

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



**Our response to COVID-19**  
**Keeping our City moving**  
**Staying Connected**



## Message from the Lord Mayor

### Novocastrians have a long track record of pulling together in times of crisis.

We've witnessed that same community spirit recently in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought unprecedented social and economic disruption along with many concerns about health and wellbeing.

I can assure all Novocastrians that City of Newcastle are working closely with our key partners at NSW Health, Hunter New England Health, and the NSW Police to keep our community as safe and as healthy as possible.

For our economic sustainability and recovery, we have committed to a broad response designed to support our community and local businesses.

As the situation evolves, we continue to take proactive actions that will benefit our community during what is, without a doubt, one of the greatest challenges we have ever faced.

Our dedicated emergency response team continues to respond to the challenges facing our City as we assess the impacts of COVID-19 on our local community.

Our website has all the information related to the City's response to the pandemic and is regularly updated with the details you need to know.

While the past few months have been an uncertain and disruptive time, we are dedicated to assisting our community and local businesses to overcome the challenges we are facing together.

Our comprehensive community and business support package is well underway and designed to help us all through the unprecedented effects of COVID-19. Grants of up to \$30,000 to service providers that directly support community health and wellbeing have been dispersed, providing practical support to those who need it most.

We're better together Newcastle; let's continue to support each other and demonstrate how powerful our community spirit can be.

**Nuatali Nelmes**  
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

## Throwing our support behind Newcastle

We have rolled out a comprehensive support package designed to assist residents, businesses and community groups through the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This package is initially valued at \$5.5million and is already having a positive effect on residents and businesses across the city.



Residents and businesses provided financial relief through interest free payment plans for rates, with interest penalties waived until June 30, 2021.



Boost Our City Community Sector Grants of up to \$30,000 to non-government organisations, not-for-profits, charities and for-profit service providers that directly support community health and wellbeing during the pandemic.



\$100,000 to expand e-library resources including e-books, newspapers, magazines, music and movie streaming, along with study assistance and training programs for students and job seekers.



A cash flow relief for local businesses and residents with a 50 percent discount given on rent for all City-owned buildings and land for the June and September quarters.

Go to [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19) to find out how the packages can support you.



Download the App



Volunteer



Support Local



Get Rewarded

## Come on, Lean in Newy

We're harnessing acts of kindness that have emerged as a silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic to boost local business activity through an innovative new app.

'Lean in Newy' connects organisations that need support with people willing and able to help, while providing added encouragement through vouchers and discounts for local businesses.

For example, if a charity requests help for a service, a person can nominate themselves to fulfil that request. In return, they receive reward points that are redeemable at participating stores to purchase an item.



**Be part of the movement, download the app today.**



## The bold and the beautiful of Blackbutt

Our residents at Blackbutt Reserve have been keeping good company while the facility is closed to public access, with the rangers checking in on their regular schedule.

Some of our fuzzy friends made their film debuts, including our three female koalas – Jarrah (12yrs), Chloe (7yrs) and Kira (5yrs) – who were streamed into homes during their daily feeding schedule in the recent school holidays.

This month's stars are Yurtle the eastern long-necked turtle and Mr. Blue, Blackbutt's very popular eastern blue tongue lizard.

Follow [@CityNewcastle.au](https://www.facebook.com/CityNewcastle.au) on Facebook to give them a virtual wave.



## Explore your own backyard

Why not use your time in isolation to rediscover your backyard, and learn new skills?

We have tips and tricks for building planter boxes, growing vegies and helping our local biodiversity with a wildlife nest box.

For lots of great ideas to explore your own backyard visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/naturalconnection](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/naturalconnection)

## How to make the most of the expanded library



*"I'm a proud Novocastrian and I've been a member of my local library branch for years now.*

*When the branches were temporarily closed due to COVID-19 I lost one of my weekly outings to wander down to the library.*

*I was worried the loan*

*period for the last book I borrowed was up, so I phoned the branch and was delighted to hear loan periods on all library items were extended for eight weeks. After a chat with Mel from the Customer Service team, I discovered I could access thousands of movies, documentaries, digital magazines and newspapers through the library app. I've always had the app, yet I never realised the range of content I had access to at the touch of a button! With Mel's help I navigated the app and haven't looked back. I sent a message to my daughter and got her onto the children's e-library for the grandkids."*

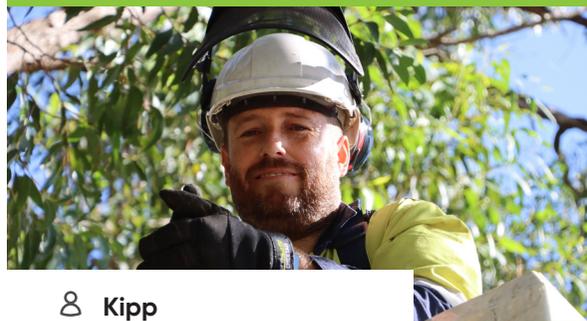
**Wayne, local resident**

### Become a member of Newcastle Libraries and get immediate access to a whole host of new digital content for free

1. Four e-book and e-audio platforms with thousands of titles, including the latest releases and popular titles.
2. Children's video streaming platform, Storybox library, that features well-known Australian authors and TV personalities.
3. Online newspapers with PressReader, which boasts a wide range of international and regional titles
4. Countless e-magazines to flick through with RB Digital and more.
5. Movie streaming platforms, with more than 30,000 movies, documentaries, kids' and wellness content from Kanopy and Beamafilm.
6. Music streaming platform with access to 15 million songs, including the entire Sony Music Recording catalogue, via Freegal.
7. Online tutors for students in years 3-12 to assist with homework and assignments, available 8am to 8pm, seven days per week.
8. Job skills support for adults from professionals and advice in crafting your CV.
9. Free access to a range of online training programs to support job skill development.

Join online at [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library) or phone **4974 5300** to speak with a library staff member

## Meet your City of Newcastle



**Kipp**

**Field Supervisor**

My role is focused on maintaining clearances of trees around the city. Every day I work in a new location. I like that our crew has a role in making the city look nice and presentable. We all take pride in it.



**Rene**

**Waste Collection Driver**

Seeing smiling kids coming out of their houses every day and giving me a wave is one of the reasons I love my job. I also met my husband at the garbage dump at Summerhill. We've been married for 18 months.



**Frank**

**Field Supervisor**

My job is in general duties looking after flower beds and road islands. I have a section of about 162 flower beds and islands, and dead end streets that I maintain. I've been with City of Newcastle for 32 years.

# Construction work remains on track



We're continuing to deliver our planned capital works.

Where possible, construction works have been scheduled to take advantage of the significant reduction in traffic across the city. Works at the corner of Darby Street and Council Street in Cooks Hill have been brought forward, with an aim to have the works completed and traffic back

to normal on Darby Street much earlier than originally planned.

The work is being done now to minimise disruption to businesses along Darby Street later this year when they re-open following the current restrictions on trade due to COVID-19.

As works progress, our crews are mindful of the need for continued safety and social distancing.



## Have your say on the draft plan for the future of Stockton coastline

A long term plan for managing Stockton's coastline is now on public exhibition and we want you to have your say.

The draft Coastal Management Program (CMP) includes how to address risks such as erosion and rising sea levels, and will be provided to the NSW Government for endorsement by 30 June.

To have your say, visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/YourSay). The public exhibition period closes on Wednesday 10 June.

