

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2018 www.newcastlesoftheworld.com

Distributed directly to over 2000 people in more than 50 "Newcastles" around the world - help reach more by sharing!

A HOT SUMMER OF CULTURE, SPECTACLE AND FUN!

... and they're having winter fun in the southern hemisphere Newcastles too!

It's been a hot summer so far, and - outdoors or indoors - the entertainment on offer to people in our Newcastles has been pretty hot too.

Newcastle, Ontario, Canada welcomed visitors to its annual arts show, the Shinshiro jazz festival was greatly enjoyed, as was Akhaltsikhe's festival of St Shalva; Neuburg's Summer Academy is under way and better than ever. Nyborg's medieval festival and flea market both saw large crowds, and good weather blessed "The Hoppings" Town Moor festival in June in Newcastle upon Tyne, where the Great Exhibition of the North continues until September.

It's been another successful Neuchâtel International Fantasy Film Festival in our Swiss "Newcastle" - over 44,000 festival-goers enjoyed a huge diversity of films. Gaspar Noé's film "Climax" won the main award for best fantastic feature film.

Jaunpils took an active part in Latvia's huge national Song and Dance Festival, New Castle Indiana had the Wilbur Wright Birthplace Festival and 14th July saw New Castle Pennsylvania's Fireworks Festival and Freedom Fair.



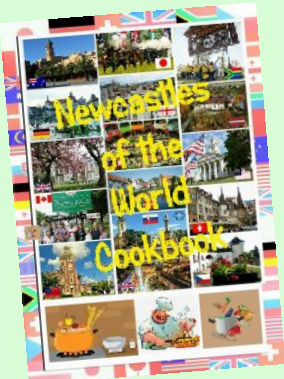
Festi'Neuch, the Buskers' Festival and the International Fantasy Film Festival in Neuchâtel.



The Newcastle "Hoppings"



Read more about many of these events - and others - in this issue of your newsletter



We're soon about to publish a cookbook with recipes from 16 different Newcastles. Thanks to those who contributed the recipes - do enjoy trying them out! You can read the recipes from Newcastle, Canada in this newsletter and the others via

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/>

COUNTDOWN TO THE CONFERENCE ...

We're now only two months away from our 20th anniversary conference (3-9 October) in Shinshiro, Japan. It'll be a great chance to renew friendships and make new ones, to review progress and to put in place new ways of working and new projects to take us forward to the 2020 conference in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. We'll look at culture, education, business and tourism and, guided by delegates at the parallel youth gathering, we'll test out best practice in youth engagement/collaboration. And we'll have the chance to explore and enjoy the unique hospitality and cultural experience of Japan, including time at the world heritage city of Kyoto. Do share any ideas or questions that you may have via David or Zelig, including about attending the conference.

ALSO INSIDE:
CULTURE & HERITAGE,
SPORT, BUSINESS,
YOUTH, AND INTERVIEW
WITH THE MAYOR OF
NEUBURG AN DER DONAU



Contact your Newcastles of the World team for information, ideas or help:
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PEOPLE

NEW LEADER FOR KOTA BHARU

The new Mayor (President of the Council) of **Kota Bharu**, our "Newcastle" in Malaysia, is Mr Ahmad Robert bin Abdul Rahim, a State of Kelantan civil service officer and previously District Officer for the Kota Bharu district. He was born in Kota Bharu in 1961 and has set ambitious new targets for the success of "Visit Kota Bharu Year 2018" "with several beautification and cleaning programmes for the city of Kota Bharu. Before this he was appointed to several top posts in government agencies such as such as Director of Kelantan Museum and Director of Kelantan Islamic Foundation.



TAKING OVER AT THE TOP



The City Council of **Neuchâtel**, our "Newcastle" in Switzerland, appointed its political leadership for the 2018-2019 administrative period. Ms Christine Gaillard takes over the presidency until the summer of 2019. Mr Thomas Facchinetti becomes Vice-President. The distribution of cabinet responsibilities remains unchanged. Mr Fabio Bongiovanni, who has now completed his year as président, is in charge of Finance, Human Resources and Economy, Ms Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin is Director of the Agglomeration, Infrastructures and Security, and Ms Anne-Françoise Loup is responsible for the Education, Health and Social Action.

Ms Gaillard is responsible for Urban Development, Mobility and Environment. We wish her well for the year ahead !



Life's journeys sometimes take us on difficult roads, and between all the chaos and excitement, somewhere you may find a little piece of yourself you never knew existed. So says Michelle Ntandoyenkosi van Onna-Green-Thompson, who grew up in **Newcastle, South Africa**, is an avid traveller and loves sharing the stories and life lessons she learned throughout her travels. This led to her wish to share her story with the rest of the country. "Those who Travel, Meet Themselves" is a book with stories of people from all walks of life who learned more about the world, life and most importantly themselves, by travelling. In 2016 Michelle was nominated by South Africa's National Department of Tourism as one of 20 upcoming women in Tourism. The Newcastle Advertiser interviewed her about her book – check it out via this link - <https://youtu.be/woiGb01C2al>

MINISTER ENCOURAGES SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Minister of Education, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, Martina Lubyová, visited **Nové Zámky**. Together with the Minister there were also other special guests, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Eva Smolíková, Director of the Press Department of Communications and the Ministry of Education SR Riu Feik Achberger and Director of the State Inspectorate in Nitra Zdenka Farkašová. Director of the elementary school Iveta Rajčániová and the mayor of the town of Nové Zámky Otokar Klein welcomed the delegation to the local elementary school.

The meeting took place at G. Bethlen's Primary School, on the occasion of the transfer of sports aids to selected schools in Nové Zámky district. The Minister visited professional classrooms, a multifunctional playground, a skating - rink and a gym.



