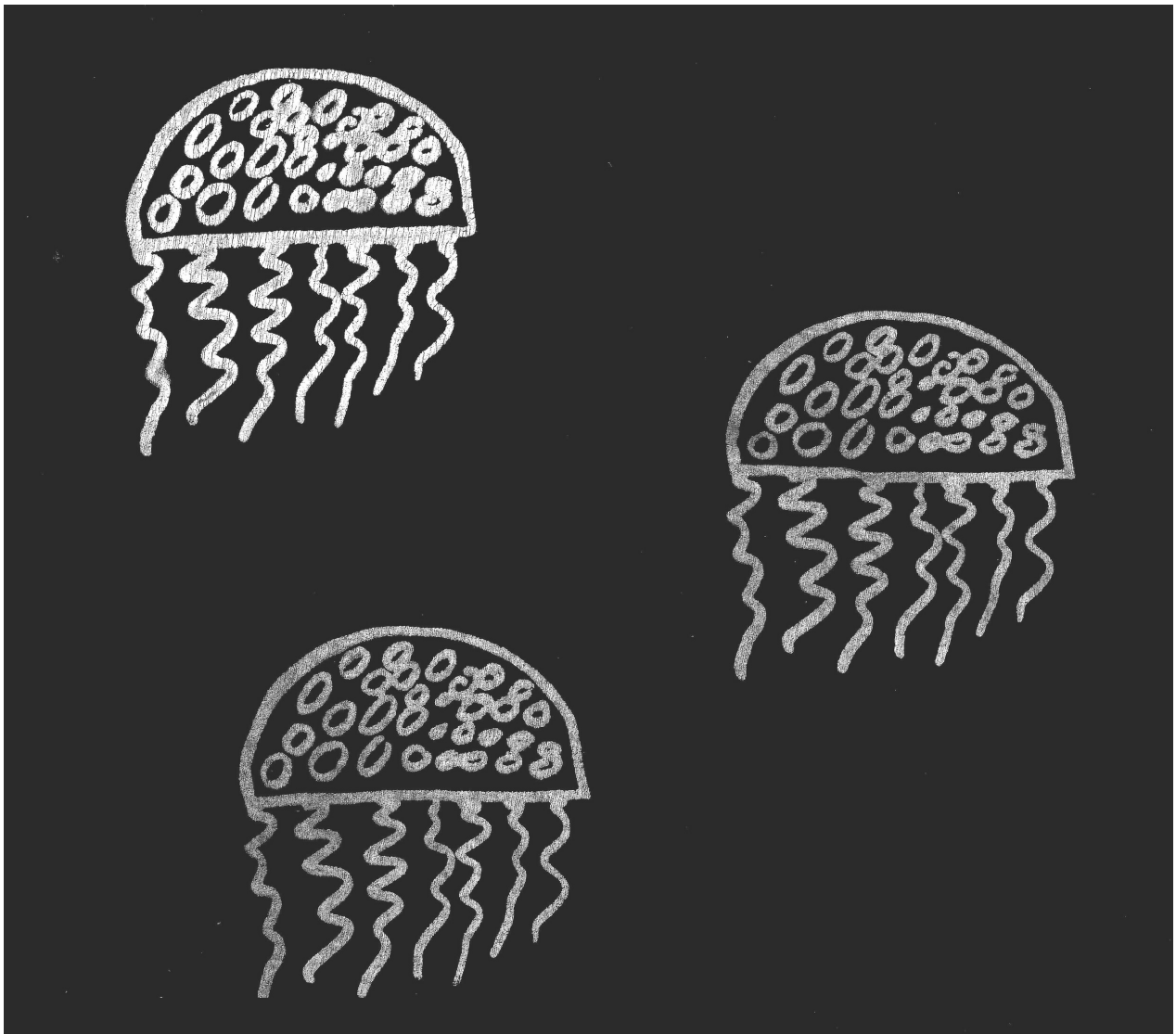


Newtown News

Whiringa-ā-Rangi / November 2022

Nā te Whare Hapori o Newtown /

Brought to you by the Newtown Community Centre

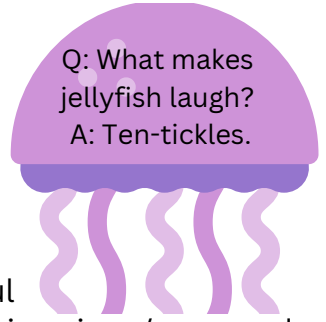


World Pūkarakaru / Jellyfish Day edition

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

Kia Ora Newtown

Q: What makes jellyfish laugh?
A: Ten-tickles.



