

Newtown News

issue two June/July

In this issue...

M Meet Your Maker
Q and As with
our best baristas

Interview with Newtowner
James Coyle

Creative Corner
featured craft projects

dan Vincent
Newtown new kid



It's 8 degrees outside and it's been raining for 2 weeks solid. As I write there are hailstones pelting my windowpanes. Remind me why I live here again? Oh, that's right. Because it's awesome.

On an equally freezing cold day last week, I walked into a cafe and noticed that three separate tables were reading the Newtown News. To say that it made my day would be an understatement. I didn't do a little dance right there on the spot - but I wanted to. Maybe you were unnerved by the girl in the corner staring fixedly as you read the first edition? Sorry about that. I just wanted to know which bits you were reading.

But I can stop freaking out unsuspecting readers now, because the feedback has been rolling on in. Thanks everyone who got in touch with us - you rule! Our space is limited, so if you don't see your idea featured just yet, we're definitely getting around to it...

The greatest feedback of all was from our new best friend, Hannah Heffernan. She's the fabulous new design guru who has made this newsletter look all pretty-like. Hannah picked up a copy at Peoples and saw the potential in amongst the paper clippings and pencil drawings. So...voila! From a bit 'spesh' to a bit 'profesh' in one edition. Thank heavens Newtown is full of talent, and people who are willing to share it...

This month's Notorious Newtowner is another example of that. He's into music, he's into community and he's into Newtown...oh, and he lives in his van. Read on...

Since our first edition didn't crash and burn, we splashed out and got ourselves a new email: newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com (yes, the lack of apostrophe in that pains me too). Send us your feedback, your Letters to the Editor, your new ideas...

And don't let Old Man Winter get you down! Go support one of our sponsor cafes - nothing like fairly-traded caffeine and someone else's electricity to make you warm and happy again!

Anna Costley

Mad props to Hannah!

Here's how to reach her: www.flyingduck.co.nz



Notorious NewtownER

Anna Costley talks with James Coyle...

This month's Notorious Newtowner isn't sure he deserves the title. I beg to differ. James is definitely a face about Newtown. He's pretty hairy, so that makes him noticeable for a start. And you can pretty much rely on the fact that wherever there is music, there is James. You might have seen him playing with Hikoikoi or Jesse James & the Outlaws at one of the past Newtown Fair Days. Or with Newtown Rocksteady at Baobab Roots. Or on stage at the Carrara Park summer concerts. He djs as Reverend Black Keys at Baobab on Friday mornings. He's on the Newtown Festival Committee. He's just added a fourth band, Nudge, to his repertoire. And...well, the list goes on and on. James has been making things happen in Newtown since he first moved here to start a creative arts studio five years ago. He's an architect by training but is equally passionate about his music. James noticed the way that "we all traipse into town to see gigs", and wanted to see "more concerts in Newtown, and a band that you could always call on to play at those concerts." So he started up Newtown Rocksteady, a collective of local musicians playing ska and reggae-style grooves. They've already played over 50 gigs - including a whole bunch in Newtown - and are pretty much the best thing since sliced bread (my words not his, he's far too humble...).



And it's not just about the music. James is committed to building a sense of community through the concerts and festivals he helps organise here. He values the balance between community responsibility and the 'anything goes' mentality found in Newtown. But he also calls it as he sees it. "Newtown's not perfect. It's good that it can inspire romanticism about the diversity here, but there's also people living pretty tough lives."

And did I mention that he lives in his van? He lives in his van! In Newtown, naturally. But he certainly doesn't go it alone - relying enormously on the hospitality of the Newtown Festival house as a bit of a base.

Hurray for community!

My last question for James: (yep, you guessed it..)

If Newtown were an ice-cream flavour, what would it be?

He has to think for a minute about that. "Neopolitan."

Why? "Different strokes for different folks."

Big ups to you James!

Title most definitely earned.

If you want to get hold of Newtown Rocksteady to play at your event, James says "hmm...leave a note for me at Baobab." How awesome is that.



Meet your Maker

By Anna Costley

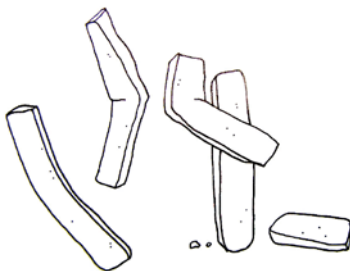
I spent the afternoon cruising the cafes of Newtown to get the low-down on the people who make our coffee each day. Turns out our ridiculously good looking baristas are also 100% lovely people, and all-in-all a pretty contented bunch! Here's how they answered my hard-hitting questions...

