



NEWTOWN NEWS FEBRUARY 2016

brought to you by the
Newtown Community & Cultural Centre

dear Newtown

Newtown News

Kia ora Newtown,

Welcome to 2016, Newtown! It's been lovely and quiet here at the community centre as relaxed Wellingtonians slowly drip back into the capital. This has suited me just fine as I've tried to lull myself gently out of holiday vibe and back into work mode.

Things are definitely picking up fast, though. For those who fancy a bit of an adventure right on your doorstep, then keep February 13 free for the most amazing* community treasure hunt ever to hit the streets of Newtown and go behind the scenes of many of the special places that make our 'hood so great (more details on the event inside this issue).

The Newtown Festival is also just around the corner and it's their 20th birthday! So there's no doubt that it'll be bigger, brighter and bolder than ever! Some friends and I are on the Zero Waste mission again this year - we're hoping to match the festival in oomph with our Zero Waste efforts. We'll be putting a call out soon for the most epic team of volleys yet. Keep an eye out for our call-out and help make Newtown Fair not only the biggest, but also the greenest street fair in NZ.

And last but definitely not least, as we welcome in a busy new year, we say goodbye to Hannah from the Wellington Timebank (massive sad face). If you love working with people of all walks of life, creating fun and interesting ways for strangers to get to know each other a little better, and sharing a bloody good black coffee with workmates, then check out the job vacancy details on our website or at dogoodjobs.co.nz.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this issue, Newtown. This issue is jam-packed with community contributions, so thanks everyone for your wonderful work!

* Given that we took part in the organisation of it, this may be a slightly biased view. But it will at least be very, very good.

Ngā Mihi,

Renee Rushton
newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com

Thanks to the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!

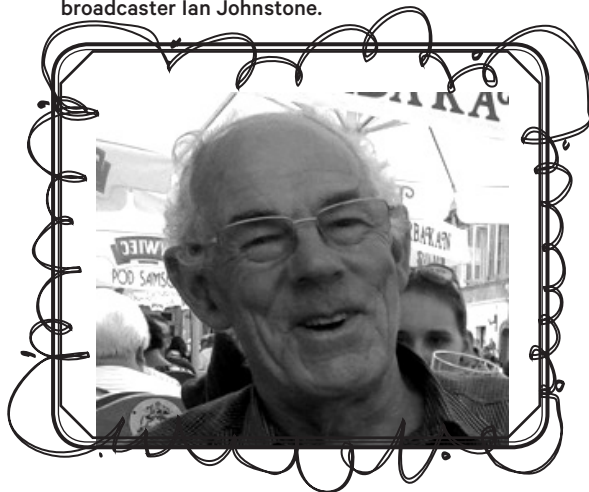


COVER ART BY CLÉMENCE VOLE
DESIGN BY NATASHA MURACHVER

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Notorious Newtowner

Timebanker Hariata Hema has a chat with one of Newtown's more famous residents, broadcaster Ian Johnstone.



What a treat to speak with Ian Johnstone, the grand old man of New Zealand Broadcasting.

If you watched television on Anzac Day in recent years, or watched Crimewatch, you will certainly recognise the smiling face of Ian Johnstone. He has been a broadcaster for fifty years.

Ian says he was lucky enough to start on TV while it was in its infancy (when it was possible to build a public service from scratch). Now, New Zealand broadcasting is an advertising money maker for the Government, rather than the educative service it could have been. Ian laments the lost opportunity, noting it is those on the lowest incomes who have been most affected by what is offered up for consumption.

These days, you will see Ian around Newtown on his electric bike, or out and about for walks. He

has easy access to six different walks from where he lives, and each is energising. Some involve walking amongst wonderful bush in the Town Belt, others take in the cheer of the Newtown village, where being a neighbour with people from twelve different backgrounds is the norm.

Ian, who has lived in Newtown for twenty one years, notices lots of laughing, singing and general good humour. We, his neighbours, say this is because his welcoming demeanour generates it!

Ian loves to support local businesses and will happily talk about how he loves to go to Fish Fins and the Saturday market (naming the busker whose absence he is wondering about). His dentist, barber, doctor and computer fix-it guy are all local, and he notes they are from different backgrounds. This melting pot that is Newtown suits Ian down to the ground.

Embracing diversity is something he has done all his life. Being born in the north of England, right on the Scottish border probably has something to do with it. As has a love of France (there's been much coming and going from France over the years), falling in love with Africa while living in Zambia for three years, spending four years in Fiji, and welcoming world travellers who stay in Ian and Marj's cosy homestay (Apple Tree Apartment).

