

# newtown

## news

February  
2018



*Proudly brought to you by the Newtown Community  
and Cultural Centre*



# Kia Ora Newtown

I feel well rested after a long holiday break - spending the summer with friends enjoying live music, the beach and a few brews. Bliss!

We're straight back into it here with exciting new projects and happenings for 2018. At the end of last year, we got the best ever Christmas present - funding for an awesome new community project! We're joining forces with the legends over at Aro Valley Community Centre to establish community fridges in our respective neighbourhoods. Generous support comes from Wellington City Council's Waste Minimisation fund - thanks!

A Community Fridge is a refrigerator located in a public space, into which people and businesses can put food and from which anyone can take food. The aims are to reduce food waste by giving households and local businesses a place to put edible food AND to provide food to anyone who needs or wants it! Win, win! We are on the hunt for a (paid) coordinator, so if this sounds like you, you have until the 9th of Feb to apply. Check it out at [dogoodjobs.co.nz/jobs/community-fridge-coordinator](http://dogoodjobs.co.nz/jobs/community-fridge-coordinator). We'll also need an army of volunteers, so watch this space or get in touch if you are interested!

Back to the issue! Despite our gorgeous cover, designed by the very talented Kiana Butters, you won't find much mushy valentines day inspired content in here. We do celebrate a love of reading, thanks to the Newtown Library who pulled together an awesome summer reading list for us! Compassion and love go together like 'bread and butter' so do check out regular contributor Rose Deepa-Sealy's article on "Compassion". As always, flick to the back page to see all the happenings in our sweet little suburb - 'what's the happs?' will tell you 'what's up'!

Finally, just a wee reminder that until the 14th of this month, our offices are temporarily located at SMART Newtown (our awesome free community computer lab) at 9 Constable street. This is because we've got some major building repairs happening at the centre. You can pop on into SMART Newtown and say "Happy New Year!" between the hours of 9am to 4.30pm or drop us a call or email as usual.

Ngā mihi,

Eryn Gribble  
[newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com)

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



Baobab Cafe



THE  
RAMEN  
SHOP

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



# Notorious NEWZowner

*Eryn has a good ol' banter in the sun with Ben Phillips, coordinator of the Newtown Tool Library and master of puns.*



When Ben was thirteen his parents packed up the family home, enrolled Ben and his sister in correspondence school and backpacked through Asia staying in grungy backpackers. During their year away they also bought a beat up old bedford and travelled through Europe! Amazing! "It was a real culture shock, an experience! It expanded my mind for what the world was like and gave me an independent spirit."

Ben credits his lifelong passion for social justice and environmental issues to trips like this one and a school trip to Kapiti Island. These passions have kept Ben busy in Newtown (and beyond) over the years! He's been involved in

running a number of zero-waste projects (including zero waste manager for Newtown Festival), gardening, landscaping for locals and currently works for Kaibosh as their Volunteer Manager. Kaibosh is a food rescue organisation that supplies charities that support people experiencing food insecurity.

As if he's not busy enough, Ben is also the coordinator of the Newtown Tool Library, which is just what it sounds like - a lending library for tools based at the Newtown Community Centre. This project was started by a good friend of his - Nati Lombardo, and now boasts 70 plus members.

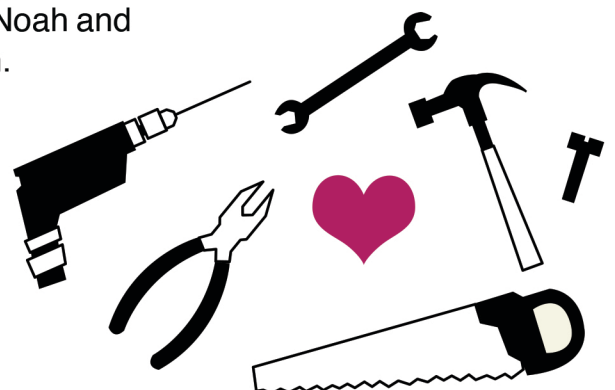
Ben grew up in a progressive Jewish community - pretty much run by volunteers. Growing up he spent many hours pitching in for working bees and supporting community members in their personal lives - so he grew up with community! Ben now considers himself culturally Jewish, but non-religious.

