





# 50 EDITIONS! - HERE ARE SOME OF THE HEADLINES YOU MIGHT REMEMBER ..

**Newcastles News** Number 1

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" | January 2013



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**Awards for Newcastle KZN**

Newcastle Municipality won two prestigious awards at the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) department's KwaZulu-Natal Excellence Awards in September.

Mayor Afzal Rehman was announced the best local performing mayor in the province on account of his exceptional leadership of the municipality and for overseeing progress in

**Green and efficient**

The competition not only judged the town on its general cleanliness, but also on the town's green cleaning projects which included the cleaning of the Ncandu River, the placement of bins throughout the town, and the walling off of the taxi rank among others.

**Newcastles News**

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World"

June 2014



**A GREAT WEEK IN NOVÉ HRADY!**

Over sixty delegates from 10 different "Newcastles" gathered in Nové Hradý in South Bohemia, Czech Republic from 28 April to 4 May. We thank Mayor Vladimír Holý and his organising team for their tremendous hospitality and for putting on a strong programme of workshops and cultural activities. The Newcastles of the World alliance emerges from the conference stronger and with clearer priorities and firm commitments for funding our future activities. Some photographic images from the conference can be seen on page 5 of this newsletter. The conference declaration is set out on page 6 and the priorities for sharing information and best practice on page 7. Information on youth activities is on page 8 and we would welcome offers from youth councils to be sent to:

**Newcastles of the World**

Newsletter No. 17 - November/December 2016

**A GREAT CONFERENCE IN CANADA!**

A big thank you to our friends in the lovely town of Newcastle, Ontario, Canada for hosting our conference in September – it was perhaps the best yet, well-attended (lots of young people), with great discussions and ideas, and a lot of fun making new friends and enjoying new experiences. We were made welcome by the whole community, and our hosts worked so hard – they really deserved their post-conference party (see right).

You can see lots of photos from the conference on pages 2 and 3 and read the report on our website [www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

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

**"A MEMORABLE CONFERENCE" OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN SHINSHIRO**

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

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

**Newcastles News**

**NYBORG LEADS THE WAY WITH NEW SCHOOLS VIDEO PROJECT**

As part of the Newcastles of the World educational programme, we are delighted to launch the "Learning from other Newcastles" video project. Martin Stenmann, Nyborg, Denmark, is leading this project and pupils in Nyborg have created the first video.

**Newcastles News**

The Newsletter of the "Newcastles of the World"

November - December 2018

Sent by email to over 2000 people and organisations in more than 60 "Newcastles" - please share it with your contacts too!

**A WONDERFUL CONFERENCE IN SHINSHIRO!**

Our 20th anniversary conference in Shinshiro City, Japan had a record number of delegates and countries represented – everyone came away with such a positive view about the future for our very special alliance of Newcastles and enormous appreciation for the hosting and hospitality of Shinshiro.

Fabio Bongiovanni, head of the Neuchâtel delegation said: "The Newcastles Alliance has been celebrating its 20th birthday this year and I went to Shinshiro, Japan, for the biennial conference. I came back having enjoyed enriching meetings and beautiful experiences, but above all with new projects to be carried out in the fields of business, training, culture and tourism, starting a new dynamic!" Neuchâtel will host our 2020 conference.

See page 11 for a message from Mayor Hozumi of Shinshiro and pages 12 and 13 for a summary of the key points from our conference, as set out in the communiqué. And photos below!

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NEW BOOK ON NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SEE PAGE 12**



**Newcastles News**

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World"

December 2015 / January 2016

Sent by email to over 2000 people and organisations in over 50 "Newcastles" - please share it with your contacts too!

**ALL YOU NEED IS .....**

At this time of year - and after so much bad news of late - let's focus on one of the most famous examples of pop art. It's the "LOVE" print created by Robert Indiana - who was born in our New Castle, Indiana, USA.

The print has been reproduced all over the world and symbolises the peace and goodwill that we all search for. Aaron Dickens from New Castle, Indiana, recently visited the great artist in his home, and tells the story in this newsletter on page 5.

**Newcastles News**

**SENIORS CONNECT IN MANY NEWCASTLES**

How wonderful to be able to help connect our Newcastles in so many different ways. At the beginning of July Elders Council of Newcastle upon Tyne was featured as the main theme for "Older Voices", the regular radio programme of Newcastle, Clarington. Guest contributors were Kenneth Muls, Mayor of Nyburg, and the Newcastles of the World team. Also participating in the 2016 Newcastle Elders Council conferences in both Newcastle and Nyburg.

**A NEW NEUCHÂTEL IS SHAPING UP**

Whilst local people are enjoying the beautiful Christmas lights (left) at this time of year, a new commune of Neuchâtel is starting to take shape. Following much consultation and discussion, the local governments of Neuchâtel, Pesieux, Valangin and Corcelles-Cormondrèche have begun the process that will see the establishment of a single municipality, to be officially born on January 1, 2021. The new commune of Neuchâtel, with 45,000 inhabitants, will become the most populous commune in the canton. Violaine Blétry-de Montmolin, municipal councillor of Neuchâtel, is co-chair of the steering committee that is already at work to oversee a territorial merger and development plan, ready for the new political team that will be elected in June.

**Newcastle of "Newcastles of the World" - September/October/November 2021**

**GALA NIGHT ENDS NOVÉ ZÁMKY'S SPECIAL YEAR**

The final gala night of "Vzdolání Zámky" - Nové Zámky's special year as Slovakia's City of Culture 2020 took place on Saturday 28 August at the city's Imperial-Royal Historic Riding Hall, with a celebration of what has been achieved and a focus on building upon it for the future.

Just like the Olympic Games, because of the impact of Covid-19, the City of Culture 2020 programme had to be spread into 2021. But, somehow, the programme director and the presenters had to manage and promoted the year were able to cope, and presented wonderful events, time after time, right across the 18 month period.

