

# Newcastles News

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • August - September 2015

## ONWARDS AND UPWARDS !

With Zelie and Mo in place and working up our projects, and generous funding from a number of our Newcastles (and a special thank you to Neuchâtel), the Newcastles of the World alliance is definitely moving forward! And more and more people are taking notice - hundreds on Facebook, and an individual mailing list of almost 1500 people and organisations in over 40 different Newcastles - in nearly 30 countries !

Our Newcastles Forum, to help us exchange information and best practice, is in place: [www.newcastlesforum.com](http://www.newcastlesforum.com). In this edition of the newsletter we feature some of those projects and areas of mutual interest, we have our youth, sport, business, culture and tourism pages, and we spotlight Jaunpils and two special people in Akhaltsikhe and Nové Hradý

## RECOGNITION AT CANNES FOR FILM SET IN SHINSHIRO



The film "AN", which was shot in Shinshiro, was nominated in the "Un Certain Regard" section at the 2015 Cannes International film - it's for films of different visions and styles, "original and different". In the movie, the heroine is born in Shinshiro. It's about a man, Sentaro, who runs a small bakery that serves dorayakis - pastries filled with sweet red bean paste ("an"). When an old lady, Tokue, offers to help in the kitchen he reluctantly accepts. But Tokue proves to have magic in her hands when it comes to making "an". Thanks to her secret recipe, the little business soon flourishes... and with time, Sentaro and Tokue



open their hearts to reveal old wounds. Scenes were filmed at Sakurabuchi Park (cherry blossoms) and Yotsuya rice paddies in Shinshiro. The director Naomi Kawase and writer Durian Sukegawa recently held a talk show at the Shinshiro Cultural Hall - and attracted more than 1300 citizens!



Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster and his team are looking forward to welcoming other Newcastles next September. The link below will tell you more about this Canadian Newcastle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6OovlUpRyg>

## VISITOR RECORD FOR NEUBURG'S CASTLE FESTIVAL

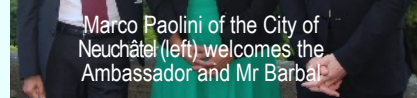
New attendance records were set at this year's Neuburg Schlossfest. Over 110,000 people visited the atmospheric Renaissance festival over the two festival weekends with a record 26,000 on its first day, Friday June 25.

Every two years the citizens of Neuburg and many tourists stroll through the old town, lots of them wearing Renaissance costumes. In the castle yard a variety of concerts and dancing performances take place. Knights fight for a trophy in the yard of the "Marstall", the historic horse stable. On the streets of the old town there is a medieval market, where merchants sell jewellery, costumes, drinks and food, and musicians walk the streets entertaining the visitors.



## Neuchâtel strengthens links with South Africa

In May the city of Neuchâtel was delighted to host the Ambassador of South Africa in Switzerland, Mrs Claudinah Ramosepele, during a visit to the Canton of Neuchâtel, with Mr Alain Barbal, Director of the Canton's Department of Economic Affairs.



Marco Paolini of the City of Neuchâtel (left) welcomes the Ambassador and Mr Barbal

City representatives had the opportunity and the pleasure to explain to Her Excellency the links they have with her country and especially with Newcastle South Africa through the Alliance of Newcastles of the World. Her Excellency expressed great interest in the development plans that the Alliance agreed in Nové Hradý.

## IN THE RUNNING FOR TOWN OF THE YEAR!

Our South African Newcastle has been shortlisted for national town of the year and is in the running for a 30-second advert and KYKnet ad placement valued at one million rand!



# NEW CITY PRÉSIDENT FOR NEUCHÂTEL

Thomas Facchinetti has become Président of the Conseil Communal (Executive/Cabinet) of the City of Neuchâtel for the year 2015/16. He also holds responsibility for Culture, Sport and Tourism. Mr Facchintetti first became a member of the Conseil Communal in 2012 and was Vice President during the administrative year 2014-2015. He was a member of the City's Conseil général from 1997 to 2012.



## UK NEWCASTLES HAVE NEW CIVIC LEADERS

The Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme for 2015/16 is Councillor Sandra Hambleton (*right*). She was elected as a Staffordshire County Councillor in 1997, and six years later was additionally successful in being elected to the Borough Council. Her husband Trevor is also a councillor and a former Lord Mayor.

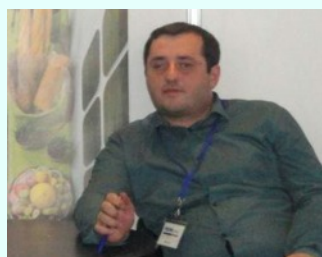
The Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne for 2015/16 is Councillor Ian Graham. He worked for Newcastle University in their Estates Division, represented the city for four years as a Director of Newcastle International Airport and continues that association as a member of the Airport Consultative Committee. The Deputy Lord Mayor and Sheriff is Councillor Hazel Stephenson.



## MEET LEVAN MIKABERIDZE FROM AKHALTSIKHE

I was born in Akhaltsikhe and graduated from Meskheti branch of Ivane Javakishvili State University, faculty of law 1999-2003. In 2003 I started working for Petrofac as a safety officer. After six months I left for England as an exchange student to learn English language.

I was going to come back in six months and continue working for Petrofac in a better position. However, I enjoyed being in England so much that I decided to stay longer. I enrolled upon a new college course and extended my visa. I had to look for a job and it had to be a weekend job, as I needed my college attendance to get my certificate. There were hard times, temporary and



agency work and so on, but eventually I managed to get a permanent part time job. I started to work for the famous English designer Jane Simpson who runs several shops across Britain. Our company sold all kind of items to decorate interior and exteriors, our products were featured in many large high street stores' window displays, tv shows, magazines, the latest films, hotels, country's leading weddings, parties and stadiums. I worked there as sales assistant for three years and as sales manager for 5 years. In 2008 I completed a course in business administration at Pimlico Academy London.

I returned to Georgia in 2012, got married. I have a wife and two-year old son. I started to work for local government as a tourism development specialist in 2012.

Today, I work for City Hall of Akhaltsikhe Municipality as head of the tourism, sports and youth affairs department. We recently published a tourist brochure "Akhaltsikhe: centre of samtskhe-javakheti" - it includes all interesting information for tourists about our region. We also implemented several projects to develop the tourism infrastructure. I am very pleased to be so closely involved with other Newcastles of the world - we have much to learn but much to contribute too.



**NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD** : 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 Hradky in the Czech Republic in 2014.

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.

# NEWS FROM THE NEWCASTLES ALLIANCE

## Newcastles Networking

Since 1998, when the Mayor of Shinshiro invited representatives from seven other “Newcastles” to his city for the first **Newcastles of the World** conference, we have been discussing and developing our ideas together and our network has continued to grow! We meet every two years in a different host city to discuss and develop our partnerships in tourism, business, culture, education and so much more.

These biennial meetings are a great way to further our aims; but a lot of work takes place in between the conferences too. Now, with the establishment of a NotW secretariat we are developing projects all year round. Why not join the debate on social media and find out more about what’s happening across the network? So many good ideas begin with a spark of common interest on social media and we now have our own dedicated “Forum” to discuss new projects. Each month we have a special “Spotlight On” feature focusing on the unique beauty of one of the Newcastles in our network.

