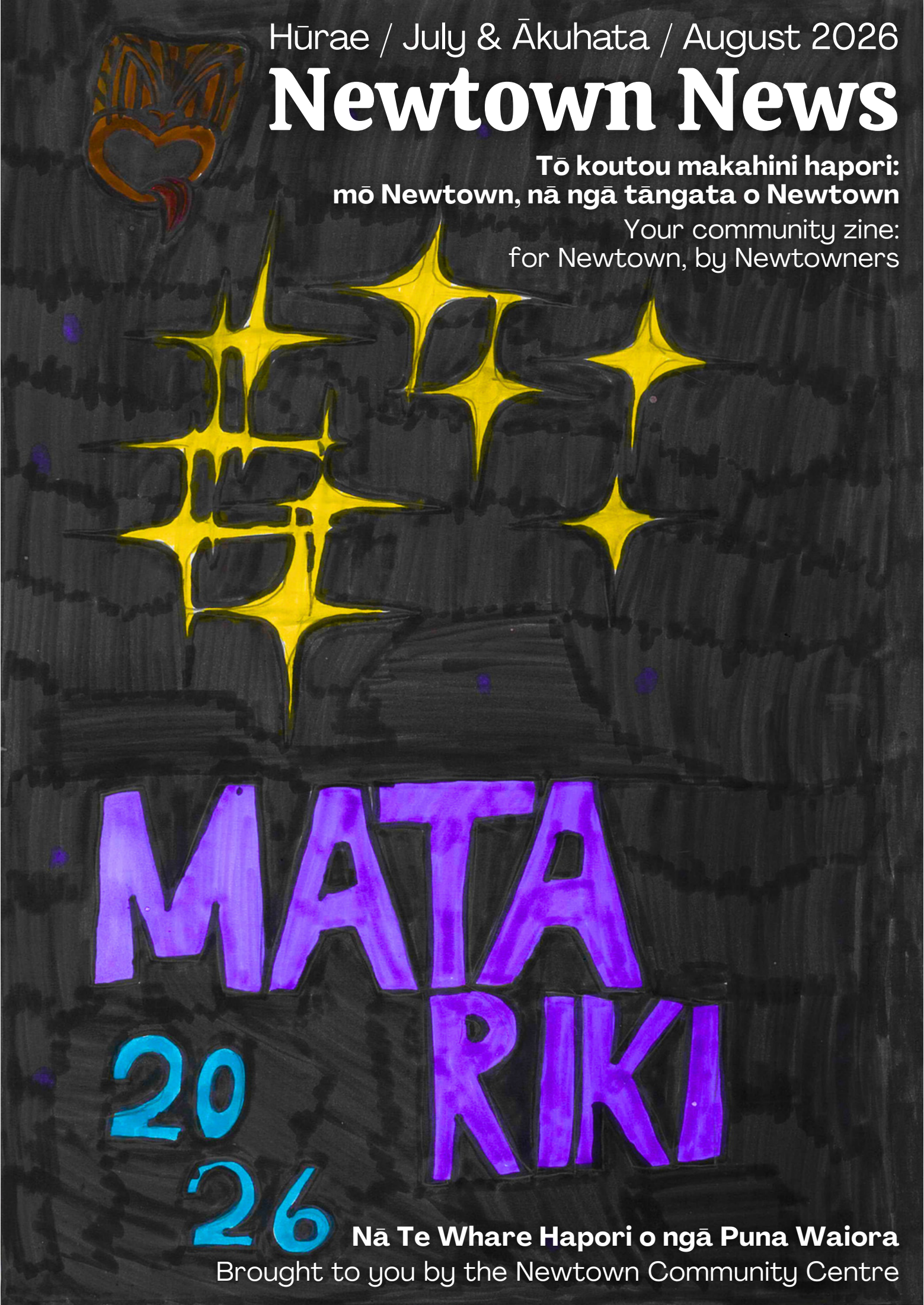


Hūrae / July & Ākuhata / August 2026

Newtown News

**Tō koutou makahini hapori:
mō Newtown, nā ngā tāngata o Newtown**

Your community zine:
for Newtown, by Newtowners



**MATA
RIKI**

**20
26**

Nā Te Whare Hapori o ngā Puna Waiora
Brought to you by the Newtown Community Centre

Kia ora Newtown

Mānawatia a Matariki!

