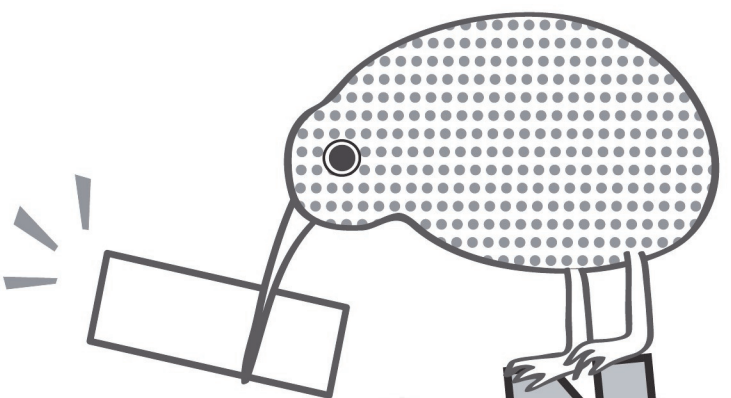


NEWTOWN NEWS

ELECTION



ISSUE

SEPTEMBER

2017



Brought to you by **the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre**



Kia Ora Newtown

It's that time of the year - the General Election is fast approaching on September 23rd. We've put together an election special of the Newtown News to encourage you to get out and vote.

As at the 31st July 445,234 people in New Zealand are not enrolled. 263,192 of those are 29 years old or under. Young people make up about 20 per cent of the voting population but less than half of us vote in general elections and I don't think it's cos we're lazy or apathetic! That doesn't ring true to my experience. It's a complex issue and often youth (and youth issues) are left out of the political arena. Across all age groups, voting stats were low in the 2014 election, I reckon this year we can do better! Newtown falls inside the Rongotai electorate where 89.3% of us are currently enrolled. Nice!

I encourage you to think about what issues matter to you and research which parties align to your views and vision for New Zealand. For me 'what's on top' is: poverty and inequality, housing, funding for community services/organisations, disability, criminal justice, drug law reform, mental health and loads more.

If you find it all a bit overwhelming to wade through (join the club!) then jump on your nearest computer or pull that smartphone out of your pocket. Two of my favourite online tools are:

- Onthefence.co.nz this fancy wee website lets you place your political positions on a nonbinary sliding scale. When finished it presents you with "your result card" and a breakdown of which parties you are most aligned to by percentage.
- The Spinoff has created an interactive online tool that takes the personality out of politics and puts the focus on policy. Policy (<http://policy.thespinoff.co.nz/>) is essentially a database where policies by various political parties have been summarised and are ordered in a way that they can easily be compared.

Don't forget the Electoral Commission has a phone line that is staffed 24 hours a day in the lead-up to the election, so throw them any questions you have on 0800367656 or check them out online www.elections.org.nz.

To help you guys out we've **conversed with the candidates** standing for the Rongotai Electorate on **pages 4 and 5**.

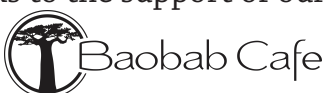
In other news....you might remember last month we were going through a recruitment process? We're stoked to welcome Jonty Cook to our youth worker team - learn all about him on the **page opposite** as he is our **Notorious Newtowner** of the month!

Until next time - get talking about the change you wanna see in our world of Aotearoa.
Ngā mihi,

Eryn Gribble
newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com

Cover art by Merumo Mukaide, Design by Hania Tarabishy

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

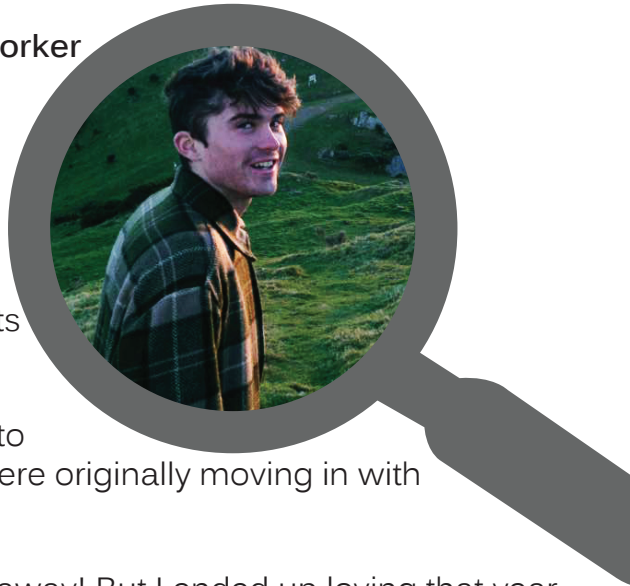


The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre

Notorious NEWTowner

Eryn Gribble gets to know the freshest member of the Newtown Community Centre team, 22 year old youth-worker Jonty Cook.