**Newcastles News**

March - May 2022

The Newsletter of the "Newcastles of the World"

Sent by email to over 2000 people and organisations in over 50 "Newcastles" - please share it with your contacts too!

**NEWCASTLES STANDING WITH UKRAINE**

Across the world, Governments and people have been shocked and distressed at the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the terrible consequences for the Ukrainian people. As elsewhere, there has been a huge humanitarian response by the communities of many of our "Newcastles", who have been donating urgent supplies of food, clothing, medicine, and other necessities to those fleeing from the atrocities to

**Newcastle News**

**NEUBURG SET TO BECOME A UNIVERSITY CITY**

Preparations are in full swing for the scheduled start of teaching on the new campus of the Technical University of Ingolstadt (THI) in Neuburg an der Donau, our New Castle in Bavaria. Teaching will begin in the winter semester 2021/22, the first professors have been appointed and the renovation of the first buildings on the site of the former Lasaggy military barracks is well under way. Initially, around 80 students will start in the Bavaria-wide unique Bachelor courses "Sustainability and Environmental Management" and "Industrial Engineering Construction".

The construction of a modular building for around 500 students is also being planned, and is to be occupied by the winter semester 2022/23. "Civil Engineering" and "Digital Building Technology" will be added and the number of students will grow accordingly.

**Newcastles of the World**

Newsletter : November - December 2023

**TWENTY FIVE YEARS - AND IT'S JUST THE START!**

Our Newcastles of the World alliance celebrated its 25th birthday when we came together in October in Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic.

It was our first conference since the Covid-19 pandemic, and there was a strong commitment to continuing our very special friendship network for many more years to come. We're delighted that Jaunpils, our New Castle in Latvia, has volunteered to host our next conference in 2025.

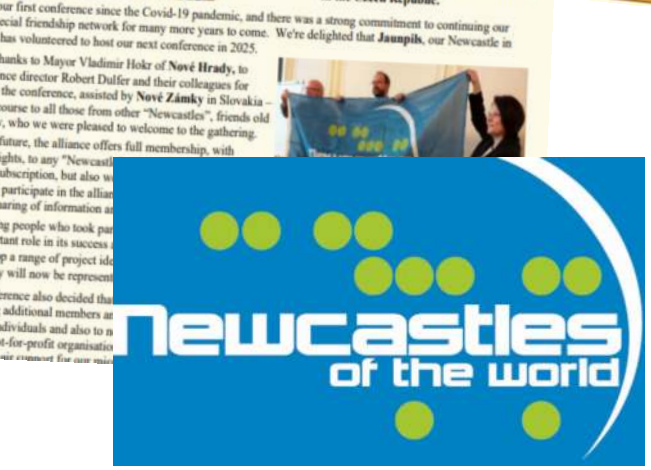
Many thanks to Mayor Vladimír Holý of Nové Hradý, to conference director Robert Duffer and their colleagues for hosting the conference, assisted by Nové Zámky in Slovakia – and of course to all those from other "Newcastles", friends old and new, who were pleased to welcome to the gathering.

For the future, the alliance offers full membership, with voting rights, to any "New Castle" that will participate in the alliance by the sharing of information and

The young people who took part in an important role in its success to develop a range of project ideas - and they will now be represented

The conference also decided that involving additional members open to individuals and also to similar not-for-profit organisations across their countries for our next

**newcastles of the world**





# A SUMMER OF FESTIVALS!

Mid-August saw the annual medieval parish festival at **Jaunpils**, the dramatic castle in our "Newcastle" in Latvia. The festival, themed "Time and Ages", attracted thousands of visitors.



Actor **Aldis Siliņš**, along with the castle manager **Kristīne Liepiņa** and the head of

**Jaunpils and Viesatu parish administration, Baiba Rasa** (right in above photo) opened the event, inviting visitors to enjoy the sights and attractions of Jaunpils through both modern and medieval activities.



Jaunpils will host our **Newcastles of the World** conference next year, to coincide with the 2025 medieval festival.



In July, the annual **Nové Zámky Porciunkula** (the "Newcastle Feast") - *see above* - was celebrated in our "Newcastle" in Slovakia. It's a feast and a fair, with hundreds of stalls, music and a famous goulash cooking (and tasting) competition.

The **Guitar Art Summer Fest** was presented for the eighteenth time in **Herceg Novi**, our "Newcastle" in Montenegro, from July 29 to August 2. During the five days of the festival, seven top concerts of classical, flamenco and Brazilian music were held on Mica Pavlović Square in the Old Town. Guitarists from Spain, Switzerland, Greece, Hungary, Brazil and Montenegro again made Herceg Novi the summer capital of the guitar and music world.



The wonderful annual **Buskers Festival** in **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, was again an August highlight. It began with performances in the villages of the municipality, followed by five days with a range of artists performing in the city in the streets of the pedestrian zone.



One weekend each summer, the whole of **Nyborg** in Denmark buzzes with life, just as when the king and his men met at the Danehof in the Middle Ages. Fiery warhorses, knights in shining armour, an authentic market, historical music and lots of fun and entertainment were on show in July, bringing the heritage of Nyborg and its castle to life.





# HERCEG NOVI STAGES ANOTHER WONDERFUL FILM FESTIVAL

The 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Herceg Novi** ("Newcastle") - Montenegro national film festival took place at the end of August. The festival presented over 70 films in the week, divided into three competitive and two non-competitive sections. The festival had been officially opened by the renowned Croatian actor, director and musician Rada Šerbedžija (*in the photo, below right*) who was presented the with the Milan Zmukic Award for outstanding contribution to regional and European film art.