Where Ian finds time to read, write (for magazines like the Listener), edit books, garden and socialise, is a mystery. He packs so much into every day.

Should you meet him in the street, though, it is his twenty grandchildren and the excuses he comes up with to visit them all that he will want to talk about. So make sure, when you come across him, you return the ready smile and hearty greeting. Because that's Ian. Full of heart.



Meditations On WaiTangi

Newtown community member Hunter Wilson-Burke reflects on Waitangi Day past and present.

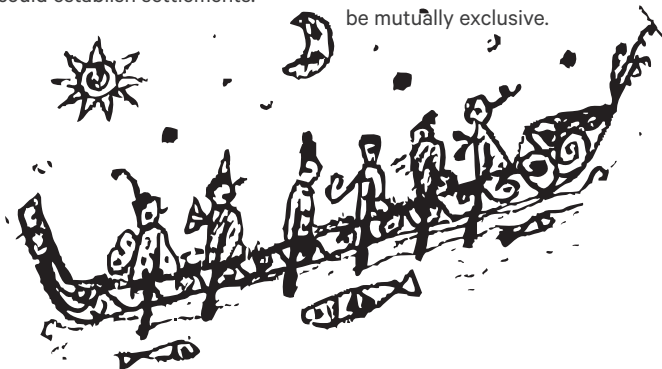
Our national holiday, Waitangi Day, is often rife with protests and debates, and we as a nation should afford people the right to address genuine historical grievances.

On the 6th of February 1840, in the verdant gardens of James Busby's Bay of Islands house, the Treaty of Waitangi came to be signed. Beneath a great beflagged marquee a crowd of white dignitaries and tall chieftains in brilliant cloaks of feather and tasselled flax gathered together to decide the fate of Aotearoa. The discussions were marred by controversy and the conclave was interrupted multiple times. Despite protesting and dissension the tide wasn't to be held back, when the sun sank that night it took more than the light with it, an era began to fade as a new one dawned.

The controversy surrounding the Treaty was exacerbated by the diverse interest groups vying for New Zealand at the time. Treaty making had a long history in Māori politics and the idea of creating a treaty with the Crown was an appeal to the ideal that each polity should be responsible for its own people. Conversely, the Crown sought to put a stop to land speculation and gain sovereignty before others, such as the French Charles De Thierry, could establish settlements.

Unfortunately, after the Treaty was signed its status as a legal document was largely ignored by Pakeha until the Treaty of Waitangi Act of 1975. Worse was that fundamental principals of the treaty were lost in translation; Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Māori version) confirms Māori authority and sovereignty, while the Crown's English language version states that Māori gave their sovereignty to the Queen. This direct contradiction led to several fierce debates concerning which version should be considered authentic, and exactly what had been agreed upon. And so Waitangi day, which was first declared a national holiday in the 1970s during - and possibly as a response to - the Māori renaissance, remains a day of reflection for many.

I for one am glad that Waitangi day remains contentious, and that the celebration has room for people to acknowledge that genuine historical grievances still need to be addressed in our country. Rebranding it New Zealand day or quelling debate in the public sphere would be no more than a convenient fiction, a facile solution to a complex issue. Waitangi day is a day of beauty, music, food, sun and laughter, a day of national unity and a stunning celebration of who we are. It is also a day of acknowledging what progress still needs to be made, and what issues still need to be addressed. These two propositions need not be mutually exclusive.



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He Speaks, We Listen

Wellington Timebanker Rose M. Sealy shares some reflections on a great man's birthday.

Happy Birthday Mr Marley!

Imagine this. A room full of seven year old Kiwi kids. Lying on their backs on the classroom floor. Their eyes are closed. Arms outstretched rigidly. They're not uttering a sound.

"...If you know your history,
Then you would know where
you're coming from,
Then you wouldn't have to ask me
Who the heck do I think I am..."

How fitting were these lyrics to a seven year olds' questioning. Such thoughts were whirling through my seven year old mind; thoughts of mental slavery, and then mind freeing.

My teacher, 33 then, and the instigator of these in-between-period Bob Marley meditations was Tongan; equally having his thoughts punctuated by this reggae beat and empowerment.

Eighteen years later I walk down a tropical beach in the midst of a tourist town on an island off Bali. The sun is setting, people are on the beach in their sarongs staring out into the distance. The same lyrics and rhythm drifting in and through their thoughts, nodding their heads gently to the beat enjoying the setting sun.

