

EDITION 4 2020

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



**Relax and reset with our summer activities**

**Your guide to New Year's celebrations**





## Message from the Lord Mayor

Summer is a great time to get out and enjoy the stunning coastline and natural beauty that Newcastle offers.

And as restrictions ease on public gatherings, we're pleased to be able to welcome back public events to spread a little festive cheer with activations across the city in December.

We are proud to have invested a record amount of funding to help support our local businesses with more than \$1.2 million of initiatives aimed at boosting the City's COVID-affected economy.

The festive feeling will continue into our COVID Safe New Year's celebrations, offering the chance to reset and refresh yourself for 2021 with a picnic in the park, dip in the pool or wander around the markets.

The City's inaugural festival, New Annual, also promises to liven up Newcastle in February with more than 50 exciting performances across 10 days.

This year, we are proud to have delivered a record capital works investment of more than \$92 million for upgrading local infrastructure like our roads, footpaths, cycleways, parks and playgrounds. In 2021, we'll deliver even more to help further protect local jobs through our infrastructure led economic recovery.

During the traditionally busier months on the coast and in the city centre, I'm calling on all Novocastrians to continue adopting COVID Safe measures, particularly when enjoying shared spaces, and to follow the advice of NSW Health.

Our lifeguards are now on duty seven days a week and ready to support the community in enjoying summer safely.

### Nuatali Nemes, Lord Mayor of Newcastle

**Front cover image L-R:** Blackbutt Ranger Jess Graham with Yurtle the turtle, Lord Mayor of Newcastle Nuatali Nemes and Blackbutt Ranger Tarah Hunklinger with one of the resident peacocks.

## Bringing in the new year

Reflect on the year that was and reset for 2021 from a picnic rug surrounded by nature, sampling some delicious treats, or by getting amongst the action in the water. Check out our guide to New Year's in Newy!

### Picnic in the Park

31 December, 3pm – 8pm, Dixon Park and Lambton Park

Celebrate New Year's Eve at a range of pop-up picnics around our city. Enjoy produce stalls, food trucks and roving entertainment for the whole family.

### New Year's Day Market

1 January, 10am – 4pm, Richley Reserve

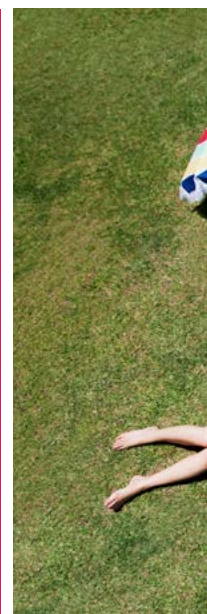
Ring in a fresh new year at Richley Reserve with produce stalls, food trucks and roving entertainment with an inclusive sensory zone.

### New Year's Day Pool Parties

1 January, 10am – 4pm,  
Beresfield, Mayfield, Stockton & Wallsend Pools

Splash into the new year with inflatables, food trucks and entertainment for the whole family.

To plan your celebrations go to  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/NYE](https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/NYE)



## Services this Christmas

### Customer Service

Our customer service will be closed for the festive period from midday on 24 December 2020, reopening on 4 January 2021.

### Kerbside Collection

There will be no kerbside waste or recycling services on Christmas Day. All bin collections falling on Friday 25 December will take place one day later than usual. Services will resume as normal from Monday 28 December 2020.





## It's Christmas time!

Enjoy the Christmas spirit in Newcastle. From 22 November you can snap a selfie with the giant Christmas tree, or get lost in the Christmas tree maze in Civic Park.

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



### Summerhill Waste Management Centre

The centre will be closed on Christmas Day. Opening times on weekdays are 7.30am – 4.45pm and 9am – 2.45pm on weekends and public holidays (including Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

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



Image: artist's impression, Blackbutt Village, New Lambton

## Have you spotted our teams in your neighbourhood?

### Local Centres

Through our Local Centres Public Domain Program we are delivering upgrades to commercial centres across the city. These upgrades improve pedestrian safety as well as the look and feel of the area through new roads and footpaths, tree planting, and new street furniture.

Construction is underway at Joslin Street, Kotara and Llewellyn Street, Merewether. Design is underway at Blackbutt Village on Orchardtown Road, New Lambton, and also Mitchell Street, Stockton. In Wallsend we are delivering a range of upgrades, with improvements at the intersection of Cowper Street and Kokera Street next on the list.

### Elmore Vale footpath upgrades

City of Newcastle recently wrapped up work on a 600m, 1.2m-wide footpath along the northern side of Croudace Road in Elmore Vale.

The project included the upgrade of two bus stops, a pedestrian refuge on Cardiff Road and around 40m of

kerb and gutter works to help widen the footbridge over Ironbark Creek. Our crews also planted trees and upgraded existing drainage pits with bicycle safe grates.

If you find yourself in Elmore Vale anytime soon, jump out of the car and test out the new path for yourself.

### Newcastle Ocean Baths' pools set for upgrade

We're progressing with the well-needed upgrade to the 98-year-old Newcastle Ocean Baths. The Baths upgrade is a staged project, with the first piece of work to restore the unique sand-bottomed pools and lower concourse expected to commence mid-2021.

The community has provided feedback about what's important to them as we undertake these essential upgrades to Newcastle Ocean Baths' pools, like retaining the iconic boardwalk, maintaining the historic sand bottom, and improving accessibility.

Community consultation and assessments continue for the upper concourse and pavilion section of the project.



# What matters to you?

**Do you live, work or study in Wallsend?  
Or, are you a Wallsend local?**

We're looking for ideas and inspiration on your favourite places in order to help to make the town centre more vibrant, safe and activated.

Place your ideas on our website.



## Climate Action Plan engagement

City of Newcastle recently adopted the 2025 Climate Action Plan, which is our roadmap to reduce emissions and move our city to a low carbon economy. The Action Plan was placed on exhibition in August 2020 and received an overwhelmingly positive response. The City is committed to leading by example, building strong relationships and delivering important initiatives such as becoming the first local government in NSW to move to 100 per cent renewable electricity.

## Gregson Park Masterplan engagement

We are developing a masterplan to guide future improvements to Gregson Park. We recently engaged with key stakeholders and over 800 members of the community, who suggested what they'd like to see there in the future. This included improvements to amenities and playspace, retention of fig trees and European heritage items, Indigenous cultural interpretation, upgraded footpaths, open grass areas, community gardens and areas for events and pop-up activities. We're using this information to help develop the draft masterplan, which we'll seek community feedback on early next year.

## Now, that's smart.

For the residents of Newcastle, this is a very exciting time. Not only are we seeing and experiencing a huge transformation in terms of transport and revitalisation, but the inclusion of Smart City initiatives will continue to place Newcastle at the forefront of innovation on a global scale. In addition to benefitting our local community, it also encourages significant national and international investment in the Hunter economy.

We're investing in:

**EasyPark app to help you find parking**

**Solar farms creating clean energy**

**Smartscreens to help you navigate the city**

**City of Newcastle app to find parks and playgrounds on the run**

**Smart street lighting that also measure air quality and pollution**

**Did you know?**  
Newcastle is a global leader in the Smart Cities evolution, with award-winning activities.



## Summer Reading

Join the Newcastle Libraries Summer Reading Club. This free challenge will feature a special series of books from December 2020 until February 2021. Register at a library near you and be in the running for some great prizes.



# Expect the unexpected at City's inaugural arts festival

The countdown is on for New Annual, a city-wide festival, with the festivities kicking off on 12 February 2021. Spanning 10 days, the festival will feature local and visiting artists sharing music, dance, contemporary performance and visual art in a celebration of creativity.

In this edition of City News we introduce you to another member of Your City of Newcastle. We spoke with Kate Britton, Project Manager – Cultural Events, to discover what is in store for the city's next big gig.

## What sets New Annual apart from other city festivals?

Kate B: There has always been such a great creative community in the city – we're known for having more artists per capita than any other city in Australia. Our programming motto for the festival is expect the unexpected! It's not just about seeing great art and culture – though of course we have that covered – it's about really engaging with our city, celebrating the creativity that has always been here and inviting the world to come experience that too!

## How would you describe a festival experience to a new visitor?

Kate B: Fun! It's a low-risk way to try new things and discover new passions. By having a program that spans so many different genres, festivals can be a tasting plate for arts, culture and music that lets you explore in your own way.

## What local discoveries have you made?

Kate B: Growing up here I always knew Newcastle had amazing homegrown talent. My favourite projects allow local artists to think

big and tell stories about our city – for example commissioning local theatre makers and puppeteers Curious Legends to create a new performance, *Taylor's Run*, at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre that is all about sustainability and environment, or Bree Van Reyk's awesome *Massive Band* project that invites girls and women of all ages and stages to join a huge rock and roll band.

## What event is on your 'must do' list?

Kate B: I'm really looking forward to seeing the results of City of Newcastle's major local commissions, which have been in development throughout 2020. I can't wait to sit under the stars and watch Catapult's performance in the Civic Park Fountain – it looks like they're dancing on water. I'm excited to see *Pavilion of Sand* being built in Wheeler Place creating a space to explore the city's living Aboriginal culture. And of course, our very own pop-up shipping container venue.

## New Annual runs from 12 – 21 February 2021

For the full program go to [newannual.com](http://newannual.com)

## Program highlights



### TAYLOR'S RUN

Curious Legends

13 – 21 February

Giant glowing puppetry



### ACQUIST

Catapult Choreographic Hub

19 – 21 February

A dance on water



### MASSIVE BAND

Bree Van Reyk

13 – 14 February

Rock'n'roll meets all-girl band



### THE HANGER

Fingers Crossed Creative

12 – 21 February

Newcastle's most talented + shipping container = festival bar



# What's On

[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/whatson) is your trusted guide for events happening in Newcastle



## TICKETED EVENT

### Civic Cinema

Regular screenings  
Civic Theatre

The magic of cinema has returned to the city centre with the installation a 7.5-metre-wide movie screen in Civic Theatre. Films include festive season classics the whole family will enjoy. Check the website for the full listing.



## FREE EVENT

### City Hall Concert Series

2, 10, 16, 23 December  
Newcastle City Hall

Enjoy the grandeur of City Hall while being entertained by local musicians at this free concert series.



## FREE EXHIBITION

### WE CAN BE HEROES: a backstage pass

Until 14 February  
Newcastle Art Gallery

A behind-the-scenes tour through the lens of artists capturing intimate moments of Australian and international musicians.



## TICKETED EVENT

### Colour

Until 31 January  
Newcastle Museum

Do you see what I see? Direct from Questacon, this special exhibition explores the science of colour and perception. COVID-19 Safe interactives for the whole family to enjoy.



## FREE EXHIBITION

### 1X4

From 21 December  
Newcastle Museum

Curate your own journey in this innovative social history exhibition exploring the variety of stories each object can tell.



## FREE EVENT

### Civic Bar Beats

4, 11, 18 December, 5pm - 7pm  
Civic Theatre Bar

"Wine" down on Friday afternoon and discover your new favourite local artist. Check the website for the full line-up.



## FREE EVENTS

### Australia Day

26 January 2021, 10am - 4pm

Nobbys Beach

### Fun in the Sun

Beach Rugby Australia - Beach 5s and family active fun zone

Wallsend and Beresfield Pool

### Australia Day Pool Party!

Fun in the sun with inflatables, food trucks and entertainment for the whole family.

For more information, [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/australiaday](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/australiaday)