

NEWTOWN NEWS

May 2010
Issue 1

If Newtown had a 'Like' button, I'd pretty much be clicking on it compulsively. What's not to like? I only moved to Newtown 4 years ago, but I was wearing my "I heart Newtown" badge within about a month. [Lucky for me that Newtown is so embracing of newcomers]. Pretty much all of my favourite things combine on one street here: good coffee, good cafes, good people, good food, good op-shops, good randomness...our trees wear scarves and our lampposts wear dots (well, they used to...where did the dots go? Bring back the dots!) I learnt very quickly to leave home with an extra ten minutes up my sleeve if I didn't want to be the notoriously late person - because let's face it, you can't go anywhere in Newtown without wading through a sea of people that you know, or without Nathan stopping to shake your hand. Hopefully this time when he stopped to shake your hand, he also gave you a copy of Newtown's newest new thing: this newsletter.

Which brings me to the point: the newsletter! This newsletter is about Newtown - and since Newtown is ultimately about people, we not only want to share what's going on in our little corner of Wellington, but we also want to promote community by getting to know our neighbours better. Check out our 'Notorious Newtowners' section - this month's edition features my good friend Nathan Jones, aka 'Nate-Dog'. You've seen him round, but have you met him? Here's your chance people...

You'll also find featured some chit-chat about the proposed Liquor Ban, and a whole string of notices about the latest happs (that means "happenings", for those of you, like me, who aren't quite hip enough to keep up with all these new-fandangled abbreviations...). If you haven't already checked it out, and even if you have, do not miss the Newtown People's Market this Saturday at St Anne's.

We're pretty much open to anything you want to see here - this is YOUR publication (oh, but I get to edit it. I solemnly promise not to let the power go to my head). You may notice that this edition is a little rough around the edges...but don't judge us, join us! We need someone (or someones) who can spruce up our look. An extreme makeover, without the botox. Please please please let us know if this someone is YOU, email newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz. You'll get lots of kudos for it.

Ok, enough from me! Enjoy your newsletter! Hot off the press...

Anna Costley



Our friendly backers...

This newsletter couldn't have happened without the support of these awesome Newtown community loving businesses, so please support them back!



Baobab Cafe

EL MERCADO JUSTO FAIR TRADE
PEOPLES
COFFEE



Public noticeboard

Newtown Residents Association

The Newtown Residents Association is a group of local residents who gather together to express the views of local residents on a wide range of matters that might impact on the community in which we live, work and play. The Association covers the areas of Mt Cook, Newtown and Berhampore.

7.30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Newtown Hall, cnr of Constable and Daniell Sts.

Adult Community Education at Wellington High School

The Community Education at Wellington High School is now taking enrolments for Term 3 courses starting Tuesday 27 July. Enrol online at www.cecwellington.ac.nz or pick up a brochure from your local library.

Electorate Office

Annette King, MP for Rongotai (including Newtown), has her office located in Kilbirnie Plaza off Rongotai Road. Community members can visit during the week between 9am - 3.30pm, or call 387 2287. Two JPs are also on hand to sight and sign documents.

Innermost Gardens

The innermost garden project is a group of migrant, refugee and local people, working together to create a community garden and to participate in the Wellington community whilst learning from and about each other.

The Newtown Community Garden is located at 235 Adelaide Road, behind St James Church.

If you have kitchen and garden waste that would make a good compost but don't have the time to make your own, then donate them to the communal compost bins in your neighbourhood!

Black plastic bins where you can deposit food scraps are located opposite the compost boxes. No meat or citrus (oranges, lemons etc!) please!

The group gets together on the first Sunday of each month, 1-4pm to work in the shared garden. For more info, visit www.innermostgardens.org.nz

Do you have an event coming up, or a public notice to share? Let us know at Newtown Community Centre @paradise.net.nz

HOT TOPICS

Update on the Liquor Ban in Newtown

Many of you will have attended the community meeting in Newtown in February where many people spoke about the issues affecting them and their community. The biggest concern at that meeting was the drinking on the streets of Newtown and a number at the meeting supported a ban on public place drinking.