It's Whiringa-ā-Rangi / November which (for me at least!) means we're really getting into snorkel season - I love those sunny days where I can head straight from the community centre to Tapu Te Ranga marine reserve and get under the water! It's a beautiful world down there - heaps of darting ika / fish, brightly coloured rimurimu / seaweed, huge kōura / crayfish hiding under the rocks and the occasional special sighting of those deeply camouflaged wheke / octopus.

Really, I love the ocean so much that it feels wrong to dislike any part of it! But (despite them being the theme of this issue), one of my least faves are the pūkarukaru / jellyfish - I dread those days I head down to the coast, struggle into my wetsuit, don my snorkel and flippers and shuffle down to the waters edge, only to see hundreds of floating jellies clogging up the water, or bluebottles (who it turns out are fakers and are not actually jellyfish) floating on the surface, stingers at the ready. I dooon't love them, even though I know that like all creatures, they have a crucial place in the eco-system somewhere, AND they're pretty beautiful to watch!

So yeah, even though we don't have any deadly jellies here (unlike over in Australia (aka "home of all the deadly creatures")), I'm just not confident with them. I know from personal experience that bluebottles sting (as Boris the cod also confirms later in this issue), and I'm aware that lion's mane jellies do as well (here's a list of sting-y ones from the MoH: bit.ly/3TzFCFF). But they all make me nervous anyway! Maybe because they're so mysterious to me- they're like an alien life-form - no heart, no brain, just an amorphous blob of bizarre.

I was stung on new year's eve - I had gone out intending to wash a pretty difficult year away, so it felt pretty hecking inauspicious when I was immediately stung! I love the ocean SO MUCH, but it was so painful that even I wasn't sure about getting back in. But the next morning, at the dawn of the new year, I made myself head back out. I was careful and checked the water first, but I couldn't let a little pain stop me doing what I love. I got back into that cool water, because it's beautiful, full of both calm and chaos, teeming with diverse life and so many possibilities. And because even jellyfish have a place there and a part to play. That swim was perfect - the sting had faded, and the cool water soothed it, along with my brain. Feel free to apply this heavy handed metaphor to your life somehow, or ignore it haha, but either way you should probably get in, or near, the sea.

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

Cover art is detail from an awesome jellyfish t-shirt from Made by Maranga, a creative disability collective in the heart of Wellington: madebymaranga@spectrumcare.org.nz. Joke by Rowena!

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



ELYSIUM

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

Rowena and Bronwyn had a cuppa at Peoples and had a kōrero about timebanking, valuing everyone's skills and the gift that is accepting care!

Rowena Tun wears lots of hats, but they all fit together in her friendly, generous and community-minded spirit. She's a mum of two, Berhampore local, home-based small business operator, community volunteer, and most recently, the new Coordinator of the Wellington Timebank - a community of people who share their skills for timecredits rather than money! She won't start full-time in the role until next year, but is already excited about contributing to this awesome community.



Rowena (right) with her friend Faiza

She describes the Timebank as a precious resource, because it's a place that everyone can feel valued for what they bring to the world. It's clear that's part of her own personal philosophy. When we talk about all the different people you see in Newtown, she says that we're all more similar than you might think: we all have our struggles, they're just more visible for some people.

Growing up in Te Awakairangi, Upper Hutt, Ro was aware of cultural differences, and was always aware of the importance of inclusion. Her Dad is Burmese, and her mum survived on a disability allowance, so Ro didn't always feel like she fitted in. In her family though, it was important to be grateful for the privileges of living in Aotearoa, because her family had been through a lot to get here. She also acknowledges the privilege that come from the history of the Pākehā side of her family, who have been here for six generations.

Along with her new role at the Timebank, Ro has lots of connections to Newtown. Her kids go to Newtown School, and she has lived in or near Newtown for a long time. She loves the suburb for its diversity and its op-shops! She usually hits up Black Coffee or Peoples for a coffee, and is a big fan of the library, Carrara Park and Creeps Records. "You're never lonely in Newtown", she says, "you can be yourself here and everyone's welcome".

Ro is really looking forward to getting stuck in at the Timebank, and is particularly keen to see members remembering to take as well as give their time and skills. She explains that receiving is a gift - the gift of connection and inclusion. She encourages everyone to get involved if they aren't already members: "People who feel like they don't need the Timebank might just find it's exactly what they need".

To find out more about the Wellington Timebank, check out their website wellingtontimebank.org.nz, or email Ro on info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz

Community Centre renovations update



We've got walls!

