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[Dreaming about disabled 'third spaces'](#) 🧠

Plus: Disabled and Delicious Week 😊

Nov 20

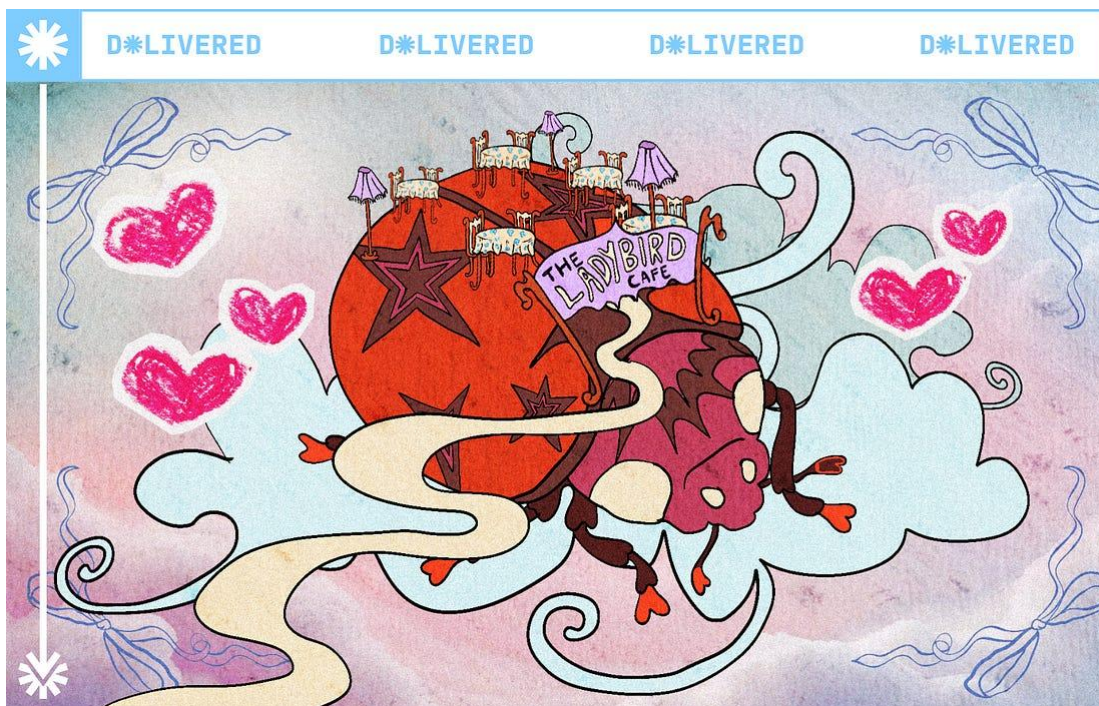


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Kia ora! 🌅

In this week's delicious edition:

- **New pukapuka alert: *I am Dyslexic*** 🌈
- **A refreshed NZSL strategy for the next decade** 👁️
- **A smorgasbord of online and in-person D*List events** 🏠



This week, we're dreaming about our **third spaces**: libraries, parks, marae, community spaces. It's those spaces that aren't your home, your school or work, and the **places that give you a sense of community life, replenishment and creativity.**

Emily Coull writes that **we deserve better, more accessible third spaces** and invites us to her imagined one: The Lady Bird Café. The cafe is owned and managed by ladybird enthusiast, Emily, and it counters all of the things about cafés that are inaccessible to her.

☺ It has natural and ambient lighting with an outdoor space, the food is predictable and affordable and its staff would be made up of disabled people. It's got a ramp entrance, is pet friendly, and a box of **sensory toys would be as unremarkable as salt and pepper on the table.**


*Imagine a space where you felt so comfortable, it was **as if things were designed just for you.** All your physical and sensory needs were catered to and you didn't feel judged for being disabled. I have a dream of more 'third spaces' like this in our communities.*

Accessibility at home and at school or work is only the baseline, and we can't neglect the spaces we frequent that make us feel alive. **What are these places for you?** 🌟


[Read about The Ladybird Café](#)



IN THE NEWS

 **Tunumafono Fa’amoetauloa Avaula Colenso Fa’amoe MNZM is remembered** [in this obituary](#) as “**a giant in the disability world**”. He was the former chair of Tautua, the founder of **Tōfā Mamao Collective**, a collective for New Zealand Pacific disabled peoples, and their families and carers, and a local board member in Ōtara.

