



Brought to you by the  
Newtown Community  
and Cultural Centre

Dec 2018 - Jan 2019



# *Kia Ora Newtown*

Kia ora,

How did this happen? It's December already - that sure snuck up fast. I'm looking forward to summer road trips and spending time with friends and family in the (fingers crossed) summer sun! We'll be shutting up the Centre from Thursday 20th December until Monday 7th January - so don't come knocking, because no one will be home!

By the time you're reading this, the wonderful Renee Rushton has left us for maternity leave and she probably has her arms filled with baby snuggles and soiled diapers. I'll miss our daily laughs, her support and her wealth of brilliant ideas. A huge thanks to Robbie Neilson for his epic cover art this month, featuring the team at NCCC waving off Renee - we will miss you! Keeping me company for the 2019 year is the wonderful Ellie Clayton who has come to us from Changemakers Refugee Forum - you can learn a bit more about her on page 7. Ellie will also be your new editor of the Newtown News - so this will be your last editorial rant from me before I hand it on over to Ellie.

Reflecting upon my time as editor, I'd like to give a huge shout out of "Thanks, you're awesome!" to all the volunteer community members who have contributed their writings, artwork and design - you make this wee mag what it is. I always love getting that first glimpse of what you come up with. My favourite part of this gig was writing the Notorious Newtowner, cos I got to meet loads of awesome locals and learn all about their lives. This month Mhairi McGregor gets that honour as she banter with Jordy Kunz on page 3.

We've had another full-on year at the Centre, with loads of new projects to keep us busy, like our "Wash Against Waste" kit, which you can read all about on the back page, along with lots of other happenings around Newtown. We've also got loads to look forward to with 2019 being the year our building renovations start. Catch up on all the latest at our website: [www.newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown)

That's it from me: I'm handing over to Ellie to make sure Newtown has all the goss and a little magazine to call its own! Get in touch with her at the below email if you're interested in contributing in 2019. I hope no matter what you celebrate or what you believe that you have a great summer break (if you're lucky enough to get one)...

Ngā mihi,

Eryn Gribble

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Cover art by Robbie Neilson (Amaze!). Design by Anka Kuepper. Sub-editing by Mhairi McGregor.

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



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# Notorious NEWTowner

*Mhairi McGregor takes a trip down Adelaide Road to hang out in Jordan Kunz's new mobile juice cart "Juice on the Loose" and finds out that the 26 year old has quite a tale to tell...*



I've just popped down to chat to Jordy during what he describes as his "quiet patch", but as I sit there a steady stream of devoted customers appears at the van, all looking for a delicious drink and a few choice words of conversation.

They've come to the right place. Jordy clearly loves his job – indeed, he seems "content" – but as he weighs each espresso shot at precisely 18 grams, he tells me that he has been on quite a journey to get here.

Jordy grew up in Brooklyn and went to Wellington College, where structured learning proved a challenge: "I wanted to learn about what I wanted to learn about", he tells me. Gaining first-hand knowledge and collecting life-enriching experiences seems to be a recurring theme for Jordy, who tells me he is passionate about global politics, and that travelling far and wide has made him a better person.

After school, Jordy pursued furniture making, then joinery, and even delivered pizzas before trying his hand at sales, where he discovered he had a natural talent. After catching Dengue Fever in the Cook Islands and being off work for six months, Jordy worked as an account manager before realising "I wasn't really happy".

When he started working at a local cafe, Jordy found genuine enjoyment for the first time: "I

felt like I was making people happy by serving them. I could be who I wanted to be as long as the customer was happy". As more people line up for coffee, it's clear this philosophy is still serving Jordy well. He remembers everyone's names and orders, and even admits he occasionally modifies his recipes "depending on what I think the customer will like!"

Finishing up at the cafe, Jordy travelled to Europe on a one-way ticket to embark on "the most exciting part of my life". With only \$4000 in the bank, he travelled to 350 different cities in 38 countries over three years, particularly falling in love with the Balkans "because of the interesting geo-political situation".

Running out of money during his travels, Jordy worked in Italy, Macedonia, Germany and in a Michelin-star restaurant in the UK, before heading off backpacking for the second and third time and having some life-defining experiences, including meeting his partner in a hostel in Kosovo and hitch-hiking together across Turkey.

Returning to NZ, Jordy put a long-held idea for a juice cart into action: "I knew that there were a lot of pie carts and sausages but I wanted to create a healthy option with juices and smoothies". He bought the van, which he then kitted out himself, and says he loves making drinks for the locals: "I enjoy making other people happy. They come to me because they want something, and I can give it to them".

