

## Agenda

<b>Date:</b> 4 November 2019	<b>Time:</b> 5.30pm – 7.00pm	<b>Venue:</b> City Hall Level 1 Mulubinba Room
<b>Meeting Objective:</b> To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA.		

### Invited:

Cr Nuatali Nelmes (Lord Mayor)	Nick Rendell (Office of Sport)
Cr Carol Duncan (Chairperson)	Jenny Moody (Dept of Education)
Cr Andrea Rufo	Ann Hardy (University of Newcastle)
Cr Kath Elliott	Michelle Frazer (Community)
Jeremy Bath (CEO)	Katherine McLean (Community)
Alissa Jones (Interim Director City Wide Services)	Chris Dunstan (Community)
Lauretta Morton (Art Gallery Director)	Hilary Oliver
Delia O'Hara (Manager Civic Services)	
Suzie Gately (Manager Libraries and Learning)	
Helen Payne (Executive Assistant - Secretary)	

Topic	Responsibility
<b>1 Welcome</b> - Apologies	Chair – 5 mins
<b>2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Action Items</b>	All – 15 mins
<b>3 NOM 27/08/2019 – Florence Austral – Our Forgotten Diva (attached)</b> - Recorded music – Florence Austral	Hilary Oliver – 10 mins
<b>4 NOM 27/08/2019 – Youth Mock Council (attached)</b>	Chair – 5 mins
<b>5 Newcastle Art Gallery</b> - Expansion Project	Lauretta Morton – 15 mins
<b>6 Civic Services</b> - Background - Progress to date and opportunities	Delia O'Hara – 15 mins
<b>7 General Business</b>	Chair – 15 mins
<b>8 Future Meeting Dates</b> Tuesday 7 April 2020 and Tuesday 7 July 2020	Chair – 10 mins

**SUBJECT: NOM 27/08/19 - FLORENCE AUSTRAL - OUR FORGOTTEN DIVA**

**COUNCILLORS: K ELLIOTT AND J CHURCH**

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## **PURPOSE**

*The following Notice of Motion was received on Thursday 15 August 2019 from the abovenamed Councillors.*

## **MOTION**

That Council:

- Adopt Florence Austral as one of Newcastle's own. Florence was one of the world's greatest Wagnerian opera singers during the 1920s. She lived in Newcastle from 1952 until her death in 1968.
- Recommend Florence Austral to a working party for consideration for inclusion in a Newcastle legends Wall, or similar.
- With the financial and active support from the University of Newcastle, install a monument in Civic Park where the Music Department was created with the inscription of the first teachers, which would include Florence Austral.
- Support and assist in kind, the Florence Austral Society Inc. in presenting a concert in the name of Florence Austral, with all proceeds to be donated to multiple sclerosis research.
- Work with the University of Newcastle to have the portrait of Florence Austral hung in the Conservatorium of Music.TG

## **BACKGROUND**

Members of the local Newcastle arts community and in particular, the Florence Austral Society Inc have recently contacted Councillors to support recognition of Newcastle opera singer, Florence Austral, who they believe deserves recognition and should be acknowledged. They are seeking Newcastle City of Newcastle and Council and the University of Newcastle support to embrace her as a great artist who lived and died here.

Florence Austral made her debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, in May 1922. With little or no rehearsal and in the best of show business tradition, she arrived at Covent Garden that night unheralded and unknown and awoke the next morning a celebrity. The critics universally acclaimed her as one of the world's greatest Wagnerian sopranos. That evening she received 11 standing ovations, a rarity.

She became a superstar singing all over England and North America. She travelled around Australia for the ABC with her husband flautist John Amadio and pianist Raymond Lambert.

She sang 24 times at the Royal Albert Hall, (once in front of King George V and Queen Mary and was introduced to them after the concert). She sang at Crystal Palace with 5000 musicians; Carnegie Hall (New York); Berlin State Opera just to name a few.

Florence was contracted with EMI and made 102 recordings. Many have been redigitised and they demonstrate the gloriousness of her voice.

Florence sang with conductors such as Eugene Goossens, John Barbirolli, Arturo Toscanini and Bruno Walter – the top conductors of the time.

Sadly, at the top of her career, she was ill with Multiple Sclerosis. The disease was diagnosed in 1932. She kept her illness a secret and continued singing. After the war, she returned to Melbourne and worked at the University. Later, her friend Eugene Goossens suggested that she become one of the founding members of the Music Department in Newcastle. She moved to Newcastle and worked from 1952 – 1959 until she was too ill to continue.

From this time, Florence Austral disappeared from the public eye. She became a private citizen. She was Florence Amadio and not much was known of her. With little money, she lived in a modest house in Merewether and although there was a benefit concert for her, not much money was raised.

She died alone and penniless in a Nursing Home in Mayfield in 1968 and there is only a simple plaque in Beresfield with just her name, age and date of death.

There is a portrait of Florence in the National Portrait Gallery (Canberra) and there is another rarely seen in the University of Newcastle. This portrait was commissioned and donated to the University by William Bowman. With the help of the Council, this portrait could be rehung in the Conservatorium of Music with an associated civic ceremony.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION - NOM 27/08/19 - FLORENCE AUSTRAL - OUR FORGOTTEN DIVA**

**REPORT BY: CITY WIDE SERVICES**

**CONTACT: DIRECTOR CITY WIDE SERVICES**

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## **DIRECTOR COMMENT**

Florence Austral was a famous local identity. Newcastle Library contains biographies, photographs and some of her musical scores. For many years she was also a teacher at the conservatorium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the War Memorial Cultural Centre.

This motion would require the allocation of unbudgeted funds and would require significant staff resources to implement. There would need to be significant consultation with potential funding partners such as the University of Newcastle and the RSL if a monument were to be built in Civic Park, as it is a memorial park.

It is recommended that Florence Austral – Our Forgotten Diva be referred to the Community and Culture Advisory Committee to investigate the most appropriate way forward. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide guidance and advice on the development of strategies in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council request that the Community and Culture Advisory Committee consider appropriate mechanisms for recognizing the contributions of Florence Austral to both Newcastle and the broader arts community.

[NOM 27/08/19 - FLORENCE AUSTRAL - OUR FORGOTT...](#)

**SUBJECT:                    NOM 27/08/19 - FLORENCE AUSTRAL - OUR FORGOTTEN DIVA**

**RESOLVED:** (Councillors Duncan/Winney-Baartz)

That Council request that the Community and Culture Advisory Committee consider appropriate mechanisms for recognising the contributions of Florence Austral to both Newcastle and the broader arts community.

**SUBJECT: NOM 27/08/19 - YOUTH MOCK COUNCIL**

**COUNCILLORS: P WINNEY-BAARTZ, D CLAUSEN, M BYRNE, N NELMES,  
C DUNCAN, J DUNN AND E WHITE**

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## **PURPOSE**

*The following Notice of Motion was received on Thursday 15 August 2018 from the abovenamed Councillors.*

## **MOTION**

That Council:

- 1 Notes and congratulates the Newcastle Youth Council on the Youth Mock Council held in May 2019;
- 2 Notes that the Youth Mock Council developed and adopted the following motions:
  - a. Funding for a Youth LGBTIQ Mental Health Program – Attachment A
  - b. Environment – Netting on Drains – Attachment B
  - c. Improved Public Spaces for People with Disabilities – Attachment C;
- 3 Shares these motions with the relevant Strategic Advisory Committees and Government Agencies

## **BACKGROUND**

The Youth Council is a Standing Committee of Council for people aged 15 to 25 years which aims to provide strategic advice on issues relevant to young people to the Council.

The Youth Council hosts an impressive program of events and meetings across the year, including activities during Youth Week.

In 2019, the Youth Council organised and hosted a Youth Mock Council. The Youth Mock Council met to develop and consider public policy proposals, and convened in the Council Chamber to debate their proposals.

The respective motions are attached.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Youth Mock Council motions

**Attachment A**

[Attachments - Youth Mock Council motions.pdf](#)



**SUBJECT: COUNCIL FUNDING OF LGBTIQI YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM 08/05/19**

**COUNCILLORS: CR WILLIAMS, CR TANNER, CR ANDREW, CR GIBSON, CR BARKER, CR GEDDES, CR BOTTOM**

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**PURPOSE**

The following Notice of Motion was received on 8/5/2019 from the abovementioned Councillors.

The purpose is to seek support from the City of Newcastle to delivery and advocate for a mental health awareness program that supports the LGBTIQI+ youth community in schools in the Newcastle local government area.

**MOTION**

That the Council support a mental health program aimed to benefit the LGBTIQI+ youth community in the Newcastle local government area through funding and public advocacy from Council and councillors.

1. That the Council acknowledges that youth mental health is a serious issue within society, especially within the LGBTIQI+ youth community.
2. That the Council understands that the LGBTIQI+ youth community is twice as likely to be diagnosed with a mental health disorder and are fourteen times more likely to commit suicide than the wider community (National LGBTIQI+ Health Alliance, 2012-2019).
3. That the City of Newcastle Council publicly advocates for awareness for youth mental health, especially in the LGBTIQI+ youth community through participation and partnership in a number of programs such as the Pride and Diversity division of ACON.
4. That the Council provide \$50 000 in funding for a mental health program aimed to benefit the LGBTIQI+ youth community in the Newcastle local government area under the Inclusive Community Section of the 2019/20 City of Newcastle Budget.
5. Funding could support already established programs working within LGBTIQI+ community and enable the expansion into schools within the Newcastle LGA.

**BACKGROUND**

This motion supports the delivery of:

1. *Strategy 4.2.1 Support initiatives and facilities that encourage social inclusion and community connections.*
2. *Strategy 4.2.2 Improve access to formal and informal lifelong learning opportunities, facilities, and services:*
  - a. *Increases focus on young people (16-30 years).*
3. *Strategy 4.2.3 Promote recreation, health, and wellbeing programs.*



## **THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE**

**SUBJECT:** NOM 08/05/19 Environment - netting on drains

**COUNCILLORS:** Ella Hall, Grace Turbit, Amelia Samson, Lilly Dougherty, Thusanda Dewamitta, Bailey Stone, Ella Belk, Cooper Ivory

### **PURPOSE:**

The following Notice of Motion was received on 08/05/19 from the abovementioned Councillors.