CONSUL'S VISIT TO JAUNPILS

Steven Gillie, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in the UK, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, visited **Jaunpils** in early July. The aim was to become acquainted with the strengthening of the Jaunpils region and further cooperation, as well as the development of new cooperation projects. During the visit, accompanied by his wife Dawn, the Honorary Consul met chairwoman of Jaunpils council Ligita Gintere, Head of the Development Department, Vija Zīverte, and Head of Public Relations and Tourism department Baiba Rasa, to learn about the functions, management, implemented and planned projects of the municipality. At the medieval castle, he met castle director

Kristina Liepiņa. During the visit various business promotion issues were discussed, also the development of the tourism sector. The Consul visited "Jaunpils beer" Ltd, and visited the Dairy Factory, to discuss potential cooperation for expansion of the export market in the UK. Later in the month, another visitor from Newcastle UK, **Sue Wilson**, called in to meet our colleagues in Jaunpils. Both Steve and Sue (immediate left photo) seemed attracted to the armoury in the castle!



Meet the Mayor - Questions to Bernhard Gmehling Mayor of the City of Neuburg an der Donau (Germany)



What did you do before you entered politics?

After completing law studies at the university of Regensburg and obtaining a doctor's degree (LLD) I worked for the Bavarian Office of Justice as judge and public prosecutor in Neuburg and Ingolstadt for 13 years.

What made you want to become a politician? How did it happen?

Actually, I wanted to continue working as a judge because my father was a judge, too. However, I was approached by several people in Neuburg to run for mayor. So in 1990 I decided to run as candidate of the Conservative Party (CSU) for mayorship for the

first time but lost the election by a small number of votes. At the same time I was, however, elected as councillor and held the office of chairman of the CSU for six years. Then, at the next election in 2002 I was elected as mayor and afterwards re-elected twice, in 2008 and 2014, with the present term ending in May 2020.

Being asked by my party, I have just decided to run as mayor for the fourth time at the election in March 2020.

What achievements are you most proud of for your city?

There have been big changes in Neuburg in the past 16 years since I assumed responsibility for our town. We have built new kindergartens and schools, new roads and improved the infrastructure as Neuburg has had a very strong influx of new citizens. Nevertheless, we were able to reduce the debt level as we received considerable state subsidies for our building projects. This applies especially to the flood protection measures, which were enlarged and completed after the flooding in 1999 at a total cost of 22.5 million Euros. I am especially proud that we, in concert with other agencies, succeeded in the car company AUDI establishing a branch of their works in Neuburg, the AUDI Driving Experience Centre and the AUDI Motorsports Division.

What are the biggest challenges facing Neuburg?

In my view, our biggest challenge is the enormous growth in population and the increasing needs of the infrastructure, child care, streets, schools - issues that we are confronted with daily. Therefore, it is very important that our biggest projects, the establishment of a campus of the Technical University Ingolstadt here in Neuburg and the by-pass of Neuburg together with a second bridge across the Danube, are moved forward quickly to make Neuburg even more likeable and a community worth living in. I am especially proud that Neuburg widely enjoys a reputation as a city with an excellent range of cultural activities, which you often find only in much larger cities.

What are your other interests?

I am lucky to say that I have a lot of different interests. I like playing football and tennis and enjoy the time which I can spend with my family. At the weekend - time permitting - I like cooking, and playing the piano now and then.

What are your hopes for the Newcastle Alliance?

The Newcastle Alliance offers an excellent opportunity to compare the interests, concerns, problems and prospects of other cities around the globe, but also to learn from each other and to promote international exchange. Cities which just by chance carry the same name can join to further and realize common projects like the Newcastle Passport. I think it is not only a great chance to cultivate the community but also to find ways how to solve problems which arise in communities like ours.

What would you say to persuade people to come and visit Neuburg?

If I had to persuade somebody to visit Neuburg I would refer to the Museum of Flemish Baroque paintings in our castle, part of our wide-ranging excellent cultural and sport activities. As Neuburg is embedded in a wonderful landscape it offers numerous recreational activities like the certified bike trail along the Danube. Another asset is its Bavarian and international gastronomy - all of which makes a visit to Neuburg more than worthwhile!



Above with Pep Guardiola when he was Bayern Munich coach; below in the New Year Danube swim.



TOURISM

THE COUNTESS AND THE CASTLE

For junior visitors to the 13th Century castle in **Nove Hradý, Czech Republic**, a big attraction is the children's tour of the famous building with historic figure Countess Therese, accompanied by her maid. The life of the countess at the castle and of the subjects there is brought closer to the children, together with explanations of the history and role of the castle. The tours include crossbow shooting and every child participant can strike his own memorial coin of the castle in Novohradský silver!

SHARING, LEARNING - AND VALUING THE FRIENDSHIPS

A party from Neuburg an der Donau (our "Newcastle" in Bavaria, Germany) visited Nyborg (the Danish "Newcastle") for the big Danehof medieval market and festival over the first weekend in July- returning the visit that Nyborg made to the Neuburg castle festival last summer. This is what Newcastles of the World does well - linking people and places with common interests as well as the same name, to share experiences and best practice, whilst making lasting friendships.

Státní hrad NOVE HRADY
Dětské prohlídky hradu
s hraběnkou Terezií

Ve dnech: 12.7., 26.7., 2.8., 9.8., 23.8.,
vždy v 09.35 a 12.05 hodin

Součástí prohlídek je sřteřba z dětské kuře,
každý platí dětský účastník
si vyradí vlastní pamětní minci hradu.

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Prohlídky jsou vhodné
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Danehof is the most authentic medieval festival in Denmark and was again a huge success with an estimated 35,000 visitors experiencing the attractions of "The Kingdom of the Heart of Denmark". Particularly special are the Knights jousting with lances on horseback in the tournament arena, which is located in the original royal landscaped tournament arena from the medieval ages.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the partnership "The German Danube" in Neuburg

In 1988, cities and districts along the German Danube, from Donaueschingen to Passau, set up the working partnership "German Danube". The idea of its members was to create a continuous bike trail along the Danube, away from motorways, managed by an office in the district of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen. In May 1991, the last section of the bike trail was completed with the trail now running from Donaueschingen to Passau. One of the many other tasks of the partnership was its marketing to tourists. Overall, the Danube stretches from Donaueschingen, where it has its spring, to its delta at the Black Sea, covering 2,850 kilometres and touching countries, like Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

In research carried out in 2017 the Danube bike trail ranks in the 4th place among the most popular German bike trails and was awarded 4 stars. It is part of the Euro-Velo-Route EV6, running from the Atlantic to the Black Sea, and part of the D-Route D 6 from Basle to Passau.

The city of Neuburg will celebrate the partnership's 30th anniversary this year, with a special cultural programme "The Danube in word, sound and picture" featuring many concerts, readings, street theatres and other performances that highlight the River Danube in its many different aspects.



NYBORG CASTLE WORLD HERITAGE STATUS COMES ONE STEP CLOSER

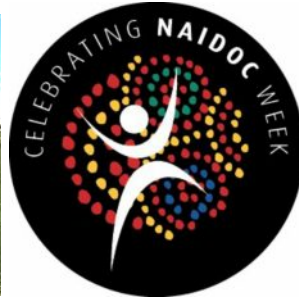
As reported before, Nyborg Municipality and Østfyns Museums have been aiming to make Nyborg Castle and City a worthy candidate for UNESCO's World Heritage List since 2011. At the end of June, the national Slots-og Kulturstyrelsens (the governing agency) recognised that Nyborg Castle and City is a worthy candidate.

The agency has assessed the range of applications for the Danish entry list for UNESCO's World Heritage List, the so-called tentative list; it has emphasized that the proposals listed on the schedule of candidates are also very likely to achieve the final entry on the World Heritage List of the inalienable natural and cultural heritage of the world.

Therefore, only very few have initially gained space on the tentative list, while a few more - including Nyborg - have been selected by the agency for further processing in order to be able to attend the preliminary list soon. The agency has informed the municipality of Nyborg and Østfyns Museums that immediately after the summer holiday, they wish to see discussions about the final development and targeting of the application. The final application for UNESCO must be submitted in 2021.



HERITAGE



Newcastle, Australia uses new technology to go back in time

Events are held across Australia each July to recognise and celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. "NAIDOC Week" is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life.

As part of NAIDOC Week's opening celebrations, Newcastle City Council and community partners launched virtual reality (VR) technology to transport viewers back in time to when Awabakal and Worimi people lived traditionally within the local lands of Newcastle.

Using a virtual reality headset or a smart phone, the "Niiarnnumber Burrai", or "Our Country", video immerses the viewer in Newcastle's landscape prior to European settlement with Elder characters sharing knowledge of their significant places, their traditional names and cultural stories. Check it out here: <https://youtu.be/fbMqrOd2FsI>

In celebration of this year's NAIDOC theme "Because of Her, We Can!" and in partnership with Council, Awabakal recognises Aboriginal women of the Hunter communities who have made valuable contributions to the Awabakal people. An exhibition is on display at Wallsend Library through to early August.

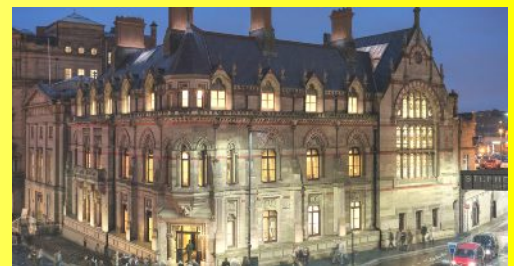
A new project - "Muloobinba Map: A tour of the Aboriginal stories and objects in Newcastle Museum" was also launched, guiding visitors through significant local Aboriginal stories represented in the Museum, highlighting cherished local objects, stories and people in the collection.



INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE RECEIVES BIG SHOWCASE BOOST

The North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers in central Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, which houses a huge archive of the industrial revolution, will be restored with a £4.1m (4.5m euros) grant from the national Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Institute, founded in 1852, was the first professional mining institute in the world, aiming to "advance the science and art of mining" and to bring down the death toll and accidents in the industry.



This cash injection will revitalise the Grade II-listed building and digitise the largest single collection of mining material in the world. The Institute will become the Common Room for the Great North, a public space telling the story of the North East's industrial past, and inspiring the next generation of engineers and innovators. A range of public spaces will provide space for educational workshops and lectures. The North of England The Mining Institute is dedicated to the research and preservation of knowledge relating to mining and mechanical engineering. Founded in 1852, its library, named after the first President Nicholas Wood contains more than twenty thousand volumes of technical literature, in the fields of mining, geology, mechanical engineering, government blue books, mine rescue, mineralogy, mineral chemistry, mining statistics, mining law, seismology and other related topics.

REENACTMENT REMINDER OF FORT'S HISTORIC ROLE

The Fort Amiel museum of Newcastle, South Africa hosted a commemorative event, including re-enactment, at Haggards Hilldrop House recently, the theme being the Anglo Zulu War and the first Anglo Boer war. In its original role, the museum played an important part in the history of the area. It was built in 1876 by Major Charles Frederick Amiel and soldiers of the 80th Staffordshire Volunteers as a fort and "look-out post", for the British during the run up to the annexation of the former Transvaal and the Zulu War. Later, during the First Boer War it was used as a garrison for the King's Own Royal Regiment and also served as a depot, transit camp and hospital. The fort is positioned on a knoll overlooking the original wagon drift across the Ncandu River. It has majestic views of the Drakensberg mountain range and the town of Newcastle.

The fort and surroundings, including a graveyard below the knoll fell into disuse for many years. In 1979 the site was declared a National Monument and restoration work began after the discovery of the original plans for the fort were discovered during this period in a London Museum. The restoration work was undertaken by the visionary Newcastle Municipality and in conjunction with the Natal Museum Services.

Today, Fort Amiel houses an historic/cultural museum. Military displays are of the two Anglo-Boer Wars. There is a wonderful cookhouse re-construction, this shows a typical British Army Base found in the 1880s. An addition to the fort and museum is a Zulu umuzi (hut) with a detailed interior.



Borders as a Result of War.

HERITAGE

To mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War, an important conference, *Borders as a Result of War*, took place in **Nové Hradý, Czech Republic** from 3rd to 5th of May 2018.

The conference was an Interreg/EU- supported programme, part of the Danube Transnational Programme/Networld project, “Networking in Preserving the First World War - Multicultural Heritage in the Danube Countries”

The focus of the conference was on how the First World War (WW1) impacted the soldiers at the front and in particular the civilians along the front but also in the homelands. Attention was given also how matters changed after the end of the war with the new independent states.

Forty adults and four youths signed up for the conference. Adult participants included Networld Project Partners, Associated Partners and history and educational professionals from Austria (1), Bulgaria (3), Hungary (2), Slovenia (5), and the Czech Republic (29). Two of the youths were from the regional school for vocational education involved in constructing the new WW1 memorial as part of the Networld project.

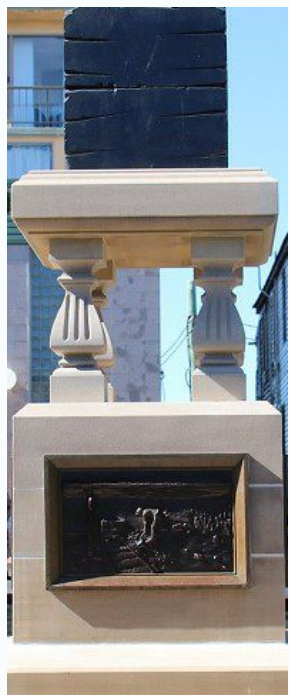
Several of the lectures showed the significant impact the mobilisation and war years had on the local population far away from the fronts, including restrictions of specific foods through food stamps and women as work force.

There were also exhibitions “Moments of War” (courtesy Muzeum Jindřichohradecka) and “Memories of the Soca Front” (courtesy Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Prague) on display in the venue, plus excursions to the to the open-air Border Museum on the Czech-Austrian border and to the Museum of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice to see the exhibition “*World War I - years of destruction and pain*”.

As part of the event there was also ceremony at Nové Hradý cemetery to unveil a new monument in honour of the soldiers from the region fallen during WWI. The monument was made by local blacksmith Daniel Cerný as part of the Networld project (WP4).

We congratulate Nové Hradý on signing to be such an active part of this programme and hosting what was clearly such a successful conference. Our photos show (top) Nové Hradý Mayor Vladimir Hokr giving his talk on the impact of mobilization on the Nove Hradý municipality; (middle) conference host Robert Dulfer and Mayor Vladimir Hokr answering questions; (bottom) the exhibition.

For a full report of the conference, see <http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/list-of-newcastles/nove-hradý-czech-republic/borders-as-a-result-of-war-conference/>



A MONUMENT TO NEWCASTLE'S COAL HERITAGE

Many of our "Newcastles" have historical associations with the coal industry. **Newcastle, Australia** has what is known as its "coal monument" (officially the Jubilee Monument) which has been refurbished and newly reinstalled at the end of July in Parnell Place Park (just 70m from its original location) to mark the opening of Local Government Week.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes joined former Lord Mayors John McNaughton and John Tate to rededicate the monument, which was originally erected to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Municipality of Newcastle's incorporation and signal the city's enduring connection to the coal industry.

"It's wonderful to see the monument take pride of place once again in Parnell Place Park, where it can be enjoyed by the community and visitors to our city," the Lord Mayor said. "Stonework on this monument has been repaired and, where necessary, replaced, while its copper plaques depicting the city's mining history have also been restored".

CULTURE

"Astley's Astounding Adventures !"

An action-packed production, created and performed at the wonderful New Vic Theatre of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, UK, tells the story of the local man who invented big-top circus entertainment 250 years ago and has been bringing in the crowds and impressive reviews during July.

This is the legacy of Philip Astley (1742-1814), carpenter's son, equestrian extraordinaire, decorated veteran and, 250 years ago, instigator of that 42ft diameter of infinite possibilities, the circus ring.



Director Theresa Heskins celebrates this anniversary in the town of Astley's birth by mounting a production that playfully co-opts the imaginations of her audiences to present impossible-seeming, circus-style thrills and spills. Here we "see" a daredevil rider perform acrobatics on a galloping horse; a trick pony performs a mind-reading act; Astley himself, mounted on a moving steed, shoot apples with his pistols ...

Not everything is imaginary. Circus performers, musicians and actors in the 18-strong team of players deliver real tumbling, juggling and clowning. More than skilful, this is also dramatically effective, especially in the falling-in-love duet between Nicholas Richardson's Astley and Danielle Bird (as Patty Jones), a daringly executed, deeply moving aerial act performed between two long red silks flowing from the flies.

Thanks to The Guardian for this review and Photograph from Clara Lou Photography

DENMARK'S OLDEST AND BEST !

Nyborg Voldspil is Denmark's oldest open air theatre, started in 1939 by a joint collaboration among the youth associations in **Nyborg** ("Newcastle"). The main activity was the annual open-air performance on the old ravine at Nyborg Castle . The performances were later moved away from the castle and a popular musical or operetta has been performed every year with annual participation of a total of around 300 volunteers on and behind the stage.



This summer it's the Hollywood classic "Singin' in the Rain" - not an omen we hope!

40th anniversary of Neuburg Summer Academy

A record number of 600 people - adults, youngsters and children - have registered for one of the 37 courses of this year's Summer Academy, one of the oldest in Germany, which runs until August 11.

The academy offered a multi-faceted forum for creativity of all kinds in areas of fine arts, jazz, classical early music and theatre. Highlights this year include André Monde De Lang's gospel choir workshop.