We've made it to the middle of winter and that means we get to enjoy the beautiful reprieve of Matariki and the new year in Te Ao Māori. Since Matariki is in July this year, we thought it fitting for it to also be the theme of this issue! On pages 4 to 7, you'll find some wonderful contributions from the tamariki at Ngāti Kotahitanga, the Māori-medium whānau at Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waiora / Newtown School, including, our front cover art created by Darby Kaahui!

Alongside our regular *"What's the Happs"* schedule of events, you will also find a list of Matariki events coming up, including our own: *'The Story of Matariki & Puanga'* with Rangimoana Taylor - happening on Wednesday the 8th of July at 1.30pm. In this issue, you can also read our Notorious Newtowner interview with Free Soup Friday volunteer, Mah, and on the back page find a beautiful retrospective on the Newtown Community Centre, by fellow soup volunteer, Tina! Plus we have kōrero by Kevin from Smart Newtown all about scam awareness!

It's been a very full on year with intense weather events, lots of different pieces of legislation going through parliament that will impact the most marginalised of us and an election on the horizon! Let's all take this time over Matariki to reflect, focus on our wellbeing and look at the year ahead of us. What we can do is get active in our communities, make sure we are enrolled to vote, make kai for one another, stay informed about current issues and uplift each other when times are tough. This winter and this Matariki, let's all come together to help each other through these dark cold nights and difficult times.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou,
Edie Freeman

Thank you to our sponsors! Please go support 'em back!

**Pōneke
Construction**

THE
Wilson
FUNERAL HOME



SUPERGOOD

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community Centre, sponsors of the Newtown News or other contributors.

Front cover art credit: Darby Kaahui, tau 5. Find more Matariki contributions from Ngāti Kotahitanga students on pages 4 to 7!

Notorious NEWTowner

Edie has a kōrero with Free Soup Friday volunteer, Mah Katene Te Kani

Mah quickly became a big part of our community here at the Newtown Community Centre. She's been volunteering making kai for Free Soup Fridays since March and always brings her warmth and joy to the kitchen. We sat down for kōrero on a day where she wasn't busy whipping up soup for us.

On her mother's side Mah's whānau whakapapa to Ngāti Toa and on her father's side she shares: *"We're every tribe beneath the sun... we quite literally descendant to every single iwi and so when they ask where we're from we say 'Ngā hau e whā', from the four winds, that's usually how we describe ourselves."*



Raised in Tairāwhiti / Gisborne, Mah moved to Kirikiriroa / Hamilton for high school and to study. She lived in Australia for a couple of years before transitioning at age 21 in Sydney. *"I actually remember the day I first wore girls' clothes and I thought the best place I could do it would be somewhere where everyone would be fine with it and that was Oxford Street. I was accepted straight away... and this is why I have an affinity for Muslims and Middle Eastern people because I was always accepted by them."*

From there Mah traveled to England, then North Africa and Egypt in particular. Moving back, she lived and worked in most states across Australia over the next 17 years. While working in engineering as a Project Manager at BECA, she was diagnosed with renal cancer in July of 2025. She moved to Wellington to be closer to the hospital and prepare herself for a full kidney removal. Now, she is cancer free!

