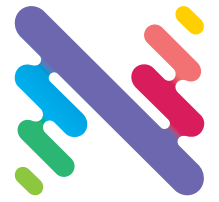


EDITION 1 2023

City News



City of
Newcastle



Newcastle set for Supercars return

Celebrating our top citizens

Playground upgrades on way



Message from the Lord Mayor

We're celebrating the start of the new year with multiple milestone moments for major projects and initiatives across the city.

In January we called for tenders for the main construction work on our highly anticipated \$40 million expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery. Tenders are also being assessed to complete the design of a new stage of our Bathers Way coastal walkway, which will transform the section between Strzelecki Lookout and South Newcastle Beach with a more accessible shared path through King Edward Park.

Construction will begin on Newcastle's largest playground at Foreshore Park in the second half of 2023, while plans are moving forward to build Newcastle's first Material Recovery Facility at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre with its development application lodged.

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

Our burgeoning events and tourism economy also has an important role to play in the future of our city.

Elton John's two hugely successful concerts, which injected more than \$12 million into the local visitor economy in January, kicked off a packed schedule of major events in Newcastle this year, including the extended season of hit Broadway musical *Come From Away* at the Civic Theatre, the upcoming return of Supercars Newcastle 500 from 10-12 March and the annual staging of Australia's biggest surfing festival, Surfest.

Ongoing investment in events and tourism is integral to building a thriving, diverse and robust economy in Newcastle and I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy what's on offer across our city in the coming months.

Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor of Newcastle



Pictured right: Members of the Newcastle Ocean Baths Community Reference Group undertook a site tour and project briefing in December

Newcastle Ocean Baths on track for summer

Substantial progress has been made on the upgrade of the iconic Newcastle Ocean Baths. The first stage of the project is on track for completion by mid-2023, ahead of re-opening of the baths for swimming by next summer.

This stage prioritises upgrades to the pools, promenade, and pump system, and will deliver

significant improvements for people with a disability or low mobility, including ramp access and improved safety around the pool.

Consultation on stage two of the upgrade, which centres on the pavilion buildings, will commence early this year.



2023 Citizen of the Year awards. Caption(L-R): Community Group of the Year recipients Melanie Taggart and Alison Rigby, Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, Young Citizen of the Year Dominic May, and Citizen of the Year Nathan Towney.

First Nations voice amplified by 2023 Newcastle Citizen of the Year accolade

A passionate advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has been selected as Newcastle's 2023 Citizen of the Year.

Nathan Towney received the honour in recognition of his leadership as The University of Newcastle's Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Strategy and Leadership.

The Wiradjuri man was pivotal in the successful launch of Ngarrama in 2022 in partnership with Awabakal Ltd and supported by City of Newcastle. The free public vigil is held on the eve of Australia Day to engage the community in meaningful reconciliation through truth telling and historical acceptance, featuring performances and informative talks from local Aboriginal elders.

The 2023 Young Citizen of the Year title was awarded to local entrepreneur Dominic May, who founded CoastXP, a unique coastal sightseeing experience.

As well as actively contributing to the diversity of local tourism offerings, Mr May was lauded for his rescue efforts when the crew onboard the fishing vessel ELLIE-K issued a mayday call off the Newcastle coast in July.

In recognition of its work with all levels of government to tackle coastal erosion, Stockton Community Group Inc. was announced as the 2023 Community Group of the Year.



Upgrades for city's recreational spaces

Young people will soon be swinging, sliding and climbing around five upgraded local playgrounds as we embark on a \$750,000 replacement program in 2023.

This will include a makeover of Beresfield's Vera Wilson Park, Loch Ness Drive Park in Fletcher, Harold Myers Park in Birmingham Gardens, Avon Street Reserve in Mayfield, and Waratah Park.

Upgraded equipment will cater for a range of ages, with swings, challenging climbing components, slides and multi-play units, as well as a new stairway at Fletcher and a mini trampoline at Waratah, among the new play attractions.

Up to five of Newcastle's 134 local playgrounds are replaced each year under a commitment to delivering improved recreational opportunities for families across the local government area. Public exhibition of the new Gregson Park playspace has been undertaken and detailed design is underway for delivery of this playspace commencing the second half of 2023.

A concept design for the upgraded playground at Loch Ness Drive Park in Fletcher, which will be completed this year.