Work is progressing over at the building site, aka "The Newtown Community & Cultural Centre"! Eryn from the community centre recently donned a high vis vest and hard hat and checked out the progress. Many of the rooms are framed up, some even have whole complete walls! It was a real hive of activity – several dozen builders and labourers all on missions – carrying through large sheets of GIB (no shortage over on Rintoul street, phew!) and there was a chorus of different sounds from various power tools!



We've got preserved history!

We also installed the Newtown Time Capsule. We'd been collecting items for over a year – we put a public call out to local people, organisations and businesses. We also ran a few events – at them we shared what our visions for Newtown in the future would be, whilst also talking to our item that we had chosen to put into the time capsule. The time capsule will be hidden in the roof of the community centre with instructions to open in 50 years! So many exciting items went in there, but you'll have to wait until 2072 to find out what haha.



We've got (some) money!

Last year we applied for a Lotteries Community Facilities grant. Wellington City Council is paying for the 'bricks and mortar' of the project- but not all the things that plug into the walls – so to get the amazing revamped theatre space that the community asked for, we've been working hard to get the capital to pay for everything else that will make this a great community asset. **We're thrilled and so grateful to Lotteries for granting us over \$230,000 for the theatre!**

There are still plenty of other expenses though, so if you have a few bucks spare and you like our mahi, chuck us a donation at givealittle.co.nz/cause/newtown-community-centre-needs-you

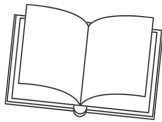
We don't have an official extension for when the building will be completed, so it's currently still at 25th November, and the crews are working really hard to get it done this side of Christmas, but we think it's safe to say there might be another minor delay – it's such a big project!

Even if the project is completed by then though, we're unlikely to be open until **autumn 2023**, as the move in and set-up of the new space will take us a wee while.

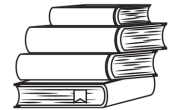
Check out bit.ly/OurTownNewtown for more updates.



FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



Prairie Lotus By Linda Sue Park

Library link: bit.ly/3zqsJWf

Review by: Lizzie Gibbons

Linda Sue Park's *Prairie Lotus* (2020) is a heartbreakingly lonely story with just enough hope and small joys to pull you through to the other side.

Beautifully and empathetically written, *Prairie Lotus* follows Hanna, a fourteen-year-old Chinese-American girl as she and her father move to America's heartland. Hanna negotiates through the entrenched prejudices and racism in 1880s Dakota as she tries to secure her future in the small town. Hanna is pragmatic whilst holding her own quiet ambitions and strength. She strives, against her father's wishes, to establish a dress shop and continue her late mother's trade.



Both an homage and critique of the classic Laura Ingalls Wilder's 'Little House on the Prairie', Park does not shy away from depicting the racism and prejudice Hanna faces moving to an all-white community. Park creates a setting familiar to fans of Wilder's work, capturing the small but visceral details of daily life in the American West. Delving into complex themes on loneliness, racism, and prejudice, Park never attempts to water-down its setting for younger readers.

Although classed as Junior Fiction, *Prairie Lotus* is an ideal for younger readers looking to progress to Young Adult or advanced junior readers. With Park's style and powerful character writing, *Prairie Lotus* can also be enjoyed by teenage and adult readers.

Jellyfish Goss from Boris the Cod

by Boris the cod, at the Bait House / Island Bay Marine Education Centre!

Boris here. It's nearly that time of year again folks. Yep, it's Portuguese Man of War time - they're cuzzies of the jellyfish. Some Humans call them Bluebottles. I call them stingy little forklifts. The Weird Humans at the Bait House have been noticing them being washed up on Island Bay Beach earlier and earlier each year. That's what GLOBAL WARMING DOES.

Anyway, don't touch them. I know it's really satisfying when you step on them and they pop. But they will seek revenge when you least expect it. Their stingers will stay on your shoes and when you least expect it THEY WILL STING YOU. YOU'VE BEEN WARNED. If you're a particularly silly Human (I know you don't know who you are) and you do get stung, this is what you have to remember:

Don't pee on the sting. It looks bad. And it doesn't work. Whoever the Human was that suggested this as a remedy is a genius. And a misanthropist. Not only does it prolong the suffering but you could possibly get arrested for peeing on a beach! Don't pour vinegar on it. It's a waste of vinegar. And it makes you smell bad all day. And it doesn't work. See above regarding misanthropy. Don't touch the stung area. You may get stung again by any remaining stingers. That would be silly. And doubly painful.

DO Splash on LOTS of seawater. There should be plenty of that where the Bluebottles are. You can do this. You're clever. But be careful you don't get stung by another Bluebottle lurking in the water. They're EVIL. If you can see any of the Bluebottles stingers on your skin pull them off. DON'T TOUCH THEM WITH YOUR HAND. THIS IS A NO BRAINER. But I thought I'd better mention it because.....oh never mind.

