

City News



City of
Newcastle



Kotara makeover unveiled
Help shape your vision for Newcastle



MITCHELL STREET, STOCKTON

L-R City of Newcastle Works Coordinator Alex Dunn, Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Hannah and Justin Keegan of the General Washington Hotel, and City of Newcastle Project Planner Sarah Horan at Mitchell Street, Stockton

Message from the Lord Mayor

The start to 2021 has brought with it plenty of new projects and initiatives across our city. We welcomed the inaugural New Annual festival, which attracted more than 30,000 people and supported more than 750 artists, staff and crew. Newcastle's emergence as an events city was further cemented with the World Surfing League showcasing Merewether to the world and dozens of enticing local events ranging from Food Month to the SailFest Regatta.

Key projects are taking shape or almost finished across Newcastle, including the major redevelopment of No.1 Sportsground, which is scheduled to reopen towards the end of the year and will position the city to attract elite sporting events.

Construction of the Bathers Way - South Newcastle Beach project continues as we work towards reactivating this area as a vibrant and attractive hub for visitors and residents, while local centres across Newcastle are also receiving plenty of attention with works to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and create welcoming spaces for communities to gather and shop local. Significant drainage upgrades are an important part of our local

centre projects with Joslin Street in Kotara, Council Street in Cooks Hill and Llewellyn Street in Merewether all recently benefiting from an overhaul of the underground stormwater systems, which helped us avoid flooding like we've seen in the past during the record rainfall throughout March.

Robust community engagement remains a priority this year as we seek to progress a range of projects, masterplans and plans of management for areas including Wickham, Wallsend and Carrington, as well as National Park, Newcastle Ocean Baths and the Harbour Foreshore precinct.

We are also reaching out to all members of the community to help us create a new shared vision for the future of Newcastle through our Community Strategy Plan, Newcastle 2040, as we work together to create a smart, liveable and sustainable global city.

I'm thrilled about the upcoming launch of our new podcast series, Your Newcastle, which I'm hosting alongside a great line-up of guests. Keep your eyes on our Facebook account to find out more details about how you can listen in.

Nuatali Nelmes,
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Sprucing up your neighbourhood

Kotara residents aren't the only ones who'll be noticing a few changes next time they visit their neighbourhood shopping area, with City of Newcastle crews recently completing work on Llewellyn Street in Merewether as part of our Local Centres Program.

Areas across Newcastle are being upgraded as part of this program, which is designed to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and create welcoming spaces for communities to gather and shop local.

Work at Mitchell Street, Stockton began in early March, with construction in James Street Plaza, Hamilton and Sandgate Road, Shortland scheduled to start in mid-2021. Further community consultation is planned for the renewal of Orchardtown Road at Blackbutt Village in New Lambton ahead of construction next financial year.

Wallsend will also benefit from multiple upgrades under the program, including improvements to stormwater infrastructure under the Cowper Street bridge, and traffic improvements at the intersections of Cowper and Kokera Streets, and Cowper and Nelson Streets.



COVER STORY

\$2.4 million makeover for Kotara unveiled

Have you visited Joslin Street, Kotara lately? We've given it a \$2.4 million upgrade including a fresh, vibrant look with new trees, furniture and a fantastic public space for the community to enjoy. It features a fun sandstone stack, stepping logs for children to explore, relaxing areas to sit, and a drinking water fountain with accompanying doggy bowl for your four-legged friends.

Drains, footpaths and road surfaces were also improved as part of the project, while a new pedestrian refuge provides a safer place to cross the road between Rae Crescent and the local shopping area.

In the future we'll also be collaborating with students from the nearby Kotara South Public School to design a new climbable caterpillar sculpture to bring the space to life.



More reasons to get out and play

We know how important parks and playgrounds are to our community, offering neighbourhood hubs for exercise, recreation and social opportunities.

That's why during the past five years City of Newcastle has delivered more than \$6.5 million in new and upgraded playgrounds across our city and suburbs and will deliver an additional \$1.4 million this financial year.

We're continuing this work in 2020-21, with five playgrounds getting an overhaul as part of our program including the \$1.2 million inclusive playground at Stevenson Park, Mayfield, which opened in December.

More recently, we have replaced the playground at Novocastrian Park in New Lambton, which included the installation of a new rope climber, swings, slides and other equipment that will cater for a range of ages.

An upgrade of the Dangar Park playground in Mayfield was also completed in April, featuring a new climbing frame and rocker, along with a larger swing set.