“He had a long history of advocating not just for disability communities, not just for Pacific people, but for all our communities in South Auckland.”

 On the weekend, **international disability rights activist and writer, Alice Wong**, passed away at 51 years old. Wong founded the **Disability Visibility Project** in 2014 which inspired the D*List’s community portrait day event last year. She also authored *Year of the Tiger*, *Disability Visibility*, and *Disability Intimacy*. Alice’s friend, Sandy Ho described Wong as a “**luminary of the disability justice movement**” and posted Wong’s final message to us on Instagram:

[@alicatsamurai](#)

Alice's friend Sandy Ho, posting. Per Alice's w
essage is being shared at the time of her passin
everyone, it looks like I ran out of time. I
ny dreams that I wanted to fulfill and
eate new stories for you. There are a f
gress that might come to fruition in a
s if things work out. I did not ever imag
d live to this age and end up a writer, e
st, and more. As a kid riddled with inse
nternalized ableism, I could not see a
ord. It was thanks to friendships and e

Alice Wong on Instagram: "ID: Yellow background with black text..."

① **Disability advocate, Blake Forbes, lost his Facebook account** hours after posting about the current review of the Total Mobility Scheme, calling on the Transport Minister to listen to the disability community's fears for its future. [RNZ reports](#) that Forbes relies on social media to do his work and has lost 15 years' worth of photographs and contacts. He was told that his account breached its community standards, but wasn't told how:

There was nothing offensive or derogatory in the post - but Facebook's message was that the account had been "disabled" permanently, Forbes said.


👉 The Minister of Disability Issues, Louise Upston, [has launched](#) the **NZSL Strategy 2026-2036**. The strategy has two approaches: to "ensure Deaf people and NZSL users,

particularly children, are able to learn and use NZSL” and “to ensure non-NZSL users understand and accept the use of NZSL.”



✳ OVER ON THE D ✳ LIST



 **Adin Wentzel** reviews *I Am Dyslexic* by **Chanelle Moriah**: a guide that explains dyslexia in a refreshing way to help readers understand themselves or someone they know. It's Moriah's third book, following *I am Autistic* and *This is ADHD*.

Because the author has their own personal experience of the condition, Moriah has taken care to move the language away from the scientific and medical harshness often used to describe conditions. It's an empathetic way to read about a condition.


[Read more!](#)


YOUR TO-DO LIST




disabled & DELICIOUS WEEK SCHEDULE

- SPOKEN WORD WORKSHOP (ONLINE)**
Create stories through spoken word with Action Education
TUE 02 DEC 6:30 - 7:30PM
- ZINE-MAKING WORKSHOP (ONLINE)**
Make 'imperfect art' with Lofa from Filemu zines
WED 03 DEC 6:30 - 8PM
- CODENAMES GAMES NIGHT (ONLINE)**
Let's play Codenames together!
THU 04 DEC 7 - 8:30PM
- MARKET AND CRAFTING DAY**
The D*List Community Hub, 322 New North Road, Kingsland, Auckland
Jewellery, clothing, art, zines, kai & more!
SAT 06 DEC 10AM - 2PM

 Get amongst **The D*List's Disabled and Delicious Week!** As a week-long celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we're hosting online and in-person activities including a **spoken word** workshop, **zine-making** workshop, a **Codenames games night** and a **market and crafting day**. See the details and [RSVP here!](#)

 Join **The D*List x Pride's online workshop** on Tuesday 25 November at 6pm to **dream up events for Pride 2026**. Hear from Pride kaimahi from Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and more. RSVP your attendance to events@thedlist.co.nz and you'll be sent the Zoom link.

 Tune into the **Human Rights Commission's webinar** about improving social and economic outcomes for disabled people and their children. Hosted by Disability Rights Commissioner, **Prudence Walker**, the panel will include **advocates with lived experience, the researchers and the Minister for Disability Issues and Social Development**. NZSL and live captioning will be available. [Register your attendance](#) for 3 December 11.30am.

Hari Rāmenemene 😊

Eda

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