After all that, her plan is to open up a beauty clinic to cater to transgender, non-binary and all people to help in any way they think they need. *"Not everyone wants to get the same treatments... it's about what they see in the mirror and what they want for them. It's not about beauty standards, it's about how they see themselves and how I can help."*

By chance, she popped into the community centre to check it out and decided to volunteer for Free Soup Fridays. *"It's been my privilege doing it, I feel greedy because I get the most out of it. I love getting to meet all the different people. It's like a whānau here, in a marae."* Mah loves the high street of Newtown: *"Every day is different and you get to meet so many characters and their characters inside their head, and it's just lovely. My aunty had schizophrenia, bi-polar and multiple personality disorder... but she had the biggest heart. We were really close to her... Which is why I'm never really triggered by people who have mental health issues."* The main message Mah wishes Newtowners to take away with them is simply: be kind. A beautiful thing about community is that everyone is themselves and we make space for them to be themselves *"and give them a soup!"*

Join us for Free Soup Friday 1pm weekly at Newtown Community Centre!

Matariki 2026

Kōrero by Ngāti Kotahitanga



Alfie Mountier, tau 5



Ko Waitaa te whetuu moo te wai tai,
moo te ika me ngaa momo kai moana,
me ngā rimurimu.

E tuu Waita

Ko te wai tai.

Ngaru nui, ngaru roa

Kia puta ko te ora o Tangroa,

Koia!

Naa Cruz Ross

E tū Matariki e

Ko Matariki te kāhui whetū e iwa i te rangi, e tohu ana i te tau hou ki ngā Māori, ki te katoa o Aotearoa.

Ka rewa a Matariki i te ata i mua i te whitinga o te rā, i waenganui i te Hune me te Hurae.

He wā ki te piri tata ngā whānau, ki te maumaharatia ngā mate huhua o te wā, ka tukua rātou ki Pōhutukawa.

He wā ki te huritaongia ngā kaupapa kua hipa i te tau.

He wā ki te mātai i ngā whetū anō hoki, kia matapaetia ngā huarere, ngā āhuatanga mō te taiao mō te tau heke mai nei.

Ka mutu, he wā kia tukua ai ō wawata, ō manako nui ki a Hiwaitearangi, māna e tiaki.

Nā Kaharoa ngatai Semau, Year 7

Haere ki tēnei paehono ki te mahi ngaa activities mō Matariki ki te taha o to whānau 😊👍

The Origins of Matariki:

bit.ly/4xGSDkZ

Matariki learning programme and education resources | Te Papa:

bit.ly/4gzRQw5

Matariki Activities and Crafts for kids 2026: bit.ly/4b5bJaP

Rauemi | Resources: bit.ly/4eDqmDe

E Tū Ururangi

ko koe hei tohu e te hau rere i te rangi.

ka purea te wairua e te hau

Ka pupuhi i nga rau

kia ruia ai ngaa kaakano

ka tipu i ngaa raakau hou

ka hookai ngaa manu ki runga rawa.

Nā Pīata Joblin-Bracken, year 4



Ko Waitii taku Whetuu

Ko Waitii te whetuu moo te wai maaori.

Ko Waitii te tungane o Waitaa. Ko

Waitaa te whetuu moo te wai tai.

Ko Waitii te whetuu e hono ki ngaa awa, ngaa remuremu, ngaa tuna, ngaa koura, me te wai tai. I te kura, i teenei raa, i waitohungia teetahi awa e noho ana i raro i Te Kura o Ngaa Puna Waioira.

Naa te mahi nei, ka piirangi maatau ki te rongo i te mauri o te awa.

Naa Ngahere.



E Matariki e

Ko Matariki te kaahui whetuu e tohu ana i te tau hou ki Aotearoa.

Ko Ururangi te whetuu moo ngaa pupuhi me te hau.

Ko Ururangi te teina o te whaanau.

I teeraa tau, i mahia e au teetahi karakia moo Ururangi.

Karakia

E tuu Ururangi

ko te whaanau pupuhi

tuu te winiwini, tuu te wanawana

kia puta te ora ko Taawhirirangi, koia.

I teeraa tau, i haere ki te parakuihi ki te kura hei whakanuia Matariki.

Whakatauki

E tuu Ururangi, tukua mai he hau koohengihengi

Tukua mai he hau puurekereke he hau hei miri ki to kiri.

Naa Alto, Year 7



E Tū Pōhutukawa

Ko tana mahi kia ārahi i ngā tāngata
kua mate kia whetūrangitia.