Work on the playgrounds at Gross Street Reserve in Tighes Hill and King Edward Park was scheduled to begin in April, while we're also continuing to plan towards the construction of the highly anticipated \$1.5 million active hub at Federal Park in Wallsend.

Thousands embrace inaugural New Annual festival

Were you among more than 30,000 people who came to Newcastle's inaugural New Annual arts festival in February?

City of Newcastle's new flagship cultural event was a huge success in its first outing, delivering more than 50 events and activities across the city in a vital boost for the local creative arts and live music sectors, which have been heavily impacted by COVID-19.

Over 500 visual and performing artists, and 250 staff, crew and volunteers were involved in New Annual, including five key acts commissioned from the Newcastle area with support from Create NSW.

City of Newcastle has invested more than \$1 million since 2019 towards developing and establishing the festival, generating growth opportunities for the Newcastle arts and culture sector.

New Annual will return to the city from 24 September to 3 October 2021. Visit newannual.com to find out more.



What's ON NEWCASTLE

Find something new

whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



What's ON in your events city

Looking for something to do on the weekend? We've recently launched Newcastle's new home of events online - the What's ON website - offering a one-stop shop for all events across the Local Government Area.

Our dedicated platform features everything from markets to sporting matches, concerts to festivals, talks to workshops, and a whole lot more. Follow City of Newcastle on facebook to find out What's ON near you. If you don't want to miss a thing you can also subscribe to our What's ON newsletter.

Visit whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Help shape your vision for Newcastle 2040

What will you be doing in 2040? What about your families, friends and neighbours?

During the coming months we'll be asking the community to tell us what they want Newcastle to look like in 2040.

The services and facilities required for the future are being explored as we prepare a new Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the community.

Newcastle 2040 will reflect the community's values and will guide the City's project delivery plans and annual budgets.

We'll use it to develop our investment priorities, whether it be how much to spend on footpaths through to the types of festivals the City hosts and attracts.

Engagement opportunities will be hosted in a range of locations and we look forward to listening and learning from the community as we develop our shared vision for the future of Newcastle.

To stay up-to-date with opportunities for community feedback, visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/your say



New one-stop-shop for grant funding

We're making it easier for local businesses, community groups, sporting clubs, not-for-profits and individuals to access more than 1,000 grant funding opportunities through a new online service.

Newcastle Grant Finder provides a comprehensive listing of funding opportunities from City of Newcastle as well as State and Federal governments, allowing users to track opportunities. You can also access grant writing tips and search a directory of external professional writers offering services to help prepare applications.

Visit newcastle.grantguru.com.au



Newcastle Grant Finder Launch. Caption (L-R): Baptist Care Hope Street Group Manager Phil Eastbury; Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz; Maryland Fletcher Football Club President Dave Carter; and Maryland Fletcher Football Club Vice-President Tom Marshall, pictured at Maryland Football Club.

Independent report commends rapid response to COVID-19

City of Newcastle's timely and targeted response to COVID-19 has been praised as an example of crisis leadership that delivered clear and measurable benefits to our community.

An independent assessment by the Hunter Research Foundation (HRF) Centre at the University of Newcastle said the City "acted quickly and decisively" in developing its \$5.5 million Community and Economic Resilience Package (CERP), which was announced on 20 March last year, almost two weeks before NSW went into lockdown.

Since then, City of Newcastle has continued to invest significantly to assist the community's recovery from COVID-19, with an additional \$2.5 million added to a second phase of the CERP. The City also adjusted a range of existing programs, grants and sponsorships to best serve the most vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19.

A copy of the HRF Centre report can be accessed online via newcastle.nsw.gov.au/CERP



Which bin week is it?

Our annual Waste Calendar and Services Guide is moving online, with residents now able to download a PDF of their bin collection days or access the information through the free City of Newcastle app.



For those who like to have the bin days handy on the fridge or elsewhere at home, visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/collectiondays and enter your address to see your bin collection day and download a printable PDF.

To get the information anywhere, download the free City of Newcastle app to your smartphone to see your bin collection day and details, and access a PDF of your waste calendar. You can also use the app to book a bulk waste collection, report a missed collection, or report a damaged or missing bin.

If you're not online, using a smartphone or have access to a printer, don't worry – we'll still be able to print off a copy for you. Simply contact our Customer Call Centre on 4974 2000.

The new Waste Calendar will be ready to access from 1 July, 2021.