Mayor Dr Bernhard Gmehling said "Retaining elements that have proved their worth and introducing exciting innovations such as the chamber music marathon - that is the secret of the success of our two-week cultural and learning event". This attractive offer is rounded off by a children's academy, which is always well-attended, and a youth studio.



Two Newcastles - but there's room for more to join in !

Curious Monkey Theatre Company, Newcastle upon Tyne and Newcastle Arts Development Organisation, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa have been collaborating for two years on the "Two Newcastles" project, and in early June presented a work on Tyneside that they have created together called " This World Here...Nomhlaba Le". It's a journey to a new world full of song and discovery. When faced with a new culture, visiting a new place, what do you bring with you? What do you leave behind?



Original music is intertwined with traditional South African and Geordie (Newcastle) songs, verbatim testimony and storytelling about their lives, homes and experiences in two different Newcastles by the performers, exploring community and belonging, celebrating diversity and uncovering our unconscious biases. Asking...where is home? To find out more: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Bi2MZXPBSNQ/> This World Here...Nomhlaba Le was commissioned as a flagship cultural project of Newcastles of the World supported by International Newcastle. Funded by Arts Council England Grants for the Arts, Newcastle Municipality KZN, Department for Arts and Culture (South Africa) The Tyne & Wear Community Foundation (UK)

We hope the collaboration paves the way for other Newcastles to pair up in this way - we'll be sharing how it has been done.

WILBUR WRIGHT BIRTHPLACE FESTIVAL

FESTIVALS

New Castle, Indiana, USA celebrated its annual Wilbur Wright Birthplace Festival on 17 and 18 June. Born near the city in 1867, Wilbur Wright was the elder brother of Orville Wright, with whom he developed the world's first successful airplane. On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers succeeded in making the first free, controlled flight of a power-driven airplane - an extraordinary achievement, Wilbur flew the plane for 59 seconds over a distance of 852 feet.



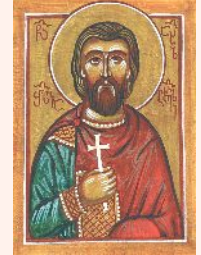
So the Wright brothers are the "fathers of modern aviation". New Castle is home to the Wilbur Wright Birthplace Museum and hosts a annual festival to commemorate this aviation pioneer.

<http://www.wwbirthplace.com/>



Saint Shalva Festival in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia

The people of Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia, put on their annual celebration for Saint Shalva day on 30 June - the big day of the year for the city at the Rabati fortress, and the crowds came out again for this great event. Last year young people from Newcastle upon Tyne, UK and Newcastle, South Africa took part - maybe another "Newcastle" will next year?



The celebration is the feast day of Saint Shalva Akhaltsikheli, the most famous Georgian general who was executed in 1227 by the Khwarezmian (Persian) invaders for having refused to serve them and to denounce Christianity. He was a member of an influential noble family. Under the famous Queen Tamar of Georgia, ruler of the Caucasus during the golden age of Georgia, he held the post of Lord High Treasurer. Shalva distinguished himself, particularly in the Battle of Shamkor against the Seljuk atabek of Azerbaijan, 1195, when he fought in the vanguard and captured a war banner of the Caliph. In 1206/1207, he commanded a Georgian army that took Kars from the Seljuk Turks. At the Battle of Basian (1203) Shalva and his brother Iwane were put in command of Meskhetian vanguard and played a decisive role in the Georgian victory.

Ørbæk Marked – Denmark's biggest flea market has taken place again in the Ørbæk, in Nyborg Municipality. Every year in mid-July there are more than 400 stalls and 5 tents with concerts and music, entertainment. There is also Denmark's biggest mobile Tivoli. Over 100,000 people enjoy the attractions.



New Castle, Pennsylvania is the acknowledged "Fireworks Capital of America" and July 14th was one of the big community festival days when they proved it! Zambelli Fireworks Internationale and Pyrotecnico both got their starts in the mid 19th century in the New Castle area which was for a long time the largest producer of fireworks in the world. This year it was a Fireworks Festival and Freedom Fair and included live music, stilt walkers and magicians - and a hot dog eating contest - well it is America's Hot Dog Capital too!



This was a truly novel idea - Shinshiro City in Japan) has a new city hall and before the old one is demolished they decided to have a cycle race - around the empty building and the site ! The Mayor set them off.



JAUNPILS' ROLE IN GREAT NATIONAL CELEBRATION

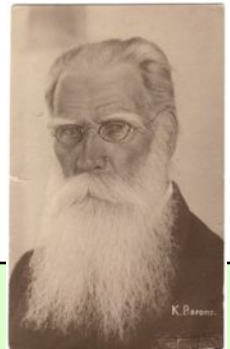
Latvia has just celebrated its great Song and Dance Festival which takes place every five years. Tens of thousands of singers and dancers from all over the country - including Jaunpils (Newcastle) - take part - below (right) is Jaunpils in the great parade through the capital Riga.

In Latvia there is a powerful choral music and folk dancing tradition that began in the mid-19th century. As the years have passed, it has evolved into something more than a mere "musical activity"; it is a manifestation of patriotism, an aid in consolidating the people. And this year, 2018, is special, being the centenary of Latvian independence, so the festival has been bigger and better than ever. This celebration with its SCALE, quality and diversity is a unique event on a world scale; therefore it has been included in the UNESCO list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

The most important aspect of the week-long celebration is the enormous choir concert, its artistic quality based on the a cappella tradition of singing. The celebration that grew up around this singing tradition has become an ambitious and multifaceted event that incorporates a variety of artistic genres and forms of expression—the choir movement and tradition of singing together; folk dancing and the enormous joint-ensemble dance concerts; instrumental music, brass band shows and kokle concerts; choir, dance, and brass band competitions, performances by folklore ensembles, as well as exhibitions of traditional crafts and applied art. New traditions of singing and dancing have been added during the 145-year history of the song festival: gatherings of men's choirs, women's choirs, and boys' choirs, the Youth Song and Dance Celebration, a gathering of brass bands.



