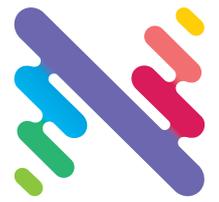


EDITION 1 2022

City News



City of
Newcastle



Celebrating our top citizens
Meet your new Council
Art Gallery expansion begins



Newcastle welcomes new Council

Newcastle's new Council has been sworn in following the local government election held on 4 December 2021, with Cr Nuatali Nelmes re-elected as Lord Mayor for a third consecutive term.

Seven new Councillors and five returning Councillors join her to form the new 13-person Council, which includes nine women for the first time in the City's 220-year history.

The new Council, as pictured left to right above, is Deahna Richardson (Ward 4 Labor - new), Callum Pull (Ward 4 Liberal - new), Margaret Wood (Ward 3 Labor -

new), Katrina Wark (Ward 3 Liberal - new), Peta Winney-Baartz (Ward 3 Labor - returning), John Church (Ward 1 Independent - returning), Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes (Labor - returning), Carol Duncan (Ward 2 Labor - returning), Dr John Mackenzie (Ward 1 Greens - returning), Jenny Barrie (Ward 2 Liberal - new), Dr Elizabeth Adamczyk (Ward 4 Labor - new), Declan Clausen (Ward 1 Labor - returning) and Charlotte McCabe (Ward 2 Greens - new). Cr Clausen was re-elected to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor for this term during the first Council meeting.



Supporting our community throughout the pandemic

As part of our ongoing response to COVID-19 and to help our vulnerable communities through the effects of the pandemic, we've recently distributed \$60,000 to local community organisations including Awabakal, Catholic Care Refugee Hub, NovaCare and Northern Settlement Services.

The funding will help provide emergency relief for Newcastle's First Nations community, make driving lessons accessible to newly arrived migrants, support Newcastle's elderly population and their carers and provide culturally and linguistically diverse communities with access to social and recreational programs.

L-R: Attendee Margaret Fullick, Newcastle Senior Citizen of the Year Jan Chamberlain, City of Newcastle Director Strategy and Engagement Kathleen Hyland and NovaCare Chief Executive Officer Joseph McCarthy

Message from the Lord Mayor

I'd like to thank Novocastrians for their trust and support upon my re-election as the Lord Mayor of the City of Newcastle.

Congratulations to all new and returning Councillors, it is an honour and a privilege to serve our local community in this important role.

We're kicking off 2022, and our new Council, with a number of major projects and key initiatives across our city.

The revitalisation of Newcastle Ocean Baths is now underway following the summer season, with upgrades to the pool area to be completed as the first stage of this significant project, improving safety and accessibility for all Baths users.

The transformation of another iconic city destination has also begun, with the long-awaited expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery set to deliver a significant regional tourism asset with more than double its current exhibition space. The expansion is expected to create 170 jobs, including 152 in construction and 18 ongoing once it is complete, and is projected to inject more than \$1 million into annual regional revenue by attracting over 14,000 additional local visitors and tourists each year.

We're finalising construction of our new \$1.5 million Wallsend Active Hub, which will transform Federal Park into a centre of

active recreation opportunities. Upgrades to four other existing playgrounds are also planned as part of our annual renewal program, with work now underway at sites in Tarro and Minmi.

Local centres across Newcastle are also receiving plenty of attention, with projects to improve safety and create welcoming spaces for communities to gather and shop local in suburbs including Stockton, Shortland and Blackbutt Village.

Environmental and sustainability issues remain in focus as we continue to implement our Climate Action Plan, and work with community and stakeholders to develop a new Environment Strategy and a new Waste Strategy. We're also planting more street and park trees and rolling out rooftop solar systems at key facilities. Genuine community engagement continues to be our priority as we progress a range of projects, masterplans and plans of management for open spaces across the city, as well as a new shared vision for the future of Newcastle through our Community Strategy Plan, Newcastle 2040.

These projects are fundamental to enhancing the way our communities work and live, as well as ensuring we continue to be an attractive destination for visitors and investment.

Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Citizen of the Year

Paralympic silver medallist and three-time world paratriathlon champion Lauren Parker has been crowned City of Newcastle's 2022 Citizen of the Year for her inspiring never-give-up attitude, admirable strength and resilience and amazing sporting achievements.