To download the app simply search 'City of Newcastle' on the Apple Store or Google Play.

Stage 1 of Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade progresses

City of Newcastle is moving ahead with the first stage of the Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade.

We have been working closely with the Community Reference Group to develop

concept plans that will be available on our website in mid May with detail design to follow. Construction is expected to commence in the second half of this year.

The Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade is a staged project that will begin with the restoration of the pool and promenades in the second half of 2021 as part of Stage 1. Stage 2 will focus on the upper concourse and pavilion building.



Your Newcastle podcast coming soon

There's a new way to find out what's happening in your city.

The Your Newcastle podcast explores events, projects, initiatives and identities in your backyard.

Hosted by Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and starring guest co-hosts, the podcast will feature exciting and interesting guests as we take five to showcase the very best City of Newcastle has to offer.

Looking for school holiday activities, what's on at the City's cultural facilities, or want to learn more about projects happening near you? It's Your Newcastle.

Coming soon to podcast streaming platforms and the City of Newcastle website.

Civil works update

Underway

No.1 Sportsground redevelopment

Bathers Way, South Newcastle

City centre to Merewether cycleway – stage one, Merewether

Mitchell Street upgrade, Stockton

Warabrook wetlands pathway renewal, Warabrook

Barrie Crescent rock bag structure, Stockton

Completed

Joslin Street local centre upgrade, Kotara

Llewellyn Street local centre upgrade, Merewether

Queens Wharf cycleway bypass at Newcastle Harbour

Kaiyutibbin Creek rehabilitation, Rankin Park

Upcoming

Hunter Street cycleway trial, Newcastle West

Ironbark Creek rehabilitation stage 5b

Stormwater improvements, Cowper Street, Wallsend

Wallsend active hub



Stay up-to-date with the latest news

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter for the latest information on projects, events and city happenings, delivered straight to your email inbox.

Sign up now at newcastle.nsw.gov.au/newsletter



TICKETED EVENT

Mother's Day High Tea

Sunday 9 May, 11.30am
City Hall

Enjoy a delicious Alice in Wonderland High Tea in the historic City Hall. High tea, Mimosa on arrival and 'Tweedledumb and Mum' kids' corner. Bookings essential through Civic Theatre.



FREE EVENT

WARWAR: The Art of Torres Strait

29 May until 22 August
Newcastle Art Gallery

Showcasing the evolution and strength of Torres Strait Islander tradition and society, this exhibition features more than 130 works of art from Newcastle Art Gallery's collection and galleries, museums and private collections across Australia, including some never previously seen outside of the Torres Strait Islands.

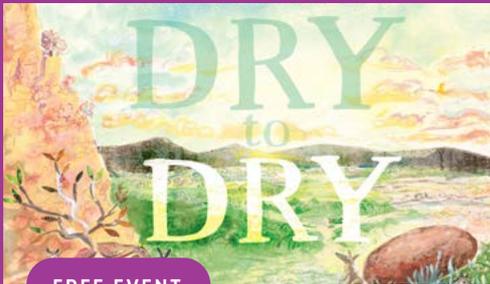


BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Our Forgotten Diva - an evening to remember Florence Austral

2 June and 14 July, 6pm - 7pm
Digital Library

Join Hilary Oliver from the Florence Austral Society to remember our forgotten diva. Austral made her debut with the British National Opera Company in 1922 and was an instant success, later moving to Newcastle to teach at the NSW State Conservatorium of Music.



FREE EVENT

Dry to Dry

4 June until mid-August
Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Library

A stunning tour of Kakadu through illustrations by Liz Anelli and the extraordinary story of the yearly weather cycle and changing wildlife of Kakadu National Park, written by award-winning author Pamela Freeman. Enjoy a beautiful narrative that explores the unique story of one of Australia's most amazing landscapes.



TICKETED EVENT

Impermanence by Sydney Dance Company

Wednesday 9 June, 7.30pm
Civic Theatre

A thrilling exploration of the juxtaposition of beauty and devastation performed live on stage by the Australian String Quartet with the full might of Sydney Dance Company's ensemble. This is an epic, driven performance that packs an emotional punch.



FREE EVENT

The Castanet Club

From 11 July
Newcastle Museum

During the 1980s a group of young friends lit up Newcastle with a kaleidoscope of music, comedy, and goodwill. The Castanet Club - an exhibition you can dance to! will let visitors step inside the wonderful world of the Castanet Club, a cabaret act that achieved international acclaim.

Find something new



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