Stay in touch with over 1500 people from over 40 different Newcastles in almost 30 countries around the globe - share ideas and projects; promote your events and help us look for more areas of mutual benefit.



Here's where to find us:  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld>  
Twitter @Nclsoftheworld  
The Newcastles Forum <http://www.newcastlesforum.com>



“In a couple of months we’ll be launching our online **NEWCASTLES PASSPORT**” says Zelig Guerin, “where we’ll be setting out a range of contacts and visitor benefits in all of the participating Newcastles; we hope it will be a real boost to tourism and building connections. Meanwhile, if you need contacts or information, for a journey or perhaps you’re thinking of a work placement, then do get in touch with us and we’ll try to help”

## SHARE BEST PRACTICE in the areas we agreed are priorities for us all

Developing the tourism offer of our Newcastles, individually and collectively.

Maintaining the vitality of our town and district centres, and of our surrounding rural economies - and encouraging business activity locally.

Meeting the challenges of an ageing population – and encouraging a voice for older people.

Strengthening civic identity - projects to encourage local pride and strengthen the branding of our Newcastles

Affordable Housing - building more houses for local people, or cheap places to rent.

Reducing inequalities and improving cohesion between communities - projects that bring people together.

Improving the skills and employability of our young people.

New uses for old and/or historic buildings.

Environmental sustainability including increasing recycling

Connecting with citizens to improve communication, involvement and engagement - projects that encourage voting or give people more of a say on what goes on.

Got something to share or find out about? Contribute an article for the next newsletter?

Check out The Newcastles Forum <http://www.newcastlesforum.com> OR our website <http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/best-practice-information/> OR contact Zelig, Mo or David



## Global Schools Project



In 2015/16 there’s a unique opportunity for Newcastle schools to take part in an international programme.

There are over 100 places in the world that share the name “Newcastle” from Neuchâtel in Switzerland to Shinshiro in Japan. Each place has its own unique culture, customs, heritage and geography – not to mention so many languages! Our unique schools programme offers an opportunity to partner with a school in a Newcastle in another part of the world.

This is a great way for children to learn about people from other places, whilst feeling a common bond – we share a name! With support from educationalists we offer resources and an educational pack for teachers to support their work in the classroom – as well as a chance to correspond and share work online and in person.

Six schools have signed up to the programme already, but we’re still looking for more!

In 2012 we ran a pilot project and connected 12 UK schools with an overseas Newcastle. Children learnt about the traditions and customs from Japan, Australia, South Africa, Malaysia, France, Georgia, Romania, Latvia and the USA producing projects in Geography, Science, Languages, Art and Music. Schools also made welcome banners and paintings for the delegates of the 2012 conference and we processed through the streets of Newcastle with our banners and flags, singing songs and learning dances from all over the world.

If you’d like to find out more about this year’s programme please email [molvatt@hotmail.com](mailto:molvatt@hotmail.com) telling us a little bit about your school.

# Businesses celebrate win for Newcastle-under-Lyme

Businesses in Newcastle-under-Lyme have voted in favour of making the town a Business Improvement District. There was a strong turnout vote in favour with 63% of the businesses and (67% by rateable value} voting in favour of the BID - giving a clear majority for the next five years from 1 October 2015.

Under the BID, businesses will pay between 1% and 1.5% of their rateable value of their premises with fixed bands for the smaller businesses. This will generate around 350,000 euros a year for the next five years which will be used to fund activity identified in the business plan.

The initiative has been developed by the Town Centre Partnership who formed a BID Steering Group made up of business representatives from across the town, working with the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council They carried out extensive research in preparation for the Newcastle-under-Lyme BID five-year business plan. This included participation by businesses in surveys, extensive one-to-one interviews and numerous workshops and street surveys with the general public.

Eddie Leligdowicz, Chair of Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre Partnership BID Steering Group and Director of McDonalds Midlands Region, said: 'this is an exciting project which gives businesses their own budget and a real influence on matters which directly impact upon their ability to attract clients and customers and make a difference to their turnover and profit'.

Councillor John Williams, the Borough Council's Cabinet member for town centres, business and assets, said: "The Council, which owns a number of properties in the town centre, voted in favour of the BID and I am absolutely delighted other stakeholders have done the same because the BID will help to deliver the changes and improvements that businesses in the area want to see.

"These will include a wide range of activities and events which help to drive customer visits and encourage people to stay longer and enjoy what Newcastle has to offer.. All the partners who want to see a vibrant, busy and safe Newcastle town centre have been given the green light to get on and deliver this now, which is marvellous news."

From this feedback three key objectives emerged under the vision of 'Supporting all businesses and organisations in Newcastle-under-Lyme through the promotion of the town as a distinctive, vibrant, university market-town with a unique retail, leisure and cultural experience and leading quality professional service businesses serving global clients.' They are:



Promote Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Develop the distinctive Newcastle-under-Lyme experience  
Growth, Development and Investment

Further information: Ian Ferguson Partnerships for Better Business (UK)  
ian.ferguson@pfbbuk.co.uk; or Eddie Leligdowicz (chair of BID steering group):  
eddie@lemaca.co.uk

BIDs are part of the government's long-term strategy, to encourage partnership working between a Local Authority and the business community. BIDs are an investment in the local trading environment through the provision of added value services. BIDs are funded by local businesses through a levy on their rates bill, therefore all beneficiaries pay. There are now around 200 BIDs in the UK – one of them being in Newcastle upon Tyne.

## UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES ( DRONES)

Newcastle, KZN, South Africa has received donor funding from the European Union which is to be used to service land next to its airport for the establishment of a new technology hub. One of the projects being developed is the establishment of a Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drones) research and testing facility.

South Africa has become the leader in such development is the leading country as new regulations were recently promulgated that regulate the use of these drones. Newcastle has now submitted an application to the National Airspace committee to reserve airspace in its area to be dedicated for the testing of drones. Once this application has been approved Newcastle will be the only town in SA where drones can be tested. It is hoped that this will attract investors and researchers to the area. Contact Ferdie Alberts, Newcastle Municipality, for more information: ferdiea@newcastle.gov.za

Earlier this year, the City of Nyborg and the Danish-Chinese Business Forum held a special event to encourage business to look more closely at opportunities of trade with China. The programme consisted of two parts – a business seminar and a Chinese dinner as part of New Year Celebrations



Opening the seminar, Mayor Kenneth Muhs (*pictured right*) together with Erik Christensen, Deputy Mayor & Head of the China Committee of the City of Nyborg, shared their experiences and views regarding Chinese investments in Nyborg. Thorkil K. Christensen, Chairman of Danish-Chinese Business Forum discussed how SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) can prepare themselves for the Chinese market, offering insights to both SMEs that are considering entering the Chinese market as well as those who are already present.

Prior to the dinner, His Excellency Mr Liu Biwei, the Chinese Ambassador to Denmark shared his insights about the year to come according to the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, for the Year of the Goat. Various Chinese cultural activities accompanied the programme, including a traditional tea ceremony, entertainment with traditional and modern Chinese music and song, and a presentation by Professor Johannes Nørregaard Frandsen on why Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales are so widely known and loved in China.

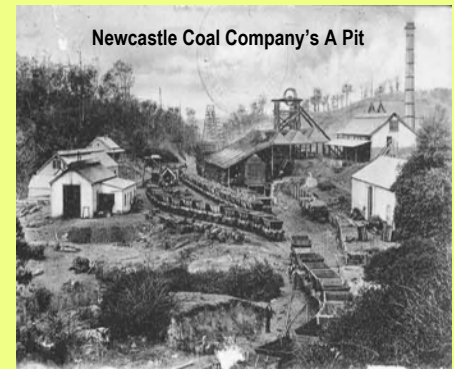
# THE AUSSIES AND THE GEORDIES

Two welcome visitors to Newcastle upon Tyne recently were Bill and Elaine Ruddick from Newcastle, Australia. Bill (along with our colleague Bob Cook) is a member of the Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association (<http://www.niha.org.au/>) and he and Elaine took the opportunity to visit a number of local heritage landmarks, including the restored Dunston Staithes (a landing stage for loading and unloading cargo, especially coal), the largest timber structure in Europe.

The links between Newcastle upon Tyne and Newcastle, Australia go back a long way. They have been official "twin cities" only since 1987, but the Australian Newcastle not only owes its name to Newcastle upon Tyne - both being port cities that serve coal mining areas - but has traditionally welcomed many from the Newcastle upon Tyne area who settled there.



**NEWCASTLE**



Bill and Elaine told us about the "The Geordie Club" in their area. The Geordie Club was the name of an association of migrants to New South Wales, Australia, that flourished during the 1930's, comprised of families who had migrated to Australia, particularly to the areas of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, seeking work and better opportunities. The name "Geordie" is one given to people from the Newcastle upon Tyne area. Under the rules of the Geordie Club of New South Wales, full members had to be born in the Counties of Northumberland and Durham, England in north east England. The Club was a way for Geordies to stay in contact and this came about through social events, picnics and monthly meetings where comedy sketches, choirs and poetry readings would entertain the families with reminders of their former homeland. Christmas was a special time when members would visit each others' homes, entertaining with humorous stories, songs and poems.

The Club appears to have disbanded soon after the outbreak of World War 2, some of the Geordie members, having already served in the British forces in World War 1, signing up once more, in the Australian Army.

A number of rival theories explain how the term "Geordie" came about, though all accept that it derives from a familiar diminutive form of the name George, a very common name among the coal miners in North East England; indeed, it was once the most popular name for eldest sons in the region. One explanation is that it was established during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The natives of Newcastle were staunch supporters of the Hanoverian king George II during the rebellion. Another explanation is that local miners in the north east of England used safety lamps they called "Geordies", designed by the famous local inventor George Stephenson, the "father of the railways", rather than the competing Davy lamps, designed by Humphry Davy, used in other mining communities.

## THE OLYMPIC FLAME IS LIT IN AKHALTSIKHE BY THE MAYOR



The Olympic flame for the 2015 European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) landed in Georgia's seaside city Batumi ahead of the Tbilisi 2015 torch relay after being flown from Athens, Greece on May 28.

The torch left Batumi and was transported across the municipalities of Georgia. The Mayor of Akhaltsikhe City Hall, Giorgi Kopadze, with veteran athletes, lit the Olympic Flame at Akhaltsikhe Castle on May 29<sup>th</sup>.



The New Castle Town (New York State) Board has created an arts and culture committee under a plan which will save the old DeWitt Wallace Auditorium. The fine auditorium, named after the co-founder of Reader's Digest, was planned to be demolished. Now it will be donated to the town as part of the approval of retail at the Chappaqua Crossing development. Calling the theater a "priceless cultural resource," Town Supervisor Rob Greenstein said the town's mission is now to "improve our entire community's quality of life by enhancing culture and the arts."





Over 30,000 scouts and guides from almost every country in the world are at the 23rd **WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE** in Japan at the end of July– and Newcastle of the World feature there! The theme of the jamboree is 'Wa' which means harmony, unity, friendship and peace - creating a 'spirit of unity' to share others' cultures and faiths, take part in adventurous activities and grow as global citizens to tackle world issues.

Representatives from the North East of England have chosen to feature the Newcastle of the World family as their example of unity and friendship. With our help they are taking with them a large Newcastle of the World pop-up banner. The Jamboree is being held in Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City from July 28 to August 8.

Newcastle upon Tyne volunteer Karen Giles tell us “We are self-funding and attending as adult volunteers along with a number of other adults and young people from the North East region. The Newcastle team will run a short activity at the Jamboree entitled “Coal, Castles and Culture”.

“The activity will be open to young people and leaders from across the world during the time of the Jamboree and we hope that they will learn a little bit about what unites these places throughout the globe that share the same name in their language”.

There is a representative at the Jamboree from Shinshiro - and how many from other Newcastle among the 30,000, we wonder? We hope they meet up.



## SOCCER STAR IS GIVING BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY

The annual Siyabonga Nkosi Youth Festival, named after the Kaizer Chiefs football club midfielder and President of Bigger Than Life Entertainment, started in 2006 as a tournament to give back to the community of Amajuba (Newcastle District). It has evolved over the years to become one of the most anticipated events in the sporting and cultural calendar within the District.



Coming from the rural community of Mndoza just outside Newcastle, Nkosi's life story is a genuine example of combining vision with hard work and determination to achieve far-reaching dreams and yet still stay true to your passion, whilst seeking to develop and see other people reach their potential. He has created a platform for the youth to refine, expose and display their skills and talents while positively contributing to their lives by raising awareness of social-ills and encouraging positive living.

Nkosi is passionate about community development and his vision is to see youngsters develop and uncover their full potential through his initiative of providing the youth of the district with a platform to showcase their many talents. The South African international (25 caps), is accompanied every year by sports scouts during the festival to look for players who are capable of playing within the South African soccer leagues. The festival runs over an entire week incorporating games featuring celebrities and media personalities, visits to public sectors, arts and culture, entertainment and talents shows.

## NEW SCHOOL FOR NEUBURG

In a few weeks the teachers and pupils of the “Schwalbangerschule” in Neuburg will move into a new building. More than four years of planning and two years of construction have passed since the Council decided to replace the old primary school by a new building.

When Mayor Bernhard Gmehling travelled to Munich just a few weeks before completion, he was pleased to learn that the City would receive two more million Euros from the Bavarian Ministry of Finance for the renovation and expansion of our so-called “Schwalbanger” School, where pupils will be supervised even outside of lesson time.

The complete amount contributed by the government is about 4.2 million euros. The total costs for building a new school, modernising the gym and restructuring the school yard amount to 10.6 million euros.