Since that meeting Council agreed to look at options for a Liquor Ban and went to the community by way of consultation around a city-wide ban or an alternative of Newtown and Mt Cook as an extension of the Central city ban on public place drinking. The next stage of the process is the hearing of oral submissions next week. A final decision will be made by Council later in June.

Police and Council have also produced an information brochure which has been widely distributed around Newtown that provided information of who to contact when something is happening in the community.

Together with the community, Council carried out a safety audit around Newtown. The feedback from those who participated was very positive and we are now bringing all that information together before we respond with some action.

One of the other concerns related to social services in the area and a meeting was held with many of the services to look at ways of working together:

- To make sure the area was tidy Council arranged for extra cleaning in Newtown and surrounding parks which people report has made a difference.
- To help improve safety in the area Walkwise officers continue to operate in Newtown during the day and early evening. If you have any concerns they are someone you can talk with.
- To make sure we know about any problems or issues Council staff, Police and representatives from residents and retailers meet on a regular basis to make sure anything is dealt with quickly.

Laurie Gabites
Wellington City Council



“Opinion”

by Manu Ward

Why is a ban on drinking in public throughout the whole city good for Newtown? Here's how I see it. It will make it easier for my friends in Newtown with alcohol addictions to make good choices. It removes a layer of temptation. The trouble with any addiction is it's near impossible to stop once you get started. And if one beer is good for some bloke on Island Bay Beach, then it's good enough for me outside Newtown Mall. And before you know it, that one beer turns into ten. I'm concerned for the kids - especially those whose parents are alcohol-addicted and whose otherwise happy childhoods are turned into frightful realities - but also those who grow up thinking that public drunkenness is normal and okay. This is not a personal liberty issue. If for no other reason, let's have a social conscience and do this for the kids.

It's not about criminalising my friends. It's about forcing the rest of us - social agencies and general public included - to take action before things get nasty. It's no cure-all on its own - nothing is. And we don't want to drive the problem underground. That's why this bylaw must be accompanied by the urgent establishment of wet-houses, wet-parks, or other safe and accessible drinking spaces. This is the compassionate thing to do.

Manu Ward lives at Newtown Park Flats, and works as a community children's worker for St Cuthbert's Anglican Church and the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre. He is also a member of Urban Vision, an order of the Anglican Church that is committed to community development in marginalised urban areas.

CReATive

CORNe

Let these creative juices flow...

This month we feature limericks by local poet Michael Dunningham.

A criminal offender from Greece
Often mocked all the local Police
For he was a ghost
Who'd haughtily boast
"Can't jail me for life, I'm deceased"

A man by the surname of Yule
Robbed a store of a whole lot of jewels
And said to the shop
"Call only one cop
I'm also quite fond of a duel"

[This could be your work on show! Drop in, or email your original work that you would like to share to newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz]

What's the Happs?

Newtown Community & Cultural Centre

(yep, that's us...) We're on the corner of Colombo and Rintoul Sts, Newtown. We offer community members cheap-as-chips exercise classes.

Pilates – Mondays, 9.30am, \$40 for 10 wks

Tai Chi – Tuesdays, 10am, \$3 per class

Yoga – Thursdays, 10am, \$4 per class.

Beginners welcome, just turn up. For further info, call Anna or Becky on 389 4786.

Stone Soup Thursdays Brrr... it's getting cold again! Every Thursday during winter Anna and Becky will be making "stone soup" (it's not just stones, folks). Simply bring along a vegetable for the soup, or a gold coin donation, and join us for some winter-warming soupy goodness. Starting on Thurs the 17th June, from 11am until it's all gone! Yum yum.

Matariki at Newtown Library

Newtown Library will be celebrating Matariki on Wed 16th June. Come in from the cold for some hearty winter soup at 11am, and bring along your own winter recipes to share with others. A flax weaving demonstration will also take place. There will also be some traditional story-telling for the kids after school, as well as badge-making and a wishing-tree for the year ahead...

Poetry at Ballroom Cafe

Showcase your stuff at the open mic poetry and music night, Sunday 20th June, 4pm-6pm, at Ballroom Cafe (opposite John St). Email ballroompoetrycafe@gmail.com for more info.