After all his experiences in the big wide world, it seems Jordy has found contentment in striving to provide Newtown with the best drinks on Adelaide Road. You can catch him Monday to Friday outside the Occasional Brewer, where you can hear his story, or share your own.

Fb.me/theloosejuicenz  
@juiceontheloosenz

# Dear Reader

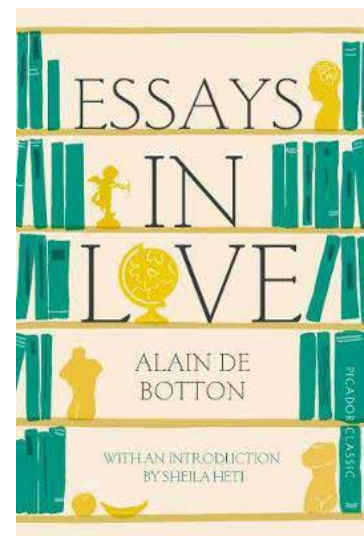
By Deepa-Rose Sealy

As the daughter of a writer, my reading is the first thing I organise for any holiday. For me, reading is the key ingredient needed to escape and enjoy any break away, whether it be under the sun in a hammock, or curled up in bed on a wild and wet day.

Here's some reviews of my favourites for your summer reading inspiration...

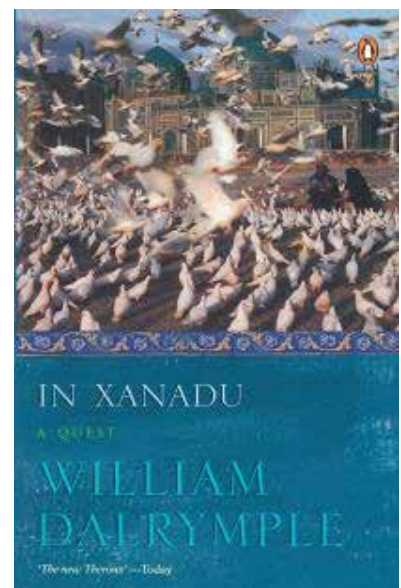
## 'Essays in Love' or 'On Love' by Alain de Botton

I have read this book a few times now and each time new layers appear: layers of reflection, relationship deconstruction, empowerment and reassurance. Alain de Botton - in his classic serious but unexpectedly amusing tone - philosophises about his first serious relationship in his early 20's. This book helped me understand the deeper complexities of relationships, ourselves and other humans; things we may think, but not quite hear in others. While this is de Botton's first book, written at age 23, it still features the tone of his other books, including *Architecture of Happiness*, *Status Anxiety* and *The Consolations of Philosophy*, all reconciling the past self with the present and future selves.



## 'In Xanadu' by William Dalrymple

For the more adventurous of you, this book is written by a young Dalrymple - before his famous *White Mughals* - who is a Cambridge University-bred historian who happens to be the cousin of Virginia Woolf. In this journey of the late 1980's, Dalrymple traces the steps of Marco Polo from Jerusalem to the site of Shangdu (Xanadu) in Inner Mongolia, China. It's a clever, witty and funny tale, rich with historical anecdotes that draw one in, rather than leaving an unwelcome reminder of high school history class. The four month journey is taken on many different types of transport, through remote villages to villagers and their rituals, even more remote mountain passes and deserts, through architecture new and ancient, and along intimidating red-taped borders. It's a delight to the curious mind, the senses and the wits!



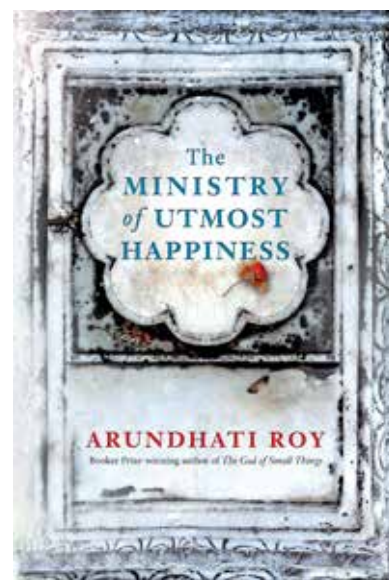
## 'Mr Money Mustache' by Mr Money Mustache (MMM)

Have you heard of this guy? This blog became a phenomenon in 2011 when it was first written by an astute, frugal young Canadian who had just hit self sufficiency and early retirement with his wife at age 30. I was drawn to it when considering my financial future and thinking about investments (do I hear you sigh?). For those who are into goals, saving, reigning in expenses, sustainable New Year's resolutions, understanding the economy and working towards a more frugal, subsistent and skilled future, this is your tonic! Unlike other financial advisors, Mr Money Mustache believes in saving money to save the planet, to retire early, to have more time to choose what you want to do, not just to spend more. Even if you are already frugal and well in control of your finances, you will definitely learn something new here. Just put a keyword into the blog's search bar and have a Happy New Year!