# Jaunpils' place in national youth festival

The Latvian School Youth Song and Dance Festival is the biggest Latvian children and youth culture and arts festival, and takes place every five years in Riga. Children and young people are the ones who confirm that the ancient Latvian singing, dancing and musical traditions are continued and held in honour. The festival is extremely diverse - with choirs, dance groups, brass bands, small music collectives, folk music ensembles, visual and applied arts as well as youth theatre and art collectives and folklore groups. This year among the 38,000 pupils was the choir from **Jaunpils Secondary Schools** (led by Master Mrs. Kabaka) and also folk dancers (led by Master Mrs. Liepina).



The Jugendparlament of Neuburg an der Donau were active during Europe Week and held a meeting with Dr. Beate Merk, minister of state for European affairs and regional relations; Dr. Aurelia C. K. Frick, foreign minister, principality of Liechtenstein; William E. Moeller, consul general of the United States; and Jean-Claude Brunet, consul general of France. During the city's Schlossfest, there was a traditional welcome to members of the Parlement des Jeunes of Neuchâtel (right).



## SHINSHIRO'S NEW YOUTH COUNCIL MEETS



The first Shinshiro youth congress was held in the City Council chamber at the beginning of June. Twenty members will ensure that the voice of young people is heard in the city. The chairman, who was elected by vote of the members, is Mr. Shuhei Takeshita. Vice-Chairman is Ms. Riho Sugiki. Each member expressed a statement of commitment and beliefs as a youth council member.

"Our thanks to other members of the Newcastles of the world alliance for their support in getting us to this important stage" says Miho Ishino who coordinates this work for the city - contact [ishino-miho@city.shinshiro.lg.jp](mailto:ishino-miho@city.shinshiro.lg.jp). Miho will lead a team of ten young people from Shinshiro who will visit Neuchatel in early August.

The Firehouse is a drop-in recreational program available to young people in Newcastle and from around the Clarington Municipality area, open 3-8pm Tuesdays-Fridays. It has a wide variety of resources from structured sports programmes, a pool, ping-pong and air hockey table, computers, videos games (PS4 and XBOX1), free wifi, fully functional kitchen and snack program and so much more... Youth of all ages are welcomed to enjoy the use of the pool table, basketball court, hockey nets. In addition, the youth centre has plenty of baseball gloves, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, boxing bag/gloves, and more... The Centre offers all of the equipment for use FREE OF CHARGE!

What does do other Newcastles offer your young people?

## "FUN, CREATIVITY AND INSPIRATION"



<http://thefirehouse.ca/>

## From Sonic to Samus, Mario to Minecraft – Play On!



Until the end of the year Newcastle upon Tyne's "Centre for Life" hosts a major international exhibition that will appeal to families, school groups and people of all ages. Game On 2.0 is the world's biggest collection of playable computer games from the past 60 years. It explores the vibrant history, culture and future of gaming entertainment and technology through more than 100 playable games.

Visitors can play on retro consoles from the 1970s, enjoy the dedicated arcade games section, including *Pac-Man*, *Virtua Fighter 2* and *Donkey Kong* as well as contemporary favourites including Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii and PlayStation 3 with games such as *Halo 3*, *Wii Sports Resort* and *Rock Band*. They can also step into the future with cutting edge technologies such as virtual reality, 3D technology and thought interface technology and dive into the design process from concept to packaging for some of the most recent games like *Pokémon*, and *Tomb Raider*.



Almost 600 people from 35 countries work at the Centre for Life: researchers, doctors and nurses alongside people in the fields of education, public engagement and business. At the heart of the science village is the Life Science Centre, which attracts around 250,000 visitors annually. Life's education team deliver the biggest schools' science workshop programme in any European museum or science centre.

Onsite partners include Newcastle University, who chose Life for the location of their Institute of Genetic Medicine; the National Health Service Newcastle Fertility Centre; the NHS Northern Genetics Service and several young and vibrant biotechnology companies. The £100m million landmark site was designed by Sir Terry Farrell. Previously it had been a hospital and a livestock market, and - a long time ago - a Roman settlement!

# UPGRADING OF NEWCASTLE AIRPORT LINKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Agreement has been reached with one of the largest private airlines in South Africa ( SA Airlink) who will begin scheduled flights between Johannesburg and Newcastle once the airport has become compliant with civil aviation regulations. "We are currently working very hard to get all the requirements sorted out" says Ferdie Alberts, Newcastle Municipality's Head of Local Economic Development, "and the planning is that flights will begin between Johannesburg and Newcastle from January 2016 - and be a boost to business and tourism."



## Nyborg Castle gets a quarter of a billion kroner

The unique historic preservation zone around Nyborg Castle and the Town Hall Square will be restored and revitalized. Most of the funds needed for the project are now in place. The project's vision is to recreate the historic whole and, at the same time, bring new life to the area. The project's creators are: the Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties, the Municipality of Nyborg, the Realdania Foundation, the A.P. Møller Fund and the Museums of Eastern Funen.

Free Access to the Internet is available at several places in **Neuburg an der Donau**: WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) is available free of charge and Mayor Bernhard Gmehling, the IT-Service and the department "Stadtmarketing" have added more places in the city with access. "The aim is to offer citizens, customers and tourists the opportunity of an easy navigation of the centre of our town" says Mayor Gmehling "We want to invite them to visit our city - and stay of course. With this service we also hope to increase the attractiveness of Neuburg as a shopping town". More information can be obtained at [www.neuburg-donau.de/wlan](http://www.neuburg-donau.de/wlan)



Malaysia Airlines (MAS) have released a new promotional video called *#lundangtonewcastle*. Lundang to Newcastle is a love story between a UK-born Malaysian in London and a girl from Kota Bharu, Kelantan. It's an 8-minute short story narrated through interviews with their friends and family who tell the story about their love across thousands of miles. "Each day, Malaysia Airlines flies an average of 45,000 guests, many of whom fly MH from various parts of the world to Malaysia. Most importantly, MH flies fellow Malaysians home. With Malaysia Airlines, you're home even when you're away," the video says. Uploaded in May, it now has 300,000 views on YouTube.

The jury at the 15th NIFFF's (Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival) has awarded the festival's main prize, the H.R. Giger "Narcisse" award for best picture, to Jeremy Saunier's *Green Room*, a crime thriller starring Patrick Stewart. The jury called Saunier's film "an unstoppable and irresistibly dark coming-of-age survival, and a punk rock killer machine of a story". With the Narcisse award, Saunier also wins a cash prize of 10,000 Swiss francs (approx \$10,650) from the city of Neuchâtel.

The fast-growing film festival, with a budget of €1.7m is now one of the major movie events in Switzerland, selling 35,000 tickets.



The castle in Newcastle upon Tyne has been busy recruiting archers - for the first time in centuries. It is hoped that the two stylized two metre-high metal archers will help the Castle Keep in Newcastle hit its visitor targets. The archers have been created by blacksmith Kevin Boys, who produced similar figures for the Tower of London. They have been placed on the roof of the Newcastle fortress, with one firing a crossbow and the other a longbow.

They are the latest addition to the castle which, with the Black Gate, re-opened in March after refurbishment by the Old Newcastle project, backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Project manager Kate Sussams said: "The Old Newcastle Project has breathed new life into Newcastle Castle, with new displays about the history of the Keep and Black Gate".