Baobab Roots

Calling all musos, poets, performers and good-vibe givers...Open mic night at Baobab, Thursday June 3rd from 7pm til late. Ph 3800470, www.baobabcafe.co.nz

Morning Mass with Reverend Black Keys

Enjoy Latin American beats with your morning coffee, Friday mornings at Baobab Cafe. Ph 3800470, www.baobabcafe.co.nz

Flourish

You are invited to 'Flourish' by St Cuthbert's Wellington South Anglican Church.

Flourish offers a relaxed cafe-style setting in which to explore and discuss various contemporary issues from an informed Christian perspective. Bring along your questions and your curiosity!

The themes of the upcoming Flourish evenings are:
30 May – 'Why it takes a village to raise an adult';
4 June – 'The poverty of wealth'; 13 June – 'Why we all win in equality'.

Sundays at 7pm, St Thomas' Lounge, 200 Riddiford St, Newtown (next to McDonald's). Entry is by koha.

Contact Susan Blaikie on 389 9603 or email susan@saintcuthberts.org.nz for more info.

Newtown People's Market

Newtown People's Market takes place the last Saturday of every month. Check out the Newtown People's Market Corner in this newsletter for more details!

Newtown People's Market

Hi folks, it's time again to get your community vibe on and come on down to the Newtown People's Market this Saturday the 29th May at St Anne's School!

This market is the place-to-be with an awesome mix of people making it happen. This market is all about building a sense of community and we would love you to be part of it.

We have a whole bunch of **fantastic stallholders** back again, to name just a few...

The Newtown Organic coop: stock up on muesli, nuts, flour and other basic dry goods

The Green Party Rongotai electorate will be on-hand with info about their current anti-mining campaign and the Stop the Basin Reserve flyover campaign.

Lou's kiwiana bric-a-brac collectables

Suzy's famous Hungarian Beef Goulash

Janet's sweet-treats (try the shortbread, go on..)

Christine's handmade chocolates and roast nuts.

Fhe's tasty Filipino BBQ

There is no fruit and vege stall at the market currently. However we are keen to work with anyone interested in finding their own solutions to rising food costs, especially healthy food! Email newtownpeoplesmarket@gmail.com if you have an idea.

If you are a musician or entertainer who would like to perform at our markets, please contact Matt on mattyjgardner@gmail.com.

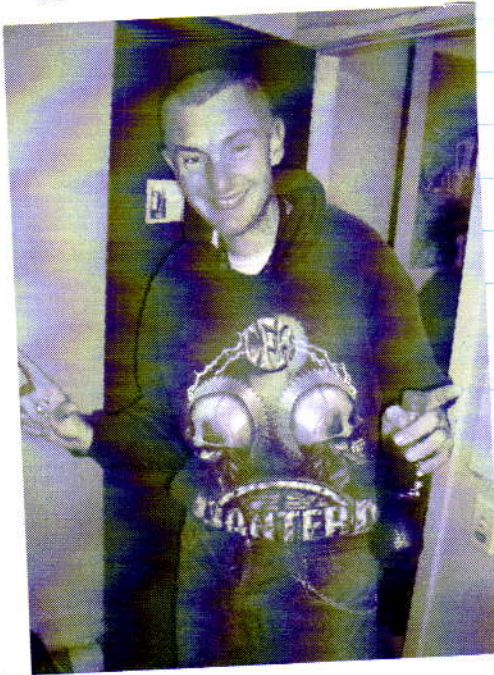
This month we have more great music, including some awesome Brazilian beats!

Help us care for the earth - every little bit counts. Bring your own mug to save throwing away a paper cup. Walk to the market or use public transport if possible and use the recycling bins provided.

The Newtown Peoples Market is on 11- 2pm on the last Saturday of every month at St Annes School: From the bottom of Emmet St (BNZ corner), or off Daniel St.

Notorious Newtowner

I want to interview Nathan Jones as our first Notorious Newtowner, but I'm running out of time and he's nowhere to be seen...But that's the thing about Nathan, he's like Chuck Norris - you don't find him, he finds you. So I hang out at Baobab with a coffee and sure enough, within 5 minutes he's tapping on the window and filling me in on who is where, doing what, in Newtown today. As always, he's carrying a bottle of Coke and wearing a Metallica t-shirt and a big smile.