## Works update

### Completed

Tyrrell Street Bridge, Wallsend

---

Pedestrian improvements and drainage upgrades in Union Street, Cooks Hill

---

### Underway

---

Road and drainage construction in Council Street and Swan streets, Cooks Hill

---

Lloyd Street steps upgrade, Merewether Heights

---

Footpath construction at Croudace Road, Elmore Vale

---

Sportsground renovations and installation of fitness equipment, Kurra Oval, Fletcher

---

### Upcoming

---

Roundabout construction at intersection of Railway and Albert streets, Wickham

---

Bathers Way, Newcastle Beach - new skatepark and bowl within the existing facility's footprint, outdoor exercise equipment and an amenities block

---

## Essential services continue

We are committed to keeping Newcastle moving during the pandemic and throughout the recovery phase.

While some of our front facing facilities are temporarily closed to public access, essential services continue. This includes waste services, with kerbside and bulk waste collections occurring as usual.

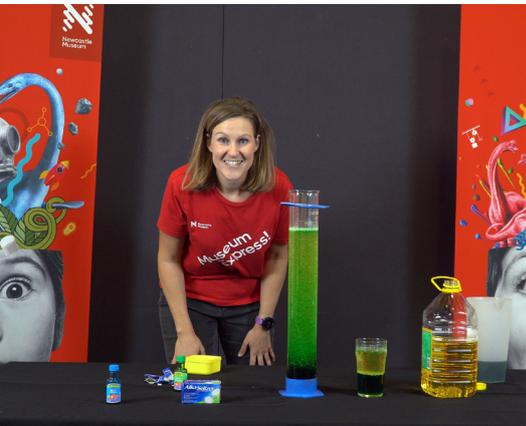
Our customer service team is available online and by phone, between 8am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Our dedicated webpage ([newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19)) provides a range of information about the City's response to COVID-19, as well as the latest updates on services and facilities.

# What's On(line)

Our facilities have thrown open their 'virtual doors' to bring a range of experiences right into your lounge rooms.

Stay connected, from a safe distance [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson)



**ONLINE ACTIVITY**  
**NEWCASTLE MUSEUM**

## Museum Express @ Home

Try some of Newcastle Museum's favourite science experiments, at home. Download the experiment and collect your materials to investigate some of the Museum's science mysteries.



**ONLINE EXHIBITION**  
**NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY**

## Homeward Bound: the art and life of Tom Gleghorn

The first major survey of one of Australia's finest and most influential abstract expressionists is now available to view for free as an online exhibition, until 19 July 2020.



**LIVE STREAM**  
**NEWCASTLE LIBRARIES**

## Rock 'n' Rhyme Online

Sing songs, dance together, and get some great activity ideas to keep the fun going at home. Suitable for ages 0-3 years.



**ONLINE ACTIVITY**  
**NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY**

## Art Cart

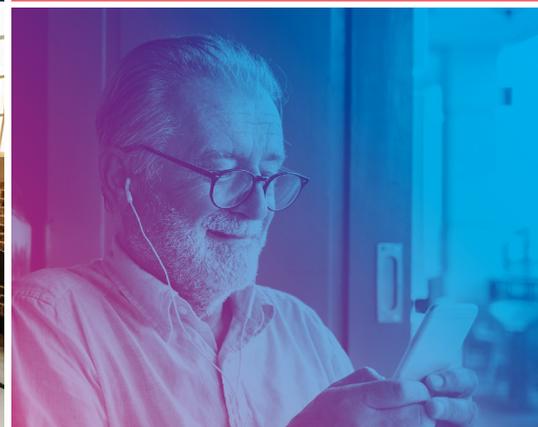
Every weekend you can discover a range of accessible and hands-on activities, inspired by iconic works of art in the Newcastle Art Gallery's collection.



**ONLINE ACTIVITY**  
**NEWCASTLE MUSEUM**

## Discover the Collection

Search the 12,500 objects significant to Newcastle and the Hunter region's diverse history through the Museum's online collection database.



**WEBINAR**  
**NEWCASTLE LIBRARIES**

## E-Safety Commissioner Series

A series of free webinars to help older Australians stay safe online – from safer online shopping and banking to using social media. Bookings essential.