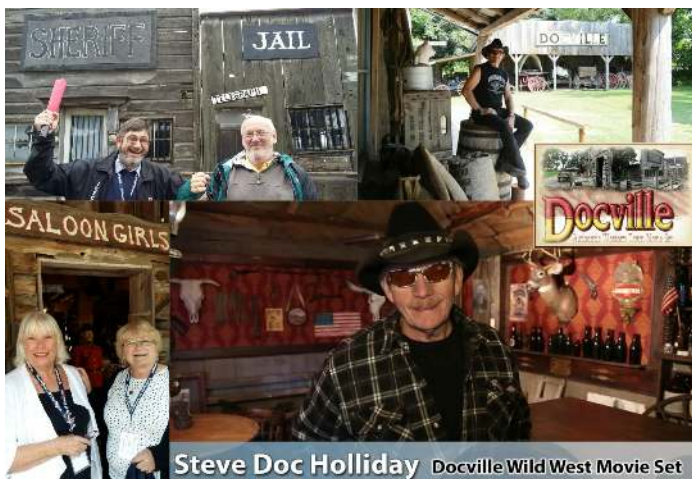
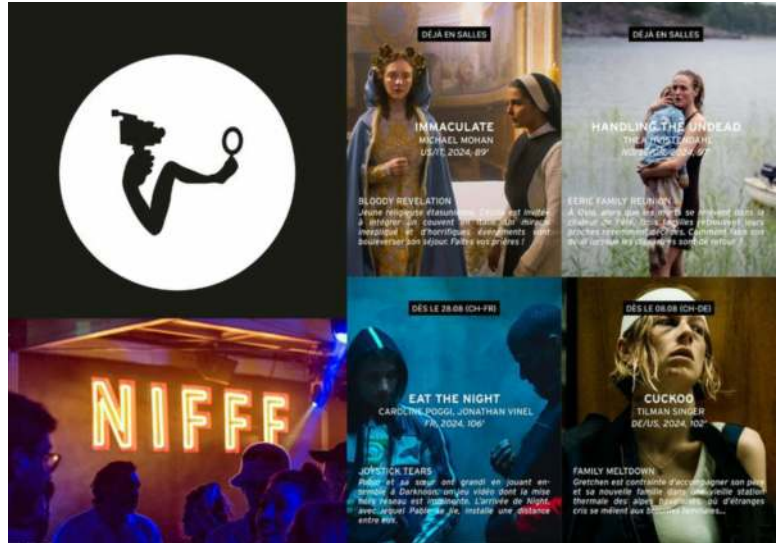
For the first time, the ceremony was preceded by a red carpet walk down the stairs below the Clock Tower where the casts, members of the Festival Council and jury, and representatives of the municipal and state government were acknowledged.

The President of Herceg Novi Municipality, Stevan Katić (*pictured on the red carpet*) reminded attenders that a significant part of the history of cinematography of the region took place in Herceg Novi, from directors and screenwriters to actors and technical staff. Another first for the festival was a gathering of the Montenegrin and the European film industry to exchange experiences.



## And Neuchâtel too !

July saw the 23rd edition of the magnificent **Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival** in our "Newcastle" in Switzerland, with 124 screenings of 84 feature films, five short film programmes, 350 volunteers and an audience of over 35,000 movie enthusiasts. It's the only film festival in the country dedicated to fantasy films ("films of the imagination") and related genres, and it enjoys international acclaim.



Continuing the film theme, "Docville" is a wonderful Wild West filmset in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** which we had the great pleasure of visiting during the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference.

Docville been used as a movie location for the film "Hollywoodland" with Ben Affleck playing Superman.

There were also episodes of the sci-fi series "Twelve Monkeys" filmed there as well as countless B-movies, music videos and product adverts.

Docville is run by Steve "Doc" Holliday, a descendant of the famous Doc Holliday from the old American west. The buildings include a Saloon, Sheriff's Office and general store. See <https://www.docvillefilmset.com/> for more information and photos.

Steve is also an actor, with his latest film short being a thriller called "Hellbound Taxi" When his nemesis escapes from prison, Steve is in the main role as the bounty hunter who comes out of retirement to pursue him. He has a secret weapon: a super-charged, demon-possessed taxi cab that's hungry for the souls of the sinful. His previous leading role was in "The Adventures of Spaghetti Cowboy".





## ANOTHER TOP QUALITY FESTIVAL OF CLASSICAL MUSIC IN NOVÉ HRADY

One of the summer attractions in the South Bohemian region of the Czech Republic is the **Nové Hradý** classical music festival, now in its ninth year. The festival has been built around the performances of celebrated violist Jaroslav Svěcený. He has recorded more than forty CDs of the world's violin repertoire. After studying at the Prague Conservatory and the Academy of Performing Arts, he became not only a soloist, but also an expert on historical violins and violin construction and is a court-appointed expert in the field of string instruments. Most of all he is a populariser and promoter of classical music and occasionally performs with artistic ensembles from the field of popular music. In 2020, he was awarded the Golden Plaque of the President of the Republic.



The audiences in Nové Hradý had the opportunity to enjoy great concerts, and to see and hear top singers and musicians with unique instruments.

Mayor Vladimír Hokr said: "We are pleased that almost all concerts were sold out, which shows the interest of locals and tourists alike in classical music in beautiful historical places. We thank the partners and sponsors of the festival for their support and to the concert visitors for creating a great atmosphere. We are looking forward to next year, when we will have the 10th anniversary".



**LETNÍ FESTIVAL HUDBY A HUDEBNÍCH NÁSTROJŮ**

# Jihočeské Nové Hradý

**25–29 / 7 / 2024**  
začátek koncertů od 20 hod.

<p><b>25/7 ZAHAJOVACÍ KONCERT</b> TAJUPLNĚ BAROKNÍ PŘÍBĚHY JAROSLAV SVĚCENÝ – housle VÁNEK MORTCHMAN – klavír TEREZA VÍCEKOVÁ – flétna JITKA NAVRÁTELLOVÁ – kontrabas NOVÉ HRADÝ, HOSTEL 2000</p>	<p><b>28/7 SLAVNÉ SKLADBY</b> V ORIGINÁLNÍM OBSAZENÍ FRANCOIS – klavír JAROSLAV SVĚCENÝ – housle a přirovnání klavíru LUKÁŠ SOMMER – flétna TOMÁŠ DUBNY – kontrabas NOVÉ HRADÝ, HOSTEL 2000</p>
<p><b>26/7 GALAKONCERT BAROKA</b> JAROSLAV SVĚCENÝ – housle VÁNEK MORTCHMAN (klavír) – organa JITKA NAVRÁTELLOVÁ – kontrabas ALTERNATIVA, HOSTEL 2000</p>	<p><b>29/7 VIVALDI GALA</b> JAROSLAV SVĚCENÝ – housle a přirovnání klavíru MARTIN KOL – klavír Václav Havel – koncertní představení DOBRÁ VODA, HOSTEL 2000</p>
<p><b>27/7 SLAVNOSTNÍ KONCERT</b> K ROKU ČESKÉ HUDBY SMEJANA, DVOŘÁK, BUK, JANÁČEK JAROSLAV SVĚCENÝ – housle KLAVÍRISTICKÝ DUO LUKÁŠ KARLOVÁ – klavír NOVÉ HRADÝ, GALERIE HOSTEL 2000</p>	<p><b>27/7 SLAVNÉ ITALSKÉ, FRANCOUZSKÉ A ČESKÉ</b> HOUSLE TŘI STOLÉTY / KOMENTOVANÁ VÝSTAVA S JAROSLAVEM SVĚCENÝM BAROKNÍ GALERIE NOVÉ HRADÝ OD 10:00 a 18:00 hod.</p>

## NEUBURG'S SUMMER ACADEMY



**BILDENDE KUNST KLASSIK ALTE MUSIK**  
JAZZ/POP KINDER&JUGEND

**46. SOMMERAKADEMIE**  
NEUBURG AN DER DONAU  
28.7. – 10.8.24



The 46th Summer Academy of Arts took place in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our "Newcastle" in Bavaria, Germany from 28 July to 10 August. It's an academy of visual arts and music with teachers and students from all over the world. There were 33 courses, ranging from visual arts, sculpture and youth theatre to classical music and jazz, in addition to numerous concerts. The Friends of the Academy awarded 10 scholarships to young participants. In total, over 400 participants were signed up. New this year was the offer for young people to take part in a course for comic drawing. One of the highlights was, as always, the traditional closing day on which all the galleries opened and visitors were able to enjoy free concerts and plays.

**Nyborg Voldspil** is Denmark's oldest open air theatre, and is now celebrating 85 years. The summer brought another very successful performance there, this time of *My Fair Lady*, which brought in huge crowds.





# SUMMERTIME FIREWORKS LIGHT THE SKY



On 13 August, the Summer Fireworks Festival was held in Sakurabuchi Park, **Shinshiro**, our “Newcastle” in Japan. Around 2,000 fireworks were fired into the night sky.

There was also a hand-held fireworks display, and this year two female members of the Shinshiro Youth Council took up the challenge for the first time. The hand-held fireworks were very hot with fire sparks falling on their heads, but we’re told that they did well!

This summer tradition has been held for over 40 years in the city of Shinshiro during the Obon Festival, when people living outside the city come back home to visit their families and pay their respects at their ancestors’ graves.

Kay Hoyama told us - “The fireworks were so spectacular because of the launch location - the firework's boom echoes through the river gorge. Such a beautiful tradition to experience!”

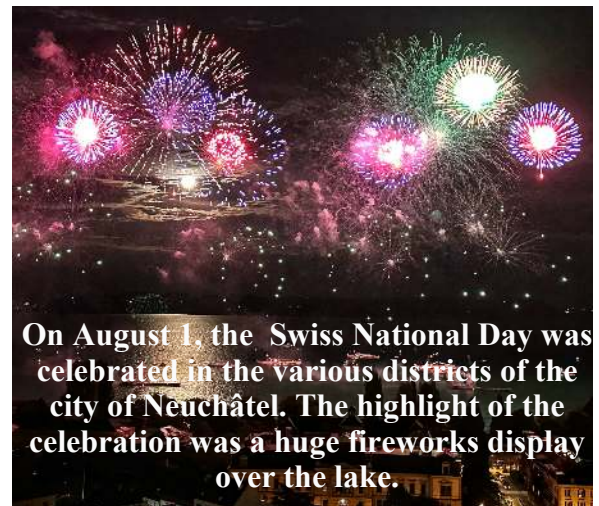


The annual “Fireworks Fest” brought the crowds out again in July in **New Castle Pennsylvania**. As the city is the “Fireworks Capital of America”

(Pyrotecnico and Zambeli are both based there), it’s not surprising that so many fireworks events take place there throughout the year.



A high-level American delegation has visited **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** to explore opportunities for attracting US investors to the town. Heading the US delegation was Consul-General Josie Ratcliffe (second from right). Mayor Xolani Dube (centre) underlined potential that Newcastle holds, particularly with its rich coal reserves, and the significant value Newcastle’s educated and skilled youth could offer to prospective investors.



On August 1, the Swiss National Day was celebrated in the various districts of the city of Neuchâtel. The highlight of the celebration was a huge fireworks display over the lake.



Visitors from **Shinshiro**, our Newcastle in Japan, were welcomed in **Neuburg an der Donau**, Germany in July. Fumiyasu Yamamoto was returning, as he had lived and worked in Neuburg in the past.

This time he was here with Keiko Miyahara, who works in education in Shinshiro. During their stay, they visited the local forest kindergartens of Neuburg to gain information about their concept and practice.

This experience will be valuable for similar kindergarten initiatives in Shinshiro, where a forest project has just begun.



