

Newcastles News

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • April 2015

Newcastle, Canada sets 2016 dates

We're delighted to learn of the dates chosen by our friends in Newcastle, Ontario for our 2016 Newcastles of the World conference.

We'll be meeting from 19-23 September next year, with the main conference centre being the Newcastle Community Hall. Newcastle Village is part of the Municipality of Clarington and is beautifully located on the north shore of one of the Great Lakes - Lake Ontario. Just 65km across the lake is the USA; closer still is the exciting city of Toronto. Whilst the entire municipality, with a population of over 80,000, used to be named Newcastle, the community that bears the name of Newcastle has a population of around 8000 people. We look forward to enjoying the beauty, charm and hospitality of our Canadian Newcastle. Details of options for accommodation and of the main conference themes will be available later in the year.

Meanwhile, Newcastle has established an organising committee chaired by Charlie Trim who was a regional Councillor for several years, since retired. He chaired the Newcastle sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) celebrations in 2006. Deria Hickson (from England originally) is Secretary and Treasurer Greg Lewis is a local insurance broker. Ann-Marie Harley is leading on fundraising and the committee is to be supported by Jen Stycuk, Communications Coordinator of the Municipality, who colleagues will remember was with us at the conference in Nove Hradý.



NEWCASTLES NEWS INSIDE FROM:

Shinshiro, Japan
Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Neuburg, Germany
Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
Nové Hradý, Czech Republic
Jaunpils, Latvia
Kota Bharu, Malaysia
Nyborg, Denmark
Akhaltikhe, Georgia
Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Ontario, Canada
New South Wales, Australia
Newcastle-under-Lyme, UK
USA



Zélie and Mo will take Newcastles of the World forward

Zélie Guérin and Mo Lovatt have been appointed as project managers to take forward the programme of activity agreed by the Mayors at last year's conference in the Czech Republic. They will be supported by Simon Underwood, and David Faulkner will stay responsible for the overall programme delivery and its reporting to the mayors.

Zélie has been an Associate with International Newcastle (the Newcastle upon Tyne networking organisation) since 2013. She is fluent in French and German, and ran the Regional Language Network between 2002 and 2011 for development agency One NorthEast. Before that she was at Newcastle City Council as International Relations Adviser, and earlier as Senior Careers Adviser responsible for Education/Industry links. She was a member of the Newcastles of the World "welcome" team for the 2012 Conference.

Mo has wide experience as an international arts & culture programmer and project manager, significantly as coordinator of the collaboration between the North East of England and the Eastern Cape of South Africa ("The Swallows Partnership"). She was Manager for the 2013 Festival of the North East, a month-long celebration of innovation and creativity and in the previous year was project manager for the 2012 Newcastles of the World conference. Mo is also a writer.



The 46th Neuburger Danube swim at the end of January was another fantastic spectacle - over 2000 swimmers, also many clubs, all with imaginative outfits, masks, banners and crafts.

NEWCASTLES FORUM IS LIVE !

Many thanks to Robert Dulfer in Nové Hradý for setting up our new Newcastles Forum, for us all to keep in touch and share news and ideas. There are sections by country, by projects, by topics of shared interest and for youth. Check it out and sign up at <http://www.newcastlesforum.com/>

NEWCASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA'S AMBITIOUS MOVE FORWARD

The theme for Mayor Afzul Rehman of Newcastle, Kwazulu Natal in his annual budget speech last month was "United we take Newcastle Forward". The Mayor said that the 2015/2016 budget is completely funded and no external loans needed.



The 1.6 billion rand (120m Euros) operational budget, and R393 million capital budget continues the very intensive programme of infrastructure development so that "townships like Madadeni, Osizweni, Blaauwbosch and surrounding areas will one day look the same as the suburbs of Aviary Hill, Hutten Heights and Paradise" as the Mayor put it. This means big investment in roads, pavements and bridges; upgrading of waste water treatment; sports and community facilities and play parks; also housing projects that will help reduce waiting lists.

R4.5 million has been allocated to change street lights into LEDs as already seen in some parts of the town to reduce electricity usage. "Council has taken a decision that 40 percent of our electricity will be sourced from alternative energy sources such as biofuels and solar electricity" said the Mayor. More information - <http://newcastle.gov.za/mayoral-speech-2015/>

The Mayor paid tribute to Mr **Kebone Masange** who had been Newcastle's Municipal Manager and well-known to us from many other Newcastles. After 17 years of service in Newcastle Mr Masange (right) has moved to a senior position as HOD Human Settlement in Mpumalanga Province. Director of Legal Services, **Makhosini Nkosi**, who has also been a friend to "Newcastles of the World" has also moved on, and they both have our best wishes for the future.



AKHALTSIKHE STUDENTS HELP FARMERS

Irakli Kapanadze and Karlo Khutsishvili, 16-year-old Georgian schoolboys from Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia, took part in the annual innovations summit at the NASA Kennedy Space Center, in the USA on April 9-11, 2015. The boys' invention, named the "Multiclimatizator," gained victory at the Millennium Innovations Award competition carried out by

Millennium Challenge Account - Georgia. The aim of the competition was to allow young talented inventors throughout Georgia to present their innovative projects within the STEM field. The boys explained: "There were many cases when the crop harvest was damaged or ruined due to rainfall. The vineyards in Kakheti (eastern region of Georgia) were frequently devastated by heavy hail, for example. So we decided to invent a tool that would help the farmers to preserve their crops."



"Moreover, this device can also measure the humidity and temperature of the soil that will also help us prevent plants from suffering damage. We have supplemented our invention with a tiny unmanned aircraft we called Droni (drone) that would allow the measuring of humidity and temperature and forecast the expected weather from a long distance away instead of just locally.

Droni is equipped with a GPS tracker and a transmitter unit that allows it to communicate the atmospheric readings from the area it is currently in, as well as store them on a memory card. In particular, Droni measures atmospheric humidity and temperature as well as soil salinity. Based on this data, farmers will not only be able to predict weather, but also to define the productivity of the soil and use it rationally".

ONE STOP SERVICE FOR NEUCHÂTEL CITIZENS



The City of Neuchâtel is investing to improve customer service reception for its citizens as part of the transformation of the city's administration buildings. The new reception area will be able to deal with a wide range of customer enquiries or direct them to the right department whatever their request.

SHINSHIRO'S SIGHTSEEING HUB STATION OPENS

An important new building opened in Shinshiro, Japan recently. Road-side station "MOKKULU SHINSHIRO" is located at the Shinshiro interchange of the New Tomei expressway and the node of National highway No. 151. It has been built as "the sightseeing hub station" of the Shinshiro area. There is a tourist information centre, restaurants where visitors can enjoy game cuisine such as wild boar or deer, and markets to buy fresh vegetables, fruits and other products from the Shinshiro area. It will become the "doorway" to the Shinshiro area, and the city is anticipating more than 1 million visitors a year! The new Tomei expressway will be inaugurated at the end of 2015.





KOTA BHARU HOSTS PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Kota Bharu, our Malaysian "Newcastle", had the distinction at the end of February of hosting the latest summit of the economic ministers of the ASEAN group. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations are the countries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei together with Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. The regional grouping is working towards building an ASEAN economic community (AEC) by the end of 2015.

The summit announced that ASEAN countries expected growth of over 5% in 2015. "Benefits are already flowing to ASEAN businesses and consumers, from significant tariff liberalisation, progress in trade facilitation measures such as self-certification, simplification of customs procedures, and the Mutual Recognition Arrangements on the movement of skilled professionals in the region. ASEAN has also put in place legal structures on competition, consumer protection and intellectual property, contributing to an improved environment for business."

The ASEAN area has a population of approximately 617 million people, or 8.8% of the world's population. Its combined GDP has grown to more than US\$2.5 trillion. If ASEAN were a single entity, it would rank as the seventh largest economy in the world, behind the US, China, Japan, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

Kota Bharu has also recently hosted the Asia-Pacific Business Research Conference. There was a particular focus on the involvement of **women in small-scale business**. An important research report from Kota Bharu explored factors, impacts and challenges faced by women in small scale business. This showed the major factors that influence women to start-up business are an economic necessity, self-choice of becoming an entrepreneur, becoming self-sufficient, family and friend's encouragement and a family tradition. The study analysed the impact of small-scale business towards women empowerment.

The results demonstrated that women's participation in the small-scale business plays an important role for the empowering women by controlling over decision-making, economic freedom, increasing self-confidence, company ownership and freedom of making own choice. The report revealed that the major constraints faced by women entrepreneurs are related to lack of knowledge about business, difficulty of receiving loans, patriarchal gender attitudes when business is viewed as a male profession and fear of sexual harassment.

The study showed that women tended to have lack of knowledge about business and education but women entrepreneurship has been recognised as an important untapped source of economic growth and socio-economic development. Given the importance of women's participation in business, governments and NGOs should facilitate training and education for women in terms of the importance of marketing strategy as well as other business strategies to the business management.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE AGREES PLAN FOR FUTURE GROWTH

The Future Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Newcastle and its neighbour Gateshead across the River Tyne was agreed by councillors last month, after being judged sound and legally compliant by an independent, government appointed inspector. This forms the heart of the 'local plan', which every local authority in England is required by law, to help shape development, encourage growth and provide employment opportunities.

The Plan will guide development to 2030 and beyond, and includes provision for 22,000 expected new jobs and 30,000 extra homes across Newcastle and Gateshead. Key to the Plan is controlled growth in a number of neighbourhoods, and detailed studies have taken place to ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable way possible.