It's also recommended that you splash on warmed up seawater, immerse the stung area in very hot tap water for 20 minutes, elevate the stung area, apply ice packs and take pain relief. I'm like, Right. Of course you'll have instant access to warm seawater, very hot tap water and ice packs on Island Bay beach. And you'll look really silly with your stung areas up in the air. BTW if you're thinking of pinching some of my weed for pain relief, you can fuggedaboutit - especially if it's my fave, macrocystis - aka giant kelp! That's all for now!

Boris is a very opinionated Blue Cod who has a lot to say on many topics and gets through a LOT of weed (of the sea variety!) If you'd like to meet him in real life, you can visit him any Sunday between 10am and 3pm @ the Bait House - octopus.org.nz or read his rants @ facebook.com/Aquariumnz



Are You 'That One'?

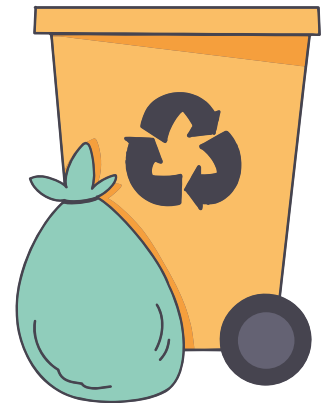
by a local, keen to keep rubbish from blowing around the streets!

Hey, do you find yourself calling your neighbour each week to ask what to recycle this time? Guess what? There's an app for that! Well, not exactly, but almost as good.

Either google 'Wellington recycle' or head to: bit.ly/3yAztAu. Just scroll down the page to the window that asks for your street's name and fill it in. It even—eventually, sort of—learns to autofill!

This is also the page where you can find out if there are problems with recycling as well as what you can—and can't!—recycle.

Bookmark it, eh! And come up with a new excuse to call your neighbor.



"In my improv class we acted out some little vinaigrettes" –

Hehe, we think they meant 'vignettes', rather than a salad dressing, but we love this more!



"I was in McDonalds Newtown a while ago and I wanted to buy a large caramel sundae, but I realised I couldn't afford it. A lady next to me said she'd pay for me and she did. Made me feel all warm inside. I said god bless you to her and I'd say that again if she's reading this."

From Celia

What's the Happs?

At the Community Centre,
2a Green St

Rainbow Dragon Club - Sundays, 6-9pm

Are you a woman and/or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community? Like games? This new tabletop and board game group is meeting up weekly at the community centre to play some games! More info at bit.ly/3UGED7u

Newtown Hall,
71 Daniell Street

Everybody Dance - Balinese styles! Mondays, 5.30-6.30pm

Have fun and get fit with new kaiako / teacher Putu Evie, teaching Balinese dance styles! All for just \$2. More info at bit.ly/3zmHVDK

Fun With Music, Saturdays 1-3pm.

5-13 year old kids (parents welcome to stay as well!) are invited to come along to these fun music sessions - make friends and have fun making music and instruments! Free! For more info, email funwithmusicwellington@gmail.com or call **021 633 566**.

Online

Parihaka Day Webinar, 3rd November, 7-8.30pm on Zoom

Parihaka Day marks the crown invasion of the peaceful community at Parihaka. Join Parihaka kaitiaki Tuhi-Ao Bailey and Tihikura Hohaia at this webinar to discuss the invasion, dairy cows, climate justice and how these all link up! Register & more info: bit.ly/3FodEsc

At Smart Newtown,
9-11 Constable Street

Smart Newtown helpdesk: Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm.

Laptop or smartphone not cooperating? Come and get free help with your phone or computer issues during our opening hours. Just drop in - no appointment needed!

Classes in November & December

There are a whole bunch of new classes coming up at Smart Newtown, our free computer hub! Registrations necessary - see below for how to sign up!

- **Setting up email:** 9th Nov 6-8pm or 11th Nov 10am-12pm
- **Email essentials:** 16th Nov 6-8pm or 18th Nov 10am-12pm
- **Google Drive:** 23rd Nov 6-8pm or 25th Nov 10am-12pm
- **Google Docs:** 30th Nov 6-8pm or 2nd Dec 10am-12pm
- **Intro to smartphones:** 7th Dec 6-8pm or 9th Dec 10am-12pm
- **Intro to social media:** 14th Dec 6-8pm or 16th Dec 10am-12pm

To register, or if you'd like more information about these classes, give Smart Newtown a call 04 380 0143. Or you can register online at: bit.ly/3VBecQT

Get in touch