# CULTURE AND HERITAGE

A former **Newcastle upon Tyne** music venue that played host to music legends such as David Bowie, Nirvana and Oasis has been awarded a heritage blue plaque by the city council. The Riverside venue was established in 1985 by a collective of music lovers in the city, and hosted memorable nights across all genres of music. Regularly voted the best venue in Britain in national music polls, the venue helped launch the careers of many local artists. Leader of Newcastle City Council, Councillor Nick Kemp, helped organise the installation of the plaque and was joined at the unveiling by Keith Jeffrey who was part of the original co-operative. Councillor Kemp said: “Newcastle has a thriving music scene and for decades has been the birthplace of some of the country’s best artists - the Riverside is a big piece of that cultural heritage”.



Left to right, Keith Jeffrey; Riverside Film Producer Carl Taylor and Councillor Nick Kemp



David Bowie performing at The Riverside in 1997



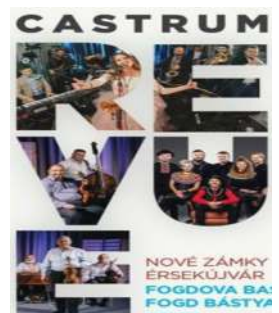
First Nations culture is being celebrated at the expanded **Newcastle Art Gallery (New South Wales, Australia)** following the acquisition of a significant work of art by internationally acclaimed Quandamooka artist Megan Cope. Donated by the Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation, “Kinyingarra Guwinyanba” (“Off Country”) features 44 poles adorned with a bouquet of rock oyster shells, suspended within the new central atrium of the Gallery and visible from the ground and first floors.



The main summer exhibition in Gallery Koželuzna in **Nové Hrady, Czech Republic**, was *India - Poles of Life*, comprising vivid and dramatic photographs from a monthly journey through India by photographer Jan Kypet Smíd. Jan was one of the 19 artists who exhibited in the 2020 Bienále Zámky exhibition, part of **Nové Zámky’s** programme for its year as Slovakia’s City of Culture.



The 4th edition of the multi-genre music festival **Castrum Revue** was held in June in **Nové Zámky, Slovakia**. Original rhythms of Latin America, world music and traditional folk melodies were presented, alongside pop and rock, as well as elegantly-interpreted movie soundtracks.





# PEOPLE GOODBYE, JILL - AND THANK YOU

We were very sad to learn of the passing of Jill Richardson of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** in July. Jill was one of the organisers of the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference in her own Newcastle, also attending the 2018 conference in Shinshiro, Japan and continuing as one of our main local contacts and correspondents. Jill was a school principal and led a very active life in retirement through campaigning and fundraising for local causes. For this volunteering work, and especially for her role at the forefront of the work to bring a residential hospice to her area, she was honoured as Senior of the Year in her municipality in 2021. She was a sparkling personality who will be sorely missed by many.



On 7 August, the Newcastle Community Hall was filled with community members who celebrated Jill's life and legacy. Mayor Adrian Foster (pictured right above with Jill) said: "I am profoundly saddened by the passing of Jill. This is a heartbreaking loss for our community and all those lucky enough to know this incredible citizen. As a fierce advocate for hospice, Jill's work was essential in making the construction of Marigold Hospice Care - formerly Durham Hospice Clarington - a reality. End-of-life care in our community will be forever improved because Jill championed this cause".

There's a sense of both pride and opportunity in **Newcastle, South Africa**, as Mayor Xolani Dube, has been elected as the Chairperson of SALGA KZN. This is the KwaZulu-Natal branch of the South African Local Government Association, representing the interests of the 61 municipalities within the province, championing their causes and advocating on their behalf. Such a prominent role will help raise the profile of Newcastle within the province and may open doors for new opportunities in a range of activities.



The Netflix drama series *Boy Swallows Universe* has just won a record 10 categories at the annual Australian television awards – and there's a double Newcastle connection. The BAFTA and Emmy-nominated director, Bharat Nalluri, helped bring this very Australian story to life for a global audience. Born in India, he is based in **Newcastle New South Wales** but grew up in **Newcastle upon Tyne** in the north east of England. He directed a miniseries called *Tsunami: The Aftermath*, for which he was nominated for an Emmy. This drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor, Sophie Okonedo and Toni Collette, told the story of the tragic events that occurred in Thailand in 2004. He has worked on many award-winning dramas for the BBC1 in the UK, including *Spooks* and *Life On Mars*, and in 2014, directed the pilot for the Emmy-nominated TV series *The 100* for Warner Brothers.

*Boy Swallows Universe* is an Australian coming-of-age television series based on the semi-autobiographical novel of the same name by Trent Dalton. The story revolves around Eli, a working-class youth, who enters Brisbane's underworld to save his mother from danger. In addition to his TV work Nalluri has worked extensively in film. In 2007, he directed the feature film *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day* starring Amy Adams and Frances McDormand.



Miroslav Valenz, from **Nové Hrad, Czech Republic**, visited **Shinshiro, Japan** this summer with his cousin and friend. Miroslav attended last year's Newcastles of the World conference in his home town. Whilst in Shinshiro, they visited Horaiji Mountain and Yuya Hot Spring village, and they bought Japanese yukatas (summer dressing gowns) as souvenirs at a kimono shop.

After sightseeing in the city, they met the mayor of Shinshiro, Hiroyuki Shimoe (*second from the right*), and discussed an exchange between schools in Nové Hrad and Shinshiro. The visitors presented the mayor with souvenirs from their "Newcastle". Whilst in Japan, they also visited Tokyo and Kyoto.



# 50 YEAR MILESTONE FOR “KU LI”

# PEOPLE

It's 50 years since he first became a Member of Parliament in Malaysia, but Tengku Razaleigh bin Tengku Mohd Hamzah is still a hugely influential figure in national politics. Born in our “Newcastle”, **Kota Bharu**, in 1937, he served in parliament from 1974 to 2022 without a break.

He is referred to as the “Father of Malaysian Economic Development” for playing a pivotal role in establishing and implementing key foundations and policies for the country's economy.

His enduring achievements and popularity earned him nicknames such as "The People's Prince" and "Ku Kita" (Our Tengku).

