

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



**What's in the Budget for you?**  
**Get set for New Annual's return**  
**What's on in your events city**

*Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes inspects a previously rehabilitated section of Ironbark Creek with City of Newcastle staff Lindsay Nichols, Sam Parker, Dean Jamieson, Ian Lacey, Stephen Long and Petra Freeman.*





## Message from the Lord Mayor

We've just started delivering our biggest ever infrastructure program to improve your local streets, footpaths and public areas as part of our 2022/23 Budget.

A key focus of this Budget is balancing financial sustainability while maintaining a high level of essential community services.

We're increasing our works program by almost 30 per cent to \$132 million next year to invest in a range of projects that are fundamental to improving the way we work and live, as well as ensuring we continue to be an attractive destination for visitors and businesses.

The budget includes more than \$50 million for four city-shaping projects that will deliver key outcomes for the community.

Five million dollars will be allocated towards planning a material recovery facility to recycle more waste, with \$9.4 million to begin construction of an organics processing facility that will allow our food waste to be recycled into a commercially saleable product at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

We will kick off construction of the Newcastle Art Gallery expansion with a \$17.4 million injection in 2022/23, while we will also spend \$18.6 million to protect the RAMSAR-listed Hunter Wetlands by remediating and improving environmental management of the former Astra Street landfill site in Shortland.

Investment in services and facilities across the city remains a key priority, with \$16 million for upgrades to local roads, footpaths and bridges, \$7.9 million for coastal, city and urban centre revitalisation projects including upgrades at our much-loved Blackbutt Reserve, as well as \$15.3 million for new and improved parks, playgrounds, sporting and aquatic facilities including \$5.8 million towards the rehabilitation of the Newcastle Ocean Baths.

You told us environmental sustainability was important to you, so we've committed \$8.2 million to a range of projects including planting 2000 street trees and investing \$2 million towards further rehabilitation of Ironbark Creek.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, the elected Councillors and everyone in the community who have supported and contributed to this ambitious vision for Newcastle. Together we are transforming our city to make Newcastle an even better place to live.

**Nuatali Nelmes,**  
Lord Mayor of Newcastle



Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen with Daracon construction team members

## Working to reduce flood risk

It's been an incredibly wet financial year with around 70% more rainfall recorded in some of our catchments since July 2021 thanks to the strong La Niña weather pattern.

This makes it more important than ever that we continue to invest in the city's stormwater system, which is made up of hundreds of kilometres of underground pipes and thousands of pits across our city.

In 2022/23 we've allocated almost \$6 million for drainage upgrade and flood planning projects to maintain safety, access and amenity, and gain a better understanding of flooding risks across this city.

This includes work to reduce flooding near University Drive at Waratah West by removing an existing culvert, excavating and naturalising new creek embankments, and replacing a shared path and cycleway bridge.



## Next steps in pedestrian network

We're making it easier for you to navigate our city on foot with more than \$1.3 million being invested into improving our footpath network and implementing our Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.

We'll be looking to renew, replace and extend this network across the city through a range of projects including upgraded

footpaths at Honeysuckle Drive, footpath renewal at Parkway Avenue, Hamilton South and renewed shared pathways along Throsby Creek (from Wickham to Maryville) and at the Warabrook Wetland Reserve, while new footpaths will be constructed everywhere from Waratah, Wickham and Wallsend to Mayfield West and Beresfield.



# Everyday benefits from your city's Bu

## Bringing biodiversity back to Ironbark Creek ✓

We have started the next stage of our award-winning Ironbark Creek rehabilitation project, which flows from Elmore Vale Park downstream to Wallsend Park and into a Hunter Water channel.

The \$2.6 million, 350-metre section between Croudace Road, Elmore Vale and Lewis Street Oval, Wallsend will renaturalise the channel with thousands of native plants along the creek banks, while new rockwork will replicate the natural flow of a creek to provide greater protection for public and private assets.

This section is expected to be completed in late 2022 with further stages downstream in the design phase.