## 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' by Arundhati Roy

This writer is my favourite so obviously I am biased! Whether it is her first novel *The God of Small Things* (winner of the 1997 Man Booker Prize), or her activist non-fiction that breaks down capitalism and so called 'democracy' in *The Algebra of Infinite Justice* and *Listening to Grasshoppers: Field Notes on Democracy*, Roy does not disappoint. It is her earthy, rich language, deep metaphors and overwhelming sense of social justice that brings *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* to succeed, despite it being Roy's first fiction piece in 20 years. Drawing together a rich array of outcasts, this narrative of social injustice, marginalised citizens and the political decisions that make them so transports you to the streets of Kashmiri towns, Delhi protests and Gujarati politics, while raising a fire of hope for humanity!



## 'Conversations with Friends' by Sally Rooney

This book was given to me by a new friend and at first I was skeptical of the choice. However, what ensued were the most bookworm-ridden days I have experienced since university destroyed my reading habit. It's an easy read with an intricate story of two couples and their relationships with work, each other, art and a hint of politics. It struck me as a simple story and yet I was so riveted - a combination that made this debut book by the super-young Irish Sally Rooney just brilliant. The language she uses is simple but the emotions so relatable. There is no literary pretension, poetic metaphors or high-brow showing off. Mostly there is just a story that is light and entertaining, until you realise you may just be one of the characters...



### Extra for experts: more reading and listening favourites for the holidays

1. The New Yorker - <https://www.newyorker.com>
2. The New York Review of Books - <https://www.nybooks.com>
3. BBC World Book Club - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003jhsj/episodes/player>
4. 'The Trotter-Nama' by Irwin Allan Sealy

# *Newtown History Files*

## **Before Electricity**

*By Chris Rabey*

Back in the early 1900's, in pre-electricity days, there were no conveniences. In houses, lighting was by candles and kerosene lamps; wood ranges were used for cooking and because there were no fridges, perishable goods like butter, milk and meat were kept out in a safe - a cupboard with wire gauze sides - which was usually built into the coolest wall of the house or in a shaded part of the garden under trees.

On wash days, white clothes were boiled up in the copper out in the wash house or in some cases out in the open. These were then lifted out into a tub for scrubbing, then rinsing in another tub, then 'blueing' and finally wringing out and hanging on the line. All processes were done by hand.

Shirt collars and table cloths had to be starched and practically everything had to be ironed - there were no drip dry materials in those days! For ironing, women had three heavy irons which had interchangeable handles and as each one cooled off it was put back on the range to heat up and the handle fastened on to the next hot one, and so on.

The fire in the range had to be stoked all the time to keep heating the irons, so ironing was usually done while the dinner was cooking or baking was being done. There was always plenty of firewood and kindling on hand, which meant a lot of work - you couldn't simply turn a switch or two and the oven would heat up, or press a switch and the room would light up!

Candles were made out of melted fat and placed into moulds with the wicks, to set. All the moulds were home-made.

## **Call for contributors - Newtown News needs you!**

Kia ora! We hope you're enjoying this copy of the Newtown News – our awesome zine for Newtowners, by Newtowners. We've got a cool crew of volunteer artists and writers who are involved in putting this zine together. However, with a few peeps jetting off overseas or moving on to new projects, we're on the look-out for some new News voices in 2019. It could be some cover art, a poem, a regular column, a casual article every now and then or really whatever you feel like!

Here's a quiz to find out if you should get involved...

### **1. Do you love Newtown?**

- YES! Sounds like you're our kinda person, go on to question 2
- NO! Errrr...then this probably isn't the zine for you.

### **2. Do you have a little bit of time?**

- YES! Fab, jump on board! Go on to question 3
- NO! Quit readin' this immediately and get back to your busy life.

### **3. Are you a writer, artist, poet, puzzle maker or comic artist?**

- YES! Send us your submissions! We'd love to hear from you
- NOT YET! Send us your submissions! Go onnnn, give it a try! We're totally happy to give you a hand with some editing/support to make your stuff awesome.

Send your writing, scribbles, drawing, ideas or questions to [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

# Welcome Ellie!



Kia ora e te whānau! Ko Thames te awa, ko Seven Sisters ngā pae maunga. Nō Ingaranagi ahau, engari e tū ana au i runga i te whenua Māori inaianei. Ko Ellie Clayton tōku ingoa.

Kia ora! I'm Ellie and I'm stoked to be joining Eryn in the Newtown Community Centre covering Renee as a coordinator, while she heads off on maternity leave.

