

Newtown News



Workers'
Rights
edition

Brought
to you
by the
Newtown
Community
Centre

Your free community zine:
For Newtown,
by Newtowners.

Whiringa-ā-nuku

/ October 2020

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora e te whānau -

Woohoo, level 1! Long may it last! Let's keep up the hand-washing, the contact tracing and the staying home if we're sick this time though.

Covid-19 was a big inspiration for the theme of this Newtown News, which is **Workers' Rights** (also because Labour Day falls in Whiringa-ā-Nuku / October!). I think we all feel very thankful to the essential workers who kept Newtown (and Aotearoa) running, while many of us were working from home. Luckily for me, I only had to go to the supermarket a couple of times during lockdown - but holy moly I felt so much anxiety each time. I gloved up, masked up, jumped in the shower when I got home, wiped down all my groceries. If the anxiety I felt was even a SMIDGE of what those workers felt, I'm amazed any of them are still working / not just having constant panic attacks. It makes me pretty angry that their work, despite being so totally essential, is paid so relatively little.

If reckon if we thought about it more deeply, most of us would call for compensation for those workers, a Living Wage for all, Universal Basic Income and...in fact, just smashing capitalism ALTOGETHER. (For anyone reading this and saying "oh but capitalism is how it's always been, there's no alternative" - it's a system that's literally a couple of hundred years old. We made it. We can get rid of it.)

I love that we have a viable alternative to capitalism in this issue - Timebanking! And the Workers' Rights kaupapa is really explored through our cover art & accompanying artist statement from Jack Warren, some inspiring words from the Living Wage campaign, poetry and a history of work in Newtown.

Kia kaha e ngā kaimahi - all strength to the workers!

Ngā mihi, Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Cover photography by Jack Warren (see artist statement later in the issue!)

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



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre.

Notorious NEWTowner

Ellie and Kerb met in Black Coffee to talk graffiti, arts, community & (of course) Newtown!

You might not personally know graffiti artist Kerb, but if you've ever been to Newtown (and probs you have, if you're reading this!), you WILL know his work. Born and raised in Newtown, with whakapapa to iwi Te Āti Awa and hapū Puketapu, Kerb is Newtown all over - and he is all over Newtown! You'll spot his murals at Newtown Hall; Te Ara Hou flats; Carrara Park; Mechanical Tempest; Millward Lane and more (and keep an eye out for a new one on the side of Jimmy's Shoes in the next few months!)



Bold, bright and sometimes neon, you can see that Kerb's love of graffiti and art was born out of 80s comics and sci-fi, and his background in hop-hop music, culture and dance. He still DJs regularly at MOON (fortnightly at 'Good Taste Selector') and donates his time to running workshops for young people to learn street art, music and dance skills. His hope for his street art is that "people can take away something positive for their day by seeing it - on their way home, on the bus - just something to break the mundane everyday grind."

Other inspirations are causes like the environment, indigneous/civil rights and police brutality - all of which comes out in his work. The inspiration for his latest series has been 'Manatua Maumahara' (to remember, recall, reminisce) - remembering how the community banded together so well during lockdown. "Less traffic, more time with the family, more aroha for the community and environment".

Over his life here, Kerb has seen big changes in Newtown - for better and worse: "Newtown used to have a bad rep. Now it's the coolest neighbourhood! It's great that it's so eclectic and diverse - it's still often one of the first stops for refugees and migrants when they come to Aotearoa." He loves "the cool artsy stuff happening in Newtown - cafes, pop-up galleries and more all the time - people could start coming to Newtown especially to see all the street art, the murals, the galleries." But - like all of us having to pay increasing rents and watching the building sites pop up all over Newtown - Kerb is worried about gentrification of our 'burb.

His fave (and most nostalgic) spot in Newtown is the corner of Constable and Daniell Street - Te Ara Hou flats where he grew up. "Lots of memories - many generations of my family grew up on that corner." When Kerb is not beautifying our streets, or getting us dancing at MOON, he likes to spend time with his partner (fellow artist Spex1), have a beer in the sun, walk around Newtown's hills and get out into nature. The new Carrara Park mural was Kerb's imagined representation of kids of Newtown. When the kids of the community came out and saw it, they were so excited because it captured them exactly!

Kerb holds up a mirror to Newtown, reflecting us back at ourselves. And what we see is beautiful.



The Timebank

Wellington Timebank is a community of people who share skills and the currency is time rather than money! What an interesting concept, you might remark! Well it is! And that is because it smashes the hierarchy of work that our current societal model adheres to! 'HUUH??' You say!

That's right! We live in a world (fuelled by capitalism) that inequitably values the work that people do, and Timebank takes that concept and questions it, hence why Timebanking is in itself a little revolution!