He is even more affectionately known as “Ku Li” derived from the last syllables of Tengku Razaleigh; a common custom in the local dialect.



A descendant of Malay royalty, Ku Li is a great-uncle of the current Sultan of Kelantan, Sultan Muhammad V. He studied economics at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and was Secretary-General of the Malay Society of United Kingdom. He was the Malayan Minister of Finance from 1976–1984, and Minister of International Trade and Industry from 1984-1987.

His international role has been even more significant. He has been the chairman of the Asian Development Bank, chairman of the Islamic Development Bank, founding Chairman and Chief Executive of Malaysian oil company, Petronas, and chairman of the 33rd Board of Governors of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The continued influence and respect for Ku Li translated into support for the winning Barisan Nasional (coalition party) in a controversial by-election in mid-August - Ku Li had been asked to front the campaign.

Ku Li's brother, Tengku Abdul Aziz, who died in 2020, was twice Acting Sultan of Kelantan State and was President of the Kelantan State Royal Council from 1965 to 2010. A prominent diplomat, he served as Malaysia's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1975 to 1978 and Ambassador to the Netherlands from 1978 to 1982.



## New Signage for Neufchâteau - and an additional role for the Mayor

In June, François Huberty, Mayor of Neufchâteau, our “Newcastle” in the province of Luxembourg, Belgium, was also elected as a Deputy in the regional parliament.

He is pictured here, alongside the recently-installed dramatic new signage for the city, by the Valley Lake.



Erik Balling who was born in **Nyborg**, our “Newcastle” in Denmark 100 years ago, was one of the most beloved Danish filmmakers of the 20th century. He was a director, a producer and a writer, mostly famous for creating such TV epics as "Matador" and "Huset På Christianshavn" and the very popular film-series of "Olsen banden" (“The Olsen Gang”).

In 1957 he became head of "Nordisk Film" - the youngest-ever. Balling was mostly famous for his comedies. At the time of the popular James Bond films, Balling teamed up with Henning Bahs to make the James Bond spoof "Slå Først Frede" (1965) and its sequel, “Slap af, Frede!”

This co-work with Henning Bahs was so fruitful that they made many more movies together, leading to a film-series of "Olsen banden", both a TV series and a movie version. "Olsen banden" was about a band of small-time criminals, trying to become millionaires. It was not only hugely popular in Denmark, but also in Germany, Poland, Sweden and Norway. Installed on Erik Ballings Plads in the heart of Nyborg, the metal sculpture of Egon, Keld and Benny from the Olsen Gang has become a big attraction to tourists as well as locals.

In 1970 Balling produced the popular Danish TV epic "Matador". More than 50% of Denmark's population watched "Matador" in those days, about life in a smaller city in Denmark in the 1930s and 40s.

In 1998 Balling, who died in 2005, received the prestigious Robert Award for his work - the Danish equivalent of the Oscars.





# THE TOUR DE NEUBURG IS ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Motorclub Neuburg ("Newcastle" in Bavaria, Germany) organised its eighth Tour de Neuburg on 15th August, a great spectacle of 70 vintage cars and more modern "classics". It's a family-friendly tour through the region around Neuburg on a 180km route, mainly over scenic side roads, in two entertaining stages.



The participating brands included Porsche, Audi, Mercedes-Benz, Jaguar, BMW, Volkswagen - and a replica of a pre-war racing car from the Italian cult brand Alfa Romeo, photographed here. The oldest vehicle this year was a Chevrolet pick-up from 1942, and other attractions included rare English sports cars from the 1950s and 1960s.

Many of the cars were still in their original form, but some had been restored in a contemporary way. The race finished at the Audi Driving Experience Centre in Neuburg, where the prizes were awarded, along with cake, ice cream and focaccia! Thanks to Motorclub Neuburg and Donaukurier for the photo.



Large crowds again attended the Lawrence County Fair in **New Castle, Pennsylvania** last month. Among the many attractions was the Globe of Death Squad's close-quarters stunts and thrilling jumps.

On 21 August, a very special local government visit took place to **Kota Bharu**, our "Newcastle" in Malaysia.

This was from more than 80 people from the Municipal Group of Narathiwat, immediately across the border in Thailand.



The visit involved Mayors, Municipal Council Presidents and officials from the 16 municipalities in Narathiwat Province who were welcomed by Tuan Haji Mohd Anis Bin Hussein, Chairman of Kota Bharu municipality (MPKB). This visit was intended to gain knowledge and exchange experiences on several policy matters, especially on waste management and tax collection. The MPKB is keen to establish bilateral relations to attract foreign tourists to visit Kelantan including from Thailand. The Council hopes that with this visit it can further strengthen the cooperative relationship between Malaysia and Thailand.



Jazmin Webber, an apprentice carpenter at the City of **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** is the proud recipient of the Young Achiever's Award at the 2024 Awards for Women in Local Government. Ceremony. Jazmin became City of Newcastle's first female carpenter after securing an apprenticeship in 2022 and is currently one of 40 apprentices, trainees, graduates and undergraduates completing their on-the-job training. She originally wanted to pursue a career in medicine when she finished high school but has no regrets about her chosen career path.

"The best thing about an apprenticeship with City of Newcastle is the variety and strong mentorship support. I've worked on a range of different projects with a rotation of different mentors since starting in 2022." said Jazmin. She is pictured here receiving her award from Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government.



# NEW LINKS WITH INDIA



Within a former department store in **Newcastle upon Tyne** are rooms that have just become a diplomatic office, a base for the first Honorary Consul for India in the north of England. The building, owned by the Malhotra family, will be converted from student accommodation to a 160-bedroom hotel and is now known as “India House”. The country's top diplomat, His Excellency Mr Vikram K Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the UK, opened the new diplomatic space within the property in August.