Jonty was born in Hamilton and spent the first 18 years of his life there. A huge sports fan, he spent his school years playing "more sports than I can count". After school, he moved to Auckland to study - completing a bachelor of arts majoring in geography and sociology.



His parents and three siblings had slowly migrated down to Wellington over the years and Jonty decided to relocate here originally moving in with his folks in Newtown.

"It wasn't super easy at first, going back home after years away! But I ended up loving that year and my admiration for my family grew heaps. We got real close." Jonty's parents occasionally foster children and the family shared the experience and commitment of having a foster child live with them.

At the end of 2016, Jonty and a bunch of seven mates took a 2-month trip visiting India and Nepal. When he became ill he insisted his friends start the multi-day hike in The Annapurna mountain ranges without him. Despite not having cell phones, they figured they would meet up along the way.

"It was an incredible New Years, hiking by myself for a few days in the snow. Day two, I woke up and opened the door of the guest house when I heard my name being yelled out. It was my friends! It was so random!" Jonty's friends hadn't known he was in the small village but decided to stand in the middle of the village and call out his name - just in case.

Jonty resides in an Urban Vision flat with three other Anglican Christians in the Te Ara Hou Council complex, in Newtown. Urban Vision runs houses in some of Wellington's neighbourhoods in which young Christians live alongside people that may be marginalised or vulnerable. Jonty tells me it's all about being present and connecting with your community, responding to their needs. His team run a range of programmes for kids and have a largely open door policy for the young people that live there.

"I genuinely just love the people and being a part of the community, it's such a cool thing to be a part of."

When he's not playing in a social netball or football team or working as a teacher aide at Newtown School, he loves to jam out on the piano or synths and listen to music.

"My absolute favourite artist is Frankie Cosmos, she's from New York, so I thought I'd never get to see her play live. When my sister told me she was coming to NZ, I looked it up - she was playing Moon bar in Newtown! I couldn't believe it!" At the gig he had the pleasure of meeting her, he tells me he wasn't particularly cool about it but that she was awesome!

We reckon Jonty is both cool and awesome! We're stoked to have his passion and enthusiasm for Newtown and our young people - welcome to the team Jonty!



CONVERSING WITH THE CANDIDATES

For this election special of The Newtown News, we wanted to make it easier for ya to decide which candidates best represent you! We've rounded up some of the Rongotai candidates, given them a strict word count and posed the following three questions to them:

1. What is your favourite Place in Newtown and why?
2. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the Rongotai electorate and how will you address these?
3. How will your party address the housing issue and increasing homelessness in New Zealand?

Bruce Welsh

Conservative Party Candidate



1. The top of Constable Street looking down and across the Newtown valley is fantastic.
2. Rongotai has been left with many challenges, particularly transport connections across town due to lack of leadership. However, the biggest challenge is how we care for vulnerable people. More than just giving out money we need to sit beside them and mentor them and welcome them as part of the community.
3. As an architect dealing with housing every day, the greatest hindrance to availability of housing is the way the City Council enforces its District Plan. Affordability can be improved by using factory built houses, changing our model of section development to be council lead and working with different ownership models like "rent to buy" and regulate house prices for starter homes.

Teall Crossen

Green Party Candidate



1. Rainbow Books, because I love to read and catch up with Brian and Taj the amazing dog.
2. We need a smarter transport system that works for everyone, so it is cleaner, quicker and cheaper to get around. The Greens support a fully electric bus fleet for our city, affordable fares for all, safer walking and cycling and modern light rail from the CBD to the airport.
3. Everyone has the basic human right to a warm and dry home. In Government, the Greens will introduce an enforceable Warrant of Fitness for all rentals so people won't get sick from damp houses, introduce a rent-to-buy plan for first home buyers, and build more emergency housing so no one has to sleep in a car or on the street.

Chris Finlayson

National Party Candidate



1. Mediterranean Food Warehouse. Great gelato.
2. Roding and earthquake preparedness. WCC has failed to address these issues. Central Government must lead as I did on the Arras Tunnel project.
3. Getting houses built faster. Providing more emergency housing. Action to help first home buyers. All being done now.

Geoff Mills

NZ First Party Candidate



1. My favourite place in Newtown is Patisserie Delight Café in Riddiford Street near McDonalds – great food, friendly service.
2. One big issue is the cost of living and low wages for many. NZ First will address these by increasing the minimum wage from \$15.75 to \$20 in stages over three years offset by tax reduction for businesses affected as well as removing GST from basic food items.
3. NZ First will move to prevent the sale of houses to non-NZ citizens, provide government assistance to first home buyers and return Housing New Zealand Corporation to its role as the country's primary social housing provider. We will also remove GST off rates as it is a tax on a tax.

