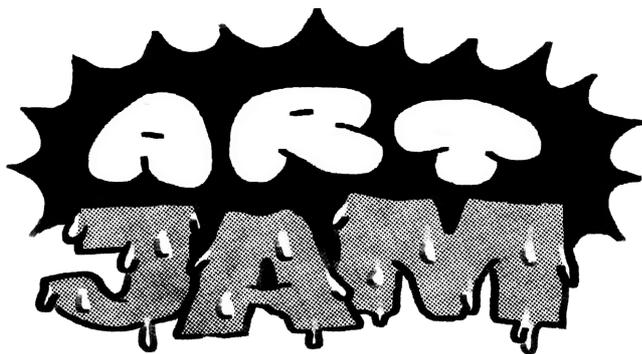
The Easy Read Book about the Treaty of Waitangi is being crowd-funded – if you’re interested in finding out more about it, or about Tangata Tiriti – Treaty People, you can go to the website www.treatypeople.org

COMMUNITY CENTRE RENOVATIONS UPDATE!

As you (hopefully) already know - the main community centre (corner of Colombo & Rintoul Streets) is currently being renovated and we're camping out at 2a Green Street. (Come visit us!) The renos were due to be finished in March ... then September ... and now we've heard that it **SHOULD** be done by end of November.



These have all been very understandable delays. First, the crew discovered that the sloped floor in the theatre actually extended much further back - trickier to remove!! Next, the crew found that there was a little more extensive fire damage than expected (the centre had a big ol' fire back in 1970). And of course people from the building crew have needed to isolate - thanks, Covid. We still hope for an opening in 2022, but we'll keep you updated! The pic above shows the gutted centre - weird eh! You can see more pics, updates and video walkthroughs at bit.ly/OurTownNewtown.



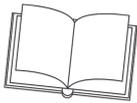
Do you remember **ART JAM**? It was the epic moving-out party we threw at the old centre back in May 2021! We filled the centre with art installations, artworks for sale, pop up gigs, cultural performances and a closing karakia from local iwi.

There were even jam-based snacks - to fit with the name 😊 - and we showcased the exciting plans for the new centre. Local mural and graffiti artists painted all over those walls due to be demo'd! It was a hectic-fun way to say goodbye to the building - to open up every nook and cranny, every door - for our community to be able to see and understand the scope of the project. It was an epic weekend and our former artist in residence - Mirella Moschella (www.miraamire.com) put a video together for us to remember it. Check it out on Youtube at bit.ly/39Fexys

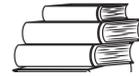
MATARIKI QUIZ

1. In places where Matariki is not visible some iwi use a different star to signal te tau hou (the new year). What is it called?
2. Back in 2020, around Matariki season, a whale delighted Wellingtonians by visiting for several weeks. He was named Matariki to honour the new year! What species of whale was Matariki? (1 point for English, 1 point for Te Reo Māori!)
3. The constellation Matariki is called the Seven Sisters in England and has other names across the world. What car brand is named after Matariki in a different language?
4. The stars of Matariki are said to be the eyes of an atua (Māori god) who threw their eyes into the sky in anger when Papatuanuku and Ranginui were separated - thus forming the cluster. Which atua was it?

FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



Puanga, The star of the Māori new year.

Nā, Sam. T Rerekura

Library link: bit.ly/3NJc2Kv

Review by Te Atawhai Scott, illustration
by Milly Hampton

This pukapuka is such a taonga, I didn't know where to begin my review. Tuatahi, the use of archival photographs and resources in this pukapuka is outstanding.

Puanga, The star of the Māori New Year is about Puanga's

historical importance for Māori. Puanga (aka Rigel) not only marks the beginning of Matariki. In Te Ao Māori he is believed to be Matariki's older brother.



Opening this pukapuka together with my māmā was the beginning of a beautiful night sharing stories and matauranga from the pukapuka and from my māmā. My hopes for this Matariki are for tangata whenua and all people of New Zealand to have time sharing matauranga with your whānau and loved ones around you. This book is an ode to the legacy of our Tīpuna, and to the precision of their readings of the stars that correlate to our life on the whenua.

TOFU WITH BRONWYN!

It's time for the third and final installment of 'Tofu with Bronwyn' - we hope you're feeling excited and inspired to work with tofu by now! Check out the last two Newtown Newses for the previous recipes - bit.ly/newtownnews

MEXICAN TOFU MINCE!