A section of Ironbark Creek that has previously been rehabilitated by City of Newcastle.

## Urban forest for the future ✓

Trees beautify our urban streetscapes. They also help keep our city cool, absorb and store carbon, provide food and shelter for wildlife, and keep our air and water clean.

We look after more than 113,000 street and park trees across our city, with a maintenance program designed to ensure the health of our trees and safety of the community.

In 2022/23 we're investing \$1.81 million in our urban forest including understorey planting, supporting your street verge garden requests, and our street and park tree replacement planting program, which is expected to see 2,000 trees planted across Newcastle.



**\$50.4m**  
**City-shaping projects**

Art Gallery expansion	\$17.4m
Remediation of old rubbish tip, Shortland	\$18.6m
Organics facility	\$9.4m
Material recovery facility	\$5m



**\$17.8m**  
Libraries, art gallery,  
parks, aquatic centres,  
Civic venues



**\$7.9m**  
Coastal, city and  
urban centre revitalisation,  
Blackbutt Reserve upgrades

## Get active with upgraded playgrounds ✓

We're encouraging children across Newcastle to lead healthy, active lifestyles by upgrading their neighbourhood playgrounds.

This year we're investing \$750,000 to install new and upgraded equipment at Waratah Park, Highland County in Fletcher, Harold Myers Park at Birmingham Gardens, Vera Wilson Park in Beresfield and Avon Street Reserve at Mayfield, while an additional \$1.5 million will help create the all-abilities playground and water playspace at Foreshore Park.


We have invested more than \$9 million in playground projects during the past five years. Upgraded playgrounds have recently opened at Kotara Park, McCauley Park in Tarro, McInnes Reserve in Minmi and Bernborough Avenue in Maryland.



McCauley Park, Tarro



 **\$16m**  
Roads, bridges and footpaths

**\$4.4m**   
Cycleways  
*Includes \$2.475 million in additional cycleways funding, captured elsewhere in the Works Program.*

 **\$8.3m**  
Environment

**\$2.1m**   
Public toilets, retaining walls, community buildings, caravan parks



## Updating local shopping precincts across Newcastle

We're working to enhance neighbourhood shopping precincts for local communities and encourage people back into Newcastle to explore everything our revitalised city centre has to offer.

That's why we're investing \$6.7 million towards urban and city centre upgrades including the next stage of the Hunter Street Mall works, which will position the East End Village precinct as an attractive shopping destination for locals and visitors.

We're also continuing to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and the overall amenity of neighbourhood shopping hubs through our Local Centres program, with upgrades underway at Orchardtown Road in New Lambton, Mitchell Street at Stockton, and Shortland Local Centre and investigations ongoing for future works at Georgetown and Waratah.

## Creating connected cycleways

We're committed to promoting cycling as a real transport option by investing \$4.4 million into projects that will improve the safety and connectivity of our cycleways across the city.

This will include extending the Hunter Street cycleway westward for a new trial area with dedicated bike lanes from National Park Street, Newcastle West to Ivy Street, Islington.

We're also extending our network across the suburbs, with cycleway projects on Chinchin Street Islington, Scholey Street to Maitland Road (Islington Park), as well as Lambton Park to Croudace Street, Maud Street (University to City Centre Cycleway), and Shortland to Tarro, with a feasibility study and concept design planned for the Mayfield Precinct.



## Investing in sustainable waste future

We're delivering on our commitment to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase recycling with a significant investment in key waste infrastructure that will allow Newcastle's red, yellow and green-lid bin domestic waste to be processed at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

As part of our 2022/23 Budget we've allocated \$9.4 million to begin construction of a fully-enclosed organics processing

facility at Summerhill, which will be able to receive 50,000 tonnes of food and garden organics per year to be processed into compost for reuse in agriculture, landscaping and home gardens.

Another \$5 million is going towards planning a new material recovery facility, which will allow plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and metals collected from kerbside recycling bins to be recovered at the Summerhill site.



# Works update

## Completed

Local centre upgrade, Sandgate Road, Shortland

Road rehabilitation, Rosemont Street, Kotara

Pedestrian and safety improvements, Park Avenue, Adamstown

New footpath, Cowper Street, Carrington

Playground replacement, Bernborough Reserve, Maryland

## Underway

Wallsend Active Hub, Federal Park

Pavement rehabilitation, Allowah Street, Waratah West

Stormwater improvements, Smith Street, Merewether

Catchment rehabilitation and stormwater improvements, Boatman Creek, Waratah West

Rehabilitation of Ironbark Creek, Wallsend

## Upcoming

Environmental management works, former landfill, Astra Street, Shortland

Safety and environmental improvements, Bull Street, Mayfield

New pedestrian crossing, Bridge Street, Waratah

Pedestrian improvements, Hawthorne Street, Beresfield





# OUR EVENTS CITY

## NEW ANNUAL

Ten days of art, culture and creativity in the centre of Newcastle

23 SEPT —  
2 OCT 2022

2018 RADIAL Scotland Drew Farrell



City of Newcastle's **New Annual** festival returns this spring with an immersive festival of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and Indigenous workshops and stories. Building on the success of the inaugural festival in 2021, which attracted more than 30,000 visitors, **New Annual** is set to spark your curiosity and dazzle the senses with local and nationally renowned artists delivering a mix of free, ticketed and family-friendly events. Come and experience 'Our City Made New', with 10 days of art, culture and creativity in the centre of Newcastle from 23 September to 2 October.

### THIS LAND

Unite with friends and family to celebrate the return of *This Land*, a First Nations celebration of the sound, soul, and spirit of the many nations in this country. The musical showcase will highlight a handful of award-winning and acclaimed First Nations music artists who are shaping the voices of the next generation to come.

### RADIAL

A fusion of film-making and improvised community performance, *Radial* is a collaborative process designed to capture a portrait of a community in motion. A partnership between **New Annual**, Civic Theatre, Tantrum Youth Arts and Back to Back Theatre, *Radial* will be filmed at several Newcastle locations during **New Annual** using a special circular camera track, culminating in a public screening on the final day of the festival at the Civic Theatre.

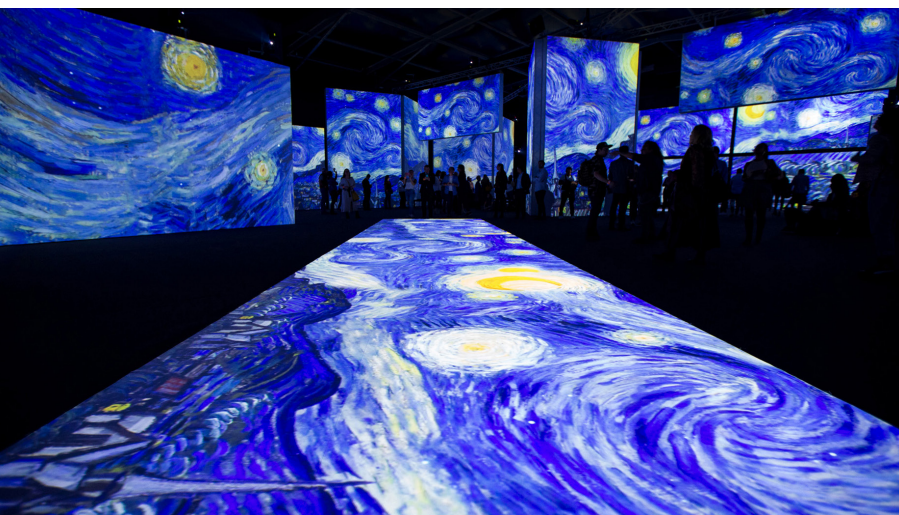
### CREATION

A highlight of the **New Annual** festival, *Creation* is a major exhibition at The Lock Up accompanied by a series of free public workshops in costume-making, song, and dance. Working with local artists, choirs, and dancers, the workshops lead to a spectacular procession and concert at the City Hall showcasing the songs of *Creation*.