Here's a bit about me - I grew up in the UK before jetting (and bicycling) over to Aotearoa almost 5 years ago. As a new pākehā immigrant, I acknowledge that I stand on Māori land and do my best to respect tino rangatiratanga.

I've been lucky to make te Whanganui-a-Tara my home – and extra lucky to have spent most of this time in Newtown, which I absolutely love! I've worked for ChangeMakers Refugee Forum for the past almost-3 years, so I'm particularly keen to make sure refugee-background Newtowners feel part of our community.

I love tramping, drinking coffee, learning Te Reo Māori, playing basketball (badly), building my excellent odd-sock collection, social justice and making the world a more rad place, dog walks, hanging with friends and whānau – and more than anything else, I love swimming in the ocean – when Matariki the whale was here, I nearly died of excitement.

Please drop by to say kia ora, hello or salaam alaikum – I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you all.

## Cartoon Corner

MEANWHILE IN NEW ZEALAND...



# *What's the Happs?*

**At the Newtown Community Centre, corner Rintoul & Colombo Streets**

## **NCCC closure dates**

We shut up shop for the year on Thursday 20 December at 4.30pm and open again on Monday 7 January at 9am. Our regular classes will also be taking a break over this time, with most of them resuming by early February - just check our website for more details: [newtowncommunity.org.nz](http://newtowncommunity.org.nz)

## **No Sh\*t Gift Shop**

Enjoy a feast of creativity and generosity from the Wellington Timebank community. This is a unique pop-up gift store where people can buy locally made gifts as well as vouchers for fun stuff and useful services. Come on down to the No Sh\*t Gift Shop and support local artists, or buy a family member an experience or a service this year for the festive season. Time credits and cash accepted. Located at BLOOM, the cool new community art space opposite our centre (2 Colombo St, corner Rintoul and Colombo streets), Saturday 15 December, 10am-2pm.

## **Repair Cafe**

Got broken stuff? Bring it to the Repair Cafe! There will be skilled volunteers on hand to show you how to mend your loved items. Think clothing, jewellery, electrical items, kitchenware, toys, accessories, furniture, musical instruments and more. Delicious snacks & coffee/tea will be available from the Koha Kitchen. Contact [newtown.tool.library@gmail.com](mailto:newtown.tool.library@gmail.com) to find out more. Saturday 15 December, 11am-2pm, Newtown Community Centre.

## **Wash Against Waste Kit**

Did you know the Newtown Community Centre has a Wash Against Waste Kit? "A what?" you say. It's a resource kit filled with crockery and cutlery that you can borrow, free of charge, to help you minimise waste at your event! For more info or to request a booking, visit the webpage: [newtowncommunity.org.nz/washagainstwaste](http://newtowncommunity.org.nz/washagainstwaste)

## **Legal Advice Clinic**

Community Law Wellington & Hutt Valley have a monthly clinic at the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre. This happens on the first Wednesday of every month from 11am-12noon. No appointment necessary, just drop in with your legal questions and get help from a qualified lawyer.

## **Our town, Newtown**

A huge thank you to everyone who has participated in the Newtown Facility Upgrade process so far. We've loved hearing your feedback at our events and receiving your emails in response to the concept designs we've posted on the NCCC website. The Steering Committee is now in the process of going through all your feedback and incorporating what we can into the designs, within the budget and scope of the project. Keep an eye on our webpage for further updates and designs: [newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown](http://newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown)

## **Taiko Drumming**

Try Japanese ensemble drumming with the Narukami Taiko team at Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell St, on Sunday 13 January from 1-2pm. No drumming experience or musicianship needed - it will be a fun hour where you can try it out, learn some simple rhythms, and play alongside the team members. A good number of the Narukami members started with open days just like this! Suitable for anyone who can hold a drumstick. Koha entry.

## **New Exhibition - Black coffee**

On 6 December, at Black Coffee, 133 Riddiford St, Verdee will be exhibiting photographic images captured in parts of India and presenting a textile display of their latest fashions. Verdee studies and photographs a range of concepts, such as landscapes, street art, portraits, city life, cultural identity and abstract. These images are digitally printed onto fabric and transformed into garments that allow people to wear thought-provoking art and express images captured in New Zealand and around the world. Come along and soak in the Indian culture and experience a new way of seeing fashion!

## **Newtown School Holiday Programme**

Does the thought of 6 weeks with the kids over summer make you break out in a cold sweat? Send them along to the cheap-as-chips Newtown School Holiday Programme, running 21 January until 1 February. Costs are between \$10 and \$25 per child per day. Call or email Ellie at the Newtown Community Centre on 389 4786 or [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz)