

WINTER
2016

Council News

Community newsletter from Newcastle City Council



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NEWCASTLE FLAGGED A UN CITY

A United Nations flag now flies above City Hall after the UN's training arm handed over the global body's ensign to confirm Newcastle as a UN City for its commitment to sustainable development.

The UN's Institute for Training and Research recently presented Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor Professor Caroline McMillen with the global body's flag after UON's appointment as UNITAR's Asia-Pacific Centre for Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction.



A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

Newcastle City Council is committed to collaborative leadership and delivering a smart, liveable and sustainable city through sound management of the city's finances.

Our budget for 2016/17 includes an ambitious \$82 million works program to deliver cycleways and other city-shaping projects, such as Bathers Way, while returning our budget to surplus.

Newcastle is now an official United Nations City in recognition of our commitment to sustainable development in partnership with the University of Newcastle. This is a critical stepping stone on the path to becoming a global city. Also critical to this goal is the revitalisation of our city centre, which demands an integrated transport solution.

We are awaiting Transport for NSW's final light rail plans for Newcastle after advocating for the best possible outcomes based on urban design principles adopted around the world.

We are currently designing and building the City's east-west cycleway link from Newcastle West to Broadmeadow. Ultimately, it will link to Glendale via newly built off-road facilities or quieter streets through Jesmond and Wallsend.

Our Smart and Innovative City vision aims to improve liveability, sustainability and economic diversity. Ideally, our future smart city is one that puts the community at the centre. It also enjoys smart and digitally connected public and urban infrastructure, and works to develop a thriving ecosystem to drive innovation and creativity.

Newcastle City Council is celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Water Safety Education Program, which teaches children how to stay safe in pools, surf and open water. Fifty years is a wonderful milestone for a program that has, and will continue to, save an untold number of lives.

Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

Newcastle Art Gallery

BLACK WHITE & RESTIVE

Black White & Restive is a whole-of-Gallery exhibition that contributes to a national conversation about collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous artists. While it can be challenging and thought-provoking, the show is also simply visually stunning; with several immersive large scale works included.

On until 7 August 2016



Cycleways



OF NEWCASTLE

CYCLEWAYS PROGRAM

Connecting and expanding our cycleways network is one of our four priority projects. We are:

- designing and constructing new cycleways
- upgrading existing cycleways
- installing bike racks, lighting, cycle crossings and signage
- organising education and promotion activities, including cycle skills classes
- monitoring cycling participation and attitudes to cycling, through cycle counts and surveys
- monitoring and reviewing Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan

Our goal is to encourage people out of their cars and on to their bikes, especially for short trips.

A current project is the cycleway from Broadmeadow to the city centre.

Construction of a shared path on Jackson Street Broadmeadow has recently been completed; design of the section from the Donald Street bridge to Newcastle West is well-advanced and construction is programmed for 2016/17.

CYCLE SKILLS CLASSES

Has it been a while since you have been on two wheels? We are offering free bike maintenance workshops and cycle skills classes.

Beginner classes are aimed at people who can pedal a bike but need a few more skills to ride with confidence on shared paths. Intermediate classes venture out onto quiet streets. Bike maintenance workshops are hands-on and are designed for cyclists of all abilities who want to be able to keep their bike operating safely and efficiently.

FIRST COMBINED CROSSING

In a first for Newcastle, we are trialling a combined pedestrian-cycle crossing on Victory Parade, Wallsend.

The existing pedestrian crossing has been upgraded to include both a cycle-only crossing and traditional pedestrian crossing. Normally cyclists must dismount to use pedestrian crossings. The new combined pedestrian-cycle crossing will enable cyclists to remain on their bikes.

For more info about cycleways and cycle skills classes visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au





50 YEARS OF WATER SAFETY EDUCATION

Our annual Water Safety Education Program turns 50 this year.

DOG FRIENDLY, COMMUNITY FRIENDLY

Along with areas where you can walk your dog with a leash, Newcastle has popular leash-free areas and a dog beach.



Leash-free areas in Newcastle

Acacia Avenue Reserve, North Lambton	Maryland Drive Reserve, Maryland
Ballast Ground, Stockton	Michael Street Reserve, Lambton
Braye Park, Waratah	Nesca Park, Newcastle
Carrington Foreshore, off Garrett Street	Pitt Street Reserve, Stockton
Dixon Park Reserve, Merewether	Purdue Park, Mayfield
Elermore Vale Park, Elermore Vale	Tarro Recreation Area, Tarro
Horseshoe Beach, Newcastle East	Upper Reserve, Wallsend
Islington Park, Islington	West End Park, Adamstown
King Edward Park, Newcastle	

WE ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Please pick up after your dog and only take your dog off its leash in designated leash-free areas.



The program kicked off in June 1966 when two lifeguards, Kevin Mongan of Nobbys Beach and John Young of Newcastle Beach, visited Kotara South Public School to teach students a valuable water safety lesson.

The popular program has taught generations of primary school kids about water safety and equipped them to stay safe at the beach, pools and in open water.

Lifeguard Nobby and his friends will be coming to a school near you in term three.