Chris Sole

ACT Party Candidate



1. Newtown Park as I have nice memories of being there for the McEvedy Shield competitions.
2. ACT believes the biggest challenges in Rongotai are housing (answered below) and traffic congestion. ACT is in favour of 21st-century solutions to congestion and transportation, such as ride-sharing programs like Uber, and congestion charging, like the system implemented in Singapore, initially put in place over 30 years ago.
3. ACT would replace the Resource Management Act with legislation forcing councils to free up land as population increases. ACT would ensure the required infrastructure is funded by sharing GST on construction with councils. This would allow home building on an epic scale, restore per-capita building rates and provide greater supply. More supply in the market would lower prices and help improve quality across New Zealand's homes.

Paul Eagle

Labour Party Candidate



1. Saturday's fruit and veg market at Newtown School – for the diversity of people and rich colour!
2. Housing is the biggest challenge for Wellingtonians. It doesn't matter if it's more housing and support for the homeless, renters wanting more choice and a warm and dry home, the acute shortage of social housing or first home buyers finding this part of the city hopelessly unaffordable.
3. Labour has a plan to fix the housing crisis and help Wellington avoid one. We'll partner with the council and other stakeholders to build hundreds of affordable homes here in Rongotai, require all rental homes to be warm, dry, and healthy by raising standards through our 'Healthy Homes Guarantee Bill' and take serious action to end homelessness in our city by providing permanent housing and support services.

Do you want to hear from these candidates and more ?

The Newtown Residents' Association invites you to St Anne's Hall on Emmett St in Newtown for "Meet the Candidates: Rongotai Electorate"

Held on Tuesday 5th September, doors open from 7.10pm for a 7.30pm start.

This event is free, all are welcome and supper is provided at the end. If you have a topic that you would like the candidates to address, please email newtownwellington@gmail.com

Dear Newtown From Annette

In March Annette King announced her retirement from politics and as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. She's been around for over 30 years in New Zealand politics, seeing ten general elections and eight different Prime Ministers. Annette King entered politics in 1984 and over the years has held various ministerial portfolios such as Minister of Police, Minister of Health and Minister of Transport. In 1996 she was elected in the newly-established Rongotai electorate - that's Newtown's electorate! She has been here serving our community ever since with her office right on Riddiford Street. Thanks Annette! Here she is with a few words of "see ya later" for us all.



Dear Newtown,

I have been privileged to represent the Miramar/Rongotai electorate for 24 years, including the Chatham Islands, a unique part of New Zealand. Our electorate is one of the most diverse in New Zealand, and a sanctuary for new settlers and refugees from many parts of the world. I've always been proud of New Zealand's commitment to receiving UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) mandated refugees. They make a fantastic contribution to New Zealand.

In 2001, our Government welcomed 40 unaccompanied minors from the ship Tampa, to New Zealand. They had been rejected by Australia. That was a proud moment. I say to the incoming Government, make us proud again, and double the refugee quota!

Rongotai is the home of creativity, ideas, and new jobs arising from the film industry – old factories turned into studios and workshops. It was the 5th Labour Government which kick-started the film industry in Wellington.

Rongotai is also the home of Social Housing. If any Government wants a good model look no further than the partnerships between our Government and the Wellington City Council, which has resulted in warm, dry, affordable apartments for our most vulnerable citizens.

My post also has included the Chatham Islands. Chatham Islanders are very independent and proud of their Islands. They are also very innovative. They were asked to provide land for a nuclear test monitoring station by the UN as part of the International Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. They responded that the only land available was at the airport (20 minutes from town), and unfortunately, there was no reticulated power there. There is now, and half of the cost was paid by the UN!

I leave the seat with a great sense of achievement and also sadness, however, this is tempered by my confidence that Paul Eagle will become the next Member of Parliament for Rongotai.

Sincerely,

Annette King

5

REASONS...

Why you should hit the polling booths on September 23rd to vote in the General Election! If you don't vote for your own interests, who will?

1. So you can complain with integrity.

We all love a good whinge about the current state of affairs - do so guilt free!

2. Honour New Zealand's democratic legacy.

On 19 September 1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world in which all women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

3. It's your right.

Many governments around the world allow citizens no part in electing officials. The health of our democracy relies on your participation.

4. Not voting favours the rich.

Polls are showing the public is concerned about the growing inequality and poverty in New Zealand. People of a low income and the unemployed are less likely to vote than those with higher incomes. With voting patterns so uneven, representation can get skewed. If you care about inequality and poverty rates in New Zealand you can use your vote as a voice!

5. One vote can make a difference!

This was demonstrated in the 2011 general election when on election night there was an exact tie between Nicky Wagner and incumbent MP Brendon Burns - both after the Christchurch Central seat. After special votes were counted, Nicky Wagner won with a 47-vote majority. 47!



THIS IS NOT A DRILL....!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY....



Introducing the Measuring Tape!