Ko Pōhutukawa tētehi whetū i te kāhui
whetū o Matariki.

Ko Pōhutukawa te mataamua o ngā
whetū.

He pai ki ahau a Pōhutukawa nā te
mea ka ārahi taku whānau kua mate ki
te rangi.

Nā Maia Richmond, Year 4.

POOHUTUKAWA

Ko Poohutukawa te mataamua o te
kaahui whetuu o Matariki. Ko
Poohutukawa te whetuu o te hunga kua
wheturangitia. Maana raatau e tiaki.

Ko Poohutukawa te tohu kia
maumaharatia i a raatau maa.

E tuu Poohutukawa, e ruiruia ai o
taatau mate ki runga

kia whetuorangitia, kia piataata
ki runga hei tohu maumahara ki a
maatou.

Naa Maika Kauika, tau 5

POOHUTUKAWA

Ko Poohutukawa te whetuu e tiaki ana i
ngaa mate.

E tuu Poohutukawa ngaa kai mate o te
tau. Rui rui ngaa mate.

Ka mihi ki oo taatou tuupuna me a
taatou whaanau.

Ko Poohutukawa te whetuu arataki i oo
taatou mate kia whetuorangitia.

NAA ROBBIE ROBERTS



Hiwa-i-te-rangi

Ko Hiwa-i-te-rangi
teetehi whetuu i te kaahui o Matariki
e piiataata i te rangi.

Ko Hiwa-i-te-rangi te whetuu moo ngaa
ingoingo, me ngaa awhero.

E tuu Hiwa-i-te-rangi
Ko ngaa manako nui me ngaa wawata
Kia puta ki te wheiao ki te ao marama,
Koia!

Tihei Mauri ora

Naa Te Aroha Jondahl, year 6



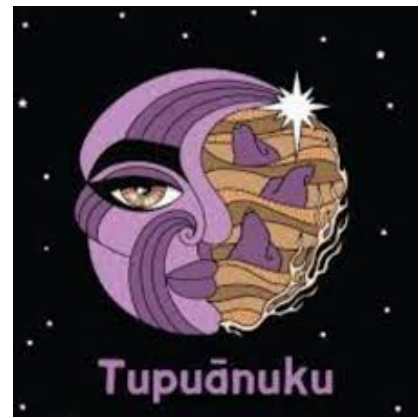
TUPUAARANGI

Ko Tupuaarangi te whetuu ka tiaki i
ngaa kai noo ngaa raakau. Ko ngaa
panana, ngaa kokonati, ngaa aaporo,
aha atu.

He tino pai teenei whetuu ki a au, naa
te mea, he tino namunamuaa te aaporo
kaakaariki me ngaa parakipere.

Ko Tupuaarangi te whetuu tuawhaa
i te kaahui o Mataariki.

Naa Darby Kaahui



Tupu a Nuku

Ko Tupu a Nuku
tētahi whetū nō te kāhui whetū o
Matariki.

Ko ia te kaitiaki o ngā kai e tupu ana
i roto i te oneone, kia hauhaketia ai
te kai, te rongoā, me te harakeke.

Ko tēnei tētahi karakia mō Tupu a Nuku
E tu tupu a nuku ko te one paramu
ringihia mai ra to rahi ki te whenua
haumako
kia puta te ora o Rongo,
Koia!

Nā Hāneta Wright-Moiri, year 7



Pōneke Matariki Events



The Story of Matariki and Puanga with Rangimoana Taylor

Newtown Community Centre

Wed 8 July, 1.30pm - 2.30pm

Nau mai, haere mai! Everyone is welcome to join for this free community event. Learn about Matariki and Puanga, hear their stories told by Rangimoana Taylor at the Newtown Community Centre. Then, share some kai in our drop-in space afterwards.