Perhaps this community upbringing has contributed to Ben's musings that "... the solution to a lot of environmental problems is a lack of social cohesion. I don't think materialism is a bad thing necessarily, but perhaps hyper-consumerism has sort of pushed people apart."

"Reducing waste shouldn't be a 'nice to have' it should be an important part of our lives, which can be as broad as saying no to plastic bags, or learning to fix your broken items. It can be empowering, it can give people their agency again!"

In addition to his passion for the environment and community, Ben is a keen family man. He loves to spend time with his 14 year old son, Noah. If you're friends with Ben or if you've ever worked with him, you've probably met Noah and you'll know that he's an all round great, stand up human. Ben tells me that the best times spent with Noah are jamming the blues and listening to old rock records turned up to eleven.

As always, there's not enough space to say all the things. I recommend that you join the Tool Library and/or sign up to volunteer for Kaibosh and have a yarn with Ben. You won't regret it!





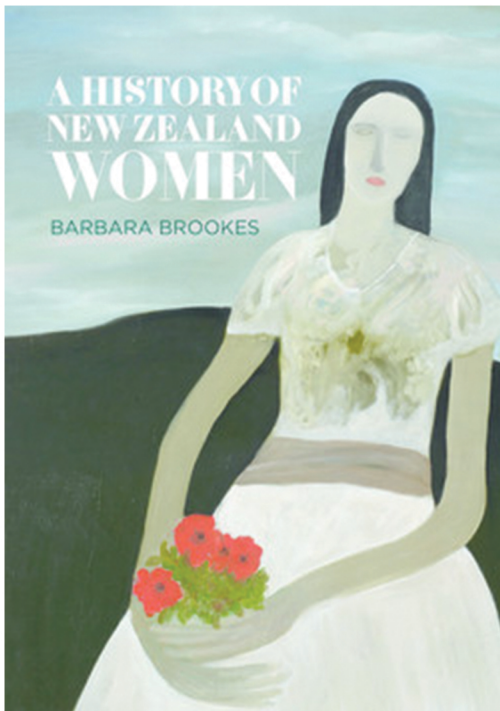


# Bookworms



*Essential summer reading*

Reserve a 2017 New Zealand Book Award winner from your local library - the Newtown Library, 13 Constable St, Newtown!



## **A History of New Zealand Women**

**By:** Barbara Brookes

**Published by:** Bridget Williams Books

Putting women at the centre of our history, this sweeping survey shows exactly when, how and why gender mattered. It combines deep research, an immensely readable narrative, superbly well-integrated images and it is distinguished by close attention to both Māori and Pākehā women. General changes in each period are combined effortlessly with the particular, local stories of individual women, many not well-known. A wider sense of women's experiences is beautifully conveyed by the many well-captioned artworks, photographs, texts and objects.