## Newcastle Ontario's Boat Festival

The 21st Wooden Boat Festival took place at the beautiful Port of Newcastle Marina in Newcastle Ontario in July. Activities include wooden boat vendors, barbeque, games, vendors, music and entertainment and more,





# Battling it out at Shinshiro !

During the Sengoku period (1482-1573), the Takeda family was one of the strongest clans in Japan, known in particular for its successful cavalry charges. Yet in 1575, it found itself up against something that rendered it powerless — the new western technology of firearms.

In early July that year, allies of Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Ieyasu attacked and defeated Takeda Katsuyori's forces, who had besieged Nagashino castle. The Battle of Shitaragahara, also known as the Battle of Nagashino, became recognized as a turning point for Japanese warfare because of Oda's effective use of guns. It was the first battle for which firearms played a major role in victory.

Each year, locals of Shinshiro in Aichi Prefecture commemorate this famous event with the Shitaragahara Battlefield Festival, which takes place at the original site. On July 6, after a memorial service dedicated to those who died in battle, visitors enjoyed various performances, including a drumming show and a children's samurai-costume parade. The highlight of the festival was a demonstration by men, dressed in period costume, using authentic matchlock guns, just as Oda's forces did more than 400 years ago. Other attractions include stalls selling special foods and locally made miscellaneous goods.

The site of former Nagashino castle was protected as a National Historic Landmark in 1929, the first time a former castle site had received such protection. Located at a fork of two rivers, all that remains of the castle today are remnants of moats and some stonework.



## YVES SAINT LAURENT EXHIBITION MADE POSSIBLE BY SPONSORSHIP OF FENWICK OF NEWCASTLE

From July to October, the Bowes Museum, located in North East England to the south of Newcastle upon Tyne, is hosting the first ever exhibition of Yves Saint Laurent in the UK, in partnership with the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent, Paris. It features 50 iconic garments, as well as accessories, and previously unseen sketches, photographs, contact sheets, collection boards and video footage, forming a comprehensive and intimate look at Saint Laurent's working world.

The exhibition contains many of Saint Laurent's "greatest hits" - from the wool crepe Mondrian dress, and Braque-inspired beaded jackets, to the Le Smoking tuxedo, and places Saint Laurent's work amongst the Bowes' own fashion collection. A saucy black dress with a lace window in the back (autumn/winter 1970) appears next to pieces of 19th century Chantilly lace and a lace-trimmed gown that belonged to the Empress Eugenie.

London fashion writers seem put out and appeared astonished that the first retrospective of Yves Saint Laurent's work to be held in the UK should be outside London. Perhaps this is not so odd, as the museum is in fact a 19th century French-style chateau - surely the perfect home for such an exhibition!

Ben Evans, of Vogue magazine, praised the exhibition for "Contextualising the work of one of the 20th century's greatest fashion designers, and the pleasure of seeing, in the flesh, pieces that have starred in fashion's most famous photographs, worn by the world's most beautiful women at the most fabulous parties." The exhibition sold out in its opening weekend following rave reviews in the regional and national press.

"Yves Saint Laurent: Style is Eternal" is sponsored by Newcastle-based Fenwick, the UK's premier independent department store group. The company is creating associated window displays in their Newcastle and York stores.



Fenwick was founded in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1882 and now has a portfolio of eleven stores throughout the country, with selections ranging from fashion and beauty to furniture and homewares. It opened a second store in London's New Bond Street in 1891. The Department Store concept emerged in Paris, and Fenwick immediately embraced it and adopted the idea of combining different types of goods in clearly defined departments all under the same roof.



## FROM NEWCASTLE TO JAUNPILS

In this edition we feature one of the smaller Newcastles, but Jaunpils is very committed as a participating member of the Newcastles network. Writing about Jaunpils for our newsletter are David and Anne Becket from Newcastle-under-Lyme, a former Mayor and Lady Mayoress, (*pictured left and right in the photo*). They visited Jaunpils at the beginning of the summer and here offer their reflections.

We first met the representatives from Jaunpils at the Newcastle Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2012, and again at Nove Hradý last year. The information they provided on Jaunpils attracted our interest, and further research led to a desire to visit a location that is one of our smaller Newcastles. Ten years ago on a tour of the Baltic States we visited Riga where the quality and quantity of Art Nouveau architecture left a lasting impression. We therefore decided to return to Riga and take the opportunity to visit Jaunpils.

Most of the journey from Riga to Jaunpils was through forest and marshes, typical of the area, but Jaunpils is in the middle of an area where agriculture provides the main employment. Our first impressions were of a spread out community and an attractive tree-lined drive to the castle (pils).

The castle is medieval, originally built by a German. It has been restored over the years but retains the atmosphere of a medieval residence. We stayed in one of the authentic bedrooms, complete with four-poster bed (but a modern bathroom), and ate in the cellar restaurant lit by candles. The resident ghost caused our bedroom lights to flicker when switched off! The castle is the main tourist attraction in the area. Medieval banquets, tours by suitably dressed tour guides, a museum, weddings, and conferences are all part of a very busy programme. Most tourists come from the Baltic States, with some from Russia, Poland and Germany.

We were made very welcome by Ligita Gintere the Chairwoman of the Municipality, Baiba Rasa (PR Consultant), and their colleagues. We visited the local school, where we were impressed with the creative work; we toured the castle, visited the library and a local cultural centre, and spent time in creative workshops and walking in the area.

We visited the nearest town, Tukums, a delightful small Latvian town with an interesting classical manor house (Durbe) and museum on the outskirts. There is a great deal to see in the Tukums region. It is not spectacular countryside but a variety of interests are catered for which are well publicized in a Tour Guide and on the Visit Tukums website. It is a good area for wildlife - even walking through the fields of Jaunpils we were surrounded by skylarks, rarely seen in the UK now.



**IMPRESSIONS:** The Latvian people were delightful, and made us very welcome. Latvia is a country with a recent turbulent history. Being part of the EU and a member of the Newcastles of the World grouping is important to them. They value our friendship; it is less than thirty years since we welcomed them when the Iron Curtain came down, we all should be supporting in any way we can.

**SUPPORT:** Jaunpils is a tourist attraction, mainly with tourists from within its region. It is unlikely that many tourists from the UK would find their way there on their own, but Newcastles of the World can help promote its attractions. There are Baltic State tours by coach; a lunch stop in the medieval restaurant whilst travelling between Riga and Rundale Palace might be a possibility. There are other tourist opportunities in the wider Tukums region. For schools contact there can be a language problem with children communicating by e-mail, but contact between teachers is certainly possible and should be encouraged.

## The Garden of herbs

In Latvia, June 21 is known as a Summer Solstice and Plant Day when all meadow plants and flowers are recognised to have very special powers - the power of nature. In the holiday house "Vagas", Arta Berezovska opened her long awaited project to the public - "The Garden of Natural life of Herbs". Arta says: "It shows not only the various species of herbs, but this garden is an adventure that will be a sustainable project in constant development in the future. Now it is just the beginning; plants are organised according to their blooming colours, and seasonally it's possible to identify the color of the garden squares.