The honour came less than five years after Lauren was involved in a horrific cycling accident whilst training for an Ironman event, which left her paralysed from the waist down.

University of Newcastle law and business student Ashley Harrison was named Young Citizen of the Year for helping young women avoid exploitation through her start-up social enterprise, Verified Associates.

Jan Chamberlain from Hamilton South Community Solutions was chosen as the Senior Citizen of the Year, while the Hunter Peace Group was named Community Group of the Year.

The awards recognise the outstanding contributions of extraordinary Novocastrians during the past year.



Pictured L-R: Lauren Parker, Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Jan Chamberlain, Ashley Harrison, Diane Barrack, Lynda Forbes, Judy Morley, Beth Moran (all Hunter Peace Group members).

Makeovers underway across our suburbs

Our Local Centres Program is enhancing key suburban hubs across the city.

A \$3.7million upgrade of Blackbutt Village in Orchardtown Road, New Lambton, is kicking off, bringing significant improvements to pedestrian and cyclist safety and enhancing the look and feel of this busy precinct.

Improvements to footpaths at Shortland are complete, and traffic and pedestrian safety improvements along Sandgate Road are underway.

We are also making good progress with our upgrade of Mitchell Street, Stockton, with works scheduled to finish in mid-2022.



The historic sandstone gutters along the kerb were removed for cleaning and have now been returned to frame key intersections and raingardens.

Have
your
say

Have your say in
shaping our city.

Involving the community in decision-making is at the heart of what we do. To be involved visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay to stay up-to-date and have your say on important projects and initiatives in your area.

Creating a liveable, sustainable and thriving global city together

More than 5,000 people provided feedback last year to help inform our new Community Strategic Plan, Newcastle 2040. Together, we have developed an ambitious long-term vision that sets out our priorities for the future and will inform policies and actions throughout the city for the next 10-plus years to create a liveable, sustainable, thriving global city. We are now mapping out our four-year Delivery Program and budgets, and developing two key strategies for the future: our Environment Strategy and Waste Strategy.



Tarro Playground render

Let's play

Our community values open spaces and loves to get outdoors, which is why we're investing \$650,000 to upgrade four local playgrounds in 2022.

The playgrounds at McCauley Park in Tarro and Minmi's McInnes Reserve will be overhauled with a complete equipment replacement, and playgrounds at Kotara Park and Bernborough Avenue Park in Maryland will benefit from new design and upgrades.

Construction of the new-look play area at McCauley Park playground is expected to be completed soon and is designed to cater for a range of ages featuring swings, slides, climbing, and balancing components, while the upgrade at McInnes Reserve is also expected to get underway in the first quarter of this year, with the renewal of the other two playgrounds to be completed mid June 2022.

Sign up to stop soft plastics going to waste



Newcastle residents can help stop even more waste from ending up in landfill by signing up to take part in a new soft plastics recycling program.

Soft plastics are loosely defined as plastics that can be scrunched into a ball, including shopping bags, chip and biscuit packets, and bread bags. Around 94 per cent of these plastics end up in landfill.

We're one of the first councils in Australia to take part in the Curby Program, which is run in conjunction with Australian recyclers iQ Renew and CurbCycle. Newcastle households who apply to participate will receive special yellow bags to sort their soft plastics into before placing them in their yellow kerbside recycling bin. The yellow bags are sent to a special processing plant to be turned into a new material, which can be reused to make low carbon cement, new plastic products and plastic film.

Soft plastics must be inside a specially tagged CurbyBag to be recycled via the kerbside collection and must not be placed loose in yellow-lid bins. This allows them to be separated from other materials and prevents the contamination of other recyclables.

Find out more by visiting curbythebilby.com.au/softplastics



NEW ANNUAL

New Annual to return in September

City of Newcastle's flagship arts festival returns this September with a vibrant showcase of cultural events. Spanning ten days from 23 September to 02 October, New Annual celebrates local and visiting artists sharing music, dance, theatre, Indigenous stories and visual art.

The festival supports and champions local artists while bringing fresh thinkers to the region, that promises some of the most exciting creative experiences in unexpected places.