Nathan, otherwise known as Nath or 'Nate-dog', has lived in the Newtown-Berhampore area his whole life. He knows, and is known by, a heck of a lot of people. He's pretty much world-famous in Newtown. Unsurprising, considering when asked what he likes best about Newtown, his reply is "knowing a lot of people." And what's his favourite thing to do in Newtown? "Hang out with friends...and I like sharing things." (I can vouch for this).

When he's not out meeting and greeting the locals, Nath has a job delivering pamphlets as well as working part-time at a supermarket in town. He loves dancing. His favourite colour is blue, his favourite meal is nachos, and his favourite drink is Coke. As you will probably know. What you might not know is that Nath has a spectacular history in athletics, representing New Zealand at the Special Olympics in 1995 and cleaning up with a gold, silver and bronze medal for swimming. Way to go Nath! My final question for Nath: if Newtown were an ice-cream flavour, which one would it be? He doesn't even bat an eyelid. "Orange choc-chip." Why? "Because it's nice."

Couldn't have put it better myself.

Nath will be helping us deliver these newsletters around Newtown each month, so stop and say hi when you see him out next!

The One-Stop Swap Shop



Money schmoney! Do you have a trade or a skill to swap?

Newtown is full of talent and we may as well share the goodness around. It works something like this: I weed your garden, you service my car. You lend me a lawnmower, I bake you a cake. Etc! Or if you're simply looking for an item to borrow from someone else in your community, or have something free you want taken off your hands, then email us at:

newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz and we'll add it to next month's newsletter.

Talk to us! This newsletter is made by the people of Newtown for the people of Newtown.

So tell us, what's awesome? What has GOT to go? Something on your mind you want to share with readers? Don't be shy, we're nice. Email us at newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz

Celia Speaks...

Celia Wade-Brown is the City Councillor for the Southern Ward of Wellington - that's Newtown! She is an active member of the Green Party, and leads the Environment portfolio for the city. Here's what she has to say this month...

Congratulations on the Newtown News! I love walking, visiting, shopping, eating and reading in Newtown! Thanks to the team at Newtown Community Centre for putting this first issue together. Contact your local city councillor on 938 6691, 027 483 6691 or celia.wade-brown@wcc.govt.nz

Fairtrade Fortnight

Did you know that Wellington is the first Fairtrade capital in the southern hemisphere? This year we celebrated our first Fairtrade Fortnight as a Fairtrade city. We enjoyed "good bananas" at a launch in Cuba Mall, and launched a booklet listing Fairtrade outlets in Wellington. There was also a great Fairtrade presence at the Food Show. I also hosted an Oxfam coffee break for a dozen friends on Mother's Day. Find your Fairtrade tea, coffee, chocolate and more at outlets: fairtradewellington.wordpress.com/buy-fair-trade-in-wellington. Peoples Coffee is a terrific Newtown enterprise that offers delicious Fairtrade coffee. Baobab, Kialla's, Pranah and The Ballroom Cafe all offer Fairtrade products too.

Celia Wade-Brown is on the Wellington Fairtrade steering group

Libraries

Newtown Library is a well-loved place and Council is committed to keeping it running smoothly, continuing with the books, CDs, audio tapes, magazines, cultural events, discussions and helpful staff. Online, you can search the library catalogue 24 hours a day, check your library card, view lists of new items and find information on popular topics. The database portal enables library members to search authoritative databases and thousands of New Zealand and international newspaper and magazine articles from home or work.

There are works in many different languages. www.wcl.govt.nz

Cheers! Celia

The One Minute Quiz



1. What was the first animal to take up residence at Wgtn Zoo, an elephant, a lion, or a baboon?
2. What year did Peoples Coffee open in Newtown?

Answers: 1. A lion 2. 2004

Get on board...

We're looking for volunteers to help deliver this newsletter on a monthly basis around the streets of Newtown.

If you can help out, we'll give you treats. Contact Anna or Becky on 389 4786 or at newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz