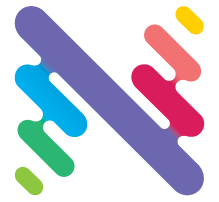


EDITION 1 2020

# City News



City of  
Newcastle



Project Manager Andrew G. Wood, Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and Cr Matthew Byrne inspect Wallsend's new Tyrrell Street Bridge



## Message from the Lord Mayor

This year will see a record level of community engagement to inform projects right across the city that will make Newcastle a smarter, more sustainable and liveable city.

From Bathers Way at South Newcastle Beach to masterplans for popular parks and waterways, we're incorporating more public feedback than ever before into what we do. Consultation has begun on a masterplan for Foreshore Park, while more detailed discussions are taking place on the future of the city's ocean baths and Coastal Management Program.

Meanwhile, I'm happy to report that genuine infrastructure renewal is underway in Wallsend, where we're tackling recurrent flooding while overhauling the town centre. Tyrrell Street Bridge's

reconstruction is progressing well and expected to be complete before winter, when the low-lying Ironbark Creek is most vulnerable to flooding.

We're also digitising our Library's heritage collection for future generations in a project that will also allow people to interact with our history like never before at our upcoming Digital Library at Newcastle West.

Meanwhile, we're making strides on the sustainability front by diverting thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill and sourcing all our electricity from renewables, including our own five-megawatt solar farm, which we switched on at Summerhill Waste Management Centre late last year.

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

## Library's heritage collection enters digital age

Newcastle Library is preserving our city's rich heritage with a \$200,000 project that will see hundreds of thousands of archival records converted into digital formats for future generations.

Expected to be completed midyear, the Heritage Digilab will offer a range of uses for the preservation, digitisation and interpretation of around 440,000 collection items.

A scanner capable of converting approximately 3,000 pages an hour into digital formats and a Memory Lab component, with equipment to convert library members' own artefacts and records into digital items, are both part of the project.

Future additions include digitised map projection and virtual exhibitions in both augmented reality and virtual reality. The Heritage Digilab will also provide unique content on screens at the soon-to-be-opened Digital Library at Newcastle West.



## Bathers Way renewal rolls on with community feedback

We're expecting to start construction on the next stage of our six kilometre upgrade of Newcastle's coastline midway through the year following community feedback on the Bathers Way – Newcastle Beach project.

A major revitalisation of the South Newcastle Beach promenade will include a new skatepark and bowl within the existing facility's footprint, outdoor

## Water-saving measures continue

We've been working closely with Hunter Water to reduce water usage across the City's operations to help relieve pressure on drinking water supplies.

We've revised our irrigation program by reducing outdoor water use and using smart technology to control watering systems. As we do our bit to save water, it may be some time until lush green grass and colourful flower displays reappear in our parks and sporting fields.

We're also working on a series of actions to monitor and reduce water usage at pools, the Summerhill Waste Management Centre and Blackbutt Reserve.

For information, tips and tools on saving water, visit [hunterwater.com.au](http://hunterwater.com.au)



## Long-term coastal planning underway

The sustainable, long-term management of the Newcastle coastline is under review as part of a Coastal Management Program (CMP) expected to be finalised late this year.

The CMP investigates the challenges facing our unique coastal zones to provide a long-term strategy for their sustainable use, management and conservation.

The first stage in this process was the development of a scoping study published at [newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Coastal-Management-Program](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Coastal-Management-Program).

Community members will get the chance to have a say on issues such as erosion at Stockton Beach, urban development in coastal zones and the changing climate's effects on beaches and urban areas as part of an engagement program, commencing midyear.

exercise equipment and an amenities block.

We're also working with our Bathers Way Community Reference Group on plans to improve access at King Edward Park, including viewing platforms, upgraded pathways and better connections to Newcastle and Bar beaches.

The project is expected to take two years to complete. In recent years, we have invested around \$27 million in coastal revitalisation projects.

## Quarterly Community Survey results

Our latest survey was carried out during summer and covered a range of topics associated with our parks, playgrounds and inland pools.



**More than 8 in 10 people are satisfied**

with the overall maintenance and cleanliness of our parks.



**Nearly 8 out of 10 people are satisfied**

with the overall maintenance and cleanliness of our playgrounds.

## Beresfield Local Centre upgrade

We're working with Beresfield locals to revitalise public space within the town centre as part of a \$3 million renewal project.

In collaboration with local schools, community and the University of Newcastle, we've undertaken a placemaking activity to focus on the corner of Beresford and Lawson avenues. Based on community feedback, we're expecting to start construction on a new shade structure midway through the year, while also planting trees and painting a wetland-themed mural.

## Sustainable success

The Summerhill Resource Recovery Centre diverted 18 per cent of all received tonnage from landfill in its first few months of operation.

Of the 4,898 tonnes dropped off by 40,920 vehicles, 10 per cent was presented as pre-sorted "Sort & Save" material, while 18 per cent was ultimately recovered and diverted thanks to the efforts of Summerhill staff.

As advertising gains traction and more residents realise they can reduce their fees and, in some instances, pay no charge when they pre-sort their waste, the recovery rates and the proportion of waste being diverted from landfill are expected to increase.