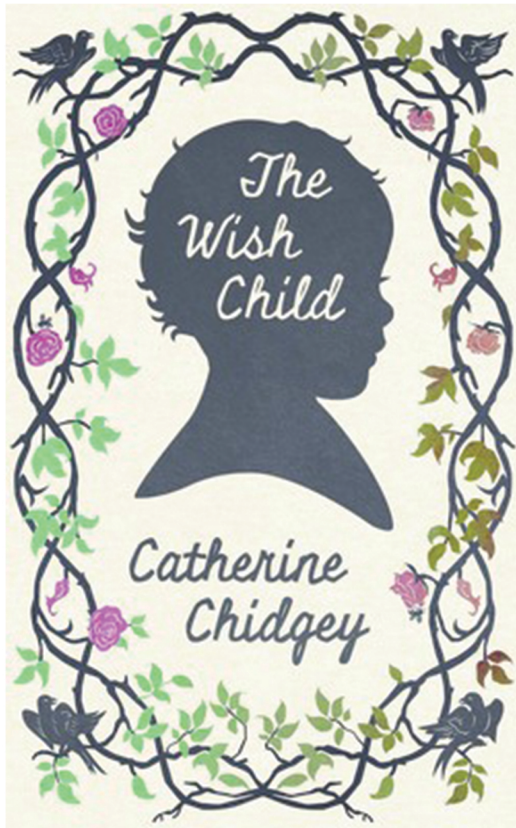
## **Can You Tolerate This?**

**By:** Ashleigh Young

**Published by:** Victoria University Press

Ashleigh Young's *Can You Tolerate This?* is a collection of personal essays that sets a high bar for style and originality in a form that has very little precedent in this country. Young takes the events in her life, including her family, her jobs, and all the emotional complications of living in this world and with remarkable honesty delivers a shrewd and honest reckoning. Always an acute observer, it is in Young's commitment to writing as an art that the true miracle occurs; she tells us her story and somehow we get our own.



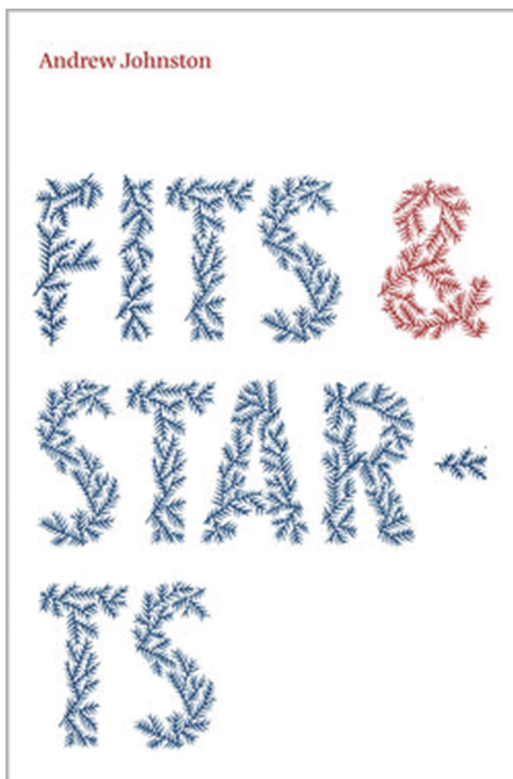


## The Wish Child

**By:** Catherine Chidgey

**Published by:** Victoria University Press

Catherine Chidgey's *The Wish Child* subtly examines territory unusual for a New Zealand writer with this original exploration of the edges of a much-written about historic time. Exposing and celebrating the power of words – so dangerous they must be cut out or shredded, so magical they can be wondered at and conjured with – Chidgey also exposes the fragility and strength of humanity. Elegantly written, there is an innerness to the book's narrative which gives it authenticity and even authority. The fey, mysterious voice of *The Wish Child*, and the very human voices and activities of the book's other children, are compelling and memorable. You'll be caught by surprise with its plumbing of depths and sudden moments of grace, beauty and light.



## Fits & Starts

**By:** Andrew Johnston

**Published by:** Victoria University Press

The judges' admiration for Andrew Johnston's remarkable collection grew with each rereading, as its rich intellectual and emotional layers continued to reveal themselves. *Fits & Starts* is a slow-burning *tour de force*, each image, metaphor, theme deeply, fully imagined. It draws on a complex amalgam of sources, including the *King James Bible*, the radio alphabet, Ovid's *Metamorphosis* and ancestry.com, and rewards the reader's intelligence, attention and patience. Using a minimalist couplet-form, the collection is at once philosophical and political, witty and moving, risky and grounded, while maintaining a marvellously varied singing line. To reward *Fits & Starts* with the overall poetry prize is to reward New Zealand poetry at its most impressive and its most promising.



# compassion

By Deepa-Rose Sealy

**compassion** *n.*

sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it  
(Merriam Webster)

Compassion is a word bandied in law courts, schools, religion. A word endlessly diluted through media. In this process there is a loss in the *actual* meaning of this word; this feeling. Taste the word unfold, and let it roll through you.