Arta says that there will be different thematic events in the future. For further information see <http://dabasnotikumudarzs.mozello.com/>



# CREATING SUSTAINABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Newcastle Municipality, South Africa, is one of the fastest-growing towns within the KZN province and has committed itself to finding sustainable housing solutions to address the housing demand within the Municipality. Several projects have been initiated that will see the elimination of shacks and the rise of dignified houses for the residents of Newcastle.

Siyahlaha-la camp, which is situated about 3 km away from the Municipality's Central Business District, is earmarked for housing development that will ensure over 1200 residents receive new, serviced houses by the end of 2018.

Director for Housing and Land, Obed Muzi Shozi said the project is a first of its kind for Newcastle, "This is the first time our Municipality is building houses so close to town and it is also our first multi-racial housing initiative," said Shozi. "We would like to ensure that Siyahlaha-la has the same characteristics as the surrounding suburbs like Lennoxton, Hilldrop and Fairleigh." Shozi added Siyahlaha-la lies on an area that is water logged, and it is for this reason the Municipality had to secure new land for the development. A new substation has been provided by the electricity department for the electricity supply and a reservoir for water has been set up by the technical services department. The first phase of the installation of services is currently being completed while the second phase of construction will commence at the beginning of 2016. The Municipality is gearing itself to meet the national government's target of creating sustainable housing developments where people are able to own their properties, thereby giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Mayor Afzul Rehman says: "We are indeed proud of the giant leaps we have made regarding housing projects in and around Newcastle. It was a daunting task, taking on the province in making sure that our projects are approved and implemented, and today we are able to enjoy the fruits of that labour."

The Kwamathukuza housing project has been rebuilt and people are now living comfortably in that area. The Osizweni section E projects, with a total number of 1240 Houses, with 352 already built; the Khathide housing project with 2000 Houses, 638 already built, and the Emawozeni project which gives 142 New houses to people with disabilities, with 137 already built, are all well underway and the quality of these houses



are far superior to any house ever built by this municipality before. The same goes for the housing project at H39 Madadeni. We are currently busy with the bulk sewer system in the area and are moving ahead with identifying the beneficiaries in that project.

The Blaauwbosch housing project is one of those projects that will forever change the landscape of the area. Six million rand will go towards bulk water services in this area. The complete plan for this project will see just under 10 000 houses built in three phases."

More information: <http://newcastle.gov.za/about-dev-planning-human-settlements/> or contact Councillor Matthew Shunmugam, Lead Member for Development and Planning - [matts@newcastle.gov.za](mailto:matts@newcastle.gov.za)

Copenhagen-based Leth & Gori used exposed clay blocks and raw plywood to create a maintenance-free interior for this house in Nyborg, Denmark.

## NYBORG'S BRICK HOUSE

Brick House was designed as part of an initiative by philanthropic organisation Realdania to build six affordable residences in Nyborg – each by a different architect and each taking a different approach to sustainability.

Leth & Gori's single-storey building is designed to last 150 years and be maintenance-free for 50 years, using a single breathable material for the structure – clay. The exterior walls are brick, while insulating clay blocks line the interior, which have been left exposed in selected areas. Bare plywood lines the walls and ceiling above the exposed clay blocks, and has been treated with UV-protective sealant to preserve colour.

The 136 sqm house centres around a large communal kitchen/living/ dining space. Wide full-height windows face south and west bringing more light into the three bedrooms and the bathroom surrounding the space.

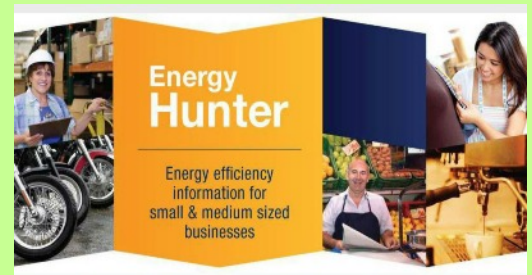


The City Hall of Akhaltsikhe Municipality, Georgia has started to build two-storey new sandwich panel-style, high-quality buildings covering 400 square meters. The buildings will be the largest asset for those lacking accommodation. More information - Levan Mikaberidze: [levani@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:levani@hotmail.co.uk)



# ENERGY HUNTER SCHEME PAYS DIVIDENDS

A programme based in Newcastle, Australia that helps businesses become more energy efficient was a finalist in the sustainability leadership award category of the United Nations Association of Australia, World Environment Day awards. The Energy Hunter project was a partnership between the Hunter Business Chamber, Newcastle City Council, and Hunter TAFE. Hunter Business Chamber chief executive Kristen Keegan said the partnership had helped support small and medium-sized businesses across the Hunter River area identify, manage, and improve their energy efficiency.



"It is vital to offer businesses real solutions to the range of energy challenges they face now and into the future and the program has realised important savings and efficiencies for a large number of businesses in our region," she said.

As the Energy Hunter program came to an end, the partner organisations celebrated a number of accomplishments related to energy support for local businesses. The programme has made significant contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the energy efficiency of member businesses and saving those businesses money, said Newcastle Lord Mayor Cr Nuatali Nelmes. "The City of Newcastle is proud of its achievements and the success of this program is a testament to what can be achieved through partnership and collaboration," said the Lord Mayor. "Council's role in this partnership has been to deliver the 'Living Laboratory' component of Energy Hunter."

Working with a network of 350 small businesses on an ongoing basis, Council has helped them become more energy efficient - reducing both their electricity consumption and their electricity bills, which helps them increase profits. More info: <http://theenergyhunterscheme.com.au/>

## Covenant of Mayors Sustainable Energy Action Plan



The Mayor of Akhaltsikhe, Giorgi Kopadze, has signed the Covenant of Mayors pledge on behalf of the City. The Covenant outlines how it intends to reach its CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target by 2020. It defines the activities and measures set up to achieve the targets, together with time frames and assigned responsibilities.

One part of this covenant has already been funded and implemented by Akhaltsikhe City Hall in that six central streets of Akhaltsikhe have new street lights that contribute 35-40% reduction of electricity and also will reduce CO<sub>2</sub>.



## CYCLING AMBITION IN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Multi-million pound cycling investment will put Newcastle upon Tyne in the vanguard of a two-wheeled revolution in UK regional cities, leaders believe. UK Government Cycling Minister Robert Goodwill said the city could be a "leading example" in how to develop cycle lanes, education and safety. He was speaking as hundreds of experts gathered at the Civic Centre for an international cycling conference and the opening of The Journey, a new central bike hub part funded by the Government.

Mr Goodwill, who was joined by Olympic gold medal-winning cyclist Chris Boardman (*on the left in the picture*) for the hub's launch on Thursday, said: "Another five years of concerted effort and investment and I believe we can build a cycling revolution in the North East."

Leader of Newcastle City Council Nick Forbes, who joined the Minister for a bike-ride through the city said his ambition was to see more people cycling. He said: "As a council we are determined to invest in our future by reducing congestion in our city and tackling the dominance of the car. Many cities in Europe have fantastic cycling infrastructure and I want Newcastle to rival its European counterparts."

