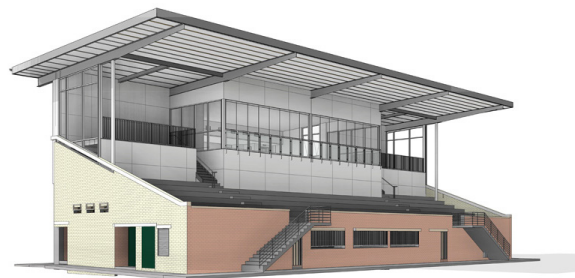


# New grandstand taking shape

We've begun upgrading the Clarke Grandstand at Townson Oval, Merewether. The joint project with Merewether Carlton Rugby Union Club will deliver a dramatically improved viewing experience at the club's home games, and those of the South Newcastle Rugby League and Merewether District Cricket clubs. A new pavilion is expected to be finished by April, with a "Green Room" fit-out scheduled to commence soon after.



# Playground revamps on the way

We're about to roll out two new playgrounds at Adamstown and Wallsend. Plans to modernise the infrastructure at Cressington Way, Wallsend, and Fletcher Street Reserve, Adamstown, have now been finalised, with the overhauls due to commence in March. Stay up to date with the progress via our website.



# Civil works update

## Completed

Pedestrian improvements in Harriet Street at High Street, **Waratah**  
Road cushions in Byron Street at Addison Street, **Beresfield**

## Underway

Local Centres renewal **Beresfield** and **Carrington**  
Pedestrian improvements in Brunner Road at Mandalong Road, **Adamstown**  
Drainage and road renewal in Council Street and Swan Street, **Cooks Hill**, Frederick Street and Patrick Street, **Merewether**  
Construction of Resource Recovery Centre and Solar Farm at Summerhill  
Swale rehabilitation at Sanctuary Estate, **Fletcher**  
Pedestrian and drainage improvements in Maitland Road at Silsoe Street, **Mayfield**

## Upcoming

Creek rehabilitation in **Kotara** Park  
Drainage improvements in **Stockton** laneways  
Pedestrian improvements in Section Street, **Mayfield**

# South Stockton Active Hub dropping in

Construction of a region-first "Active Hub" playground and skate park is well underway in Griffith Park. The playground will feature a range of equipment including a flying fox, double swing, climbing structure and accessible carousel spinner, as well as a barbecue, picnic table and shelter. The urban skate plaza includes rails, angle ledges, kerb cuts, an A-frame kicker and a half pipe. The \$1.9 million foreshore attraction is part funded by the NSW Government's Newcastle Port Community Contribution, as well as section 94 developer levies.

Completion of the project is expected in the middle of the year, weather permitting.



# What's On



## FLORIBUNDA: from the collection – Exhibition

Newcastle Art Gallery – Until 28 April 2019

This exhibition represents contemporary practitioners who are drawn to flora as an allegory for broader concerns, including birth, death, the environment and connection to Country.



## The Many Story Treehouse – Exhibition

Newcastle Region Libraries – Lovett Gallery  
Until 27 April 2019

Explore Terry Denton's original illustrations, sketches and layouts showing the development of crazy ideas, characters and stories for *The Treehouse* series developed with author Andy Griffiths.

## Underworld: Mugshots from the Roaring Twenties – Exhibition

Newcastle Museum  
Until 30 June 2019



Descend into the seedy underworld, revealing the dark side of the Roaring Twenties in the photographic exhibition by Sydney Living Museums. Explore candid and compelling mugshots taken by New South Wales Police between 1920 and 1930.

## SODEISHA: Connected to Australia – Exhibition

Newcastle Art Gallery – Until 19 May 2019

Come and celebrate the Gallery's significant Sodeisha collection. Featured alongside the collection are works by 10 contemporary ceramic artists from Australia and Japan, which will form a dialogue between the post war avant-garde movement and contemporary ceramic arts practice today.



## Surfest makes global splash

As a foundation sponsor we've supported the annual Surfest festival for the 34th-straight year, promoting the city once again to prospective visitors following some 700 surfers who converged on the region for the six-week event.

Community Newsletter from City of Newcastle

# City News



# Inside

Driverless shuttle hits streets

A new brand for our city



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newcastle.nsw.gov.au



# Message from the Lord Mayor

2019 will be remembered as a year when Newcastle was on the move – in more ways than one.

This owes in part to the onset of light rail services, marking a new era of transport and revitalised City infrastructure, including our priority Hunter Street renewal works.

We continue to advocate with our key partners on the extension of the light rail across our city and suburbs to achieve an improved public transport network.

The rollout out of our award-winning Smart City Strategy is gaining momentum with the upcoming launch of our driverless shuttle and free City Wi-Fi through our smart poles.

We've launched a new corporate brand befitting this great revitalisation, uniting our facilities

under a single banner in the first refresh of our City's corporate identity in more than 25 years.

Later in the year our administrative HQ and Council chambers will move to the corner of Stewart Avenue and Hunter Street in the middle of the city's future West End CBD.

Work will then begin to transform the 1970s "Roundhouse" into Newcastle's first five-star hotel, which is sure to attract even more visitors to our wonderful city.

This development is a win for tourism, the University's inner-city expansion plans, the neighbouring justice precinct and local businesses.



Nuatali Nelmes  
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

# Fresh brand for a new city

The new City of Newcastle branding is anchored by a multi-coloured 'N' icon, inspired by the city's great revitalisation.