Find more details here: bit.ly/matariki_rangimoana



Weavers of Te Ataarangi

Thistle Hall, 293 Cuba Street

From Mon 29 June to Fri 10 July, 11 - 6pm

Opening night: Tues 30, 5pm

Workshops: Sat 4 & Sun 5

This exhibition speaks through fibre, form, and kōrero tuku iho, highlighting the enduring presence of te reo Māori—not only in spoken language, but also in weaving, patterns, and the aspirations of our people.

thistlehall.org.nz/current-students-te-ataarangi/weavers-te-ataarangi

The Tiwhas Present: MĀREIKURA

Circa Theatre, 1 Taranaki Street, Te Aro

Fri 3 to Sat 11 Hūrae / July, 7pm

A theatrical drag concert honouring Wāhine from past and present. Join the Tiwhas for a shared supper after the show, included in your ticket price. Join the Queens – Dame Jthan, Slay West, Pānia & Tina Coco Couture – as they channel the Goddesses, Pioneers, and Matriarchs who walked so The Tiwhas could strut. Tickets: circa.co.nz/package/the-tiwhas-present-mareikura

Matariki Ahi Kā

Wellington Waterfront

Thurs 9 to Sunday 12 July, 6pm - 9pm

Celebrate the Māori New Year in a uniquely Wellington way. Honour our culture and history, with a big, bold, immersive Wellington Waterfront walk-through journey including fire, projections, performances, and a special ceremony each night honouring those who have passed away. Find more info at:

wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/events-and-festivals/matariki

Celebrate Matariki at Kaicycle

Kaicycle Urban Farm, 5 Hospital Road

Sat 18 July, 11am - 2pm

Matariki activities to reflect on the year, farewell those we have lost since last Matariki, and look forward to what we want to bring into the new year. Activities include: Weaving whetu (stars) from harakeke, composting what you want to let go of, prompts for personal reflection, harvesting and preparing kai for lunch, hanging out around the brazier.

Find more details here: bit.ly/4eRBRr1

Matariki Poetry Night

115 Taranaki Street, Te Aro

Fri 10 July, 5pm - 7pm

This Matariki, Poetry in Motion is partnering with Songs of Solidarity for a night of poetry performed by our talented Māori and Tangata Moana artists. Featuring the New Zealand National Poetry Slam 2025 Champion, Teirangi Klever. events.humanitix.com/matariki-poetry-night



What's the Happs?!

Hūrae / July & Ākuhata / August



Happening at

Te Whare Hapori o nga Puna Waiora
Newtown Community Centre cnr of Colombo & Rintoul Streets

Closed for Matariki Public Holiday - Fri 10 July

We are closed for Matariki Public Holiday. All our regular services and hires won't be happening that day (including Free Soup Friday & Smart Newtown). Back Monday 13.

Laser Kiwi - It's a Sign (WIP)

Fri 3 & 17 July, 8pm

The 1st & 2nd of 3 Work in Progress Shows. Comically priced at \$10, \$20 and \$30 respectively.

Buy your tickets here: bit.ly/4wikRkl

Mahi Toi - Open Art Group

Tues 7 July & 4 August, 1.30pm - 3pm

All welcome to join for free Mahi Toi. We're artists of all abilities who like meeting up, trying new art techniques, and chatting.

Monthly on the first Tuesday of every month

Airhorn! presents: Gearhorn

Fri 7 August, 8pm

Gearhorn is a complicated, but loving, send up of everyone's favourite 2000's show Top Gear. Ambitious, earnest, inexplicable, experimental, and enjoyable. airhorn.nz

Know Your Stuff

Sat 4 July & 1 August, 11am-2pm

Monthly drug checking clinic. Drug checking is free, confidential, non-judgmental, and 100% legal. Bring your gear & settle in for high quality drug harm reduction yarns.

Twin Peaks Club

Sun 19 July & 16 August, 10.45am-2.20pm

Come join at the Twin Peaks Townhall. Bring some damn good joe, sit back, and watch "The Return" together! Cost: \$7

Buy your tickets here: bit.ly/444OoSP

Newtown Record Fair

Sat 15 August, 1pm - 5pm

The Annual Newtown Record Fair is back! Another belter event with regular vendors bringing along quality records, cds tapes & more! bit.ly/4vCRZnc

Around Newtown and beyond!