HOUSEHOLD WASTE SURVEY

We recently conducted the first stage of our waste survey and held focus groups about household waste services to understand community preferences to help shape future planning and ideas.

A total of **1,643 residents** completed the survey. A snapshot of the survey is provided below. To view the initial report visit **completed engagements** section on our website.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Newcastle City Council's engagement team is the feedback conduit between the community and Council. The engagement team reaches out to residents by conducting workshops, focus groups, information sessions and surveys to gather input on issues that matter to residents to provide to Council.

Recent community consultation projects include:

- Community safety
- Blackbutt Reserve
- Beach Kiosks
- Civic Theatre
- Civic Park

We've just completed our two yearly Community Survey. This survey has been carried out since 1993 and tracks community importance and satisfaction ratings on a range of Council services and facilities. The report will be available soon.

Interested in having your say? Newcastle Voice is Council's community reference panel. More than 2,500 members are sent surveys on an optional basis.

To find out more and join Newcastle Voice visit www.mynewcastlevoice.com

Feedback on our service

3 OUT OF 4
RESPONDENTS
SATISFIED

MOST SATISFIED WITH

90% UPSIZED KERBSIDE YELLOW-LID BIN

FREE E-WASTE DROP-OFF AT SUMMERHILL **88%**

85% KERBSIDE YELLOW-LID BIN

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT...

PAID DROP-OFF WASTE AT SUMMERHILL **48%**

68% BULKWASTE KERBSIDE COLLECTION

ADDITIONAL BIN SERVICE **69%**

PERCENTAGES REPRESENT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SATISFIED



The green-lid bin is currently for garden waste only and is collected fortnightly.

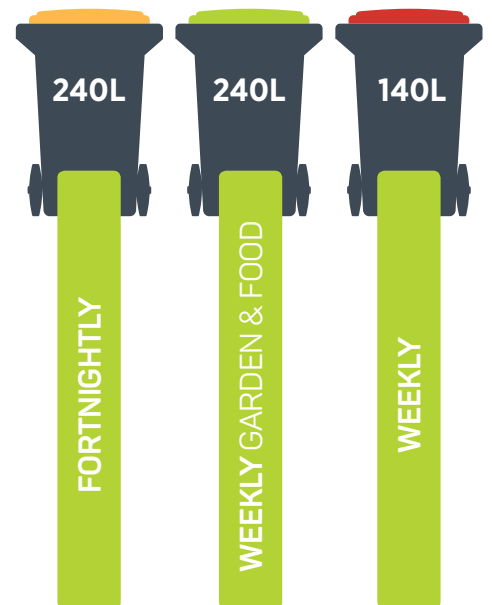
SURVEY RESULTS: GREEN-LID BINS



Seven out of 10 respondents said that they would accept placing food waste in their green-lid bin if Council was to introduce this service. This may involve increasing collection frequency to weekly.

Participants were asked to identify their preference for bin options.

47% SELECTED THE OPTION BELOW



Keep your eye out for the new waste services guide, coming to your letterbox soon.



Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 August

FINAL BIG WEEKEND, BLACK WHITE & RESTIVE

Newcastle Art Gallery

Get ready to close out Black White & Restive in style, Sunday 7 August. Join us for guided tours, live painting demonstrations and special activities inside and outside the Gallery.



Most days

CIVIC DIGEST LIBRARY CAFE

Civic Theatre

Featuring high quality coffee, Hunter Valley wines, tempting menu items, and digital library access, Civic Digest is the perfect place to meet a friend for a quick cuppa, enjoy a digital book over lunch or grab a bite before a theatre performance.



6pm, Monday 15 August

SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE

Civic Theatre

Snugglepote & Cuddlepie come to life on stage as this charming new production introduces children to the wonderful world of May Gibbs. This great adventure has timeless appeal for 5-10 year olds.

Coming 8-9 September:

Bell Shakespeare's Othello

Winter 2016

WHAT'S ON

**ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THE FAMILY BUSY
AND ACTIVE ALL WINTER**

For more information, bookings and costs, visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



Sunday 14 August

WALLSEND WINTER FAIR

Wallsend Winter Fair is a free and fun-filled family friendly day. There will be a Grand Parade, market stalls, tasty bites in the food precinct, live performances, and amusement rides. Be sure to stop by the Newcastle Voice stall to chat to our community engagement team.



Tuesday 19 July - Saturday 13 August

SHAPE 2015 EXHIBITION

Wallsend District Library

Shape 2015 is a showcase of exemplary major projects from 2015 HSC Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design students. Discover innovative projects that will shape the future of Australian design.



5pm-10pm, Friday 5 August

FIVE ON FIVE

Newcastle Museum

Help us celebrate our fifth birthday in Honeysuckle with a special FREE late night event featuring a fabulous line-up of local bands, delicious food & wine stalls and brand new exhibitions to discover. Explore Newcastle's past, present and future within and outside the Museum, with stunning photographic projections, a sensory art installation special guests the Miromaa Aboriginal Language and Technology Centre. Come along and celebrate. It wouldn't be a party without the most important piece of the museum puzzle. YOU.