While the hotel plans will take some time to realise, the Honorary Consulate offices have already been fitted out to the Indian Government's specifications and will now be used to receive visitors and carry out the work of the Honorary Consul - a diplomatic rank - which includes supporting Indian citizens, building business links and visa services. Mr Meenu Malhotra, Chairman of the Malhotra Group, *pictured on the right with the High Commissioner*, has been appointed as the first Honorary Consul in Newcastle. He said that “the plans for the building, which will include street-level food and drink franchises, will help reinvigorate this part of Newcastle.”



At the end of August, Dr Thelma John David, the Consul-General of India in Durban, South Africa, visited **Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal**. Her visit was to promote opportunities for scholarships to Indian educational institutions, possibilities for capacity training, business connections and shared cultural projects. This was about fostering and strengthening the ties between South Africa and India, focusing on building relationships at a grassroots level, emphasising the profound and rich heritage that links both South Africa and Newcastle to India.



The first link in that heritage chain dates back to 29 October 1913, when Mahātmā Gandhi, who lived and worked in South Africa for over 20 years, led hundreds of men, women, and children



on a march from Newcastle, then part of the Natal Colony, into the Transvaal. This march, part of what was known as the Passive Resistance Campaign, was a bold defiance of the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913. Gandhi's leadership during this event marked one of the most significant

episodes in South African history. On 6 November 1913, Gandhi was arrested while leading another march. Despite his arrest, he was released on bail, rejoined the march, and was arrested again. This persistent nonviolent resistance eventually led to the repeal of the discriminatory regulations. Dr John David highlighted that Gandhi earned the title of Mahātmā (“great soul, venerable”) during his time in South Africa, and that Newcastle, along with the broader South African and Indian communities, played an essential role in shaping his legacy.

One of the most important buildings in Newcastle is the Hindu Temple, built in 1903, and which has the largest cella dome of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Gandhi prayed there before starting the 1913 march.

The 30th anniversary of the **Newcastle upon Tyne Mela** (“gathering”) took place at the end of August. As always, the event, one of the largest of its type in the United Kingdom, was a vibrant celebration of Pakistani, Bengali, Indian, and South Asian cultures, filled with lively music, delicious food, and captivating entertainment.





# THE IMPERIAL RIDING HALL OF NOVÉ ZÁMKY

During the bombing of **Nové Zámky**, our “Newcastle” in Slovakia, at the end of World War II, most of the historic buildings in the city were destroyed.

The Imperial-Royal Riding Hall is one of the few buildings that has remained standing to this day. The riding hall is located in the area of former military barracks. It appears in the register of immovable national monuments of Slovakia under the name "Barracks of Maria Theresa". Before 1918, modern-day Slovakia was part of the Kingdom of Hungary within the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



The complex was built in the last third of the 18th century in a classical style and has been preserved with their architectural features to this day. In the first decade of the 20th century, the barracks were enriched with a military riding school under the name "Old Hussar Riding School". After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, their soldiers were moved into the area. Following the “velvet revolution in 1989”, the barracks were abandoned and the building with the riding hall became the property of the town.

In 2007, the riding hall building was declared a national cultural monument. It is thought to be the only preserved building of its kind in the Slovak Republic. Its uniqueness is seen especially in the roof construction, a combined wood-steel system with a width of 22 metres and a length of 70 metres. Today, the riding hall is appreciated both for its very special features and its history, and is used for cultural, social and educational activities.

## NEWCASTLE LEADS THE WAY ON FAIR TRADE



When **Newcastle upon Tyne** became a “Fairtrade City”, it was the first city in the United Kingdom to achieve this, and it has kept up its status ever since. Supporting Fairtrade in Newcastle means supporting both farmers and workers overseas, and also local businesses and organisations in Newcastle who sell Fairtrade goods.

Fairtrade is about fairer prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world who produce products such as coffee, tea, sugar, cotton, honey and fruit. It also helps tackle climate change by supporting producers in areas of the world affected to plant trees, protect soils, and diversify their crops, so that they can continue to farm and support their families.

It's Fairtrade Fortnight in Newcastle between 9-22 September when there's always a special promotion about this important initiative.

This year it includes a major event for students at the Newcastle University Students' Union, also a new directory of where people can find Fairtrade products, and Fairtrade-supporting organisations (including charities, financial services, and places of worship) across the whole Newcastle upon Tyne area.

Two former Lord Mayors of Newcastle are pictured promoting Fairtrade - Veronia Dunn (*above*) and Habib Rahman (*right*).

It was a social enterprise called Traidcraft, founded on Tyneside in 1979, that pioneered the first fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea, fruit juice, wine, rice, honey, charcoal, rubber, palm oil in the UK.



The community of **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** has bid a fond farewell to Abdul Rahman Hoosein, a trailblazer and respected member of the Newcastle community, who served as the first non-white municipal manager in the Newcastle municipality. He began his career in 1975 at the Newcastle municipality as a health inspector. Later, he was appointed Director of Community Services and then Deputy Municipal Manager of Transformation. In 2003 he became Municipal Manager when Dawie Schutte retired.

Hoosein was described by a former colleague as the ‘ultimate professional who dedicated himself and worked tirelessly to usher in the post-democratic era at the municipality while also ensuring the municipality provided effective service delivery to the community’.





## TAKING THE TRAIN AROUND THE CITY STREETS !

Switzerland's first electric tourist train takes visitors on a summertime journey to discover the charms of the thousand-year-old city of **Neuchâtel**.

Thanks to its glass roof, a panoramic view opens up over its pedestrian streets, its historic yellow stone buildings, Collegiate Church and of course the dramatic Castle.

There are three carriages, 58 seats, operating until mid-September.



Another great project organised by the Philip Astley Centre took place in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** in June. Philip Astley, known as “the father of modern circus” was born in the town in 1942 and the new centre celebrates his life and influence.

The Giant Wheel, performed by Autin Dance Theatre, was a circus-type performance on the street, involving six street artists and accompanied by music and a large community cast of local groups and individual performers.