Compassion.

*com* (or *cum*) - with



*passion*

*patient* - one who suffers

*patiens* - to suffer

*pathos* - suffering



Compassion. *To love together with.*

It is the oldest written feeling for humanity. A feeling that struck distrust for the ancient Greek and Romans as it could not be reasoned with. A feeling that is ranked as the greatest virtue in multiple philosophies and religions. The current Dalai Lama says "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive." While the 600BC Aesop says "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

It is timeless, only gathering strength through the ages. So spirituality and etymology aside, what does it mean in the 21st century for us?

A quick scan of the United Nation's International Days give us an answer. Most, if not all, the days of observances are based in and around compassion. Whether it be World Humanitarian Day, the Day of Tolerance, or Wildlife Day we are called to the table of Compassion. To pause, to reconsider our stance, our beliefs; our actions. To consider all that is around us, to peer into the face of a person, animal, or tree maybe and then hold respect, awareness, love, and support for it.

Away from International Days, compassion is present in the fabric of our lives. Walking to work nameless (at first) faces peer at us. It may be uncomfortable at first, but then compassion asks us to look back despite our own (busy) lives. To pause and get to know this person who is like you in their needs and feelings. Plato said 'be kind as everyone is fighting a harder battle.'

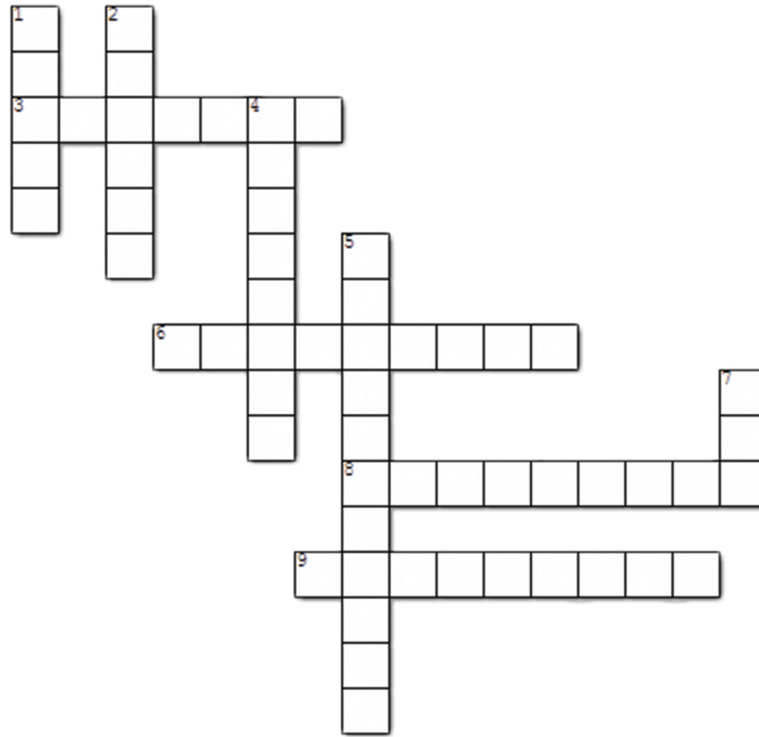
So in an age of diluted and muted words and events let us connect our own feelings of compassion. Let us embrace the events in our life that ask for compassion. Let us sympathetically and consciously be aware of others' suffering. And let us try and alleviate that suffering. Or as Arundhati Roy says:

"To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."



# Puzzling Time

*Get out your pen and give this (mostly) Newtown inspired crossword a go!*



## Across

- 3. The Māori word for summer
- 6. The main street of Newtown
- 8. Years that the Newtown Festival has been running (6-3)
- 9. Another name for Jandals (4-5)

## Down

- 1. The first name of one of Newtown Community Centre's youth workers
- 2. Newtown Community Centre was originally a...?
- 4. Day of the week rubbish is collected in Newtown
- 5. A popular Wellington beach (8-2)
- 7. The dollar price of Newtown Community Centre's Thursday morning yoga class

# Newtown Mentors

*We need mentors and mentees for 2018's programme!*

Newtown Mentors is a mentoring programme run by the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre. The mentees (9-16 year-olds) regularly hang out with a mentor over the course of the one-year programme. During these times they might kick a ball around, bake a cake, go on an adventure, play a board game, write a C.V. at Smart Newtown, meet up with some of the other mentors and mentees, listen to music together, and much more! Pretty choice, eh?