The Resource Recovery Centre was opened the same day as the Summerhill Solar Farm, which together with a contract to buy electricity from the Sapphire Windfarm near Glen Innes, now sees all of the City's operations powered by renewable energy.



## Quarterly Community Survey results

Our latest survey was carried out during summer and covered a range of topics associated with our parks, playgrounds and inland pools.



### More than 7 out of 10 people are satisfied

with the overall maintenance and cleanliness of the pools they visited.



### Less than half of respondents said they're currently satisfied

with the shade/shelters at playgrounds.

This feedback will help shape our planning around new and upgraded playgrounds.



## Civil works update

### Completed

Stockton Beach Nourishment Pilot Project Stage 1

Five megawatt solar farm at Summerhill Waste Management Centre

Raised pedestrian crossing at Vista Parade, Kotara

Pedestrian refuge at Samdon Street, Hamilton

### Underway

Road and drainage construction in Council Street, Cooks Hill

Road and drainage construction in Swan Street, Cooks Hill

Tyrrell Street Bridge demolition and reconstruction, Wallsend

Ironbark Creek Rehabilitation Stage 5a

### Upcoming

Llewellyn Street Local Centre renewal

Redevelopment of No. 1 Sportsground

## Have your say on our city's future

In 2020, we will be out and about in the community, consulting on a range of plans, projects and initiatives. You're encouraged to join City of Newcastle's 'Have Your Say' Facebook Group so you never miss the chance to help shape our city's future.



We'll be checking back with you on our city's guiding blueprint, the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan. Meanwhile the community will be invited to help us shape several parks and recreation projects, including Newcastle's Foreshore and Hamilton's Gregson Park masterplans.



## First-class sports on agenda

If you want to attract elite sporting events, you need the right facilities, which is why we're upgrading No. 1 Sportsground.

The overhaul involves expanding the field's dimensions and improving the playing surface with sub-soil drainage, irrigation and new turf. New sightscreens, perimeter fencing and cricket pitches will be added to help the ground measure up to first-class standards.

The work at No. 1 follows recent upgrades next door at No. 2 Sportsground. The home of the W-League Jets has also hosted an international women's rugby fixture and Trans-Tasman touch competitions in the past 12 months after more than 500 additional seats were installed to increase the ground's seating capacity to more than 1,000.

## April school holidays

### Newcastle Museum

Experience a scientific explosion with Supernova and Mininova, blow kids' minds at the science shows and get hands-on with interactive workshops.

**Open every day during the school holidays**  
10am – 5pm

### 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 be part of the reptile show and wildlife exhibits.

**Open every day during the school holidays**  
Wildlife exhibits 10am – 5pm  
Picnic facilities 7am – 7pm  
Kiosk 10am – 3pm

### Newcastle Art Gallery

Art Cart and school holiday workshops will help children engage with the exhibitions on display through discussion and interaction. Led by gallery educators, children will develop their understanding and appreciation of art with a range of fun activities.

**Open every day during the school holidays**  
10am – 5pm

### Newcastle Libraries

With various locations across Newcastle, Story Stomps at our libraries are a school holiday must-do activity. With engaging workshops and fun family movies there's something for everyone.

**Various locations across the region**

**For full program details visit**  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au/School-Holidays](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/School-Holidays)





## FREE EVENT

Civic Theatre

1 March 2020

### Open Day – Civic Theatre

Explore beyond the stage and take in the history of the majestic Civic Theatre at our open day, which celebrates the venue's 90-year history.

## FREE EVENT

Merewether Beach

7-8 March 2020

### Surfest 2020 Finals

Get down to Merewether Beach to support the finalists in the largest surfing festival in the southern hemisphere and enjoy a range of free events and activities on offer. Proudly supported by City of Newcastle.

## FREE EVENT

Various locations – visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)

25 April 2020

### Anzac Day

There are several options to mark Anzac Day in the city centre, including the Nobbys Beach Dawn Service, Anzac Day March, and United Service of Remembrance at Civic Park. Proudly supported by City of Newcastle.



## FREE EVENT

No. 2 Sportsground

24-26 April 2020

### Open Trans-Tasman Touch Football

Newcastle is the international home of touch football in Australia and the Trans-Tasman series features rivals Australia and New Zealand going head-to-head. Proudly supported by City of Newcastle.

## FREE EXHIBITIONS

Newcastle Art Gallery

9 May – 19 July 2020

### Homeward Bound: The Art And Life of Tom Gleghorn

Tom Gleghorn is homeward bound with this first major survey of his work.

23 May – 9 August 2020

### Warwar: The Art Of Torres Strait

The evolution of Torres Strait Islander tradition and society through arts practitioners from the 19th century to today.

## TICKETED EVENTS

Civic Theatre

24 April 2020

### Backbone

Witness the internationally-renowned Australian company push the boundaries of contemporary circus.

9 May 2020

### The Gospel According to Paul

Acclaimed performer Jonathan Biggins returns as Paul Keating in this smash hit full of wit, rhetoric and ego.