It sets out locations for thousands of new homes; land for economic development such as offices; retail space and major new roads. Most development will be focused on brownfield land and in regeneration areas, and also aims to prioritise new sites in the urban core.



Leader of Newcastle City Council, Nick Forbes, said: "This marks a significant milestone, and sets out the city's ambitions to create new housing and jobs. It's an important part of our vision for strong, safe and sustainable communities. It positions Newcastle with Gateshead alongside the best in Europe, giving investors the confidence that we have a clear plan for how we want to grow.

A city that plans to grow demonstrates the ambition and confidence to attract new jobs and economic growth, and our Plan sends out a message that we are open for business. It provides the clarity that developers need to bring forward their plans, delivering new homes that people need, and new training opportunities, skills and jobs." www.newcastle.gov.uk

One of the Newcastle, New South Wales region's best-known civic leaders has been recognised by Local Government NSW for his service to the people of Newcastle. **John McNaughton AM** (pictured far right) was awarded the title of Emeritus Lord Mayor by the NSW Government for his work during his term as Lord Mayor of Newcastle between 1986 and 1995.

The award was presented to him by Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes at the March Meeting of Newcastle City Council. A surveyor and retired Managing Partner of specialist surveying firm Palmer Bruyn, he was also awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by the University of Newcastle. John has contributed widely to the community. He is a Director of the Hunter Research Foundation. He has been involved with more than 100 community organisations, especially heavily associated with the Scouting Association, Red Shield Appeal, Newcastle Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Newcastle to name a few.

During his term as Lord Mayor he led the Council to develop new approaches to heritage, conservation programmes for water and air pollution, suburban traffic-calming measures, strategies to improve hospitality and tourism in the wider region. It was however his leadership during the recovery of Newcastle post the 1989 earthquake that has had enduring impact upon the City and the Hunter region. With a damage bill of more than \$1.2 billion the December 28 earthquake surpassed any national disaster and for the first time in Australian history the post-event recovery was managed by Local Government. For this work and his ongoing commitment to his community he was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) in 1993.

Newcastle, New South Wales and Newcastle upon Tyne, UK have been twin cities since 1987; much of the credit for that link went to Lord Mayor McNaughton who led a delegation to the UK during a wonderful "Australia Week"

FORMER MAYOR RECOGNISED



NEWS FROM NEUBURG

A new school at the Schwalbanger in Neuburg has been agreed, an important development for the city. The 11.2m Euro building will offer room for twelve classes, with the possibility to expand the school at a furthercost of 2.5 m Euros.

Open House Day: The Paul-Winter-Realschule (a secondary modern school for boys) presented itself at an open house day. Potential students and their parents had the opportunity to take a look at the school and its activities. "We want to show the public, the parents and the future students what we have to offer" stated headmistress Sonja Kalisch. And what they had to offer spoke for itself: young students had the possibility to experiment with different materials. The obstacle course in the gym was very popular with the visitors. The school's newspaper club presented a fundraising campaign where visitors could get dressed up and had a photo taken of them. If they were interested, parents and their children could also be part of a real lesson for example English, French, German or History.

"Starkbierfest" (stout beer festival) of the Freien Wähler (free voters party)

During lent some political parties organise a so-called "Starkbierfest" where fellow politicians and the public can listen to the humorous Lenten Sermon. The Starkbierfest of the "Freien Wähler" starred Sepp Egerer in his famous role as court jester. Talking about local politicians and their lapses Sepp Egerer caused a lot of laughter. He even thought of a very nasty way to "punish" some important personalities. They had to come onto the stage and bite into a sour lemon. After the sermon a musical comedy starring actors playing important politicians took place, providing an all-around successful occasion.



Newcastle, Australia has been named as a World Festival and Event City by the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA) at this year's IFEA 59th Annual Convention and Expo in Kansas City, Missouri, USA

NEWCASTLE: A WORLD FESTIVAL CITY

AKHALTSIKHE - OUR "NEWCASTLE" IN GEORGIA

Levan Mikaberidze, our man in Akhaltsikhe, tells us more about his city. Levan is Manager for Tourism Development, which is a priority for our Georgian "Newcastle". He lived in England for nine years, has several English language certificates, worked as a sales manager and completed a course in business administration at a London Academy. He returned to Georgia in 2012 and has worked for local government in Akhaltsikhe since.

Levan says: "The new Mayor of Akhaltsikhe Mr Giorgi Kopadze, is grateful for the bringing together all Newcastles of the world and believes that it is a wonderful idea to share information between our cities. It is a great opportunity for our city to increase its international partnerships and become familiar with the experience of other cities of the world."

"A series of infrastructure projects are being implemented in the city: building bridges, new roads and parks. City Hall is going to spend some money for building several houses and the prices will be affordable for the citizens.

