



"A MEMORABLE CONFERENCE" OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SHINSHIRO



That was the verdict of all those who attended the first youth conference of the Newcastles of the World alliance in early December.

Like the first-ever gathering of different "Newcastles" in 1998, it was down to the initiative and great support of **Shinshiro** City that this idea got off the ground.

Marie Desaulles, on placement from **Neuchâtel** to Shinshiro, gives her account of the conference on the next page.

Project Manager Zélie Guérin represented the Newcastles of the World Secretariat, presenting to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Assembly Members, meeting local business people, City Council staff and educationalists, as well as helping to facilitate the conference. Zélie says: 'Mayor Hozumi and his City Council assembly members and staff gave us a wonderful welcome and were the kindest and most generous hosts throughout our stay in Shinshiro. Shinshiro catalysed, organised and led an excellent conference. This was the first-ever Newcastles of the World youth conference. It focused on the key theme of 'What attracts young people to cities in the age of globalisation'. Giving of their time, care and commitment our hosts enabled everyone to perform well at the conference and to come up with new, dynamic ideas for youth project development'.

We visited a Junior High School, where we were delighted to meet enthusiastic pupils, who were learning to speak English. Everything combined to make a memorable experience. We now look forward to developing and feeding the results of the youth conference into the 20th year anniversary event of the Newcastles of the World, to be held in Shinshiro in October 2018'. *..... continued on next page*

Newcastles News

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • December 2017 - January 2018



Some "Newcastle" Christmas photos to bring a smile - left Newcastle, Australia; further left New Castle Pennsylvania; Newcastle, Ontario; Nyborg, Denmark; right Newcastle upon Tyne UK



Marie Desaulles is on placement in **Shinshiro**, Japan, sponsored by the City of **Neuchâtel**, supporting activities for young people organised by Shinshiro City Council. Marie worked alongside the Shinshiro team of Rumi Matsushita, Mori Harushige and Tomoko Tamai to organise the first-ever Newcastles of the World youth conference earlier in December. Here is her report.

“From the 8th to the 13th December 30 delegates from 10 countries came to Shinshiro, joining with the Japanese delegation of around another 30 young people, making a total of 60 participants. The host delegates came from the youth parliament, from schools and from the city.

The conference was in two parts - two days of conference and discussion and two days of sightseeing in Shinshiro and Kyoto.

On the first day each delegation presented information about their city - with a perspective on young people - and then in a more personal way on how they spend their leisure time, the foods and the places they like.

On the second day in the morning they formed six groups of ten people to develop a project that they thought would attract young people at a time of globalisation. They came up with six different projects.

“New Colours of the Castle”: a Newcastle festival network

Mentoring and cash support for young people to realise their projects

A one-week music, culture and art festival

Encourage youth involvement by creating a youth-friendly environment in the wider community

Develop an app that connects the youth of the different Newcastles

Develop a Youth hub

In the afternoon of the second day, citizens from Shinshiro city joined the conference and each team presented their project with discussion between the participants and local people. A vote was then taken on which project to take forward, and the app project won.

Next day was a fascinating trip to the city of Kyoto to visit Fushimi-inari, Jinja Shrine, the old city and Kiyomizu Temple. On the final day there was a visit to a secondary school in Shinshiro, to a Buddhist temple for a tea ceremony and an origami workshop, and then to the construction site of the new city hall. This was followed by a farewell party that was closed by a dramatic Taiko performance (Japanese drums).”



Message from Zélie (continued) ‘Combined with achieving a successful conference, we entered the wonderful world of traditional Japanese culture, seeing performances of traditional dance, Taiko Japanese drumming and others, as well as visiting the ancient city of Kyoto, and enjoying delicious Japanese dishes. It was a tremendous cultural experience, with eleven different nationalities meeting, sharing ideas and working together productively in what is one of the most fascinating cultures in the world.’





The town **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia, comes alive during December with a charming Christmas atmosphere and a series of rich cultural events.



There a big tree and Christmas lighting on the Main Square, lighting of candles every Sunday in Advent, children of nursery and primary schools have traditionally decorated Christmas trees, and there's fireworks and Santa Claus too ! City residents have the opportunity to visit Christmas markets full of different goodies.