INGREDIENTS

2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL

2 TABLESPOONS SOY SAUCE

1 TABLESPOON SMOKED PAPRIKA

2 TEASPOONS GROUND CUMIN

2 TEASPOONS GROUND CORIANDER

½ TEASPOON CHILLI POWDER OR A

SPLASH OF CHILLI SAUCE

1 PACK OF TOFU

1 - Heat oven to 200 degrees. Put everything except the tofu in a bowl and mix well. Drain the tofu and pat dry.

2- Crumble the tofu into the bowl with the marinade, using your hands to squish the chunks of tofu into small pieces. The pieces don't need to be super even in size - it should look a bit like scrambled eggs. Mix the tofu with the sauce so it is well coated.

3 - Spread tofu out on a greased tray (or use a reusable baking mat) and cook for approx 20 minutes, stopping half way through to give it a stir, mixing the crispier tofu at the edges with the softer stuff in the middle. If you like it really crunchy, leave in the oven for a bit longer. This is great in a taco or wrap!



after I had a cycling accident opposite the hospital. It was much appreciated. (And it was safely parked up in an entrance way when my partner located it.)

I had surgery on my finger, but am slowly on the mend. I would also like to thank the amazing staff at Wellington Hospital who do such a fantastic job. I feel very fortunate to live in such a kind and caring community, with superb friends and whānau who are also helping us out. Arohanui, Shazza x"

MATARIKI QUIZ ANSWERS!

1-Puanga is the star that marks the new year where Matariki is not visible. 2-Matariki was a tohora, or a southern right whale. 3-Subaru, is the Japanese name for the Matariki cluster. If you look at the car logo, you'll see stars in it! 4-Tāwhirimātea, the atua of the weather. The word 'matariki' is actually a contraction of 'Nga Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea' - 'the eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea'. Read more here: bit.ly/3ND43p0

WHAT'S THE HAPP'S?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2A GREEN ST

Matariki Memories for the Newtown Time Capsule! Tues 28th June, 6-7.30pm

Come and mark Matariki, the new year of Aotearoa, by sharing kai, reflecting on the year past and bringing something for the Newtown Time Capsule. So bring along something - a picture, an object, a letter - that encapsulates Newtown for you, or your experience in Newtown. We'll be putting together a small zine of Matariki reflections to go into the time capsule as well, to mark it finally being a public holiday! Vegetarian dinner provided. Find out more at bit.ly/3MnvVFY or call 04 389 4786.

Free Soup Fridays - Fridays 1pm

Everyone in the community is welcome to a free veggie soup lunch each Friday!! Come along to warm up on these wintry days. Any questions? Call 04 389 4786.

NEWTOWN HALL

Everybody Dance Newtown - Mondays, 5.30-6.30pm

This \$2 dance class is for EVERYONE! Because we believe everyone can be a dancer! So come along, learn some moves and have some fun in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. Dance style is going to be hip hop for the next couple of months! More details at bit.ly/3Mn56BK or call 04 389 4786.

AT SMART NEWTOWN, 9-11 CONSTABLE STREET

Word Essentials class - Wednesday, 15th June, 9.30-11.30am

This free class teaches you the basics of Microsoft Word, such as how to create a document, select text and change paragraph alignment. Email smartnewtown@gmail.com or visit bit.ly/3xnPUAf to sign up

Intro to Spreadsheets - Wednesday, 22nd June, 9.30-11.30am

A free introduction to Microsoft Excel. Learn how to manipulate spreadsheets, enter data and make simple formulas. Sign up by emailing smartnewtown@gmail.com or at bit.ly/3xnPUAf

ELSEWHERE

Kaicycle - Together We Grow film screening. Saturday 11th June, 4pm.

A fundraiser for Newtown's urban farm! Join them for an afternoon tea and screening of an inspiring doco about the Hutt Valley's Common Unity Project. If you're a really keen bean you can even join for the AGM at 3pm. More details and tickets at bit.ly/3tikBnJ

Ahi Kā - Matariki on the waterfront - 23-26th June, 6-9pm

Council are putting on an immersive experience for Matariki - wander the waterfront to see fire, performances, projections and storytelling! More info at bit.ly/3GVJ5ZA

GET IN TOUCH