And there's a special Jaunpils connection through **KRIŠJĀNIS BARONS**, born in Jaunpils in 1835 and known as the "father of the dainas" (Latvia's traditional form of song and poetry) thanks largely to his systematisation of the Latvian folk songs and his labour in preparing their texts for publication. His portrait appeared on the 100-lat banknote prior to the Lat being replaced by the Euro in 2014, his being the only human face of an actual person on modern Latvian currency. Barons was prominent among the "Young Latvians" (intellectual movement of the first "awakening of Latvian nationalism), and also an important writer and editor.



CAN NEUBURG BECOME "A LITTLE OXFORD"?

More about the exciting academic developments in Neuburg an der Donau. Bavarian Prime Minister Markus Söder has visited from Munich to confirm that the State will invest 120 million euros in the spin-off of the Technical University of Ingolstadt. In our photo, Mayor Bernhard Gmehling (right) shows Mr Söder the planning model. TH President Prof.

Walter Schober (centre) sees the future Neuburg spin-off as a strengthening of the regional university landscape.



The training company for civil engineering should start in the winter semester 2020/21 in temporary premises. From 2023 (after removal of the asylum seekers hostel) development will follow quickly: lecture halls, laboratories, research institutions. The old brick buildings remain as dormitory and offices.

In the following three years "we want to have 500 students in Neuburg," says Prof. Schober. It should be 1200 students by 2027, then possibly 2000 by 2033. The outskirts of Neuburg fit perfectly into the wider strategy as a university for the whole region.

Mayor Gmehling was delighted to note that the state government is implementing all the goals that had been formulated for Neuburg back in 2015. In 2019, for example, a Europe-wide architectural competition is planned for the Campus.

Prime Minister Markus Söder is certain that the university will change the city and its surrounding area positively. Setting up innovation centres in rural as well as urban areas is the goal of the state government. The campus should enable studying, living and working in one location - "technically and digitally networked, but staying locally in the region."

The campus will have guest house, 250 dormitories, recreational facilities, start-ups and 115 posts in the first phase. In the future, young people will learn about construction, energy, the environment and will be able to take six bachelor's and master's degree courses. Prime Minister Söder said: "soon, engineers from Neuburg will be able to build the smart city."

NEW INVESTMENT FOR STATION AND BEACH



In **Newcastle, Australia**, live music, markets and a University of Newcastle creative technology “lab” will transform Newcastle Station when the historic landmark reopens to the public in September. “Renew Newcastle” general manager Christopher Saunders told a Newcastle Tourism Industry Group meeting on Wednesday that the station’s restored buildings would also house a retail space for up to 100 producers of “high-end”, hand-made local goods, a cafe and a bar.

The NSW Government and Newcastle City Council have announced an \$11m partnership to overhaul South Newcastle Beach below Shortland Esplanade. A \$5 million grant from the NSW Government will see the creation of an accessible skate bowl, modern kiosk and outdoor gym, along with tiered seating and shade shelters (see photo).



ROBERT INDIANA (1928 - 2018)



It’s sad to record the passing of this great figure from the world of modern art. Councillor Aaron Dicken, of **New Castle, Indiana** (Robert’s town of birth) met him in 2015 - see <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/> for his tribute to Robert’s life and legacy.



A giant hopping hare is the latest sculpture inspired by the natural world to be unveiled in **Newcastle-under-Lyme, UK**. The ‘patchwork’ steel structure was installed on a traffic island close to the town centre. It was been created by world-renowned sculptor Andy Edwards, who is most famous for The Beatles statue in Liverpool and the Christmas Truce sculpture in Belgium. He worked with two apprentices for three months to turn his design into reality. The hare joins three other installations of a trout, buzzard and bee which have all been commissioned by Newcastle Borough Council. Andy said: “The sculpture is made from 7,500 recycled pieces of metal which creates the patchwork effect. It has then been galvanized to protect it from the elements”

NELSON MANDELA DAY 18 JULY



On July 18th, across the world, it was Mandela Day, celebrating through public service and volunteering the life of this man who was of such influence (globally as well as in his native South Africa) in the cause of freedom and justice, reconciliation and nation-building. And more than that, it was the centenary of his birth. It’s good to show just a few of the many community activities helping the disadvantaged that took place in our **Newcastle in South Africa**, with businesses, public service organisations, churches and even the local newspaper - thanks to the Newcastle Advertiser for the photos and stories, and for their own efforts.

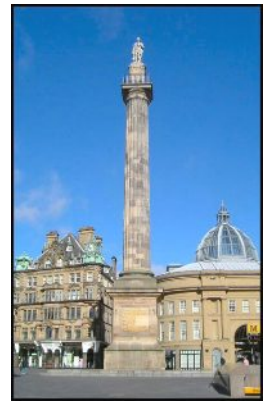
On Mandela Day people from all over Newcastle felt the Madiba Magic as they spent 67 minutes (representing his 67 years of service as a free man or imprisoned) giving back to the community. Stucky Motors spends its 67 minutes at Esperanza Special Needs School handing out cakes, sweets as well as beanies to keep the kids snug this winter. Cleaning supplies and life skills necessities were also donated to the school. The company said “We were touched by the smiles we brought to their faces on this day.”

Newcastle Advertiser hosted a soup kitchen-drive, and spent 67 minutes with the homeless community having been collecting blankets and winter clothing for the Newcastle Advertiser Winter Drive. Newcastle’s Police spent its 67 minutes by making the lives of the elderly in Ballangeich a little easier presenting the seniors with two blankets each as well as food parcels, Captain Jabulani Ncube said the day was attended by the Newcastle Chinese CPF and Chinese Chamber of Commerce, who helped with donations, and had fun participating in a Zulu dance.



BUSINESS

NOVELTEA is a Newcastle upon Tyne-based alcoholic tea brand, embarking on an export growth strategy for markets in USA, Australia, Japan, France, Switzerland, Austria and Singapore. NOVELTEA specialise in tea mixology and is the first brand to cold-brew and infuse tea with a matching spirit of either gin, rum or whisky. NOVELTEA, which counts famous London store Harrods on its list of stockists, exports to Germany, Hong Kong and China and has received interest from Michelin star restaurants within 15 months of trading. In May 2018, NOVELTEA was the only European brand to collect a global innovation award from SIAL China, the world's third largest food and beverage trade fair. The accolade saw NOVELTEA beat over 600 brand submissions from around the world and will see the alcoholic teas showcased in Brazil, Canada, Philippines, Abu Dhabi and Paris.



Enthusiasts can choose from two NOVELTEA flavours — The Tale of Earl Grey (Earl Grey tea infused with British gin) or The Tale of Tangier (green tea infused with white rum). Each blend is brewed for up to eight hours during a process that draws bitter tannins away from the teas to enhance flavour. Only loose-leaf tea and premium alcoholic spirits are used in the mix of the tea tales which are vegan-friendly and contain no extracts, artificial colours or flavourings.

Earl Grey was a 19th Century British Prime Minister from the area north of Newcastle upon Tyne – he looks down over the city centre of Newcastle from his 40m high pedestal – but he's probably more famous across the world for the tea blend with which he is associated.

A 20-million-Euro Project in the centre of Neuburg

The VR Bank Neuburg has announced that after moving its administration to a new building to tear down the present building on the Schranken-Square in the centre of the city and replace it by a new one. It will offer 2,500 square meters to regional and national businesses, including a hotel with a hundred beds and a tower-like building, 22 metres high, at its northern side with a sky-lounge from which you can enjoy the view of the Danube and the castle. An underground garage will provide parking spaces for 55 cars.

VR Bank Neuburg-Rain eG is a cooperative bank in Bavaria. With 16 branches in Neuburg (where it has its head office), Rain am Lech and the surrounding area, it is the largest independent cooperative bank in the district of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen. VR Bank Neuburg-Rain was created in 2016 through the merger of Raiffeisenbank-Volksbank Neuburg / Donau eG with Raiffeisenbank Rain am Lech eG.



KULA TO OPEN NEW PLANT IN AKHALTSIKHE



KULA cannery, Kula, which produces ecologically clean fruit and vegetable juices, plans to open a new plant in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia in autumn, with an initial investment of two million US dollars.

The new plant will make focus on production of bio products, principally, production of juices, which is a comparatively and more costly sophisticated process. Sugar-free juices are very popular worldwide, including in Georgia and the products will be marketed both domestically and for export.

The company will buy its raw materials locally.



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 & 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.



THE WORLD CUP WAS WON BY NOVÉ ZÁMKY!

YOUTH

Students from the grammar school in **Nové Zámky, Slovakia** were successful in the Robotics World Cup called RoboCup Junior 2018, which was held from June 16-22 in Montreal, Canada. Students Michal Tuchyňa, Norbert Széll, Barbora Bardoňová, Roman Imrich Višňovský, Štefan Čomor and their mentor, Marián Otruba, took the highest position in "OnStage Advance" category with a "robo-dragon" project, defeating 22 other teams from around the world. So after domestic successes in Slovakia, the young team achieved another, more notable aim. The RoboCup Federation inspires students, from age 11 through to postdoctoral research and development level, to excel in the industries of science, technology, engineering, arts and maths through robotics.



Summer students with the "Gift of Art" gallery stepped in to organise a community **Canada Day** event for **Newcastle** after a risk that the traditional celebrations on July 1st would not take place this year. Pictured left to right are Mackenzie Fitzpatrick, Kailey Twaddle, Vashni Russel, Trixia Mendoza, Cordelia Adams and Bea Quitlen. The girls credit Russel for getting them involved in this project. Thanks to the Orono Times for the photo.



Nové Hradý, our "Newcastle" in South Bohemia in the **Czech Republic**, is only one kilometre from the border with Austria, so it's good to see children from the two countries getting together for this project (left)



The children of Shinshiro City will be in no doubt about the Newcastles of the World conference being in their city this summer - they are hearing about it from the Mayor at City Hall, making a welcome video message and contributing to an exhibition.



On July 19th at Toyo Elementary School, **Shinshiro**, an international exchange class took place with **Newcastle Canada** via skype. And it was all linked to the forthcoming Newcastle Alliance Conference in October.

The teacher and class, with Carole Marullaz our Newcastles of the World placement from **Neuchâtel** (left in the photo) supporting, interacted with Jennifer and Ashley representing the partner Newcastle in Canada. It was held as part of the 5th grade and 6th grade English class, using photos and maps as well as skype. From Shinshiro it was possible to explain about the town and the school in English.

Everyone agreed - "Canada and Japan are very far away, so it's nice to be able to interact with them"



Welcome to Mariam!



We're delighted that Mariam Pamsm-Conteh has joined us on a month-long internship. Mariam has been involved with Newcastles of the World for the last six years in a range of capacities, including her previous role in the Youth Council. As part of the Newcastle upon Tyne youth delegation she participated in the bi-annual conference in Newcastle, Canada, 2016, and the first global youth conference held by Shinshiro in 2017. She is looking forward to taking part in the 20th Anniversary conference in Shinshiro this October. Mariam has recently graduated from Oxford Brookes University with a BA Hons in LLB Law.



BUTTER TARTS

The *Collins English Dictionary* describes it as one of the few pastries with a genuinely Canadian origin. A butter tart is a small pastry tart, which generally consists of butter, sugar, syrup, and egg, filled into a flaky pastry and baked until the filling is semi-solid with a crunchy top.