Newcastle Ocean Baths render

Newcastle Ocean Baths revitalisation underway

The first stage of Newcastle Ocean Baths upgrade began in March, with upgrades to the pool area prioritised to improve safety and accessibility for all Baths users. The pump system will also be replaced and new shade shelters and bench seating will be installed. The art deco bleachers, a popular

feature of the Baths, will be retained along with the existing pump house building and the sandy bottom.

The next stage of the Newcastle Ocean Baths revitalisation will focus on the pavilion and we will work with the community to develop a plan for future upgrades.



Works update

Recently completed

Pedestrian improvements, corner of Hobart Road and Wallarah Road, Lambton

Phase one upgrades, East End Village, Newcastle

Additional basketball courts at National Park, Newcastle West

Bus stop upgrade, Hobart Road and Durham Road, Lambton

Underway

Wallsend Active Hub, Federal Park

Footbridge replacements, Jesmond Park

Pedestrian improvements, Maryland Drive at Holywell Street, Maryland

Stormwater improvements, Glebe Road, The Junction

Pavement rehabilitation, Allowah Street, Waratah West

Kerb and footpath improvements, Cowper Street, Carrington

Road and drainage upgrades, Buchanan Street, Merewether

Road reconstruction between Lexington Drive and Princeton Ave on Rosemont Street, Adamstown Heights

Coming soon

Pedestrian improvements, corner of Coane Street and Frederick Street, Merewether

Drainage improvements, Lindsay Oval, Beresfield

Playground replacement, Bernborough Reserve, Maryland

Playground replacement, McInnes Street, Minmi

Stormwater improvements, Corlette Street, The Junction

Stormwater improvements, Smith Street, Merewether



L-R: Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, Newcastle Art Gallery Director Laurretta Morton and NSW Deputy Premier Paul Toole.

Newcastle Art Gallery prepares for expansion

Work has begun on the long-awaited \$40 million expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery, a landmark project that will more than double the size of the iconic cultural destination and create a regionally significant tourism destination for NSW.

Following the announcement of \$10 million for the project from the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, the Gallery closed its doors to the public at the end of January to allow for the careful relocation of its nationally significant collection into secure off-site storage.

The collection will still be available online and will be represented across digital screens located throughout the city.

Construction is expected to kick off mid-year, with the project to deliver new facilities including an additional 1,600 square metres of exhibition space, a café and retail shop, multi-purpose and educational program space, improved display and secure international standard loading dock. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2024.



Autumn Alive

This Autumn watch our Newcastle CBD come Alive. An exciting month of night time activations across our cultural venues, parks, nightspots and boutique makers and traders. Autumn Alive will be the only excuse you need to fall back in love with our city and support our local businesses.

- Alfresco Dining
- Events and Performances
- Movies in Museum Park
- Late Opening Cultural Venues
- Street Party and Creative Activations
- Late Night Food and Music
- Nightlife Precinct Trails
- and so much more ...

Head to our What's On page to find out all the latest on Autumn Alive events.



whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



FREE EVENT

A Portrait of Australia: Stories through the lens of Australian Geographic

March-June
City Hall

A Portrait of Australia: Stories through the lens of Australian Geographic exhibition celebrates the bush, the outback, the coast, and the people who live there. Discover the remarkable stories of ordinary Australians through stunning large format photographs from the Australian Geographic archive, selected and curated by the National Museum of Australia.



TICKETED EVENT

Alice's Wonderland

March-July
Newcastle Museum

Alice's Wonderland is a colourful hands-on exhibition that brings basic science concepts of optics and illusions, word play, physics, and maths to life for 3-8-year-olds and their families. Just as Alice followed the white rabbit down the rabbit hole, let your curiosity guide you!



TICKETED EVENT

Black Cockatoo

21-22 May
Civic Theatre

Over 150 years ago 13 brave Aboriginal men picked up their cricket bats and embarked on a treacherous voyage to England and into the unknown. Risking illness and persecution, Australia's first international cricket team amazed the English crowds with astonishing talent and grit. This is not just a story about cricket, but of strength, resistance, hope and possibility.



TICKETED EVENT

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

10-11 June
Civic Theatre

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow is hitting the highways to home-deliver the freshest and funniest from the 2022 Festival to neighbourhoods across the nation, including Newcastle! Buckle up for a night of stand-up, sketch, satire, silliness, and song in this rip-roaring road trip designed to satisfy all your comedy cravings.