Akhaltsikhe City hall is fully involved in the implementation of social projects and the local budgets have been increased this year. Every citizen of Georgia has health insurance and all other expenses such as: medication and surgery - are covered by local government for poorer people Also City Hall has just opened a support facility for those in extreme need."

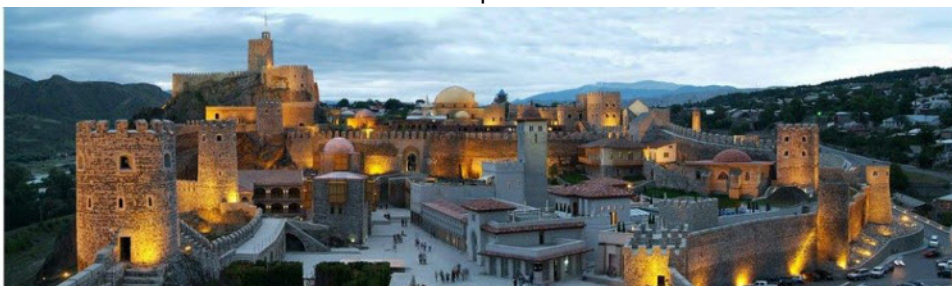
"We are about to open Akhaltsikhe Lake where tourists and local citizens will be able to hire boats, bikes, fish, spend free time and enjoy themselves.

The Mayor is keen to engage young people in local government decision-making processes. He often meets young students, youth councils and other youth advisory groups. they discuss problems of the city and the students express their views on how to solve them",

"We have an amazing castle in our city called Rabati Fortress". The fortress is one of the largest in Europe (if not the largest), covering seven hectares and attracting very large numbers of tourists. Near the fortress we are about to open the monument of Beqa I Jaqeli, who was the ruler of our province of Samtskhe.

His name is linked with the honorable history of our city and the country. As a tourist city it is important for us to get to know an experience of other cities, the ways they develop tourism. for example Neuchatel, Switzerland and other cities, where so much of the local GDP comes from tourism".

"We open our tourism season at the end of April, where concerts, performances by historical characters, dance troupes and folk ensembles take place, with exhibitions, Meskhetian cuisine demonstrations and many other cultural activities take place."



SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY IN NEUCHÂTEL



It's springtime, and in Neuchâtel, that means a chance for citizens to try out more sustainable methods of transportation. At the end of April, utility Viteos, the City of Neuchâtel and watchmaker ETA invite locals to discover, test and choose real solutions for sustainable mobility and to reduce their CO2 impact. Energy-efficient vehicles, electric, hybrid and gas, will be available for free testing.

In 2006 Neuchâtel received the European Energy Award Gold, which certifies, at the European level, its excellence, continued commitment and above all, its success in the implementation of energy saving programmes and development of renewable energies. The mobility weekend is another example of the city's commitment.



Meet your master in weaver's workshop & craft house "Dzīpars"

Jaunpils weaver's hobby group was founded in 1970. Now it has changed and since last year the workshop is available not only for local people, but also for tourists. The master Mrs. Velga Pavlovskā introduces visitors with the Latvian cultural heritage, preservation of ancient craft skills through the centuries, demonstrating weaving craft skills and showing their application today. There are 16 wooden looms, which are used every day. Crafts of Jaunpils weavers have been praised by industry experts, included in the XXV Latvian Song and Dance Festival XV's applied arts exhibition.



Creative work venue "7 points"

A glass artist Anete and her husband wood craftsman and interior designer Kaspars came to Jaunpils several years ago. From a noisy capital of Latvia – Riga, they moved into a house in countryside inherited from parents. As both of them are artists, they couldn't live as ordinary rural people. They had an idea to create something special, a place where local people and visitors could come together, develop creative skills, abilities and talents. And with support from the EU and Jaunpils municipality council funds, they created creative work venue "7 points". Handicrafts, candle making, wooden jigsaws: all creative activities also provide intergenerational dialogue and social inclusion.



THE ALTAR OF JAUNPILS CHURCH HAS A NEW LOOK

On their wedding day in 1648, the next heir of Jaunpils castle Matthias Dietrich von der Recke and his wife Christine Susanna donated an altar and pulpit to the church. In the 17th Century art was dominated by Mannerism - and so the altar and pulpit were made in this gorgeous, luxurious and expressive style. With changing times and fashion it is believed that in the 18th century the gold, silver colours had been scraped off and altar was painted over in a grey colour. The church congregation always believed that someday the altar will get back its real look. The active renovation works of the altar started in 2009 and now by the support of grants, donations and the city council, the altar is regenerated and back to its wonderful original form.