The first published recipe was in 1900 but the origin is believed to be much older, most likely the result of the filles du roi (King's Daughters), in which approximately 800 young women were sent to Québec from France between 1663 and 1673 to help colonise. These young ladies brought with them their traditional European recipes but were forced to adapt them according to what was available. The sugar pie, a single-crust pie with a filling made from flour, butter, salt, vanilla, and cream, is a likely precursor to the butter tart.

Ingredients - for a serving of 16: 1/2 cup of raisins; 1/4 cup soft butter; 1/4 cup packed brown sugar; 1 pinch of salt; 1/2 cup of corn syrup; 1 egg, lightly beaten; 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla extract.

Pastry Method

1. Blend all ingredients except water in a food processor to form pea-sized granules of butter. Slowly add ice water until dough comes together. Divide dough into 2 round disks wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
2. Roll disk on floured surface into large circle and cut 6 circles approx 5". Repeat.
3. Place pastry rounds into muffin tin. 4. Preheat oven to 400°F

Filling Method

1. Combine ingredients in a large measuring cup mix very well and pour into tart shells.
2. Bake at 400°F for 15 minutes, turn oven off and let bake for 10 minutes
3. Remove from oven let stand 5 minutes before twisting tarts to release them.

The tourtière is a French-Canadian meat pie that originated in Quebec province in Canada as early as 1600.

TOURTIÈRE

Most recipes include ground pork and other ground meats. It's a traditional part of Christmas and New Year's celebrations in Quebec, but also enjoyed at other times and throughout Canada and the upper midwest and eastern USA. There's some debate about the origin of the name. Some believe it's after the now-extinct passenger pigeons, called "tourtes," that were cooked into the original pies, others that the name comes from the deep ceramic baking dish that families used to create the pies. It's agreed, however, that by 1611, the word tourtière had come to refer to the pastry containing meat or fish that was cooked in this medium-deep, round or rectangular dish.

Ingredients - Short crust pastry for a double crusted pie : 1 ½ lb Ground Pork; 1 onion chopped; 2 cloves of garlic minced; 1tsp salt; ¼ tsp pepper; ¼ tsp thyme; ¼ tsp savoury; Pinch of ground cloves; 1 small bay leaf crumbled; ¾ cup water.

Method

1. In a skillet of heavy saucepan lightly brown the ground pork, stirring with a fork to break the meat up.
2. Add onion, garlic, salt, pepper, thyme, savoury, cloves and bayleaf; stir.
3. Add water and cover, simmer for 15 minutes until most of the liquid is absorbed, but the mixture is still moist.
4. Pour filling into a pastry lined pie plate, cover with crust. Seal and flute edges.



5. Bake in a 425 F (220C) oven for 30 minutes until pastry is well browned.

NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO, CANADA



Newcastle is a beautiful community located in the Municipality of Clarington. Clarington is one of eight Municipalities in Durham Region in southeastern Ontario, Canada. Newcastle is located about 80 km east of downtown Toronto.

THIS IS SOME ADVENTURE !

SPORT

The second edition of the Rainforest Trophy Malaysia was flagged away from **Kota Bharu** on 14 July – it's an exciting off-road adventure for drivers of 4x4 vehicles.

The six day challenge attracted almost 200 participants, including from Thailand, China, India, Hong Kong and Brunei. In the centre with flag is Dato' Mejar Md Anizam Ab Rahman, Chairman for Culture, Heritage and Tourism for Kelantan Government.



The Rainforest Trophy is a warm up for the bigger Rainforest Challenge Malaysia which will take place in November 2018 in Kota Bharu.



Rugby Joins Football in the Top Tier

Congratulations to the Neuchâtel Sports Rugby Club for its promotion to the elite of Swiss rugby for the first time in 17 years, after narrowly missing out over the past two years what has been a magnificent season this time. After the promotion of Neuchâtel Xamax FCS in the Super League (football), another sports club in the city has joined the national sporting elite!



AMAZING LAUREN BEATS THE ODDS

In April 2017, Lauren Parker from **Newcastle, New South Wales** suffered a horrific accident when she was in training for the Ironman Australia Triathlon. Lauren now 29, was on her bike when both her tyres blew and sent her crashing into a guard rail. She sustained broken ribs, a punctured lung, broken pelvis and a broken back and was given only a one per cent chance of walking again. Amazingly, Lauren returned to the pool during rehabilitation and completed the swim leg of the Maitland Triathlon in November. The she turned her sights to paratriathlon.

On the back of just three months of training, and just a year after her accident, she achieved the unthinkable, winning a Commonwealth Games bronze medal in the women's paratriathlon (750m swim, 20km bike (handcycle/tandem), 5km run (wheelchair)) on the Gold Coast in her home country. And she got to meet both the Prince of Wales, who opened the Commonwealth Games, and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull - see photos below.



"I've come a long way since my accident, to be here today, I'm so proud of myself," Lauren said. "I never thought I'd be doing triathlon this soon, let alone competing at a Commonwealth Games - a bronze medal just tops it off." In June she won her first overseas gold medal at the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Paratriathlon World Cup event in France - and she's already looking forward to the next big challenge – the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.



ANOTHER EXCITING DANUBE CLASSIC RACE

This year's Donau Classic (Danube Classic) car race took place from 21 to 23 June. Vintage car lovers in **Neuburg an der Donau** were able to see the cars on the final exciting day at Luftwaffe Squadron 74 in Air Base and also on the Danube Riverbank. The winners were Norbert Henglein and Günter Röthel in a Porsche 911 RSR. The oldest car taking part was a British Alvis Silver Eagle built in 1931.

TOUR DE SHINSHIRO

The 14th Tour de **Shinshiro** (cycle race) took place in mid-July in the grounds of Shinshiro General Park, It's a 2.6km/lap racing course "endurance" style - there are four categories - 2-hour Enduro, 3-hour Enduro, 5-hour Enduro, and "The King of Enduro" - won by Jyota Yamauchi.



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