1. How many coffees do you drink per shift?
2. What kind of coffee do the nicest customers drink?
3. Favourite winter soundtrack?
4. If you could have any superpower..?
5. If you could live in any decade..?
6. Who would you most like to see walk into your cafe?
7. Complete the following: I like it when customers...



Celia, Peoples Coffee

1. hmm...anywhere from 2-10.
2. Soy lattes
3. Hot Chip
4. Flying
5. The '70s
6. Nathan Jones [Newtown's own!]
7. ...are nice and smile.



Toli, Kiallas

1. About 6. Is that a lot?
2. Milk coffees: black coffee drinkers are agro.
3. West Coast hip hop
4. X-ray vision [I'm suddenly self-conscious]
5. The '80s
6. Snoop Dog
7. ...are polite.

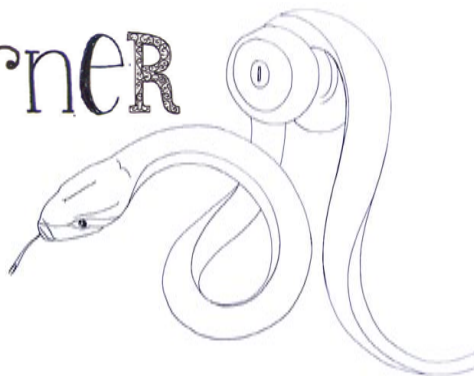


Creative Corner

from Christina @ the Sustainability Trust

Make your own Door Snake

Brrr! Winter is upon us and keeping that precious heat in our houses is imperative! Here's a fun, creative way to stop those cheeky draughts from squeezing themselves into the room...



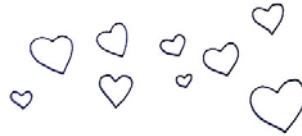
Courtney, Baobab

1. 3-4
2. Long blacks and flat whites
3. Mojo: the roots of Hendrix
4. Teleporting
5. The '60s
6. The Dalai Lama
7. ...greet me with a hug (when I know them!).



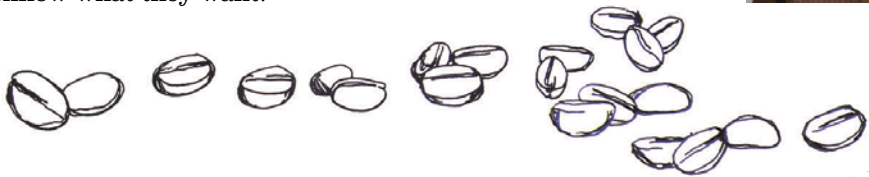
Maz, Pranah

1. About 2
2. Lattes
3. Tom Waits
4. Flying
5. I'm quite satisfied with now.
6. Suni [his girlfriend...aww..]
7. ...say thank you.



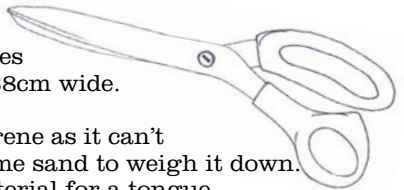
Sioned, Simply Paris

1. 2
2. Lattes
3. Manu Chao
4. Invisibility
5. The '20s
6. My mum
7. ...know what they want.



Materials:

- 1 piece of pre-shrunk fabric that measures 15cms longer than the doorframe and about 38cm wide.
- Thread
- Stuffing: I've used cut up bits of polystyrene as it can't be recycled, or stuff with plastic bags, and some sand to weigh it down.
- 2 buttons for eyes and a scrap of red material for a tongue.



What to do:

Using small stitches, sew fabric along the top and the long side, making a tube with one end open. Turn material inside out (to hide the stitches). Stuff the snake with whatever recycled material you're using and then sew the final end closed, sewing the tongue in the middle.

Attach the button eyes, and voila!

An easy peasy (not to mention stylish) way to stop the draught sneaking under your door!



What's the Happs?

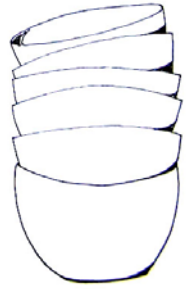
Stone Soup Thursdays - Join us for some winter-warming soupy goodness at the community centre. Every Thursday from 11am until it's gone. Soup-er!

School Holiday Programme - The Newtown Community Centre runs super duper holiday programmes for your primary-aged munchkins. The next programme is 5-16 July. Grab an enrolment form from the community centre office.