Next step for major recycling project

We've hit a key milestone in our plan to build Newcastle's first Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

The MRF will sort recyclables from residents' yellow-lid kerbside bins into separate materials such as paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, steel and aluminium, which can be on-sold to recyclers to manufacture new products.

A development application has been lodged for the facility, paving the way for assessment of the project to begin.



There was plenty happening in Civic Park during the 2022 New Annual Festival.

Dates announced for return of New Annual

Planning is well underway for the return of our flagship arts and cultural event, with New Annual kicking off from 22 September for 10 days of unforgettable events and activations.

Last year's festival was another great success, attracting almost 40,000 people to more than 140 performances and activities at 32 venues across the city, delivering a boost of almost \$8 million to the local economy.

More than 530 artists and over 400 staff, crew and volunteers were involved in the 10-day event, which featured a dynamic program of dance, music, theatre, visual arts and Indigenous workshops.

New Annual will be held from 22 September to 1 October. To keep up-to-date with the latest news visit www.newannual.com

Grand plans for Lambton pool

We're continually investing in maintenance and upgrades at our five inland swimming centres, including almost \$1 million in recent works at Lambton Park War Memorial Swimming Centre.

A scheduled maintenance program including safety upgrades and changeroom improvements continues at Lambton, while design has started for a more efficient heating system.

We're also replacing the concrete grandstand, with work expected to commence when the facility closes for winter. In the meantime, eight temporary seating structures have been put in place to ensure access to seating and shade over the busy summer and school carnival period.



Councillor Margaret Wood (front), Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz (standing), CN Acting Manager Community & Recreation Donna McGovern (back) with Bluefit Facilities Manager Hannah Richardson and CN Aquatic Services Coordinator Chris Griffin.



Works update

Completed

Cycleway and pedestrian improvements at Corona Street, Hamilton.

Long jump pit facility replacement at Alder Park, New Lambton.

Footpath improvements at Mackie Avenue, New Lambton.

Playground replacement at Vera Wilson Park, Beresfield.

Underway

Drainage upgrades at Smith Street, Merewether.

Playground replacement at Loch Ness Drive Park, Fletcher.

Pedestrian improvements and embankment earthworks at Bull Street, Mayfield.

Pedestrian improvements at Hawthorn Street, Beresfield.

Repair works, Stockton North Breakwater at King Street, Stockton.

Upgrade to amenities at Lugar Park, Kotara.

Playground replacement at Avon Street Reserve, Beresfield.

Coming Up

Structural upgrade to Perkins Street retaining wall, Newcastle.

Upgrade to grandstand at Lambton Pool.

Playground Replacement at Waratah Park.

The playground will pay tribute to the city's Aboriginal heritage with a central whale-themed swing area that takes inspiration from a traditional Awabakal story

Landmark playground plans swing into action

Construction of Newcastle's largest playground will begin this year following Council's unanimous support for the Harbour Foreshore Masterplan.

Detailed designs are underway for the 8,400 sqm Livvi's Place inclusive regional playground and waterplay area, which will feature junior and toddler areas, a giant whale-themed swing area with inclusive swings, industrial-themed elevated playground structure, nature-based play and quiet space, connected via accessible paths, seating, gardens and lawns.

A waterplay area unique to Newcastle, accessible amenities and a kiosk are also included in the \$12 million stage one project at Foreshore Park.

Collection relocation fast facts

One of the key features of the expanded Newcastle Art Gallery will be dedicated spaces to showcase our nationally significant collection year round

The Gallery team have carefully packed up and safely relocated over 7,000 works of art.

The immense project included:

2,092
works photographed and catalogued

1,305
works of art soft-packed

1,275
boxes constructed

532
T-frames fitted

184
crates produced

Newcastle Art Gallery's \$126 million collection has been carefully packed up and relocated to secure off-site storage for the duration of the expansion project.

Next steps in Newcastle Art Gallery expansion

We're forging ahead with work on the expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery, with mine grouting works continuing and construction on track to begin mid-year.

Four companies were invited to tender for the project in January, coinciding with an expression of interest process to commission four new works of art to be displayed on the hoarding (temporary fencing) erected around the site for the duration of the construction period.

The milestones provided a positive start to the new year for the much-anticipated project, which continues on time towards the planned reopening of our reimagined Newcastle Art Gallery in late 2024.

City set for Supercars' return

Excitement is building across the city for the return of the Newcastle 500 on 10-12 March and the first ever Supercars event to feature the new Gen3 cars.