The purpose of this motion is to provide a solution to the pollution entering our drainage systems then continuing to the ocean.

### **MOTION:**

1. This motion's intention is that a solution be proposed to Newcastle's pollution issue. Rubbish is entering the natural marine environment contributing to climate change. Responding to pollution of water in the drainage system, can be solved with catchment nets, to collect litter before it enters the ocean.
2. Acknowledging that a similar program has previously been implemented in Throsby, we intend to further this approach into other major drain 'hot spots'.
3. Proposes that the City of Newcastle endorse recommended 5 nets:
  - a. This will be implemented over a course of 12 months
  - b. At a cost of approximately \$10 000 per unit
  - c. With the goal of reducing the amount of plastic and other contaminants to 50% or less than the current amount flowing through drainage systems.
  - d. Modeling this program off a similar program carried out in Melbourne and Kwinana councils.
  - e. We endeavour to install nets in the ironbark, cottage, estuary, coast and purgatory catchment areas.
  - f. For the reason of reducing presence of litter, especially plastic in the ocean and other marine habitats.

Our solution to this major issue, is easily achievable. We believe this is an effective starting position. We plan to install high density polyethylene nets which can be installed on drains located in areas identified above.

## **BACKGROUND**

To better manage the waste accumulating in major stormwater drainage systems, across Newcastle we will model attempts on similar programs executed by Melbourne and Kwinana councils. Having a similar system integrated into Newcastle would largely reduce the city's impact on oceanic pollution and will preserve flora and fauna in the numerous wildlife reserves surrounding the Newcastle area.



**SUBJECT:** COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF IMPROVED PUBLIC SPACES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES **NOM 08/05/19 - SUBJECT**

**COUNCILLORS:** YOUTH CR ADAMS, YOUTH CR AMOSA, YOUTH CR DUQUE, YOUTH CR PARK, YOUTH CR VAUGHAN

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**PURPOSE**

*The following Notice of Motion was received on 09/05/2019 from the above mentioned Councillors.*

*The purpose is to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of public spaces, including parks, playgrounds and public toilets, for people with disabilities in the City of Newcastle.*

**MOTION**

1. Acknowledges that in the 2016 Census, 5.9% (9, 197) of residents living in the City of Newcastle reported that they required assistance in their day to day life due to having a disability. Furthermore, 12.5% (1, 151) of Novocastrian's with a disability were under the age of 19.
2. Recognises that Councillors of the City of Newcastle are currently implementing the 'Disability Inclusion Action Plan', with a strong core focus on sustaining liveable communities, as well as establishing a 'Disability Inclusion Advisory Committee.' We acknowledge their enactment of the Safe City Plan and the Smart City Plan to improve the effective functionality of Newcastle for people with disabilities.
3. Proposes that Newcastle Council undertake improvements of local parks regarding public pathways and playground equipment through delegation of further funding to these areas.
  - a. That popular parks, such as King Edward, Lambton and Gregson, are the first to receive these advancements in innovative, sensory playground equipment that can be experienced and enjoyed by children with disabilities.
  - b. It furthers this funding to the continued support and installation of formal sensory tents at Council-run public events.
  - c. That funding be delegated to developing wheelchair ramps and flat footpath to road transitions in commonly used public areas.
4. That Newcastle Council improve parking spaces in public areas to be more inclusive for people with mobility disabilities and difficulties.
  - a. Includes allocating more parking spaces in and near public venues, with easy access to footpaths and ramps.
  - b. Enhancing digital inclusivity, such as adding Council's 'Accessible Parking Map' as part of the 'Find My Nearest' website and the introduction of beacons, which are simple Bluetooth devices that can be installed in parks to help visitors navigate the area and track their parking.
5. Proposes that funding be allocated to upgrading public toilets regarding accessibility, functionality and general cleanliness.
  - a. Utilise the funding for Newcastle contributed by the NSW Government for 'Lift and Change Facilities', which are large, fully equipped bathrooms with hoists, full-sized changing tables and railings.

**Agenda Report**

**SUBJECT: NOM 27/08/19 - YOUTH MOCK COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:** (Councillors Winney-Baartz/Clausen)

That Council:

- 1 Notes and congratulates the Newcastle Youth Council on the Youth Mock Council held in May 2019;
- 2 Notes that the Youth Mock Council developed and adopted the following motions:
  - a. Funding for a Youth LGBTIQ Mental Health Program – Attachment A
  - b. Environment – Netting on Drains – Attachment B
  - c. Improved Public Spaces for People with Disabilities – Attachment C;
- 3 Shares these motions with the relevant Strategic Advisory Committees and Government Agencies