Newtown Knitting Circle



Attention all knitters! (or crocheters, we don't discriminate..) You bring your knitting, we provide the great company...ooh, and soup! Thurs 22nd July from 12pm at the community centre.



The Greenhaus Winter Soiree - A house concert with an eclectic line-up of poets, musicians, and generally humorous types...Bring an item to share, or an instrument to play in our sing-along at the end of the night... Sun 27 June, 7pm at 38a Colombo Street, Newtown (NB: this event is alcohol-free)

Poetry at Ballroom Cafe - showcase your stuff at the open mic poetry and music night, Sun 18th July, 4pm-6pm, at Ballroom Cafe.

Baobab Roots - Calling all musos, poets, performers and good-vibe givers...The next open mic night at Baobab is on Thurs 1st July from 7pm til late.

Friday Morning Mass - with Reverend Black Keys Vinyl selections to kick-start your weekend. Friday mornings at Baobab Cafe.

Pranah art - Each month Pranah showcases the artworks of a different local artist. This month's featured artist is Antoinette Ratcliffe, and in July you can check out the work of Rose Cloud.

Berhampore Film Festival: Shoot film, not guns! Submissions are due by Fri 16th July - if you're keen email Stephen Maslin: stephen.maslin@gmail.com for more info. The film fest screens on Sat 24th July at the Newtown Hall, gold coin entry.



Knack Craft Market - Saturday 26th June, 9.30am-1.30pm. The market has moved to SWIS for the winter (Rintoul St, next to Wakefield Hospital). Come and find beautiful, original craft at our midwinter market! There will also be hot soup, baked potatoes, fresh coffee, children's activities and live music happening.



FREE Home Energy Advice -

The Home Energy Advice Centre is a FREE, impartial and expert service to help save you money and keep you warmer. Call today on 0800 388 588 to speak to a friendly advisor.

NEW Kid On The block

Profiling Thomas Dewar Sziranyi Letts, the new law office in Newtown...

Tell us about yourself...

Hi, my name's Dan Vincent and I'm opening a law office in Newtown. I've lived in this area for nearly ten years now. I love it here and am really looking forward to bringing my work as a lawyer into this community.

Um, what's with the name?

It's a bit of a mouthful, but you should get used to it with a little practice! I've been working as a lawyer for over ten years, and most of that has been for the law firm Thomas Dewar Sziranyi Letts, in Central Wellington and the Hutt. You'll see the name up at 10 Constable Street opposite the library, which is where I'll be working from now on.

So, who and what is the office for?

The focus of the law office is to provide quality legal services to the South Wellington area – particularly Newtown.

With our community being such a diverse and vibrant place, I expect I will be doing a range of work: from criminal defence, to family issues, to employment and ACC advice.

Can we afford it?

I also do legal aid cases – so if you're worried about cost, or can't afford a lawyer normally, then we can apply for legal aid instead.

How do we get in touch with you?

Just drop in if you have a legal issue you'd like some help with, or call me on 380 0102. You can also visit our website: www.tdsl.co.nz.



We put together this newsletter with help from:



Baobab Cafe



FRIENDS of The People's Market

Hi folks...it's time again to get your community vibe on at the Newtown People's Market, this **Saturday the 26th June** at St Anne's School Hall.

The sense of community here is wonderful, and you're invited to make it even better. Don't be shy - come have a chat to the great people you'll find here, you'll be amazed at how friendly everybody really is!!

We have loads of fabulous stall holders: arts and crafts, recycled jewellery, second hand clothing and more... We also have a wide range of yummy food! Suzy's delicious Hungarian Goulash is a Newtown favourite, alongside her chilli con carne in the winter months. Plus a range of Thai and Filipino food and super tasty baking for the sweet tooths!

This month's live musical feast will be provided by Clube do Choro; a collective of Brazilian and Kiwi musicians who share a love of Brazilian choro music. Please support these musicians by adding some weight to their hat as well as a warm smile of appreciation!



Help us care for the earth with some suggested small steps!! 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.

You're all welcome to bring something magnificent or tiny, inspired or imperfect down to sell, busk, swap, show or give away. Just turn up on the day for a space, the market starts at 11am (open to set up from 10). The market is indoors (with heating!) and has free parking in the school carpark available. We can't wait to see you all there!

The Newtown People's Market Crew

PS. If you are a musician / entertainer who would like to perform at one of our markets please contact Matt mattyjgardner@gmail.com Or, if you want to ask a question, get involved, or advertise something coming up in Newtown, email newtownpeoplesmarket@gmail.com