Timebanking values everybody's work equally, because the measure is Time! Everyone has time to spare, and different skills and knowledge that can be valued equally by banking time. Timebanking can be thought of as inherently feminist as the people who's work we mostly undervalue (societally) is women's work. The Equal Pay Amendment Bill, that was passed in 2018, recognised that in New Zealand, work such as care work, in sectors that predominantly employ women, were (and are) underpaid compared to their male equivalent. Timebanking recognises that people, no matter what their gender identity, background, ability or ethnicity, all have important and valuable skills to offer one another, and these should be valued equally!



"Timebanking smashes the hierarchy of work"



So what can you do as a Timebanker? ANYTHING! What do you like to do? What do you do for your friends, that uses time and energy, but isn't recognised or valued as work? Do you often bake your friends cakes? Drive your friends to their doctors appointments? Pick up rubbish in your neighbourhood? It is time we start to reevaluate what we do and how it is valued! It could be as simple as teaching a neighbour how to compost, and in return having a neighbour cook you a vegan dinner! (paid for in Timecredits + a couple of dollars for those fresh veggies - because, let's face it, we live in a monetary world, and unfortunately, we still can't pay for most material goods with Timecredits! Although of course, that's the ultimate dream!)

Revolution



By
Alana
Kane

You know what else is great about timebanking? 'What... tell me more!?!' You say!

"Capitalism has created individualism and mistrust, while Timebanking allows kindness and reciprocity"

Timebanking weaves threads of trust and reciprocity through our communities, making us stronger together. Where capitalism has created a society of individualism and mistrust, Timebanking allows new networks between our neighbors to form, that are made of kindness and reciprocity and that mean, instead of 'you helping me', WE can help each other! Societies that are built on trust, have been proven to have more positive social outcomes.. So everyone benefits!

So, what's keeping you from joining the revolution, because the revolution is NOW! Come and sign up to Wellington Timebank to offer your skills and knowledge (because we know you have SO much to offer!) and receive new skills and knowledge in return! We would love to hear from you. You can find us upstairs at the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre, just ask for Alana, our friendly coordinator (if I do say so myself!), and pop on up to learn more! You can also find us on Instagram (@wellingtontimebank) or Facebook, just search Wellington Timebank, and give us a like, to hear about upcoming events and activities (think potlucks, art workshops, gardening bees - the world's your oyster!)

Looking forward to meeting you. Let's revolutionise the way we think about work! Because, as they say, 'time is money', or maybe in this case, time is... time, and it is SO valuable!



A pic from a
Timebank
potluck,
yummmm!

History Files

This list of Newtown residents' occupations in Newtown in 1868 makes interesting reading! Check out the different work people were doing. Imagine all these farms in Newtown, wow! Different now!

Revans Road

Now Riddidford Street!

T Howell,
carpenter.
R Carswell, farmer.
R Ersmett, clerk.
F Brady, shepherd.
A Elliott, labourer

Adelaide Road

J Mitchell, shoemaker
W McElroy, carter
J Dodds, carpenter
P Lawrence, mariner
D Nevin, vet surgeon
A Rudman, butcher
W Smith, undertaker
R Roddick, proprietor,
Globe Hotel

By Chris Rabey

Owen Street & Daniell Street

Both were still farms, Walter Howe ran sheep over Owen St and Arthur Hardy ran sheep over Daniell Street.

Constable Street

Only one resident in employment lived there, Benjamin Reeves, who was a labourer.

Britomart Street & Stanley Street

G Luxford, tanyard
W Luxford, farmer
C Inkersall, tanner
J Brown, currier
W Miller, farmer.

Like other parts, Britomart was still farmed, and all these dwellers were in agriculture related trades.

A note from the Living Wage campaign

Kia ora! My name is Marlon, Wellington Regional Organiser for the Living Wage Movement Aotearoa. Our movement is made up of faith groups, community organisations, and unions, who all come together to push big employers to pay their staff the Living Wage.



As this year is an election year, our focus has been on the Government. We believe that everybody working for the Government, whether that be in the core public sector, or the wider state sector, deserves the Living Wage. This includes directly employed workers, and also contracted staff like cleaners and security guards. This year, like much of the country, we moved our mahi online. Instead of our usual forum in the city, we had a wonderful online forum that hundreds watched online on the night, and thousands have viewed since. We put our asks to the political parties, and we're pleased to report that the Green Party, the Labour Party, NZ First, and the Māori Party have since all committed to our Living Wage asks.

A big thank you to all of our members out in Newtown. If you want to get involved, head to www.livingwage.org.nz, or chuck me an email at marlon@livingwage.org.nz!

Skilled / Unskilled *By Srishti Moudgil*

Some people caged in a ship
Others captured in pursuit of
heaven

In the lands
With unreasonable weather
And canned foods
Promising fancy lifestyles
Manipulating their university
degrees

To essential work!

While some were taken to
Flourishing oil fields
Others tested their courage
At the wild sea
To work in plantations
Living in cubicles
Sending money back to their
empty villas

Life settling through
Disruptions of culture, lingual
comforts
And missing sweetness of
mango

One day a pandemic...
Oil fields dried
Flooded plantations
Rich owners grabbing
Their insurance money

Skilled-unskilled nomads?
Lost language, half-baked
identity

Became refugees again
Awaiting a sponsor

To another golden piece of land

The Professional Worker *By Jack Warren*

In an upcoming exhibition, photographer Jack Warren (who took the awesome cover photo of this edition!) examines societal values forged from a capitalist world, examining occupational hierarchy, systemic oppression and value of the worker in NZ's workforce. Jack has compiled a series of portraits featuring many Newtown workers.

In the exhibition, the size of the printed photograph is determined by the average annual wage of that workers' profession (from careers.govt.nz). The prints will increase by 1 pixel for every \$100 made annually. By presenting the photographs this way, the viewer can physically visualise the differing monetary value society places onto each occupation, starting a discussion about how we value our workers.

Covid-19's essential workers inspired the project. They worked tireless days and nights in a great time of need, but received very little monetary acknowledgement. Occupational reform or review is a touchy subject, but it can't be glazed over.

Jack hopes this project will help viewers reflect on their occupations, and provoke them to ask questions about their wages in comparison to others. The photographer gives his greatest gratitude to all who have participated in the project. Any questions, email jack@jackwarren.co.nz

Go see if you recognise Newtowners on the walls at the exhibition! **Massey Universities Sprinkler Room, 12th-16th October**

What's the Happs?

At Newtown Community & Cultural Centre (corner of Colombo & Rintoul Streets)

**Craftivism workshops: Co-create a fabric mural,
Wednesdays Oct 7th, 14th & 21st, 5.30-8.30 pm**

Join NCCC's Artist in Residence, Mire, for a free 3-session workshop to co-create a fabric patchwork mural in Newtown. If you enjoy street art and fabric crafts, this is for you! Email info@newtowncommunity.org.nz to register – spaces limited. bit.ly/33avgUPDIY

Drop-In: Make a Mask! M-F 9-4.20pm, Weds 9am-7pm

NCCC is keen no one gets caught without a mask. If you have some sewing skills, book a time to use our sewing machine, fabric and templates for free! info@newtowncommunity.org.nz / 043894786

Night of the Living Dead - with live horror music by Ave Reptil. Sat 24th Oct, 5pm

Celebrate halloween by watching classic 1968 film, Night of the Living Dead, which inspired all the zombie movies since! Feat. live music alongside the movie as Ave Reptil (an experimental rock band) modernise the soundtrack, live! BYO costume. Tickets \$10, more info - bit.ly/2S6sRnJ

Kids Yoga and Motor Skills, Saturdays 10-10.45am (starts 12th October)

Yoga, stories and motor-skills games support your child's cognitive and motor development by increasing body awareness, emotional intelligence, strength, balance, & self-confidence. For kids 2-5 years old. \$8 a class! For booking and further info: bit.ly/2GewOEQ

The Witches Market : Saturday, October 31st, 1pm-4pm

In need of ritual adornment? Maybe some magickal oils or herbs? Or art that celebrates the magickal and unseen world? This market features local practitioners and artists working with themes of magick, witchcraft and/or the occult. bit.ly/3cCFiB8

Art workshop with Gerda & Wellington Timebank : Thursday October 8th 5-7pm

Local artist Gerda will support you with tips and tricks to get your creative juices flowing & create a beautiful piece of art to take home. 2TC for Timebankers or \$5 donation for non-timebank members. More info: bit.ly/345rjAa Limited numbers - register: info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz

Rongotai - It's in the Ballot, Thursday October 15th 5.30pm-9.30pm

Meet the candidates for the Rongotai electorate to help you decide which candidate gets your vote. Free entry, whanau friendly. bit.ly/3icTQsy

Binders Keepers! Gender Minorities Aotearoa gig: Sat, Oct 10th 1pm-6pm

GMA is fundraising for their National Free Binder Program - getting binders to those that need 'em! Five hours of music (bands: Lilith, Baby Bel, Housewitches, Triss Cordelia) and poets (Kate "The Magnificent" Spencer, Mya Pickering Cole). Entry by donation. More info: bit.ly/2Gfjczq

At Smart Newtown (9/11 Constable Street)

**Being safe online: A two part workshop on cyber security -
Mondays 12 & 19th Oct 6-8pm**

Learn how to shop safely online, identify scams, deal with computer threats like viruses and how to transfer files and information safely! Basic computer/internet skills required for this FREE course! Register online: bit.ly/sn_stay_safe_online_ or call 04-3800143

Get in touch

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