Freedom - Art Behind the Album

Artists 24.7 Gallery, 247 Riddiford Street

Exhibition: 11 July to 1 August

Opening night: Sat 11, 5pm - 8pm

Live performance: Sat 25, 6pm

Come celebrate the Debut Art exhibition of Geoff Kunac as he brings the Music & Art from his Debut Album FREEDOM together.

Playground Live

Thistle Hall 293 Cuba Street

Sat 11 July, Doors: 8pm, Music: 8.30pm

Come and join for Playground Live Music event #65 Proudly presenting Mass-Hammer, Bluehouse, and Wild Flower.

Buy your tickets at:

playgroundlivemusic.co.nz/

Let's Clean Newtown!

Meet at Newtown Community Centre, Sun 19 July, 10.30am to 12pm

Together we can make Newtown Sparkle. Join you neighbours for a community clean-up and help keep Newtown looking its best. All gear provided.

Contact for pātai: keepwellingtonbeautiful@gmail.com

moon

GIG GUIDE

JULY/HŌNGONGOI

02 THU	Village Beads Social Collective Presents: Beads & Beers <i>From 7pm</i> Make your own bracelet or keychain! Tickets via villagebeads.co.nz
03 FRI	Further Sound Presents: Back To The Further <i>From 8pm</i> Box Boys, Babetech, Behemoth, Dusty b2b Sano, Sheboy. \$10 on the door
04 SAT	Dance Therapy Session 11: Cob b2b Monday Sucks All-Night-Long <i>From 9pm</i> Powered by Torque Sounds. House/techno
05 SUN	Vinyl Tap - Vinyl Open Decks <i>From 4.30pm</i> Theme: New Discoveries
08 WED	Open Decks hosted by JVSPR <i>From 5pm</i> Digital only - bring your USBs! All experience levels welcome. Free entry
09 THU	Cowboy Dan: Autumn's Left Winter Tour <i>From 7pm</i> With Search For Yeti (final show!) & By A Damn Sight
10 FRI	Everything Always: Matariki <i>From 8pm</i> Korekash, Maz Seron, The Mokos & Tui Band - hip hop, r&b, reggae & more
11 SAT	Safehouse & Grubwise Soundsystem presents: IN DUB <i>From 9pm</i> w/ Hanson St. Dub (live), Kong Kasi (live) & Nam Chucks. Roots/steppas/dub
16 THU	Noah Nite: Poorly Dressed Lovely People Album Release Tour <i>From 8pm</i> Indie-rock
17 FRI	TACA: FOR PALESTINE <i>From 8pm</i> Bass/garage
18 SAT	Bunchy's Big Score - Wanda's Bicycle Album Release Tour <i>From 8.30pm</i> Alt/pop-rock. Support from Horn, & Ollie Bunnie.
19 SUN	Songwriters' Open Mic (free entry) <i>From 4pm</i> + Songwriters' Showcase <i>From 7pm</i> Feat. Bill Hickman, Banjo Ben and the Breeze, & Hamish
22 WED	Wellington Comedy Presents: Work in Progress Laughs <i>From 7.30pm</i> 9 stand up comedians!
23 THU	The Spinning Lights Album Release Party <i>From 7.30pm</i> With Tower of Flints & Tears6022. Post-punk
24 FRI	Dance Therapy Session 12: Cee All-Night-Long <i>From 9pm</i> Powered by Torque Sounds. House/techno
25 SAT	Always Slow x Jamie Doesn't Like Salad <i>From 8pm</i> Back to back all night - upbeat deep house
26 SUN	Strings Speak Mountains, UZB96, Sighthound & Moths <i>From 6pm</i> Noise/experimental
29 WED	'Ew Chucky' Fundraiser gig - Ciorstiadh, Shayla King, & Dillon Jo <i>From 7pm</i> Acoustic/folk/soft rock
30 THU	Open Decks + DJ workshop - digital & vinyl <i>From 5pm</i> Hosted by Intec (Third Eye Hifi) - free entry
31 FRI	Corner Store presents: Dead Air 2 <i>From 9pm</i> Leftfield electronic - bass - atmospheric