This year's novelty is an ice rink and skating on the Main Square, which was opened ceremoniously by the Mayor Otokar Klein who tried it too !

The **Newcastle Santa Parade**, Ontario **Canada** always provides an early start to the Christmas festivities and didn't disappoint this year. It started with a great fireworks display followed by 70 entries in the parade that range from marching bands, to clowns and beautifully illuminated floats that children of all ages enjoy. This year the theme for the Parade was 'Winter Wonderland' Thanks to Councillor Willie Woo for the photos (via Jen Stycuk).



The combination of Santa hats with national costume makes for a nice picture of children in **Jaunpils**. Latvia at their Christmas get-together.

The city of **Neuchâtel** in Switzerland is always turned into a glittering display of light at Christmas time.

It's nice to hear about corporate generosity helping those in need in our communities, especially at this time of year.



Another image from the Christmas lights display at **Hunter Valley Gardens, Newcastle, Australia**



Steel maker **Arcelor Mittal**, who employ over 2000 people in **Newcastle, South Africa**, in conjunction with **Amajuba Rotary Club** and **Majuba College**, have all provided much needed assistance to **St Anthony's Orphanage**.

The company donated steel to **Amajuba College** who are making beds for the orphanage. **Amajuba Rotary** provided the mattresses. Thanks to the **Newcastle Advertiser** for the story and photo.



Above: Christmas Market, Festival and Ice Arena in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our "Newcastle" in Bavaria, Germany.



The **New Vic Theatre** in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, UK, is celebrating after scooping a top award at the prestigious UK Theatre Awards. Last year's Christmas production of **The Snow Queen** won the top honour in the category of Best Show for Children and Young People at the national awards, which celebrate excellence in theatre across the country. The **Snow Queen** was seen by over 40,000 people, over 70% of them young.

An major exhibition of the works of renowned artist Lela Paradze was displayed recently in **Akhaltzikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. This was something of a homecoming as Lela is originally from the Meskheti area - that part of Georgia where Akhaltzikhe is located. She studied at the Tbilisi State Academy of Art and has exhibited in many countries.



Claudia Kienzle, of the Office of Culture and Tourism at the city of **Neuburg an der Donau** in Bavaria, Germany, has been working with their local newspaper on articles about how other "Newcastles" in the southern hemisphere celebrate Christmas. Here are the articles based on the information that Lyn Cook in **Australia** and Louis Eksteen in **South Africa** provided.

The Australian Neuburg sends **warm** Christmas greetings

How to celebrate Christmas without snow and ice? In December it's summertime in Australia. **Lyn Cook** from Newcastle, New South Wales tells us about their Christmas "down under". "Christmas is a traditional celebration in our family. After Christmas morning we sit down together for lunch. Despite the heat, we look forward to warm meals - we grill! And it's pork, chicken or turkey and glazed ham. As side dishes there are grilled vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, beans, cauliflower and carrots - with a cheese sauce. And a small salad of spinach. Seafood is very popular as an entree - for example, the combination of scampi and oysters. And for dessert there is the classic "Christmas pudding" - these are our British roots according to an old family recipe. We also love pavlova - at this time of the year we have so many summer fruits. The meringue base is topped with whipped cream and garnished with fresh berries. On the Christmas table, small paper bags are available for every guest on Christmas day. Children are happy with chocolate and sweets or games. Adults get a lottery ticket, a small bottle of wine - and of course, chocolate always works!"



Merry Christmas to Neuburg! The South African Newcastle **warmly** greets its twin city.

Newcastle is in the South African Province of KwaZulu Natal. Part of this name actually reflects Christmas! The Portuguese navigator Vasco de Gama sighted the coast along what is now Durban on Christmas Day in 1497 and named the country Terra Natalis, after the Portuguese word ("Natal") for Christmas.



Louis Eksteen, curator of Fort Amiel Museum from Newcastle, describes South Africa as a country of diversity in cultures and religions. "Christmas is a holiday, where families come together and enjoy summer weather - in contrast to the northern Hemisphere where "white Christmas "might be celebrated. The main roads are decorated with Christmas lights and the big Department stores contribute to this festive atmosphere with "Santa Clauses " - who in his costume fast starts to sweat in the warm weather!

