VOICE OF AROHA

NEWSLETTER

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TEAM WELLBEING SESSION FEBRUARY 2025

WELCOME MESSAGE





Kia ora whānau,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to Season Six of Voice of Aroha! As we step into this new chapter, we celebrate the growth of our kaupapa and the incredible voices that continue to shape our community storytelling.

A heartfelt welcome to our new volunteers, your dedication and enthusiasm are invaluable, and we are grateful to have you join our journey. With your support, we are launching new programs, deepening our impact, and ensuring that stories from diverse communities are heard far and wide.

This season promises powerful conversations, fresh perspectives, and more opportunities to connect and uplift one another. We can't wait to share what's ahead!

Thank you for being part of the Voice of Aroha whānau. Together, let's make this season our most impactful yet.

Ngā mihi nui,
Kodrean Eashae
CEO, Voice of Aroha

MEET THE TEAM



Voice Of Aroha was delighted to welcome new volunteers for Season six, 2025, this January. Many amazing high school and university students joined the team, bringing much enthusiasm and skills along to the existing legacy of the VOA team.

Our Induction Day was a wonderful opportunity to introduce everyone to our mission, values and the incredible work we do to create lasting changes in our community. The evening was filled with insightful presentations by our CEO, Kodrean Eashae, and other existing team members. Many fun team-building activities and discussions about each person's unique skills and experiences contributing to our collective impact, were the highlights of the night.

It was a fantastic chance for newcomers to connect with colleagues, learn about our ongoing projects, and gain a deeper understanding of our commitment to social change. We are excited to embark on this journey together, and we look forward to seeing the positive contributions our new team members will make. Together, we will continue to inspire change, empower communities, and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Welcome aboard, and thank you for joining us in this important mission of spreading the voices of Aroha!

Written by Ayaan Chand

MEET THE TEAM

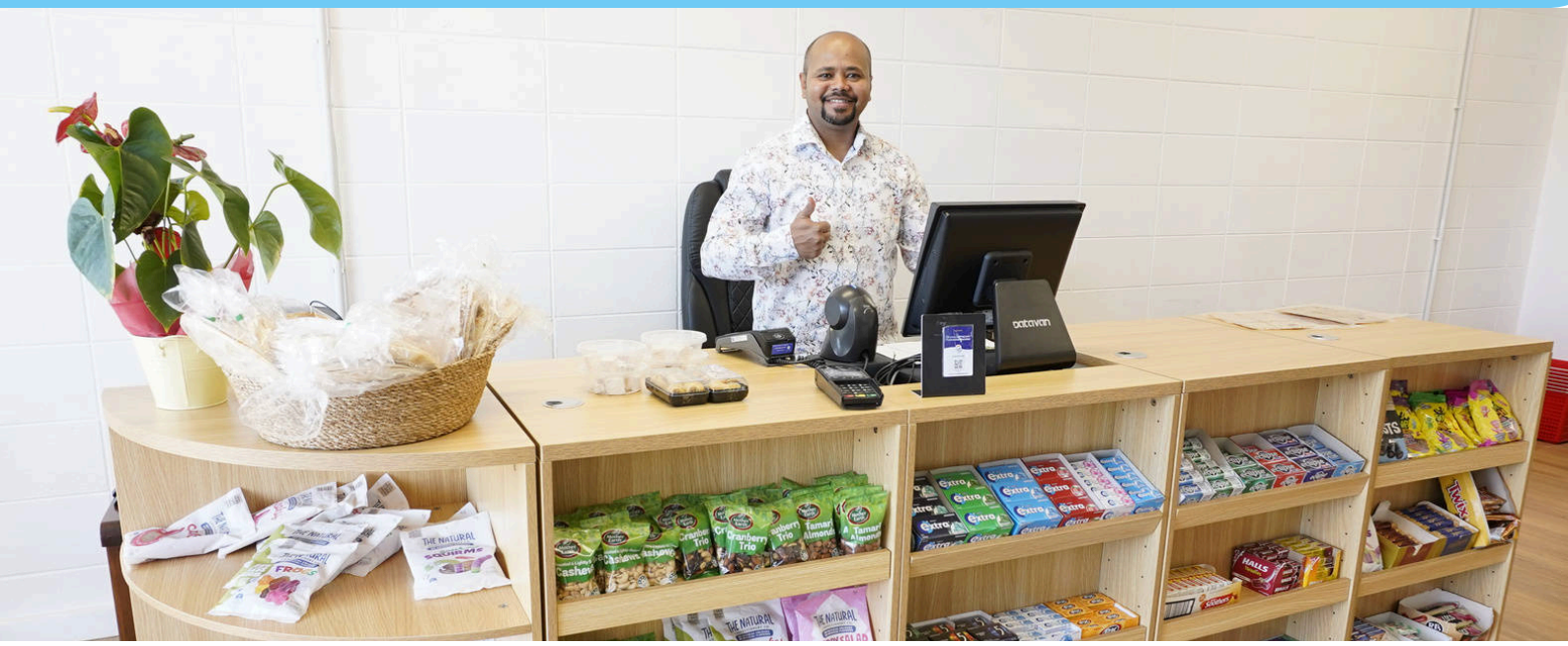
This year, our team is growing, and we're excited to introduce the passionate individuals leading our mahi for Season Six: Left to Right

