

NEWTOWN

Neighbourhood Centre

New(town) Beginnings # 15

Dear Neighbour,

There's something quite magical about wandering down King Street, both South and North, in the early evening, especially now the warmer months have descended and we can enjoy daylight savings.

It's a welcome assault on the senses as you hear the clanking of metal spoons against woks, smell the various tantalising aromas, witness friends catching up over a drink and in my case, try desperately to avoid the temptations of the boutiques and gift stores.

It inspires joy and I feel fortunate to be part of such a lively and active neighbourhood, even more so now I have intimate knowledge of how many local businesses support the work we undertake at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.

Despite the tumultuous year some shop owners have faced (constant threat of clearways, negative press about business closures, fires at multiple venues), the support we receive from our local business community is as strong as ever.

Whether it's bringing a team along to our Newtopian Sleepout fundraiser, organising one-off events or supporting us with regular donations, we know the local businesses have our back.

They're aware of the enormous challenge our city faces to address homelessness and poverty, so we harness our resources and take action together to support members of our community who need it most. It's all about unity and cooperation to get a better outcome.

It's not only the grand gestures that are valued but the in-kind donations we receive which allow us to ensure our hard earned funds go to critical programs such as our Homeless Outreach.

For example, our beloved IGA who supply us with weekly staples such as milk, bread, fruit and biscuits for our multicultural aged care support groups. Or our close neighbour, Adora Chocolate, who over the years have donated dozens of delicious gift boxes as a thank you for our volunteers.

And not to incite envy but one of my favourite deliveries in the warmer months has to be when Gelato Messina deliver tubs of their ever popular desserts, as a gift to staff at the centre or for guests to enjoy at various events we host.

We also have local pubs who regularly support the Centre by hosting Karma Kegs, donating food deliveries or encouraging their patrons to donate to our Christmas food drive so we can distribute food hampers to people in need over the Christmas/New Year period when most services are closed for the break.

I could go on but what makes these contributions so special is that they're not done for the benefit of praise and public adulation, but because community is embedded into their business ethos and they too share the vision for a strengthened, diverse neighbourhood.

Another way that local businesses support the Centre is by attending [Newtown Festival](#), which is Newtown Neighbourhood Centre's biggest fundraiser.

This year there will be over 250 stalls scattered throughout the Festival site, with local businesses, designers and creators selling food and beverages from around the world, general merchandise, fair trade goods, plants, and handmade arts and crafts.

In addition there are more than 200 performers from the Inner West and all of them are sharing their talent with us for no fee – purely to support Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. Be sure to check out all the festivities, support local businesses and creatives and feel good knowing your contribution is going to a worthy cause.

Again, a big thank you to our numerous local businesses who support us in so many ways – we couldn't do what we do without you.

Thanks
Mel

P.S. – If you are a local business owner and would like to get involved with Newtown Neighbourhood Centre please contact georgia@newtowncentre.org. In 2020 we are looking at providing local businesses with information and training in how to respond if you come across someone experiencing homelessness. Let Georgia know if you, or a local business you know, might be interested in this program.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre

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