In South Africa you meet with the family traditionally on Christmas eve. After the church visit on Christmas morning you grill lunch - typically steak, "Boerewors" (sausage) chicken and sosaties (kebabs). As a side dish it's porridge with onion tomato sauce and many refreshing salads - Greek Salad, potato salad with mayonnaise or the very popular "3-Bean salad. Then it's the "Christmas Cake" laced with brandy or sherry, fruits and nuts - and ice cream. After this feast we recommend a nap !



Nové Zámky (our "Newcastle" in Slovakia) recently hosted an international sausage festival alongside its Pumpkin Day - with exhibitions, a great cultural programme and lots of youth events. More than 50 teams from Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia and the Czech Republic took part in creating competitive sausages and the judges evaluated by taste, appearance and by presentation. It looks like mouth-watering fun!





SPORT

The finale of the Virgin **Australia** Supercars Championship came to the streets of **Newcastle** at the end of November and Jamie Whincup won a record seventh title in what was a huge success for the city of Newcastle. And the Newcastle 500 event has been secured for five years not just one by Destination NSW in partnership with Supercars Australia and Newcastle City Council, replacing Sydney's Olympic Park as the venue. The race is expected to inject over \$50 million to the Hunter region over the next five years, and attract up to 100,000 visitors from around NSW and beyond.

On 8 December **Kota Bharu** (Malaysia) City Council organised a 5km downtown Peace City Run supported by the Kota Bharu Police Department and Kelantan Anti-Drugs Agency. The aim was to create awareness among youngsters and city folks about the drug problem in the city and to bring all hands together in fighting against crime and drug activities. The night-time run attracted 2,500 participants and was full of colour and noise. The participants were started by the Deputy Chairman of Kelantan Local Government Committee, Haji Abdul Rahman Yunus. At the end of the run, participants were entertained with local busking music performances.



The karate team of **Nové Hradý** in the Czech Republic has won more success, with a total of seven medals in the latest regional league tournament. And in the European Karate Cup Grand Prix in Pilsen, with 523 competitors from 115 clubs and karate schools from 18 countries, Tomáš Hermann from Nove Hradý won silver medal in the over 84g category. The score in the final against his Belgian opponent was 3-3 but unfortunately the Belgian won the first point of the match which carries extra weight if the scores are level. But at the beginning of December Tomáš then won the gold medal in that category at the Czech Karate Championships in Karlovy Vary.



In all our sports coverage we have yet to cover basketball and the special position that **New Castle, Indiana** has achieved in the game. New Castle is the home of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, founded in 1962 in Indianapolis, which then moved to New Castle in 1990. Basketball legend Steve Alford was born in New Castle and starred at New Castle High School before playing his college ball at Indiana University. He helped lead the University to a national championship in the 1987 NCAA tournament. At Indiana, he became Indiana's all-time leading scorer at the time. He's now the head coach at UCLA. The Steve Alford All-American Inn in New Castle has a giant sneaker in front! The Fieldhouse at New Castle High School is the world's largest high school gym, seating 9,325, and is where top class basketball and other sports are played.

Congratulations to Norihiko Katsuta (from local Aichi province) and his co-driver Ishida Yuichi who recently won the 9th and final stage of the All Japan Super Rally Series staged in **Shinshiro**.



There's a new sports stadium on the way for **Newcastle upon Tyne**. Newcastle Eagles, the country's most successful basketball club, have begun construction of a new purpose-built community stadium in the city's west end. The Eagles, who have played at Newcastle Arena and at Northumbria University's Sports Central, have never had their own stadium and it is hoped that this can help bring European basketball competition to the area. The site will soon provide a facility for use by schools, junior clubs, and Newcastle College, and not just for basketball.

MORE SPORT



The football team from our Newcastle in Switzerland, **Neuchâtel Xamax**, goes into the short winter weather break at the top of the Challenge League (League 2), clear by ten points and on the verge of a famous return to the Super League (fingers crossed for the rest of the season).