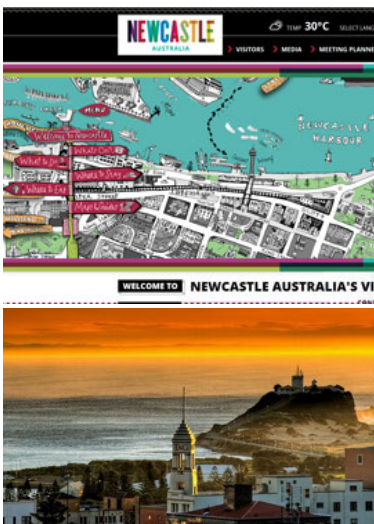


NEW "VISIT NEWCASTLE" WEBSITE

Whether you're a traveller looking to research and book an itinerary for a visit or a Newcastle attraction that wants to promote its business to potential customers, look no further than the new redesigned Visit Newcastle website.

An initiative of the City of Newcastle, this brand new visitor information resource offers comprehensive information about all things to do in and around the city as well as providing a booking platform for tours and accommodation. Check out <http://www.visitnewcastle.com.au/>

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said Council is excited to present the new *Visit Newcastle* website to the world. "The website is a comprehensive guide to the experiences that this area has to offer visitors and enables visitors to book tours and accommodation, as well as create their own itineraries through trip planning tools" she said.



KOTA BHARU DEVASTATED BY FLOODS

Rescue teams struggled to reach inundated areas of northeast Malaysia in December after the country's worst flooding in decades. Torrential monsoon rains leading to massive flooding took the lives of five people. Rescuers were faced with huge challenges with power outages and roads being washed away by the floods.

Military helicopters and trucks were seen in the Kota Bharu area, which is near the border with southern Thailand, but rescue efforts were being hampered by fast rising waters and strong currents while roads to hard-hit areas were impassable. From the air, parts of the state capital Kota Bharu resembled a vast, muddy lake, with row after row of rooftops peeking out of the murky waters. At the height of the floods 23 people died and over 250,000 residents were displaced by the rising deluge that overwhelmed homes and properties.



NYBORG LEADS ON EQUALITY

Nyborg Municipality has been voted Denmark's leading municipality for gender equality among the 98 municipalities in Denmark - and for the fourth time. "Spearhead Network" provides an effective framework for gender assessment of citizen-oriented services in the municipalities. The goal is to contribute to the process of innovation in the municipalities - and to spark debate about women's and men's different behaviour and needs.

The objective of equal opportunities assessment is to enhance the quality of service to citizens and strengthen the development of the public sector.

Nyborg Municipality has also worked with:

- Men in care work and men and health
- Women in management
- Guides on equality
- Equality and diversity in internal training courses for employees
- Ethnic equality



The President of the Equality Commission in Nyborg Municipality, Vibeke Ejlersen (above) said "Nyborg municipality has worked intensively within the area since our Gender Equality Committee was established, and it is great that we have once again put placed in the lead and overtaken large municipalities as Aarhus and Copenhagen". For further information contact Vibeke Ejlersen, President of the Gender Equality Committee, email:vibeke.ejlertsen@3f.dk

Nyborg Castle revitalised

Nyborg Castle and the royal tournament square in front of the City Hall are going to be revitalized through a large reconstruction and building project. The project is intended to make Nyborg Castle and its environs a new coherent cultural heritage site that provides better understanding of the historical fortress structure on the castle island, enhanced cohesion between castle and town, and new facilities for presentation, interpretation and exhibition.



In addition to the masterplan that is to include the town hall square and the ramparts, existing listed buildings are to be restored and a new exhibition building is to be established within the castle perimeter.

The project is made possible by a grant of 276 million Danish kroner (approximately 40 million €) donated by the A.P. Møller Foundation, Realdania, the Danish Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties (SLKE) and Nyborg Municipality who together with Østfyns Museer are behind the project. An invitation to participate in an international design competition has just been issued. You can read more about the project via the links (also to the international design contest with a description in English) via the link:

<http://www.danmarksrigeshjerte.dk/verdensarven/projekt-nyborg-slot/>

The Church of Our Lady adorned with a new window

The Church of Our Lady in Nyborg was founded in 1389 to commemorate the victory that made it possible to integrate the Swedish realm into the Union of Kalmar consisting of the three Nordic countries Denmark, Norway and Sweden. This lasted until 1525 as the geographically speaking largest realm in Europe.

The church has just been adorned with a new alter window made by the Danish artist Maja Lisa Engelhardt. It is made from iridized glass that glows in the dark when illuminated. The Nyborg window, as it is called, represents the symbolism from the old, gothic crucifix and the new alter crucifix (the rood-tree). The window was donated to the Church by The Augustinus Foundation. You can read more about the window and see a number of small films of its genesis here: <http://www.nyborgkirke.dk/altervinduet.html>



HALF-PRICE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEUCHÂTEL



To promote public transport and help young people move around the city it has been decided to offer an annual subscription for public transport at half price to all young people living in Neuchâtel. This offer is available for people between their 10th and 20th birthday.