The local Indonesian Balinese too soaking in the unity and warmth that emanates from this spirituality and love while they serve the tourists. Then later, when duties are done they sit on the rocks of the beach, the sun long set now. The familiar Bob Marley songs soaking deep into the injustice of their lives as the colonized; the servers of the West.

Travel to the mid-set red tones of Australian soils. You have a little village; a family whose ancestors have resided here for millennia. They're sitting on the hot red ground, smiling big smiles as they pass their afternoons with friends. An old salvaged metre-high speaker is vibrating with Bob Marley.

Back to New Zealand, back to Newtown, our very own local band Newtown Rocksteady playing to an audience of all ages, and backgrounds. They are swinging, swaying gently swaying to the beats; letting those very same lyrics puncture their consciences.

How can one man speak to so many different people; 34 years after his death, 71 years since his birth? How did one touch so many future people with 36 years on this earth? Bob Marley, may be unfavourable to many for the culture he stood for; but for many more he represents rebellion, a movement of unity, and the joy and celebrations of the disadvantaged winning over the powerful.

Better still he represents empowerment; whoever you are, however suppressed you may feel. He brought these messages in Biblical proportions without the preaching nature of previous prophets. He translated the suffering and pain of indigenous peoples without stirring trouble.

Like I discovered at the age of seven, his words filter into your mind, his music into your heart beat, bringing the gentle warmth of humanity and empowerment all over you.

As he said –

**"Emancipate yourselves from
mental slavery; none but
ourselves can free our minds"**

This is how he speaks to humanity; now, for humanity.



No Place Like Home: A Newtown Adventure
The Newtown Community Centre and the Wellington Timebank are cracking into the Newtown Festival Season with a grand adventure around Newtown.

Get ready to pick up a map and discover secrets about some of Newtown's best & least known places. It's a surprise, really, but here are a few clues to get you started...

Creep the corridors and rummage the wardrobes of some of New Zealand's rising stars;

Find out if there's more than kittens and puppies at Wellington's 7th most haunted building.

It is sure to be a great adventure and a highly enjoyable time for all ages.

Saturday 13 February

**Register at the Newtown Community Centre
(Colombo St): 1 - 1.45pm**

Treasure Hunt: 1 - 3pm

BBQ event: 3 - pm

The adventure will be followed by a BBQ at the Workingmen's Bowling Club on Owen Street with live music from the Sendam Rawkustra. This event will be on rain or shine or wind!

For more event details, visit our website: www.newtown.community.centre.org.nz or find the facebook event page for updates and pre-event clues!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (all for Saturday 13 Feb)

If you're keen to do more than just attend the event, we've got lots of volunteer opportunities for you! Here's a list the areas where we need help:

Crossing buddies! x12 from 1pm - 3pm

We need 12 volunteers to greet the treasure hunters at various spots along the map to make sure that they cross the road safely. You will need to be available for the duration of the hunt from 1 - 3pm. You'll be stationed with a buddy. Let me know if you'd like to be partnered with a friend.

Photographers x2 from 2.30 - 4.30pm

We'd like to take photographs of the treasure hunters as they return from their hunt (hopefully in fancy dress!) It would be ideal if you had some experience (or a knack for) taking portraits or photographing people.

Send us an email:

wgtn.timebank@gmail.com

or give us a call on 920 6708 if you're interested in helping out!

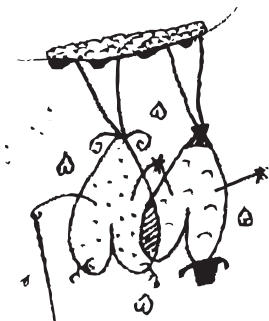
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Valentine's Day

Unreported Sanguine History

By CLÉMENCE VOLE

The origin of Valentine's Day can be attributed to at least three different saint Valentines, all of whom were heroic and romantic figures and – incidentally – all of whom were martyred and died violently.



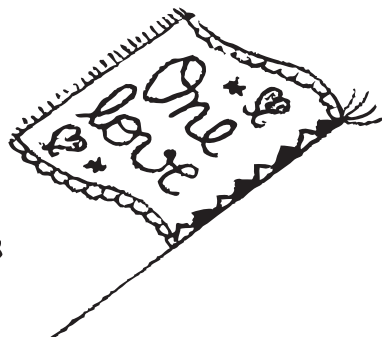
Saint Valentine of Rome was a priest in the 3rd Century; the Emperor Claudius II, who believed married men made poor soldiers, decided to forbid young men from marrying. Valentine secretly continued to marry young lovers, which led to his imprisonment and subsequent beheading.