Newcastle has £10.6m pledged to it by the Government as part of their Cycle City Ambition Fund which will go on schemes around the city. Some £5.7m given in an earlier round of funding will go towards improved roundabouts and new cycle lanes. Money from the fund has also been spent on The Journey hub, which has been developed by travel charity Sustrans, in partnership with Newcastle City Council. Its cafe will be run by Colour Coffee and Recyke y'Bike who are selling second hand bikes and carrying out repairs. Councillor Forbes said: "Newcastle received the largest amount from the Cycle City Ambition Fund of any city in the UK and that's testament to the partnership work with the cycling community."

# Cultural Co-operation: South Africa and Northern Ireland Two Newcastles : Searching for a Shared Context

The project *Two Newcastles: Searching for a Shared Context* aims to stimulate the scope of visual art in the respective contexts and inspire each community through engagement with the other. Both the Newcastle Arts Festival, County Down, Northern Ireland and Newcastle Creative Network, South Africa have made the encouragement of young people into creative practice an important part of their work. NCN is passionate about seeing young people succeed in all their creative undertakings while changing their lives and enlivening the community for the better through their creative ideas and cultural innovation.



In bringing together artists (visual artists, performers, actors and musicians) from different regions (Northern Ireland, South Africa) to compare practice and explore working methods across the two communities, the project challenges the co-production of an interdisciplinary a set of works (visual / theatrical / musical) responding to each context and encouraging fresh perspectives and new kinds of participation, against which the success of the project will be judged. The main objective of this project is the exchange of art and knowledge across national borders. The exchange is aimed at inspiring creative ideas - and, by working at capacity building, to enlarge networks that will foster ideas for future collaboration.

Ultimately the project is envisaged as a point through which the two organisations (NAF and NCN) are to exchange expertise on how to encourage young and emerging artists within relatively disadvantaged and rural communities to reach further than what they believe is currently possible, both having recognised the potential of expanding the horizons of its artists and community by establishing collaborations with other Newcastles of the world and involving the greater international community in participating in the intercultural markets. More - <http://newcastlecreativenetwork.org/about-us/>

## Creative Gathering of young people in Nové Hradý

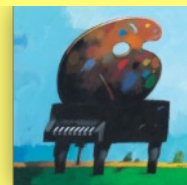


The Newcastle Creative Session in Nové Hradý, Czech Republic, is going ahead as planned - dates are August 12 through August 23. There are currently three students from Latvia and two from South Africa participating, as well as a number of young people from Nové Hradý. For those interested, there are still some places free for participants from non-visa countries. More information is on the Newcastles Forum web page (<http://newcastlesforum.com>) or contact Michael Jarolimek ([MJarolimek@seznam.cz](mailto:MJarolimek@seznam.cz))

## NEUBURG'S SUMMER ACADEMY

The Renaissance city Neuburg an der Donau has enjoyed many years of a very active cultural life. A pillar and a nationwide flagship is the Neuburg Summer Academy. This year, the internationally recognized training courses for visual arts, music and theatre will take place already in its 37th edition. From 2 to 15 August Neuburg again offers a multifaceted forum for all kinds of creativity.

There are 30 different courses in the fields of visual arts, jazz, classical, early music and theatre - are evidence of real inter-disciplinarity. Rounding out the attractive offer is an always well-attended children's academy and the youth studio. The Academy also maintains both proven elements and innovations such the Chamber Music Marathon - that's the secret of success of the two-week cultural and educational event.



## "AMERICA DAYS" CELEBRATION HELD IN AKHALTSIKHE

There's a strong and growing link between Georgia and the USA, who have supported many development and charity projects in the country. Akhaltsikhe's recognition of this relationship was through an "American Days" festival held in June. During the festival, guests were able to listen to American music and watch street dancing performed live by both Georgian and American artists and youth, hip-hop and rock fusion music group, "Dangerflow" based out of Miami, Florida. The U.S ambassador to Georgia, Richard Norland, came from Tbilisi to visit the festival - pictured here with Mayor Giorgi Kopadze.

# HE COOKED FOR PRESIDENTS

## NOW HE HAS HIS OWN RESTAURANT IN THE CASTLE OF NOVÉ HRADY



Chef and caterer Miroslav Dusek was one of the host team for the Newcastles of the World conference last year in Nové Hradý and has just opened a restaurant inside the conference venue, the 200 year-old Chateau Buquoy – the “new castle” of the town. Here we tell his fascinating story.

Miroslav left what was then Czechoslovakia at the age of 17, for the first two years in Zurich, Switzerland where he began working as an assistant to a fashion photographer. But he wanted see the world. “When I left for New York, I had an armful of letters of recommendation, but to succeed in New York as a photographer is not easy, so I went back to what I knew best from my father. I had worked with dad in restaurants and cafeterias - he loved cooking and taught me many things. So I started looking for work in kitchens”.

“I later went to Florida - I was a culinary adventurer. For ten years I worked in the best catering company in Miami, which had an excellent reputation. We cooked for US presidents Clinton and Obama, famous basketball players, also for singer Gloria Estefan. I learned to cook dishes from different countries”.



So what brought him back to the Czech Republic? “I was in retirement in America. I did not think there would be more work - I was going to pick mushrooms and fish. But now I have a new family, a daughter of five, I started again. My wife Marcela (*pictured right*), who I met in Miami, now works for the Academy of Sciences, based at the historic chateau in Nové Hradý. She was one of the organising team for the Newcastles of the World conference”.

When she came to me with the fact that they were having difficulties with catering for large conferences at the academy, I went ahead and started to do the food in what were makeshift facilities. We did it, they were happy and I was offered a restaurant here at the castle. I am such a person that if I give something, I do it properly and really well. It's a challenge for me, but we'll have a really good restaurant”.

When he arrived in Nové Hradý two winters ago he says “It was one of the mildest winters but I almost froze! - now I am slowly getting used to. People here are fantastic, they really are good people. I built a base. My goal is that all the food is made with local ingredients from local suppliers.



So I finally have a professional kitchen and brand new restaurant. The name of the restaurant is “ROTUNDA” and we are becoming a destination eating venue in the region. Since our grand opening three months ago, we have had many interesting special nights - American BBQ, Italian nights , steak nights and seafood parties - and I'm happy to say that they have all sold out!

My restaurant is intended to look like a mysterious medieval room. We offer hunting and fishing dishes, dishes with a historical style. And for all meals I want to have a lot of stories!”

Make sure you visit beautiful South Bohemia one day, and head for the Restaurant Rotunda in the castle of Nové Hradý. We're sure you'll enjoy the food that Miroslav will prepare – and his stories too!

The final four spans were recently lifted into place on the Anzac Walk in Newcastle, Australia. Funded by BHP-Billiton and Newcastle City Council, the walk honours not just the centenary of Anzac commemorations, but also the 100 years since BHP began making the steel in the city of Newcastle. Spanning 450 metres, including the 160-metre bridge, the walk will undoubtedly become one of the city's most iconic images. At each end of the bridge are silhouettes of returned services personnel that bear the 3859 family names of those Hunter men and women who served during the Great War of 1914-1918.