The annual subscription allows young people to travel for free all year long for many different purposes: school, sports, shopping, cultural activities and spare-time. It is intended as an incentive for young people to use public transport more. "This decision is also part of the municipality's commitment to reduce pollution in the City - and it's a measure that should increase the security of young people after partying too!" says Daniel Veuve. More information - Daniel.Veuve@ne.ch

SHINSHIRO'S YOUNG PEOPLE SET OUT THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

A "Shinshiro Youth Policy" launch symposium was held on 15 March to publicise the official youth policy which begins in April in the city. Approximately 200 youth and others in the city attended the event which was planned and run by the youth policy working group members, including university students and high school students.

The aim was to let citizens know about the "youth synthesis policy" and "youth assemblies" and to encourage young people to think about their future in Shinshiro and to participate in the development of their own city.

Representative of this symposium Ms. Riho Sugiki has been in charge of the process, and other members of the working group also gave presentations about the future of Shinshiro and their place in it.

Like all cities, Shinshiro might have its issues to deal with, but a review at the symposium by Professor Makoto Suzuki of Aichi University was positive about the way forward to make Shinshiro a nice place to work and live, not only for young people but all generations. For more information please contact Miho Ishino - ishino-miho@city.shinshiro.lg.jp



YOUTH WEEK IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

National Youth Week is the largest celebration of young people in Australia aged 12-25 and this year between 10 and 19 April young people of Newcastle and the Hunter were able to take part in a range of special events from a pop-up outdoor cinema at Civic Park to an interactive scavenger hunt exploring the City and its history.

Lord Mayor Cr Nuatali Nelmes said Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to express their ideas and views and act on issues that affect their lives. "Youth Week is created by young people, for young people, and each year all over Australia events are planned and organised to celebrate and recognise the contribution of young people to our society. For the past two years we have been working with the Newcastle Youth Council to develop a small grants programme to deliver to local youth groups; \$3,000 is funded by Council and this amount is matched by the State Government."

"It starts with us" was this year's theme and Newcastle Youth Council partnered with a variety of local agencies to deliver nine Youth Week 2015 events in Newcastle.

Some of the open events include: The Hunter Region Working Women's Group hosted What's On Your Mind?, a free one day forum for young women to explore issues they face in the community; Headspace Newcastle hosted *Hunter Seekers*, an interactive scavenger hunt exploring Newcastle city and its history at Newcastle Museum; Party in the Park offered a range of events to coincide with Youth Homelessness Matters Day.



Enjoying My Life, Let's Go! was a day of fun in the community for all, in particular young people with disabilities. Activities included pizza making, didgeridoo, mask decorating, karaoke disco and a BBQ, hosted by House with No Steps; and there was a pop-up film night in Civic Park, showcasing films made by young people for young people.

Newcastles of the World: Art Symposium in Nové Hradý, Czech Republic

From 12th to 23rd August 2015, the town of Nové Hradý will host an arts symposium for young people from other Newcastles of the world. Could this fantastic opportunity be for you?!

What? The focus is on two kinds of visual art: drawing/painting and photography. The topics will be typical open air: architecture, nature, landscape. The young people will work several days outside and in our atelier under the guidance of professional instructors. At the end of the symposium, we will open an exhibition of the work you have produced during this residency. The exhibition will run for two months in Nové Hradý.

Why? You'll meet new people with the same interest, visit new places, look at things from a different angle and have a new experience.

The project aims to enhance the idea of the partnership between the Newcastles. For Nové Hradý it is a great way to present the town as seen through the eyes of young people from different cultural backgrounds. The aim is to run the programme every two years in different places.

Who? We will welcome 20 young people aged 18-26 years old who are interested in visual arts and would like to look at new ways to express their art. We're looking for those who have completed at least one year in arts school or have proven skills and enthusiasm as a hobbyist. It is not necessary to be a fully educated expert. It is just a different experience for young people with a creative spirit and some basic skills.

Necessary equipment: - For photographers it is necessary to bring your own DSLR camera. A laptop with graphic SW and tripod would be a plus but we can arrange a loan for that and other materials as needed. For drawing/painting artists, you can bring your favourite brushes, but all required equipment will be provided as necessary.

How much money will you need? Participants pay €190 for full board and transport. Full board starts on the first day with dinner in the evening and ends the last day with breakfast. You will have to find your own way to The Czech Republic but we will arrange airport transfers to Nové Hradý. You may wish to bring money for entry to monuments, optional excursions (around €10) and other attractions as well as some money to spend on a beer or two! (one beer €1). We arrange accommodation (simple but clean rooms) lecturers, equipment for creating work and exhibiting.

