

EDITION 3 2020

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



Discover why this is more than your average footpath





## Message from the Lord Mayor

During the past few months, many parts of our lives have been brought to a standstill by COVID-19, which has had unprecedented economic and social impacts on our local community.

At City of Newcastle we're working – in a COVIDSafe way – to support those affected, strengthen our community and kick-start our economic recovery.

We're getting on with a record \$116 million capital works program, which is projected to create up to 700 local jobs and increase total economic output in our local government area by up to \$275 million during the next 12 months.

Importantly, it contains a number of significant infrastructure projects that will make Newcastle an even better place to live, work and play, such as the \$2 million upgrade of the Joslin Street Local Centre in Kotara, while more than \$8 million will be spent to continue the revitalisation of eight other commercial precincts this financial year including Wallsend and Merewether.

We're also investing \$8.2 million in parks, playgrounds and sporting fields this year as COVID-19 encourages families to increasingly look to their own neighbourhoods for places to exercise or play with the kids.

With the weather warming up many of us will also start heading back to the beach, with our seasonal lifeguard patrols back on deck from Saturday 26 September to help keep you safe.

However, while public health orders permit visits to our parks, playgrounds and beaches at the time of writing, it's important to stay safe by practising social distancing and good hygiene.

We're always keen to hear what's important to you, so make sure you regularly check out our community consultation portal online so you can have your say about what's happening in your City of Newcastle.

**Nuatali Nelmes**  
**Lord Mayor of Newcastle**

## How can we help you?

Our customer service team is available between 8am–5pm, Monday to Friday.

☎ 02 4974 2000

✉ [mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

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

📺 [CityNewcastle.au](http://CityNewcastle.au)



## What's happening in Wallsend?

We have been working with the Wallsend community to understand more about their vision for the Wallsend Local Centre. This will help us make sure the future improvements we make to public spaces meet the needs for those who live, work, and play in Wallsend. We have also been busy planning the next stage of upgrades in the suburb, with improvements to Cowper and Kokera streets starting soon. This will include installing traffic lights to improve safety and traffic flow at this busy intersection.

For more information visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/wallsend](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/wallsend)

## City invests in playground renewal

We're investing \$8.2 million in parks, playgrounds and sporting fields this year as COVID-19 encourages families to increasingly look to their own neighbourhoods for places to exercise or play with the kids.

The City is prioritising building new infrastructure as part of its response to the devastating impact of the pandemic, with a record \$116 million capital works program, and recognises our neighbourhood parks and open spaces are vital city infrastructure. During the past five years the City has delivered approximately \$6.5 million in new and upgraded playgrounds across the LGA, including the new Brickworks Park and Carrington Street Reserve playgrounds in Wallsend.



## More than your average footpath

We love our trees in Newcastle yet as great as they are, over time, their roots may interact with concrete footpaths.

So, City of Newcastle's City Greening and Road Maintenance teams put their heads together and came up with a solution ... rubber footpaths.

We're happy to say we've now installed around 170 metres of recycled rubber path on Albert Street in Wickham.

As well as the fact that we're using a recycled product, other benefits include a reduction in temperature, a reduction in the speed and amount of stormwater runoff, and how the path allows water to filter through it, meaning it's better for soil and our trees. The path, made from car tyres, also tolerates underground movement without fracturing, encourages deeper root growth, and most importantly allows trees and footpaths to live in harmony.

Next time you're in Wickham, head to Albert Street and test it out.

Front cover image (L-R) David Vizer (Arborist), Travis Suprano (Field Work – Maintenance), Nuatali Nelmes – Lord Mayor of Newcastle with Gigi the Wonderdog, Nathan Lewis (Field Worker – Maintenance) and Brett Houston (Field Supervisor – Maintenance)



## Discover your own backyard

There has never been a better time to holiday at home. As spring approaches we're encouraging locals to discover something new about Newy by dropping into the Visitor Information Centre.

Now open in its unique new home at the former Civic Station, the Visitor Information Centre is the place to source information about the latest offerings and sights to see around town. The team is passionate about sharing local stories and showcasing the local product now on display.

Snap a stay-cation pic of the discoveries you made on your local adventure and don't forget to tag us @citynewcastle.au

In 2020/21 we will continue this investment in locations such as Novocastrian Park in New Lambton, Gross Street Reserve at Tighes Hill and a new active hub in Wallsend, while also completing the significant upgrade to Stevenson Park in Mayfield West.

Up to four of Newcastle's 117 playgrounds are upgraded each year as part of the City's asset renewal works program.

Work on the recently completed playground at Brickworks Park in Wallsend included a new all-abilities carousel, boulder climb, nest swing, rope ladder, slide and more, while the Carrington Street Reserve playground has been upgraded to include a new plank walk, suspension bridge, double slide, tube net and other activities.







## Smarter living

City of Newcastle is leading a transformation to smarter living. A Smart City refers to a city that puts its community at the centre; enjoys smart and digitally connected urban and public infrastructure, and works to develop a thriving ecosystem to drive innovation and creativity.

- A digitally connected city benefits from more information, more insights and better data-driven decisions being made by governments and by individuals
- A smart citizen is more informed, engaged, better skilled, more capable and confident in a digital world
- The creation of a Smart City will enable City of Newcastle to provide more targeted services that are more responsive, sustainable and efficient
- By investing in Smart City technologies, we will transition our industries into the growth sectors of the 21st century, and transitioning to skilled jobs will enable that to happen

Learn more at  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/smarter-living](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/smarter-living)



## Harbour Foreshore Masterplan

We spoke to the community during the past few months seeking ideas for the Newcastle Harbour Foreshore Masterplan, which will help guide the redevelopment of this significant area of open space and realise its full potential as a destination.

Thanks to a grant from Variety – the Children's Charity and Livvi's Place, we are developing an inclusive playspace design concept for the Foreshore.

A Community Reference Group and Design Reference Group have been formed to help us test preliminary concepts for the Masterplan. We will present the draft design options for further feedback during the coming months. Your feedback will enable us to produce a draft masterplan that will be placed on public exhibition in 2021 for everyone to have their say, prior to finalisation.

For more information visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay)



## We want to hear from you

Novocastrians are passionate about many things, so we're inviting you to have your say on various aspects of the city's development through our community consultation portal.

To have your say, go to  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/yoursay)

Our recent survey about a new fenced off-leash dog park in the Lambton area resulted in strong community participation, with more than 1,000 people completing the survey. We'll be posting the results soon.







## Bumper year for city upgrades

With a record \$116 million investment program for infrastructure and upgrades across Newcastle this financial year, there's a good chance our team will be working near you.

Around \$19 million has been dedicated to the priority projects nominated by our community, including a streetscape overhaul of Hunter Street Mall and extension of the landmark Bathers Way coastal pathway.

The Mall will get a \$5.5 million makeover to establish it as a high street, with new landscaping around the five-star hotel under construction in the old David Jones building and separated cycleways along Perkins and Hunter streets.

Our \$2 million upgrade of the Joslin Street Local Centre in Kotara is underway, improving public amenity, pedestrian safety and access. A key element of this upgrade is expanding the public open space on the corner of Joslin Street and Rae Crescent by removing the slip

road and beautifying the area with landscaping and an interactive artwork sculpture. The upgrade follows comprehensive consultation with the local community and will make for a more accessible centre for local shopping and commerce.

Across the suburbs, more than \$8 million will be spent to continue the revitalisation of eight commercial precincts in the 2020/21 financial year, with Wallsend set for a \$2 million revamp.

A joint public domain-flood mitigation program includes the design of the Boscawen and Nelson Street bridge replacements to accommodate future widening and naturalisation of the Ironbark Creek channel.

Design is underway for a new path and stormwater management measures on University Drive at Callaghan. The path will improve accessibility to the University of Newcastle and help mitigate flood risk in the area.

## Moving ahead at South Newcastle Beach

Work is progressing on the next stage of Bathers Way's signature broadened pathway along Newcastle Beach, which will include an adjoining skatepark and bowl to increase community space along our coastline. The upgrade of South Newcastle Beach features a wider, accessible shared path, new kiosk and accessible amenities, exercise equipment, a skate bowl and terrain park, improved beach access, and places to sit to enjoy the view.

The project is partially funded through the State Government's Restart NSW Fund and has been guided by the Bathers Way Community Reference Group. A tender has been awarded for the construction of the pathway, promenades, kiosk and amenities. Construction is now commencing and is expected to take up to two years to complete.

For more information visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/priorityprojects](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/priorityprojects)



\$2m Joslin Street Local Centre Upgrade



## School holiday inspiration

It's that time of year again, when the children run wild and free. And with so much to do around the city, who could blame them? As the weather warms up, it's a great time to get out in the fresh air and discover what Newcastle has to offer.

### Newcastle Museum

There's always more to discover at the Museum and these holidays are no exception. Check out the special *Colour* exhibition developed by Questacon, explore the permanent exhibitions or the special photographic exhibition of our city during COVID-19, *Isolation*.

### Newcastle Art Gallery

The Gallery team have some great digital activities to keep young budding artists amused. Or, to get amongst the great works of art, book your free Gallery visit online.

For more school holiday activities visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/School-Holidays](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/School-Holidays)

### Blackbutt Reserve

Enjoy a full day out at Blackbutt. Start at Richley Reserve and experience the adventure playground, then take a leisurely walk to Carnley Reserve to explore the animal enclosures.

### Newcastle Libraries

You can get the best of our libraries from the branch or from the comfort of your home. The free Newcastle Libraries app includes a children's story platform, Storybox, which has videos of well-known Australian authors and TV personalities reading aloud.

### Fort Scratchley

Boasting one of the best panoramic views of Newcastle and with space to roam, this historic landmark is a must do. Don't miss the gun firing at 1pm. Open Sunday only.



## What's On

What's On is your trusted guide to events in Newcastle. Check out what's happening near you, online and in real life!  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson)



#### TICKETED EVENT

Newcastle Museum

From 25 September

#### Colour

Do you see what I see? Direct from Questacon, this special exhibition explores the science of colour and perception. Discover what influences the visible and invisible spectrum and how optical illusions work. COVID-19 Safe interactives for the whole family to enjoy.



#### FREE EXHIBITION

Newcastle Art Gallery

From 14 November

#### WE CAN BE HEROES: a backstage pass

This summer exhibition presents a behind-the-scenes tour through the lens of artists capturing intimate moments of Australian and international musicians. Book your free gallery pass online to experience this exhibition in one of the sessions.



#### FREE EXHIBITION

Newcastle Art Gallery

Until 15 November 2020

#### KILGOUR PRIZE 2020

Local Mambo artist Michael Bell took out the \$50,000 KILGOUR PRIZE with his work, *Starting The after party (Two self-portraits) 2020*. An additional \$5,000 is on offer for the People's Choice Award, with voting open until 21 October.

Michael Bell, *Starting The after party (Two self-portraits) 2020*, oil and charcoal on canvas