The walk provides sweeping southern and eastern views of the beaches and rocky cliffs, and magnificent views of the city to the west. Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the walk will complement the ambitious Bather's Way project being undertaken by the council, and spoke of her own personal connection to the bridge that carries her family name among those of other servicemen and women. “Whenever we walk here, we will remember those who never returned and those who mourned them”.

The Memorial Walk is inscribed with 3600 family names representing the 11,000 Hunter men and women who served in World War. Check out the video film on : <http://www.theherald.com.au/story/3035117/anzac-walk-officially-open/>

## NEWCASTLE'S TRIBUTE TO WAR HEROES



A wonderful international educational initiative is 60 years old in 2016. Based in **Neuchâtel**, dozens of young Canadians enjoy a stimulating year in Europe, living with local French-speaking families and studying at Neuchâtel Junior College.

The founder of the college, Leonard Wilde, was a Welshman who had led a peripatetic existence on several continents after graduating from Oxford University and had become a professor of English at Neuchâtel's *École Supérieur de Commerce* in 1949. He realised that Neuchâtel was the ideal location for young people to acquire French while studying for entry into university in their homeland, and to do some travelling. In its early years, the College was very much a part of the *École Supérieur de Commerce* before establishing a completely separate identity. The campus is on a hill overlooking Lake Neuchâtel and the Alps.



NJC offers a unique experience that offers immersion in European culture that changes perspective, deepens understanding, improves French skills and fluency at all levels of ability and leads, most often, to lasting friendships with the boarding or *'pension'* families

NJC is a member of the Swiss Group of International Schools (SGIS) and Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS). Representatives of the Ministry of Education of the Province of Ontario annually inspect the College, allowing it to grant Ontario Secondary School credits and to award the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The majority of NJC graduates go on to study at leading universities around the world and many have distinguished themselves with careers that have earned them international acclaim.

The College is intentionally small, averaging an annual enrollment of 40-80 students. The ratio of students to faculty is 10:1. Classes are generally small, averaging 13 students.

In his message to prospective students, Head of School Bill Boyer (*pictured above*) says: "With your home base settled, you will feel comfortable exploring the history, art and culture of Europe as you travel with your classmates and teachers. What's more, if you prove yourself to be a responsible and conscientious student, you will be given permission to travel independently on weekends to nearby cities like Vienna, Venice, Barcelona, Budapest and so on. We also offer the option of travelling further afield on volunteer service trips to Africa and Asia to work on projects with NGOs like Free the Children and Habitat for Humanity"

The Honorary Patron of the school is the Canadian Ambassador to Switzerland, and there is both a Swiss Board of Governors (*Conseil de Fondation*) and Canadian Advisory Committee (*Le Comité Canadien*).



The Wilbur Wright Trail, named after the famous aviator who was born near **New Castle, Indiana, USA** will soon be more than a mile longer, thanks to a new \$150,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Outdoor Recreation. The trail has been hugely popular and complements the Wilbur Wright birthplace museum just outside the city in recognising his achievements and local association.

## COMMEMORATING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Around 400 people gathered at the former BHP steelworks in Newcastle Australia to commemorate the centenary of the plant's official opening on June 2, 1915. The ceremony included the unveiling of a new sculpture to pay tribute to those who lost their lives at the steelworks – a moving "mourning circle" produced by Branxton artist and blacksmith Will Maguire.

It finished with the sealing of a series of BHP-related objects inside a time-capsule cut into a three-tonne bloom of steel made at the Newcastle works before its closure 16years ago.

Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association president Bob Cook (our Newcastles of the World advocate in Newcastle, Australia) said a plaque on the time capsule promised the interred items would be revealed in 50 years' time, on June 2, 2065.





## Neuchâtel Xamax on the Climb!

The new football season has just started in Switzerland, and Neuchatel Xamax continue their quest to return to the top division of Swiss soccer. Last season they secured their third successive promotion by a 13 point winning margin in 1 Liga Promotion, and they're now in the second division, the Challenge League. We wish them well, and another promotion this season !



## SHINSHIRO IS A GREAT SPORTING HOST CITY !

One of the policies of Shinshiro city is to develop as a Sports Tourism city using its beautiful setting and natural resources as an attractive location for event organisers, participants and spectators alike..



The recent 63km Okumikawa Power Trail was organized by the local media, CHUNICHI Newspaper, with Aichi Prefectural Office and the City of Shinshiro area. There were almost a thousand runners, who with families and friends had come from all over Japan. Local accommodation was full, and it was a boost to local trade too - a lively weekend in the city!

At the end of July the "Tour de Shinshiro" took place - we'll have a full report next time.

## THE ROAD TO MANDALAY - VIA KOTA BHARU

Participants from 18 countries took up the challenge of exploring three countries in South-East Asia in their vintage cars in just three weeks on the first-ever "Road to Mandalay" rally. And Kota Bharu, our Newcastle in Malaysia, was an important staging point. Seventy crews set out from the famous Raffles Hotel on this ambitious and ground breaking 8000 km Endurance Rally Association event, driving from Singapore through Malaysia and Thailand before crossing into Myanmar (Burma), the first international rally to achieve this.

The convoy passed through dirt roads, virgin forests and paddy fields during its 24 days. The timed sporting event boasts an enormous array of vintage and classic cars, including a 1924 Rolls-Royce 40/50 Silver Ghost, a 1929 Bentley Special Speed 8, and a 1938 Jaguar SS 100. The oldest car among them was a 1907 Parigi Italia. The field was divided into six groups: Vintageants – Pre-1932 type cars; Vintageants – Pre-1941 type cars; Classics – Pre-1962 type cars; Classics Pre-1970 type cars; Classics – Pre-1975 + a Porsche 911 and Mustangs; and Touring Category (4 x 4s – Untimed).

On the way to Kota Bharu from the tea plantations of the Cameron Highlands, the rallyers drove through areas that been devastated by the severe flooding. "Everybody is busy rebuilding houses and roads" said one of the drivers.



Part of the welcome in Kota Bharu involved over 20 Volkswagens all lined up in the street, organised by the "The Kelab Volkswagen Klassik Club", local enthusiasts having come from far and wide particularly to meet a German crew and the Beetle from America.

Local bands and dancers boomed through the marble halls of Grand River View hotel and feted the arrival of HRH Idris Shah, the Malaysian Sultan who had an enjoyable time at the wheel of his ex-Paul Carter XK Jaguar.



British drivers Peter and Zoe Lovett in their 1965 Porsche 911 finished the epic 24-day rally first, beating Peking to Paris 2013 winners Gerry Crown and Matt Bryson from Australia in their 1974 Leyland P76. Third place went to Brits Grant Tromans and Simon Russell in a 1973 Datsun 240Z. In the Vintageants division, a three-way battle between the Chevrolets ended with Americans Bill Shields and Scott Herbstman taking the top spot in their 1938 Coupe. Of the very oldest, pre-1932 Vintageants, the winners were Lars Rolner and Annette Rolner of Denmark in a 1928 - Bentley 4½ Le Mans.

