

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep the Vibe Alive

Sydney, NSW, 31st March, 2016

An amazing show of community spirit and leadership draws to a close with the final two Friday Night Vibe events this Friday and next – including a feet tapping gypsy band, creative cabaret, live artists and free popcorn and flowers.

Friday Night Vibes is hosted by Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) who developed it after a series of community forums last year to discuss growing concerns about safety and changes to community culture.

NNC CEO Liz Yeo said, “this is the latest in a growing string of ‘Newtown Vibe’ events that demonstrate the incredible sense of community and openness that Newtown has.”

With the support of the City of Sydney, Friday Night Vibes aims to ensure visitors feel welcome to the area and get a taste of Newtown’s quirky creative culture. The event creates a relaxed, positive and safe environment for both visitors and locals.

“We’ve talked with people from more than 80 different postcodes – including interstate and overseas -- given away more than 2,000 flowers, a surprising number of condoms and a mountain of popcorn.”

“It might seem like a small gesture, but this has gone a long way to building a friendly, fun vibe,” Ms Yeo said.

To keep the Vibe alive beyond next Friday, NNC will be hosting another roundtable meeting in May. These meetings bring community leaders together to work on coordinated approaches to safety and culture and have included initiatives like late night taxi ranks and safer bars training.

“Everyone is welcome in Newtown, so we don’t want to see violence ruin a great night out. NNC is working with the community to develop a range of programs and projects to reinforce that message.”

“As a representative of the community, we’re taking a proactive approach to keeping Newtown Vibrant, Open, Weird and Safe.”

Friday Night Vibes finishes 8 April and NNC is calling for support to continue the program from September: Visit www.newtowncentre.org if you’d like to find out how you can help.

Images

Caption: “Welcome to Newtopia” NNC staff Sally Chalmers handing out flowers

Credit: Diana Shypula, Prema Photo

About NNC

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre exists to create a more inclusive, resilient, vibrant and self-reliant community. We are a not-for-profit incorporated association serving Sydney’s inner western suburbs. Our vision is to achieve a just community that includes and acts.
www.newtowncentre.org

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