Sahar – Admin Assistant Coordinator, Rata – Admin & Volunteer Coordinator, Kodrean – CEO , Hamid – Production Lead, Oscar – Climate Mahi Coordinator, Michelle – Wellbeing Coach

Together, we are committed to amplifying diverse voices, building stronger connections, and driving meaningful change in our community. We're excited for the journey ahead!



TOP NEWS- SUPPORTING LOCAL



GRAND OPENING OF SAMA HALAL SHOP

In February, Voice of Aroha attended the grand opening of Sama Halal Shop, a new addition to our local business landscape. More than just a store, Sama Halal Shop embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of our migrant communities, offering authentic Middle Eastern products and a gathering space for connection. Known for its special coffee, the shop has already garnered praise for its innovative approach to catering to the Middle Eastern population.



The event was filled with excitement as customers, partners, and local leaders gathered to celebrate this milestone. Mohamad, the shop's owner, shared his vision for a space that not only provides high-quality products but also fosters cultural exchange.



At Voice of Aroha, we are proud to support businesses like Sama Halal Shop, which contribute to the vibrancy of our community and economy. We look forward to watching the shop grow and continue enriching our local landscape.

Support the business and visit the store at: Sama Halal Shop, 36 Coutts Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington, 6022.

Written by Ayaan Chand

NEW EPISODES

We've launched Season 6 with a bang! From inspiring interviews with incredible guests on the VOA Podcast to the exciting relaunch of Youth Talk/Team Talk Podcast, our new and returning volunteers are already making an impact, creating more spaces for meaningful conversations and community connection.

Check them out on our YouTube channel.



WATCH NOW



WATCH NOW



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WATCH NOW

TEAM TALK - YOUTH TALK





Our new programme Team talk has been an amazing way to get to know the experiences and beliefs of our amazing Voice of Aroha whānau!

This is a refreshed version of our season 5 programme “Youth talk” where we got to talk about topics that are important to young people and how we can solve them together.

We will continue to do this with the whole Voice of Aroha crew through team talks, exploring broader issues as a team. Some topics we have already discussed in the bright and bustling season 6 are belonging, youth leadership, the meaning of success and much much more. Stay tuned for what our superstars have to say!

Written by Meg Lange





WELLBEING DAY!

Written by Meg Lange





Voice of Aroha has had the amazing experience of learning from our new wellbeing coach, Michelle! Under her leadership we have started having wellbeing days, where the whānau goes through wellbeing excercises and activities together!

We did icebreakers, activities to find out our values, and activities to find out how similar we are to each other. It was a lot of fun, and we learned a lot about ourselves and the other members of our amazing team.