We believe that every child can benefit from having a mentor - whatever culture, background, hardships or privilege they come from. We take referrals from health clinics, schools, families or just people who are keen to be hooked up!

We also need enthusiastic, committed volunteers to get involved as mentors (at least 18 years old). Group training and supervision is provided.

Get in touch with our Youth Worker Chris for more information.

youthworker.nccc@gmail.com





# What's the happs?

## Everybodies Choir

Everybodies choir is a choir where everybody is welcome! Pop along and have a listen, or join in - there is no pressure to come each week. Modern songs such as "Living on a Prayer" and "Eye of the Tiger" are among the classic tunes being belted out! This community choir meets each Wednesday at 199 Riddiford Street from 10.30am - 11.30am.

## Great Newtown Garage Sale Day

On Sunday 10th March flats and homes all over Newtown will be rolling up their garage doors and inviting you to find treasure within their trash! If you are interested in having a garage sale you can register (it's free) at [garage.newtown@gmail.com](mailto:garage.newtown@gmail.com) include your name, address, and a short description of the type of things you'll be selling at your garage sale. Then you'll get listed on the map. If you are a keen shopper check out [www.newtownfestival.org.nz/garagesale](http://www.newtownfestival.org.nz/garagesale) nearer to the time for the map, so you can find all the sweet scores spread out all over Newtown!

## Timebank Summer Roadshow

The Wellington Timebank is hitting the road! If you're not a Newtown local and have always wanted the Timebank to visit, you're in luck! Join Timebank Coordinators for morning and afternoon teas at community centres around Wellington where you'll be able to find out about Timebanking, sign up or ask questions if you are already a Timebanker. Thurs 1 & Fri 2 Feb Aro Valley CC, Thurs 1st Feb Berhampore CCC, Mon 5th Feb Berhampore, Thurs 8th Feb Karori CC, Fri 9th Feb Tawa CC, Mon 12th Strathmore Park CC, Visit their Facebook Page [facebook.com/pg/wgtntimebank/events](https://facebook.com/pg/wgtntimebank/events) for times and more info.

## Kotahi Music Festival

Celebrate Waitangi Day 2018 by listening to some great homegrown music in the natural amphitheatre at Kahurangi School. Free entry, koha appreciated. Gates open at 2pm. Bring your kids, your friends, your neighbours! There will be food trucks, great coffee, fun activities and best of all AMAZING music. Line Up: Trinty Roots, A Girl Named Mo, MC Flowz, The Dream Team, Disasteradio, The Tyson Smith Group.

Organised by Kahurangi Friends, this is family friendly event for everyone to enjoy.

Tuesday 6 Feb, 2pm @  
Kahurangi School, 45  
Strathmore Ave. See the FB  
page for more info:  
[facebook.com/events/  
181459015924572/](https://facebook.com/events/181459015924572/)

## Autumn Season - Urban Gardening Workshops

Enrolments are open for WorkerBe Oasis' Autumn season of urban gardening workshops - these popular classes are packed with priceless advice on making your home garden grow. The workshops will be held on Sundays, 25 Feb - 25 March, 2-3.30pm at WorkerBe Oasis, 5 Hospital Rd, Newtown. Workshop topics include: Planning and designing an edible garden, Healthy Soil, Perfect Compost, Sow Seeds & Plant Plants, Edible Garden Maintenance. For more info see [www.edibleoasis.net](http://www.edibleoasis.net) and fb Edible Oasis NZ. To register email [contact@edibleoasis.net](mailto:contact@edibleoasis.net) or use form on website or message fb. \$20/workshop, 2 Timebank spots available.