Programme: At the end of the official programme, we are ready to be guides for anyone who wants to spend more time here and visit some cities (Prague, Vienna), castles and UNESCO monuments, go hiking or go rafting on the Vltava. Our capacity is limited but we will try to help everyone that wishes to explore. The full programme is below:



DRAFT PROGRAMME



Wednesday 12.8: Arrival Day: Arrival, registration, accommodation, free time Culture House; Introductory evening

Thursday 13.8: Presentations by participants – showing their background and town in relation to art Culture House; Introduction to the topic and tasks, first visit of places in and around the town Atelier and the town' Lecture on art techniques Culture House

Friday 14.8: Open air art in town – architecture, monuments Outdoors. Possible Concert in the town square Culture House;

Saturday 15.8: Open air art around town – parks, nature Outdoors; lecture on photography techniques Town square

Sunday 16.8: Trip to the hills, sleeping on "Hotel u pralesa" – former dormitory of border guards; Open air art in Novohradské mountains (around Dobrá Voda church, Hojnovodský forest) Outdoors; Informal lecture on the history of the Iron Curtain in the Novohradské mountains

Monday 17.8: Open air art in Novohradské mountains Outdoors; Lecture on the history of Czech art Culture House

Tuesday 18.8: Working in atelier, post processing Atelier; - 21.00 Lecture on history of Czech photography Culture House

Wednesday 19.8: Working in atelier, finishing Atelier; Visiting places in region (Český Krumlov UNESCO, České Budějovice) Outdoors

Thursday 20.8.: Fair on square – presenting of arts and artistic techniques specific for each Newcastle and country Town square

Friday 21.8: Preparing exhibition Atelier; Excursion to towns in Austria Outdoors

Saturday 22.8: Finishing the exhibition Atelier; Vernissage of the exhibition Atelier

Sunday 23.8: Departure day, optional visiting Prague

For further information or to book your place, please contact:

Michal Jarolímeck, Newcastles of the World, Nové Hradý, mjarolimeck@seznam.cz; Or contact us on social media!



SPORTS NEWS

January saw the the biggest-ever football match played at the **Hunter Stadium**, home of Newcastle Jets, New South Wales. The "soccerroos" of hosts Australia played United Arab Emirates in the semi-final of the 2015 Asia Cup . Holders Japan were unluckily defeated on penalties by UAE in the quarter final, so we missed the chance of having two of our Newcastles rooting for their national teams. Australia not only won the semi-final but went on to win the tournament by defeating South Korea in Sydney. Newcastle also hosted the 3rd/4th place play-off match of the tournament when the UAE beat Iraq.

Playing in national league division 3 in Switzerland, **Neuchâtel Xamax FCS** is having a very good season and is currently strongly placed at the top. So the club is looking to promotion to the Challenge League, which would then be the final step before recovering its position in the Super League.

After having been Swiss Champions several times and after many great successes in the European Football, Neuchâtel Xamax unfortunately went bankrupt in 2012. "Thanks to a great collective job and the involvement of a lot of motivated people our club is getting closer to the top league again" said Daniel Veuve.



Newcastle Eagles, from Newcastle upon Tyne, UK claimed a seventh British Basketball League title in 10 years with victory over Manchester Giants in April

The Eagles are the most successful team in the league's history. Over that time, the team has also won the BBL Trophy six times and BBL Cup three times, a grand total of 16 titles.

Born in Newcastle, Kwazulu Natal, one of the giants of South African rugby has retired from international rugby. **Bakkies Botha** made his Test debut in 2002 against France in Marseille and his 85th and final appearance came as a replacement during the 31-28 victory over England at Twickenham last November. He won the World Cup with the Springboks in 2007 and is the seventh most capped South African rugby international. Botha's stellar career saw him become the most decorated player in the history of the game with Super 15, Currie Cup, Vodacom Cup, European Cup and French Top 14 titles. Botha plays his club rugby for European Cup finalists Toulon, known as "the Real Madrid of rugby"



JUDY'S ARTISTIC LEGACY

Judy Jordan, who has been the driving force behind the Carnegie Art Gallery in Newcastle, Kwazulu Natal, is retiring next month. Working passionately and professionally, Judy has expanded the gallery's art collection from 20 to 380 pieces during her illustrious career spanning 24 years, having been its first-ever curator. Judy said "It's been an honour to work with so much beauty and so many talented artists".

As part of her farewell Judy was invited to exhibit some of her own works created over the last 30 years. She told us "The exhibition is a reflection of 30 years painting the Newcastle landscape and I was also able to borrow about 50 works. The themes I have covered over the years have been Coal Mining, Battlefields, Abandoned Places, Street Scenes and trees and gardens."



"The exhibition has inspired me to continue to paint when I retire. Shown here is an image from the Tatham Art Gallery collection titled Ballengeich . It is of the transport depot for coal just outside of Newcastle and is a place I painted many times. It was one of the first paintings of mine that was sold to a public collection."