With its bright colours, the look proudly complements our highly successful Newcastle 'See Change' destination brand.

The distinct rippled curves of the logo icon reflect the city's seaside location and the diversity of its ever-growing population.

The new logo will feature on all City of Newcastle assets including the Civic Theatre, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum, Newcastle Libraries, Fort Scratchley, Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle Venues and Blackbutt Reserve.

The timing of the brand refresh coincides with the City's administrative move, from three separate Civic precinct buildings to a single office block in the City's new CBD in Newcastle West.



## Five-star hotel a cultural win

Newcastle's first five-star hotel is tipped to bring a huge boost to the City's cultural facilities, with increased tourism expected to follow conversion of the Civic Administration Centre.

The 136-room hotel between Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum and City Hall will increase Newcastle's reputation as a destination for cultural attractions and major events.

# Community Survey Results



We recently had a fabulous response to the second Quarterly Community Survey. About 800 people participated in the survey which is conducted every three months to help inform the City's decision making and service provision. We asked the community to help us understand their views on cultural participation and community wellbeing. The full report with detailed results is available on our website [newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)



Highly skilled craftsmen have used self-colouring sandstone (below) to replace ageing and damaged parts of the heritage building.



## City Hall facelift continues

Restoration of City Hall's vehicle ramp and driveway reached the halfway mark before Christmas.

The eastern part of the King Street ramp is now open to pedestrians, while conservation work continues on the western ramp as well as the façade above and on the northern side of the building.

The distinctive 'Yellowblock' sandstone, excavated from a building site in George Street, Sydney, was used throughout.



## Pioneering local transport options

A driverless vehicle will soon hit Newcastle's streets as part of an innovative year-long free public transport trial. The autonomous shuttle bus will be able to carry about 12 people at once and cover a short beach and harbour-front circuit. Newcastle is among a select number of Australian cities trialling an autonomous vehicle, with its use central to our Smart City Strategy.

Alternate and sustainable transport options are also being encouraged across the city. Upcoming installation of public electronic vehicle (EV) charge points are expected to promote and accelerate private ownership of the environmentally-friendly cars.

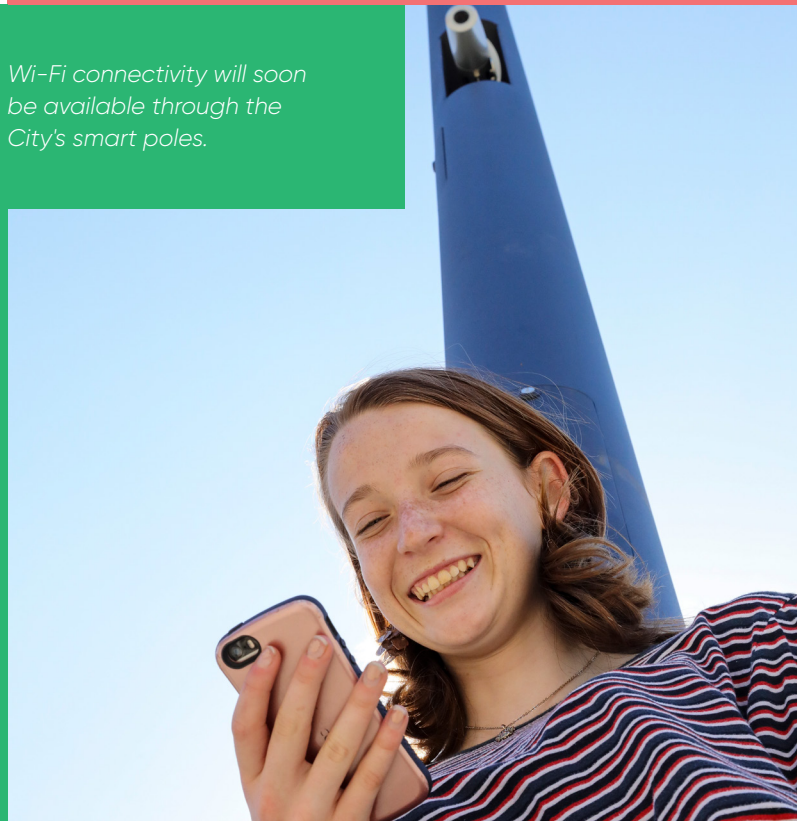
Integrated solar-powered batteries will enable some of the EV stations to use renewable energy to recharge the vehicles, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The first week of trips on the driverless shuttle will be open to the public through a ballot. See our website and social media channels for more information.

## Smart City tech rolls out

Free public Wi-Fi will soon be on offer across areas of the East End and City Centre as part of our Smart City infrastructure rollout. The initiative is expected to provide flow-on benefits to local businesses, with free Wi-Fi shown to increase the time spent on premises or in a certain area. The complimentary internet service will help provide connectivity for public events and meet the expectations of international tourists.

In coming months our Smart City infrastructure will also support sensors that are able to monitor the environment, providing data on the quality of the air we breathe and temperature and humidity across the city. This will help us understand the health and planning impacts of urbanisation.



Wi-Fi connectivity will soon be available through the City's smart poles.



## Art Gallery welcomes record number of visitors

World-class exhibitions, increased engagement with youth and the growing appeal of the \$50,000 *Kilgour Art Prize* have raised Newcastle Art Gallery's visitation numbers to their highest levels in 10 years. Close to 77,000 people walked through the doors of the gallery last year, up 14,000 or 23 per cent on 2017 and 5,000 more visitors than in 2008.