This trusty contraption really measures up in the long run when you're doing any projects that involve numbers. Its length of service extends way back to 1868 in the USA when Alvin J. Fellows improved an earlier design by adding a handy recoil spring for good measure. Thanks, Alvin!

Of course, measuring stuff harks way back to when people first wanted to know things, and we've ruled out countless ways to do it. However, we'll still go to any length to measure things big and small. Take the Yotta and the Planck for example.

The Yotta is the largest decimal in the metric system (one septillion) and the Planck is the shortest meaningful length below which the very notion of space ceases to exist. So we've come a long way from the ancient cubit which was calibrated from the tip of an average middle finger to the bottom of an average elbow. Today we keep the cubit at arm's length and as a rule use the metric system, based on the metre, defined in 1793 as one ten-millionth of the distance from the equator to the North Pole! A pirate walking the plank at sea level may find this calculation hard to fathom, as would Alvin, whose imperialist homeland still rejects the metric system, go figure!



Hot tip: A story stick is a long thin piece of timber on which you can mark essential lengths for quick reference. For jobs where you'll need the same measurements several times over, use the tape measure to mark the lengths on the stick. You can then put the tape measure aside and use your story stick for the whole job.

NEWTOWN LECTURE SERIES - FUNDRAISING: GET THE BASICS

Wondering how to fundraise for your cause? Keen to learn from someone in the know? Then this is the session for you. Katie will cover the basics of fundraising in this interactive presentation, looking at the fundraising context in NZ. We'll identify all the potential ways to fundraise, and the pros and cons of each. Katie will discuss which areas of fundraising typically bring in the most income, get the best return on investment, and how long it may take to see a return. This will help you avoid some of the common pitfalls for beginner fundraisers, and think about where you can get the most impact. Finally, we'll run through how you can upskill in fundraising going forward. **Tues 19th Sept, 6.30pm. By donation.**

QUEER FRIENDLY 80'S AEROBICS

The Amazing Abby is bringing back her fantastic Queer Friendly 80's Aerobics classes! Every second Saturday (starting 16th September), 2-3pm at the Newtown Community Centre. **Koha entry.**

Happening Around Newtown

ELECTION DAY VOTING PLACES IN NEWTOWN - OPEN 23RD SEPTEMBER FROM 9.00AM TO 7.00PM

- Newtown Community Hall, 71 Daniell Street
- Newtown Park Stadium, Function Room, Daniell Street or Mansfield Street entrances
- Newtown School Hall, corner Riddiford & Mein Streets
- Te Whaea: National Dance and Drama Centre, 11 Hutchison Road
- Wellington Chinese Baptist Church Hall, 24 Donald McLean Street
- Wellington Hospital, Te Ao Marama Building

ADVANCED VOTING IN NEWTOWN

Advanced voting is available at the Newtown Public Library, 13 Constable Street from Monday 11th September, and Newtown Hall 71 Daniell Street from Wednesday 20th September. A full list of advance voting and election day voting place locations is available at www.elections.org.nz. Check the website to find out the days and times for advanced voting in these locations.

THE EXISTENCE OF CHAOS - EXHIBITION OPENING

The Existence of Chaos is an exhibition of works by Melissa Mepham to explore the balance of chaos and order through geometry and colour. As we try to make sense of ourselves and the world around us, how do we distinguish between what is order and is pure chaos? Is there such a thing as either? Head along to Black Coffee, 133 Riddiford St, during opening hours for the month of September! See more info on the FB page: facebook.com/events/712610228926428.

FAMILY HISTORY COMPUTING

Ever wanted to look into your family's history? Why not come along to the Family History Computing's weekly group meetings and get expert help on how to do this. Each week there is a taught theme Sept 1: Public Family Trees, Sept 8: Family Knowledge, Sept 15: Smith Research, Sept 22 USA Research & Sept 29: Nil4 Miles Around. Plenty of time is allowed for people to do their own research on provided laptops (or byo). Contact Aileen for more info 04 232 6024 or 027 212 6024. Fridays, 3-6pm. Located at Smart Newtown, 9-11 Constable Street.

BAOBAB - OPEN EVENINGS

Did you know that the Newtown News' fantastic sponsor Baobab is now open in the evenings? Head on down from Wednesday to Sunday and pick something delicious from their new menu. But wait! There's more! Baobab are now taking bookings for Christmas Functions for parties large and small. They will have a special Christmas menu coming out soon - get in touch with them to find out more: 04 380 0470. Baobab is located at: 152 Riddiford Street, Newtown.

COMMUNITY HIGH TEA

Where there's Tea there's a way. The Newtown Community are welcomed to drop on in to this High Tea for a FREE cup of tea or coffee and some home baking. Stick around for a chat if you'd like! 199 Riddiford Street Saturday the 23rd of September 1pm to 4pm.