FANTASTIC FESTIVALS IN KOTA BHARU AND KELETAN STATE

International Drum Festival, 14 - 15 March: The international drum festival showcased various drum performances and drum-making workshops to share this art of craft-making to a new generation. Drums are one of the signature products in Malaysia's tourism products. This programme helps to promote Malaysia's culture and acts as a platform to pass the knowledge of drum-making to the younger generation.

International Wayang Kulit (Shadow puppet) Festival, 15 April - 15 May: This carnival makes its debut in Malaysia and will initially involve three countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. Each country will be showcasing all its homegrown famous shadow puppet shows.

International Silat Carnival (Malay self art defence) : 6 - 7 April: Held for the second year in Kelantan, this event featured 400 exponents of the silat or Malay martial arts from Malaysia and around the world. Events included performances by various silat centres, exhibitions, self-defence seminars and martial arts demonstrations.

Kelantan International Kite Festival 25 - 30 May: Wau is a giant kite found in the state of Kelantan. It is handmade and beautifully decorated by skilled kite makers. From Wau Bulan or Moon Kite, the biggest type of kite, to Wau Kucing and Wau Merak, visitors can watch an assortment of kites take to the skies in this festival. The sky's the limit at the annual 5-day Kelantan International Wau Festival. Colourful 'Wau' (giant kites) of various shapes and sizes will paint the sky while fabulous food will whet your appetite. With over 120 local and 47 international participants from 18 countries as well as exciting activities, this will be a great festival! Be wowed by the 'wau'!



Winterfees, the Vodacom Winter Festival, is the biggest and best festival in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, taking place at the end of April.

<http://winterfestival.co.za/af/>

The cherry blossoms have been in full bloom again in beautiful Sakurabuchi Park in Shinshiro City



11 - 14 JUN 2015
NEUCHÂTEL OPENAIR FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL NEUCH
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NEUCHÂTEL OPENAIR FESTIVAL
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Alongside Texas and Fat Boy Slim, topping the bill this year is former French tennis star Yannick Noah. He's now a rock star and a multimillion-selling artist who has regularly played to packed arenas full of 80,000 fans or more.



LYME-LIGHT IS BACK!

The Lymelight Music Festival returns to Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre in 2015 for its third year. It runs from Friday May 1 to Monday May 4, and again there will be a main stage, buskers throughout the town, funfair, stalls, food options, lots of events for children....and this year a second performance stage.



OUR AMERICAN NEWCASTLES

There are almost 30 New Castles or New Castles in the USA (see below) and we're hoping that some of them might be represented at our conference in Canada next year. We are in contact with several and have a special link with the New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania who were our co-hosts in 2012 and with whom we hope to re-connect fully. If you would like to find out more about becoming part of "Newcastles of the World" please contact David Faulkner on david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk

- Newcastle, California, an unincorporated town in Placer County
- New Castle, Colorado, a Home Rule Municipality in Garfield County
- New Castle County, Delaware, the northernmost of the three counties
- New Castle Hundred, an unincorporated subdivision of New Castle County, Delaware
- New Castle, Delaware, a city in New Castle County
- Webster City, Iowa, formerly Newcastle, county seat of Hamilton County
- Newcastle, Illinois, a town in Saline County, Illinois
- New Castle, Indiana, a city in Henry County
- New Castle, Kentucky, a city in Henry County
- Damariscotta-Newcastle, Maine, a census-designated place in Lincoln County
- Newcastle, Maine, a town in Lincoln County
- Newcastle, Nebraska, a village in Dixon County
- Newcastle Township, Dixon County, Nebraska, a township in Dixon County
- New Castle, New Hampshire, a town in Rockingham County
- New Castle, New York, a town in Westchester County
- Newcastle, Ohio, an unincorporated community
- Newcastle Township, Coshocton County, Ohio
- Newcastle, Oklahoma, the largest city in McClain County
- New Castle Northwest, Pennsylvania, a census-designated place in Lawrence County
- New Castle Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, a township in Schuylkill County
- New Castle, Pennsylvania, a city in Lawrence County
- South New Castle, Pennsylvania, a borough in Lawrence County
- Newcastle, Texas, a city in Young County
- Newcastle, Utah, an unincorporated community in southwestern Iron County
- New Castle, Virginia, the only town in Craig County
- Newcastle, Washington, a city in King County
- Newcastle, Wyoming, a city located in Weston County



Top to bottom: Indiana, Philadelphia, Oklahoma, Washington State, Colorado

In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven "Newcastles" to his city. They have continued to meet every two years – in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana/Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012 and most recently Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic in 2014.

Newcastle upon Tyne-based John Nicolaou had come up with the idea in the mid-1990s to link those English-speaking communities who share the name "Newcastle". He contacted writers and photographers in Newcastles around the world and compiled a book which was published in 2000.

The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering has taken a discussion theme to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.

ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