Another possible origin of Valentine's Day is Lupercalia, a Roman festival celebrating fertility and agriculture. During each festival, a goat was sacrificed in the name of fertility, its skin was then cut into strips, dipped into sacrificial blood, and finally taken out to the streets to gently slap women. Less bloody were the festivities in the afternoon, when young women would put their names in an urn and become paired with young men who picked their name out of said urn.

The couples then had to treat one another with kindness and exchange romantic gifts, this often ended in marriage.

A few centuries later, when Valentine's day began to be popularly celebrated by sending handwritten notes and showing affection to lovers, another sanguine event occurred. In 1779, Captain James Cook and his crew returned to Hawaii a year after first discovering it. Unfortunately, they encountered a much more hostile reception than the first time. It is told that one of the crew's boats was stolen by local inhabitants. Captain Cook decided to hold Hawaiian King Kalaniopuu hostage in retaliation. Tension increased and the captain was struck on the head and stabbed to death on the 14th of February, Valentine's Day. Because the islanders esteemed the captain, they prepared his body according to rituals usually reserved to the highest elders of their society, which consisted in baking him to easily remove his flesh and cleaning the bones to preserve them...

These anecdotes may not have given you much romantic inspiration, but I hope you enjoy a great Valentine's Day free from goat's hide and bloodshed!



What's the haps

Newtown News

No Place Like Home: A Newtown Adventure

Step out your front door and into Newtown's "No Place like Home" treasure hunt. This afternoon of adventure will open doors and take you behind the scenes to sneak a peek at some of Newtown's amazing places! February 13th - registrations at Newtown Community Centre 1 - 1.45pm, with community bbq and celebration from 3pm at Workingmen's Bowling Club on Owen Street.

Community exercise classes

The Newtown Community Centre's exercise classes are back! These classes are run by experienced and qualified tutors, and are just \$2 a pop. Classes include: Body Strengthening, 9.30am Mondays; Baby Friendly Yoga, 10am Tuesdays; Advanced tai chi, 10am Tuesdays; Yoga, 10am Thursdays; Beginners Tai Chi, 10am Fridays. Suitable for all levels, ages and experiences! Visit www.newtowncommunity.org.nz for more info.

The Newtown Jazz Jam

The Newtown Jazz Jam is a new jam session in Wellington based on the principals of making great music and having great hangs. Entry to the session is koha: pay what you think it's worth, or what you can afford. It's also BYO - so bring your own drinks and a little cash! The night has a mix of standard well-known tunes, and a few of the more obscure ones, ensuring everyone has a great time! At the Newtown Community Centre, Mondays, 8pm - 10pm.

Quiz Nights at Moon

Need to get the brain into gear after a lazy summer break? Head down to Moon Bar (Riddiford St) on Mondays to get the synapses firing again! Quiz kicks off at 8pm, but get in early for some good kai and drinks (if you're lucky, they'll still be offering their super pizza & fries combo!) For more info on Moon and their line-up of upcoming gigs, check out their facebook page

Looking for local gardens!

Do you have vegetable garden? Do you garden in a small space, grow great vegetables, have happy fruit trees, a bee friendly garden, or your own spin on an edible garden? As part of Local Food Week 2016 March 13-20th, WCC are creating a Newtown edible garden tour and we are looking for people who want to get involved! Addresses won't be publicised and maps will be given only to people who register to attend. Keen? Email Sarah at sarah.adams@wcc.govt.nz

Art & Creativity Classes

Drop-in to the fortnightly art and creativity classes at the Newtown Community Centre and have a play with these guided open studio sessions. Running every second Wednesday from Feb 17th, from 6.30 - 8.30pm. All materials provided. Koha entry!

Newtown Fair stalls

It's not too late to book your stall for Newtown Fair on March 6th! Don't miss the chance to be part of the hustle and bustle for their 20th anniversary, and share your handmade goods with the world! Special rates for community groups wanting information stalls. Visit www.newtownfestival.org.nz to get your booking in.

Day in the Bay

Don't miss Island Bay's big Day In The Bay! This is not only a great Festival day with entertainment, fun fairs and markets, it also shows thousands of visitors the unique character of Island Bay's heritage including the stunning blessing of the fishing boats and the Carnevale Italia. Head down to Shorland Park on Feb 14th from 10am to 5pm.

English in the Community - free ESOL classes

Improve your English, make new friends and find out more about your community. Free for NZ citizens and residents. Mondays and Fridays, 9.30am to 11.30am at the Newtown Community Centre. For more information, phone 04 385 8919.



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