### COLOSSUS

A contemporary dance performance created by internationally renowned Australian choreographer Stephanie Lake. The exhilarating performance features riveting and hypnotic dance work performed by Sydney Dance Company's pre-professional and local dance artists, which explores relationships between the individual and the collective, with a cast of 50 performing as one.

To explore the program and plan your visit, check out the **New Annual** website [newannual.com](https://www.newannual.com)



### VAN GOGH ALIVE

One of the centrepieces of City of Newcastle's **New Annual** festival, *Van Gogh Alive* is a world-renowned multi-sensory experience that immerses visitors in Vincent van Gogh's iconic artworks. Presented in a 2,300-square-metre gallery known as The Grand Pavilion, which will be set up at Newcastle's Foreshore Park, *Van Gogh Alive* features more than 3,000 high-definition images of the artist's work, projected at a scale that allows visitors to experience the paintings like never before. *Van Gogh Alive* runs from 21 September to 23 October.

Photography by Grande Experiences





FREE EVENT

## Publicans, Brewers, Winemakers and Teetotallers

5 August – 22 October

Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Library

To celebrate History Week 2022, Newcastle Libraries will showcase items from the Local History collection with a new exhibition, which explores Newcastle's relationship with hotels, breweries, and winemaking, as well as the anti-alcohol temperance movement. Discover the passion that existed on both sides of the argument through the wealth of images and stories presented from the library's collection.

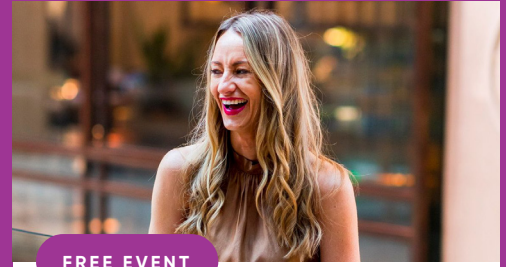


FREE EVENT

## Shralp

From 12 August – 30 October  
Newcastle Museum

Shralp is an exploration of the Newcastle skateboarding scene from 1985 to present. The exhibition, curated by local skateboarder and academic Jim Turvey, is a rich narrative about an often-maligned urban youth culture. It uses skateboarding print media as a lens to view the spots, people, and art of the Newcastle skate scene and how it has exposed Newcastle to the world for the past 35 years.



FREE EVENT

## Aussie Tukka Afternoon Tea with Mindy Woods

21 August

Wallsend Library

The reimaged Wallsend Library plays host to MasterChef favourite Mindy Woods. A proud Bundjalung woman of the Widjabul Wia bul clan, Mindy has a strong desire to connect indigenous and non-indigenous people with Aboriginal culture, art and stories through food, and to increase awareness and encourage the use of the world's oldest living ingredients.



TICKETED EVENT

## The Sapphires by HIT Productions

24 August, 11am and 7.30pm

Civic Theatre

The multi award-winning musical play. Set in the heady days of the late 60s, a quartet of talented young singers from a remote Aboriginal mission are discovered and guided by a kind-hearted, soul-loving manager. Wearing sequins and armed only with microphones, they find themselves trying to spread joy in the hell that is the Vietnam War.



TICKETED EVENT

## The Barber of Seville by Opera Australia

25 August

Civic Theatre

Beyond haircuts and beard trims, this canny barber is the city's matchmaking maestro! Opera Australia's finest voices assemble with a live orchestra and a local children's chorus (Hunter Trebles) to deliver a score which is instantly familiar from movies, cartoons and commercials.



FREE EVENT

## Brain & Biomes

13 – 28 August

Newcastle Museum

Discover where science and art meet and get hands-on with 'Brain' and 'Biomes'. 'Brain' explores the impressive inner workings of our brains and 'Biomes' re-engages us with the wonders of the natural world. Together the Brain and Biomes exhibitions show how connected to our environment we really are.

Find something new



[whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://whatson.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)