After some financial crises, the club had to declare bankruptcy in 2012 and was excluded from the Swiss Super League. The club was reformed, but had to restart in the amateur leagues, entering the fifth tier for the 2012–13 season. The club finished first in 2013 and was promoted to the 1 Liga Classic for 2013–14. Once again, Xamax finished first, winning the play-off to secure a second successive promotion. Xamax won Liga 1 Promotion, the third tier of Swiss system and were promoted to Challenge League after making a 3rd successive promotion in 2014–15 season.

Sportsmen and women from **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, were gathered together with Mayor Kenneth Muhs (far left) recently to celebrate their successes during the year in many different sports from biathlon, off-road rallying and free swimming to golf, chess, kettlebell and more.



WELCOME VISITORS BETWEEN "NEWCASTLES"

Here's two welcome visitors to **Newcastle, Australia** from **Neuburg an der Donau** (Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany). Johanna Mueller-Pfaff and Stefan Faerber are pictured here with Bob and Lyn Cook who were connected through Neuburg's Walter Friemel. Johanna and Stefan have been studying at Newcastle University (Johanna - social work and Stefan - engineering).



Lyn said: "We met them when in Neuburg through Walter. They were living a few streets from our home when they arrived in our Newcastle. We did introduce them to some Aussie food favourites such as pavlova, roast lamb, meat pie, sausage rolls, lamingtons (cake) and of course Tim Tams (chocolate biscuits)! We also ensured they tried some of our local wine. It was a pleasure to host them in our beautiful city. Their favourite place was of course the beach! I think when they arrive home in late December they may find the temperatures a little contrasting!"



Art Riddle, Mayor of **New Castle, Colorado, USA**, called on Councillor Linda Wright, Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne recently. New Castle, Colorado is a town of just under 5000 people on the north side of the Colorado River and is renowned for its coal mining heritage.



Forty young people gathered at **Nyborg City Hall, Denmark** in November for "Youth Takeover Day" - acting as the city council itself for a day.

The purpose of the day is to show how the council works, but at the same time, the young people's input is a big win for the city council, as there are often a lot of good ideas for the council.



David Down, Deputy Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne** was on a private holiday in South Africa in November and took the opportunity to visit **Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal** for the occasion of the annual Armistice Day service and parade that remembers those who fell in service during the world wars and conflicts since. His hosts were former soldiers called the MOTHs (Members of the Tin Hats) - its buildings are called Shell Holes! Upon arriving at the local cemetery, a bugler played The Last Post for the laying of wreaths and poppies upon the memorial tombstone of the Lych Gate. The flags were lowered and the National Anthem sounded. During the memorial, Cllr Down (right) joined MOTH Danie Fourie in unveiling a commemorative plaque at the Lych Gate.



OTHER NEWS



Newcastle-under-Lyme in England has a new Leader of the Council. Simon Tagg, who was previously Leader from 2006 - 11, has taken over the role. The Conservative Party which he leads now has a majority working with smaller parties.



Our Newcastle Municipality in **South Africa** has again won the highly sought-after Govan Mbeki Award for the Best Performing Municipality at the national Excellence Awards. Mayor Councillor Makhosini Eric Nkosi and Municipal Manager; Mr Bhikani Errol Mswane accompanied by municipal officials from the Department of Development Planning & Human Settlements, took to stage to accept the award for the 2nd time in 5 years.

With Councillor Matthew Shunmugam as Portfolio Chair and, Ms. Nokuthula Thusi as the Strategic Executive Director, a skilled team of built environment professionals is active in building 700 new houses every year but also refurbishing many government owned flats.



Residents of New Castle, Delaware, USA in costume as part of their Spirit of Christmas Charles Dickens Victorian weekend (meeting NBC broadcasters)

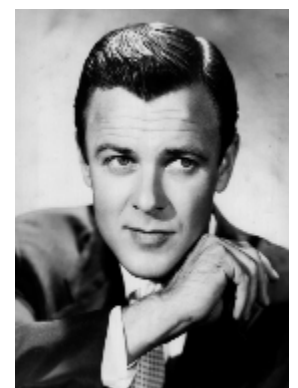
With 10 participating chocolatiers, **Neuchâtel** presented the 4th edition of its annual chocolate celebration, Chocolatissimo for nine days in November. The Swiss canton has a long history of chocolate-making, dating back to the Swiss chocolate pioneer, Philippe Suchard (1797-1884). This event helps to celebrate the rich heritage of chocolate in Neuchâtel, while also honoring current and future generations of chocolatiers.