EVERY MONDAY QUIZ HOSTED BY YOUNG GHOST • 7PM • \$2 ENTRY PER PERSON
EVERY TUESDAY JAM NIGHT • OPEN MIC • FREE ENTRY • 7.30PM
167 RIDDIFORD STREET • NEWTOWNMOON.CO.NZ • @NEWTOWNMOON

MOON

COMPUTERS

EXPLAINED

with Kevin



SCAMMERS! FRAUDSTERS! CROOKS!

Unscrupulous individuals using deception and coercion for self-gain have plagued humanity for thousands of years. While modern technology can be a wondrous thing in the hands of good people, its rapid advance has left many users vulnerable to **The Oldest Tricks in the Book**.

Did you know that digital scams are just old confidence tricks with a new coat of paint? Old wine in new bottles, so to speak.

Strip away intimidating jargon and a digital scam is revealed to be what is really is: an attack on human psychology, exploiting human feelings like fear, hatred, greed, loneliness, and decency.

PHISHING

Phishing scams involve fake websites, emails, or private messages. Before the digital era, a trickster might have worn a fake uniform to masquerade as a tradesman or utility worker to gain access to private property or take note of a homeowner's details and schedules.

CATFISH

Fake online accounts that promise love and romance have led many an unwary internet user to misfortune, just as disingenuous advertisements in the Lonely Hearts columns have done for centuries.

FAKE INVESTMENTS

Emails or websites that offer guaranteed returns on the latest crypto-currency are really no different from the old-timey trick of selling bogus promises to gullible investors. These vicious scams exploit dreams of wealth and security and target society's most vulnerable members.

FAKE TECH SUPPORT

The nemeses of good tech support professionals everywhere, these online menaces show fake evidence of errors and compromised systems while they steal real money and data. In days gone by, many a victim fell for the unscrupulous expert who falsified evidence of "issues" and charged for expensive "fixes".

FAKE APPS

I've noticed a recent uptick in visitors at my free tech support helpdesk who have mobile phone viruses. Virus apps often wear the guise of a helpful app, but in truth they do nothing or worse. They are snake-oil scam of the modern day.

In summary, digital scams are psychological attacks that target people, not machines. The best defense is the same as it's always been: education and awareness.

Smart Newtown is running two FREE scam awareness workshops in July.

Come along and find out more about common digital scams:

Tuesday July 14th 2:00pm-4:00pm

Wednesday July 15th 5:00pm-7:00pm

A NCC Retrospective

By Tina Green Gloves

My first recollection of the centre was when visiting a college friend who lived in Colombo Street. She learnt the piano from neighbour Zillah Castle of Pharmacy fame. Later I became a member of Capital Performing Arts of which Faye was on the committee. We had gigs in the theatre which featured the same grand piano which I still play. Up on Rintoul Street I occasionally run interactive music sessions for the rest home residents.

In 2018 I was volunteering at the Citizen Advice Bureau along with Axel. The aromatic soup which Baz was cooking drew us to the Friday lunch. Axel joined the cook and I, the dishwasher.

During Covid we counter served the food, no dessert then! Rex would provide a running commentary and Don would dedicate the karakia to the God / Goddess. We relocated to the ANZ building in Green Street during renovations. The new NCC kitchen is part of the old dance hall. In the 90s my children visited it when it was a pack away playcentre.

I appreciate the range of activities that the centre supports and the generosity of the staff.

Support the Newtown News!

The Newtown News is published by Te Whare Hapori o Ngā Puna Waiora / Newtown Community Centre. We are proudly ad-free and community run! This is made possible by our sponsors, **Pōneke Construction, The Wilson Funeral Home Moon Bar & Supergood** and all our awesome volunteers! You can support too by donating to our Givealittle at: bit.ly/support-ncc



Donate here!

Get in touch:



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Newtown Community Centre

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