

Newtown News

Tō koutou makahīni hāpori: mō Newtown, nā ngā tāngata o Newtown /
Your community zine: for Newtown, by Newtowners



Whiringa-ā-nuku/October 2021

Te Reo Māori Māori Language

Nā Te Whare Hāpori o Newtown /
Brought to you by the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora e te whānau -

Well, once again, the Newtown News was delayed because of Covid, boooooo! This was originally a 'Mahuru Māori' 'September, Māori Language Month' edition, but even though that is behind us, I think we can kōrero i te reo ia marama, ia rā - every month, every day. After all, we're all standing on Māori land.

Hope you're all doing okay after the latest lockdown, we'd love to see your faces back in the community centre - come and say kia ora! Here's some of my original intro - please feel free to let me know if I've made any mistakes, as I'm a bit rusty.

E pēwhea ana koutou? E pai ana au, engari he uaua tēnei tuhituhi. I ako au i te reo Māori i tērā atu tau. Kua wareware ngā kupu katoa i ahau - nā reira me whakaharatau ahau, aue!!

How are you all? I'm good, but this writing (in te reo) is a real challenge. I studied te reo Māori a few years ago, but I've forgotten all the words, so I need to practice, eek!!

E tū ana au i runga i te whenua Māori inaianeī - nā reira, e mihi ana au ki ngā tangata whenua o Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Te Ati Awa Taranaki Whānui. E tautoko ana au i te tino rangatiratanga o te mana whenua o Aotearoa.

Right now, I stand on Māori land - so I give my respect the indigenous people of Wellington, Te Ati Awa Taranaki Whānui. I support self determination and sovereignty for the indigenous people of Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi maioha, Ellie

Warm wishes, Ellie

He whakataukī: "Whaowhia te kete mātauranga"

A proverb: "fill the basket with knowledge"

The cover of the Newtown News is a photo of part of the Intersection mural on Newtown Hall by awesome artist and Newtowner Kerb1 - check out his Facebook here: bit.ly/3ka6Jb8

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 from the whare hapori / community centre & kaiako / teacher Maraea Pukeke-Pine had a kōrero on Zoom, during the Newtown School lunchbreak!

Maraea is SUCH a Newtowner - she talks about working now at Newtown School with the grandchildren of people she knew growing up on Coromandel Street! She describes her whakapapa / genealogy: "He uri tēnei nā Ngāti Tuwharetoa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa."

Maraea also went to Newtown School back in the day, learning in the Te Reo Māori full immersion class. Since 2019, she's come full circle, and is back in the classroom, this time as the kaiako / teacher. Her own tamariki / children are in her class as well! The class is called 'Ngāti Kotahitanga', suggesting unity and togetherness. I thought that maybe the immersion class was quite new, but Maraea corrects me "it's actually been going for 35 years! The class has gone from 70 tamariki when I was there to 24 now...lots of whānau have headed back to their tūrangawaewae / ancestral lands." Although Maraea is in Newtown every day, she lives on the Kāpiti coast - we kōrero briefly about how messed up the housing market is in Newtown and Wellington city generally, aueeee!

Ngāti Kotahitanga is about more than learning the Māori language - Maraea says, "I don't teach 'te reo Māori', I teach IN te reo Māori me ōna tikanga", meaning the class incorporates te ao Māori / Māori worldview and tikanga / protocols. The akomanga / class is taught fully in te reo Māori, and the ākonga / students are encouraged to speak te reo all the time, in the classroom, at lunchtime and at home. "The whānau and tamariki are very passionate about reconnecting with their whakapapa, their tuakiri / identity and the reo." Most of the ākonga are learning te reo as a second language, and most are Māori, but everyone is welcome - "there are some tamariki Pākehā/Jewish, Samoan and Cook Island Māori in the class as well". I ask Maraea why it's important to learn Te Reo - "it helps our people feel proud to be Māori - it's cool! It helps us connect with our whenua / land and our iwi and hapū, and it helps us navigate both worlds."

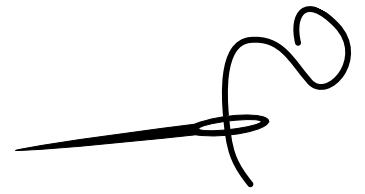
When Maraea isn't at mahi / work, she loves to be outside with her whānau - getting out hunting or fishing especially! She also loves spending time in Newtown, which she knows "like the back of my hand!...I love the diversity, and how multicultural it is, you hear so many different languages, the environment is the best."

Her message to Newtown is to share a whakataukī / proverb: "Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini - success comes from the whole community, not just the individual" as well as saying haere mai / welcome to whānau to enrol their tamariki into the Ngāti Kotahitanga class at Newtown School! (top tip, it's not zoned - so even if you're reading this from outside of Newtown (I mean why would you be, but still), your kids may still be able to attend!)

Make sure to say 'kia ora' if you see Maraea around the 'burb!



Arting Newtown



Read about what being the community centre's 'Artist in Residence' was like!
By Mirella Moschella: [instagram.com/mira_a_mire](https://www.instagram.com/mira_a_mire)



My name is Mirella. I am from Peru, 34 years old, and a videographer since a decade ago. Life brought me to this country almost two years ago—I left my house, friends, job, and everything I built professionally in South America. Moving to the other side of the planet, to a different culture, with another language that I did not speak correctly, a location with no familiar people... It was a challenging experience that affected me significantly. I felt lost, that I didn't belong, and I was so lonely it affected my mental health. I isolated myself to work on whatever art I could, to distract me from my life.

That's when I found an open call from Opportunity Arts for an artist in residence at the Newtown Community Centre. I did not overthink it and applied, since having a space to do the only thing that brought me peace back then felt necessary. The residency started in February 2020, and it was supposed to finish in May 2020, three months after. My personal/artistic process evolved progressively in the Community Centre—the space was like a creative nest. It was my home and school, with part of my Wellington family in it. In this building, the Choclo art collective was born, and also the Newtown Craftivism Collective.

Because of this studio I got more and more involved in the fabric art world, embroidering every day and producing artwork displayed at different art events, and even a solo show.

It is hard to start again, but when people open the doors for you, as Eryn and Ellie, the coordinators did for me, this experience becomes a beautiful challenge. There is a before and an after for my artistic process in this country, marked by my artist residency.

I am a person that likes to create and imagine artistic happenings that could make an impact in people's lives, even if that is just small details that could make their daily experiences memorable. To have had a space with a backup team that was always enthusiastic about these ideas and helped me make them happen, encouraged me, and gave me back the confidence I lost because of the challenging personal journey I was going through...My supposedly 3 month residency finished in May 2021 (actually lasting a year and a half). The results of this residence in facts:

Choclo collective organised five Latin American movie screenings, with post-film debates and shared kai. The Newtown Craftivism Collective (still gathering every Wednesday) has two street art pieces in Wellington. We made two pieces for community events, one performance for the Newtown Festival, and we will be exhibiting at The Performance Arcade Festival next year. With my artistic work, I participated in the Newtown Open Studios, painted three small murals and exhibited at Art Jam, and had my first solo show at Black Coffee. On the videographer side, I made five short documentaries: two about different street art festivals around the country, one about the Newtown Mural painted by Newtowner Kerb1 (bit.ly/3ujcdUj), one for the TMD show at the Dowse Museum, and I am currently working on one about Art Jam. Gracias por todo. And for any future artists in residence—you are REALLY lucky.



'Unity' fabric mural made by the Newtown Craftivism Collective

Key Kīwaha



Jamie Hoare shares some kīwaha / sayings for you to have a go at using!

Tēnā koutou e te hāpori o Newtown,

Kua hoki mai ā Mahuru Māori mō tēnei tau. Nō reira, anei etahi kīwaha matua hei awhina i a koutou ki te kōrero māori i a rā.

Engari anō, he aha tētahi kīwaha? He kīwaha he kīanga whanui e hamumu ai me tōna whakamāramatanga e mohiotia whanuitia ana. Ara, pērā hoki te kīanga 'it's a piece of cake' i te reo pākehā. Ka mohio koutou te whakamāramatanga nei. Ehara i te keke tēnei, he whakamāramatanga anō hoki. Nō reira, ahea whakamahia ai e koutou enei kīwaha? Karawhiua koutou!

1. Karawhiua! - Give it heaps! Go hard.
2. Ka mau te wehi! - Awesome! Fantastic.
3. Hei aha! - Whatever. This is of no concern to me.
4. Ki wīwī ki wāwā - All over the place. Scattered.
5. Tōna tikanga - supposedly, according to them.

Mā wai te reo e whakaora ai? Mā tātau katoa. Nō reira, whakatakotohia he wero māu. Karawhiua!

Nāku iti nei,
Jamie Hoare



“Lockdown”... in Rarotonga! By Eryn

When the Cook Island (CI) travel bubble was opened, I escaped winter in Welly by grabbing a couple of friends, some last-minute accom/flights & a trip-mascot from the airport gift shop that we named Karen. Bloody Mary in hand, inflight movie almost over, fluffy candy-floss clouds out the window....I thought “we must be really close to landing!” when the pilot comes over the intercom...“You may have noticed we’ve been circling above Rarotonga for a while” (I hadn’t)...” Just trying to establish communications to see if it’s safe to land”....(err okay)... ”If we can’t land –good news is we have enough fuel to get back to Auckland” (Well...I guess that is good news – what’s the alternative? Crash into the ocean?!)

Rows of passengers around me gasp & murmur as I see all the lil’ screens switch from inflight entertainment to the travel map – which shows we’re circling above Rarotonga... annnnd backtracking....and then getting turned around! Turns out the weather was BAD in Rarotonga. What should have been a breezy 3-hour flight turns into over 7 hours in the air, hours at the airport, two nights stay in an airport hotel, a day mission to Rainbows End (rainbow kinda magic!) & a new flight booked 2 days later. Finally arriving in Rarotonga on a Sunday, the island is sleepy, everyone goes to church and businesses are closed. We snorkel, eat delish food & settle into maxo-relaxo times.

On day 2 of the trip we discover the news that NZ has moved to Level four. A plane had just landed on the Island with over 300 NZers on it. There is confusion in the hotel lobby. People dashing to get home within 48 hours. We take a different approach – grab a cocktail & check out the news. The hotel doesn’t seem to know what to do, with CI not having dealt with a potential outbreak before. We’re into following the rules – so we bunker down, go out for a test, then bunker down again. Test comes back quick – and we’re negative. No Covid arrived on the plane – yay! So we move to a very chilled Level 2 (more like NZ’s L1). The days that follow, the island starts clearing out - as we extend our trip. We could work from home in lockdown... or work from paradise. Easy choice. We stayed for 3 weeks!

Most of my highlights from the trip are laughing with friends, being “under da sea” (even being terrified by Moray eels can’t put me off), feeling the sun on my skin, patting lovely stray doggos, finding some RUIIIINNNS (a holiday tradition of mine bit.ly/RARORUINS), cycling around. Here’s a few facts I learnt: Homosexuality is still illegal (boo). Seems many of the locals disagree, as I could tell from the many rainbow flags flying proud all over the island (yay!) People are buried in graves in front yards of family kāinga (homes). 96% of eligible adults in CI are vaccinated. CI dancers are epic! And the place is ruperupe (beautiful) with amazing people.



Karen the kiwi mascot enjoying her hols!

What's the Happs?

The Community Centre is open at Level 2 - but events below may change if Covid alert levels do! Our full timetable of regular events is online at: bit.ly/nccctimetable

At the NEW Community Centre (2a Green Street)

Social drama for 65+ year olds, Thursdays 10.30am-12pm

We are a fun group using storytelling and drama to keep the mind active and creative! Our sessions are free and full of play, laughter and connection. For more info email hilary.norris@xtra.co.nz or call 021 306 413.

Pōneke Prep for Taranaki Climate Action, Thursday 21st October, 6-9pm

Peace Action Wellington & Oil Free Wellington are holding a creative working bee and info night to prepare for the Rise Up For Climate Action Festival happening in Taranaki (3-7 November: riseupforclimate.nz). Come along to find out what will happen at the protest & make some cool creative resources. More info at bit.ly/3maGC3E

FREE make a mask drop-in - Mon-Fri 9-4.30pm, bookings essential

If you have sewing skills, but just need the fabric, patterns, sewing machine, bits and bobs and the space to make a reusable mask- then book in a time to set up at our DIY mask sewing station and get to work! Email info@newtowncommunity.org.nz or call 04 389 4786 to book a time.

FREE legal drop in - Weds 6th Oct, 11-12
No appointment needed, see a rōia / lawyer from Community Law. 04 389 4786.

Get in touch

www.newtowncommunity.org.nz
www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre
04 389 4786 / ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

FREE learner licence workshops, Tues 5th & Weds 6th October 11am-3pm

Newtown rangatahi aged 15-24! Evolve Wellington Youth Service are offering FREE learner licence workshops, supporting you to pass your learner licence test and get you on the road ! Contact Evolve: 0224938102 or email projects@evolveyouth.org.nz

At Newtown Hall (71 Daniell Street)

Heritage Week: Memories of Newtown's Adventure Playground 1974, opening event Fri 29 Oct 6-9pm, gallery Sat 30 Oct 10-4pm

An exhibition of 1974 photos by John McWilliam, capturing fascinating stills of tamariki at the former adventure playground on the corner of Constable and Daniell Streets. Opening event Friday will have speakers, or come and check out the photos on the Saturday. FREE event, photobooks for sale. Email info@newtowncommunity.org.nz / call 04 389 4786 bit.ly/2ZGlauz

Smart Newtown (9-11 Constable Street)

FREE 7 week computer courses, starting in October

Smart Newtown, our community computer hub, is running these popular FREE courses in October - Intro to Computing (for beginners) starts 11th Oct, Microsoft Office Level 1 starts 14th Oct and Level 2 starts 13th Oct. Email smartnewtown@gmail.com or call 04 380 0143 for more information.