Each year, the participating chocolatiers prepare three new bars of chocolate to taste and purchase on the first day of the event. For Chocolatissimo 2017 they were: Orange et amande: Milk chocolate (36%) with orange and almond; Thé vert et Poivre du Sichuan: Dark chocolate (49%) with green tea and Sichuan pepper; Mocca pétillant: Milk chocolate (36%) flavoured with coffee.



New Castle, Pennsylvania is marking the centenary of the birth of the late actor and film star Robert Sterling. The son of Chicago Cubs baseball player William Hart, Sterling was born in New Castle in November 1917. He made many pictures for Columbia (such Mr Smith Goes to Washington), 20th Century Fox and MGM – starring opposite Ava Gardner in Showboat.



Sterling is perhaps most well-known for starring with Anne Jeffreys (whom he married) in the television program Topper, based on the original 1937 film of the same name. It aired on the CBS network from 1953 to 1955. In the 1960s he featured in many television series such as The Twilight Zone, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour and Naked City. As late as the 1980s he guest-starred on familiar shows like Fantasy Island and Murder, She Wrote.



On 13th November 1967 the great civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King Jr came to **Newcastle upon Tyne** to receive an honorary degree from Newcastle University, the only academic institution outside the USA to honour him in this way.

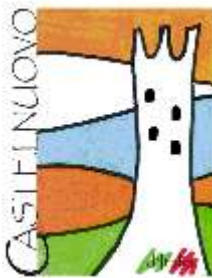
This November, 50 years later, a magnificent statute of Dr King was unveiled at the University by Andrew Young, Dr King's associate in the civil rights movement who was with him in Newcastle all those years ago and who later became Mayor of Atlanta - one of Newcastle's twin cities.

It was a very moving occasion.



Shinshiro City, our "Newcastle" in Japan, celebrated its month-long maple festival in November, where the community enjoys the wonderful late autumn colours on the hills of Mount Horaiji. This is a natural treasure with the whole mountain designated as a national monument and place of scenic beauty.

The old Horaiji Temple (pictured), located around halfway up the sacred mountain, is said to have been founded by a hermit called Rishu 1300 years ago. There is a long approach to the temple which is 1,425 steps on stone from the foot of the mountain, as the magnificent landscape gradually comes into sight. Sections of the pathway are lit up making the colours even more breathtaking.



Pictured is a gathering of Mayors of different **Castelnuovos** ("Newcastles") in **Italy**.

There are 26 municipalities in Italy with the name Castelnuovo or Castenovo, plus some smaller communities. Our friend Alberto Soli of Castelnuovo Rangone in the province of Modena acts as coordinator of many of these "Newcastles" to work together.

It would be great if they could be represented at our next Newcastles of the World conference in October in Shinshiro !



A four year restoration of Newcastle's replica William the Fourth ship is complete, thanks to a small, dedicated group of volunteers, Their spokesman is Bob Cook, our Newcastles of the World main contact who was honoured with an Order of Australia medal last year for his life-time service to heritage preservation.

The working replica of **Australia's** first coal-powered ship was built for the country's national 1988 bicentenary in Newcastle . But after operating for 14 years on Newcastle Harbour using only a steam engine and side paddles, and after some mishaps, it fell on hard times. Now the ship has been rebuilt, re-caulked, repainted and fitted with a modern engine to become a significant tourist attraction on Newcastle Harbour



Bob Cook -second from the left above)



Where else to celebrate Christmas in Newcastles than in one of our castles? Here is a very nice photo from inside the courtyard at the magnificent medieval castle in **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia.



Congratulations to **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic which has won a national award for being the most seniors-friendly town (category of 1000-3000 population) in the country. This follows earlier national awards for being the most family-friendly town!

ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD : There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998 . Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014 and Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.