Wellbeing is a core focus for Voice of Aroha, from our interviewees, through to our team and our wider community, so Michelle's expertise and experience has been a valuable asset and we can’t wait to see more of her work throughout season 6.





TOP HIGHLIGHTS

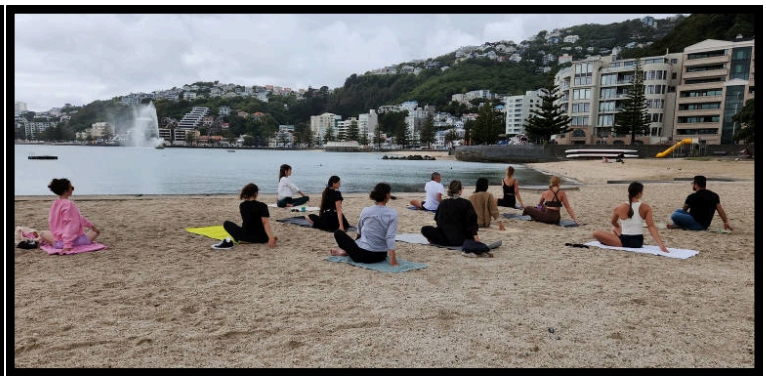
HIGHLIGHTING OF NEWTOWN FESTIVAL 2025!

VOA was on the ground at this year's Newtown Festival, joining the Wellington Access Radio stall to capture the energy and stories that make our city unique. With music in the air, vibrant arts, crafts and fashion stalls celebrating local creativity, and a feast of flavors from around the world, the festival offered a day of connection, celebration, and good vibes. It was a beautiful showcase of our communities' richness and resilience.



CHECK OUT





BEACH YOGA SESSION

Despite the rain pouring down on us, more than a dozen enthusiastic souls showed up for our recent outdoor yoga session on Wednesday, February 26th, at Freyberg Beach. Hosted by Voice of Aroha and Michelle from Relaxmi Yoga, this free, inclusive event transformed the beach into a space of connection and wellbeing for everyone, no matter their background or experience level. Participants rolled out their mats and embraced the elements, striking gentle poses while simultaneously becoming quite flexible—both physically and mentally—as they surrendered to the unpredictable weather. With laughter echoing through the raindrops, everyone discovered the joy of moving, breathing, and grounding together. At Voice of Aroha, we believe in making wellbeing accessible to all, and this event was a beautiful reflection of our commitment to holistic community care. If you missed out, don't worry—there will be more opportunities to stretch, breathe, and be part of this incredible kaupapa. Next time, we might even summon better weather… maybe!

Victoria University Club Expo 2025



At the Victoria University Club Expo, the Voice of Aroha stall was a fun and lively spot that caught the attention of students. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, offering a chance to not only learn about the club but also have a good time.

One of the main attractions was the Guess the Lolly Jar game, where students guessed how many lollies were inside a jar for a chance to win a $15 voucher. It was a simple yet exciting way to get involved.

But the stall was more than just games, it was a place to chat and connect. Club members took the time to talk with students, share what the club is about, and let them know about upcoming events. With fun activities, prizes, and friendly conversations, the Voice of Aroha stall was definitely a highlight of the expo.

Written by Anishka Chander

COMING UP EVENTS

Hui on Climate Community Kōrero

We are excited to invite you to an upcoming Hui that will bring together members of Wellington's ethnic communities for a session of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and action on climate resilience.

Date: Saturday, 5th April 2025
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Venue: Victoria University of Wellington, Pipitea Campus, RH207
Refreshments & Light Lunch Provided

This event will feature three key sessions:
Knowledge Sharing – Discussing challenges and opportunities for ethnic communities
Climate Response – Developing a tailored climate adaptation strategy
Cultural Understanding & Collaboration – Strengthening partnerships for action

A key focus will be on co-developing a climate adaptation response strategy that reflects the unique needs of refugees and migrants. With the support of the Wellington City Council, this Hui will be a crucial step in fostering resilience and inclusivity within our communities.Your presence and contributions would be invaluable. We'd love to see you there!



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