The event will help boost visitation, create jobs and is expected to inject more than \$35 million into the Newcastle economy. It will also bring widespread exposure for our city, helping to cement our claim as a major events destination on the world stage.

Three big days of racing start on Friday 10 March as the best of the best vie for a coveted podium finish. Music fans will also be treated to a weekend of epic performances inside the race precinct, with the massive eight-band line-up over two concerts featuring everyone from headliners Icehouse and the Hilltop Hoods to hometown heroes the Screaming Jets and Trophy Eyes.



Community fun starts here with free events

While the race precinct will be bursting with high-octane energy, there are plenty of ways to share in the excitement with free community events across the weekend.

Fans can meet all 25 Newcastle 500 Supercars champions at the driver signing session from 4.30pm on Thursday, 9 March at Gregson Park, Hamilton. Not only will you get an autograph from your favourite driver, there will also be a range of entertainment options for the kids. Afterwards, families can enjoy a bite to eat at nearby Beaumont Street, where you're spoilt for choice with restaurants, bars and cafes.

Car enthusiasts are in for a treat from 8am to 5pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday when the Newy Car Club hosts a display of pristine vehicles at the Newcastle Museum Forecourt, while family-friendly fun will be on offer at Civic Park from 11am – 3pm all weekend with an epic 27m long slide, free face painting and tasty snack stalls. On Saturday, experience all things art and dance with hands-on creativity and messy play for toddlers, while Sunday will see local bands battle it out on stage while community members are encouraged to get involved in the drumming workshops and a silent disco.

Keep track of all the details across the weekend by visiting whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



Community consultation

We're seeking feedback from our community before, during and after the Newcastle 500 to guide a decision on the event's future.

This year's race is the final event to be held under the existing agreement between Supercars Australia, Destination NSW and City of Newcastle.

We're committed to undertaking broad community consultation prior to entering into any new agreement should Destination NSW and Supercars Australia propose a five-year extension to continue the event in Newcastle.

Community consultation kicked off in February and includes a random telephone survey, online survey and post-event stakeholder workshops with community, business and industry representatives.

To have your say, visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay by 31 March 2023.



TICKETED EVENT

Brawl at City Hall

10 March 2023
City Hall

Newcastle Pro Wrestling is bringing world class, explosive action to back Newcastle City Hall in March. Featuring Championship matches, tag team action, women's wrestling and much more, "Brawl at City Hall 2023" will turn our town on its head with this family friendly display of professional wrestling action.



FREE EVENT

Seed Saving Workshop

18 March 2023
Maryland Neighbourhood Centre

Build your seed saving skills by learning how to save the right seed, prepare seeds for storage, monitor seed quality and grow from seed. Check out the community garden onsite and take home a selection of seeds from the Newcastle Seed Library for your garden. The Newcastle Seed Library is a community seed sharing project supported by Newcastle Libraries.



FREE EXHIBITION

Ink in the Lines

25 March – 4 June 2023
Newcastle Museum

Tattoos are a conversation starter. They also share a common purpose in getting inked: to remember. Hear the stories behind the tattoos in the *Ink in the Lines* exhibition; showcasing Australia's modern veterans and their families, who through their tattoos commemorate the people, events and experiences which shaped their lives.



FREE EXHIBITION

FIRST

April to July 2023
Newcastle Museum

Picture a person living today, who is also connected to the world's oldest continuous culture. This is an entirely real and unique experience for many people around us, yet it's so often overlooked. The *FIRST* exhibition is about providing a space for the abundance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives with a connection to Newcastle and the Hunter Region.



TICKETED EVENT

Velvet Rewired

19-23 April 2023
Civic Theatre Newcastle

The global smash hit returns to Australian audiences. Join the divine Marcia Hines and a dazzling array of performers for an exhilarating fusion of discotheque, nightclub, burlesque, and circus. It's the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas that meets the death-defying world of Cirque de Soleil with jaw-dropping acrobatics and trickery to naughty costumes and laugh-out-loud comedy.



TICKETED EVENT

The Wharf Revue - Looking for Albanese

27-28 April 2023
Civic Theatre Newcastle

It's a new dawn, a new day, and a new captain at the helm of the ship of state. And what a state we're in! Could things get any worse? Absolutely! Neighbours has finished! But there is a light on the horizon: The Wharf Revue is back! A night of uproarious laughter and cheeky hilarity.

Find something new



whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au