The USA is developing plans to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

At a local level, America 250 PA (**Pennsylvania**) will be marked through a range of projects. Ginny Jacob Colella, Assistant Director of **New Castle**-based tourist agency *Visit Lawrence County*, has been chosen as the chair for Lawrence County.

The County is celebrating its own 175th anniversary this year - good experience for 2026. One of the current projects is a mural which has been hand-painted on the street in New Castle near the city's courthouse.



"The Hoppings" in Newcastle upon Tyne, Europe's largest travelling funfair, was blessed with fine weather this year, and the crowds enjoyed it all, especially the biggest ferris wheel in the UK.



The end of June saw the annual remembrance day and festival of Saint Shalva Akhaltsikheli in **Akhaltsikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. It was another marvellous day of cultural performance at the castle alongside other festivities and a religious service. Seven years ago, performers from **Newcastle upon Tyne** and **Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal**, South Africa took part in this very special day.





# JAPAN'S NEW UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA



The official opening ceremony of the Nihon University Campus in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** took place in August. Japan's Ambassador to Australia, Mr Kazuhiro Suzuki, was the special guest at the opening. Nihon University in Tokyo and the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australian had signed an agreement in February to collaborate to support the operations of the new campus, located at the former Newcastle Court House.

The original Court House dates to 1892 and operated as a Law Court until 2016 when it was bought by Nihon University. The University's restoration work acknowledges the heritage listing of the building and its historical importance to Newcastle. The beautifully reinstated buildings complement the state-of-the-art accommodation wing and teaching wing either side of the heritage-listed building.

The public will also be able to access and tour the restored Court House building on open days. Nihon University's Newcastle campus, an investment of over 25 million Australian dollars, would be the catalyst for more Japanese educational institutions to establish themselves in Australia, ambassador Suzuki believes.



Mr Gary Foster, Chair of International Newcastle, said that his involvement and that of a colleague, Mr Tony Samson, has been over five years with Nihon on this project. He added that Newcastle had seen off challenges from Sydney and other universities with Nihon. Mr Foster said that Nihon's purchase, re-imagining and refurbishment of such an historic landmark had created a splendid outcome and a second university in Newcastle's Central Business District.

The city of **Kota Bharu**, our "Newcastle" in Malaysia, celebrates the country's independence day annually on 31 August, but this year also organised an Independence Threshold Celebration Programme in the City Square.

The events included independence poetry, dance, buskers and patriotic singing, and also "dikir barat" - one of the unique and interesting art traditions in the state of Kelantan, embracing singing, music, dancing, and wordplay between two groups of singers called awok-awok and tok juara.



It's September and so it's time again for the "Burning Mountain" festival in New Castle, Colorado, USA, located on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. The town is named after the English coal mining city of Newcastle upon Tyne. The mountains, rich with coal surrounding the town, were the impetus for New Castle's development into the bustling mining community it became in the late 1880s. Following explosions at the Vulcan coal mine in 1913 and 1918, with many deaths, the mine was closed. The Vulcan coal seam is still burning in Coal Ridge, south of the Colorado River, and the Consolidated Mine still burns in "Burning Mountain" (the Hogback) over 100 years later. The heat from the fires destroys vegetation and melts snow along the long scars in the Hogback. The "Burning Mountain Festival" is New Castle's signature event which takes place over two days in September to remember the Town's mining history



## GREEN FLAGS FOR NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

Six public spaces in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** have received a prestigious *Keep Britain Tidy* award for how well they are maintained.

The Green Flag Award winners for 2024 are the grounds of the Borough Council-owned Bradwell Crematorium, Brampton Park, Keele Cemetery, Lyme Valley Park, Queens Gardens and Wolstanton Park.

Judging of the sites includes a visit by a ‘mystery shopper’, whose assessment includes how welcoming the site is, cleanliness, safety and environmental diversity. Other criteria for the wards include how the community is involved, the promotion of biodiversity and protection of heritage.

Queens Gardens and Lyme Valley Park are pictured here.



He was back in **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland in June, nine years since he was last there, and met with friends old and new. These included Chancellor Daniel Veuve, colleague Damien Vaucher and former Chancellor Rémy Voirol.

Yuki with Dionis Paratte of the Neuchâtel Youth Parliament



And this is from Yuki's visit nine years ago - some of our readers will see themselves on the photo.

Yuki expressed his gratitude to all those who made his return visit such a happy experience - visiting the town hall and castle, climbing to Chaumont, the guided tour of the city - and enjoying the fondue!

Yuke Kasegawa is part of the international team in **Shinshiro**, our Newcastle in Japan and provides us with information from there for our newsletters. Yuki has been closely involved with our alliance for the best part of a decade now, has visited several “Newcastles” and has friends in many of them.



**New Castle**, the county seat of Lawrence County, is known for the varied and delicious foods that come with its different cultural traditions. The County has the highest concentration of Italian Americans in the whole of **Pennsylvania** state. A food trail has now been signed to allow a taste of the different versions of what is known as the “Sunday Sauce”.



The trail pays homage to the Italian tradition of families and friends gathering on Sundays for Sunday sauce. There are eleven different restaurants and businesses on this trail and the public is encouraged to download the passport trail.

In a bid to address and reduce the unemployment rate among graduates in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**, the Municipality has created a new initiative. The main aim is to provide a comprehensive support system for unemployed graduates, focusing on skills development, mentorship, and job placement.



It was launched at a packed event at the Farmers Hall in June.



One of the most important features of our unique Newcastles of the World network is being able to link people and cultures around the world, make new friendships and help create new experiences, especially for our young people. So we're delighted that ten young people from **Shinshiro**, our "Newcastle" in Japan were able to enjoy a very special visit in August to **Herceg Novi**, Montenegro - and a return exchange of high school students will follow very soon.



Staying with local families, the students were able to see the beautiful Bay of Kotor, Europe's most southerly fjord, and many local cultural monuments such as the Tito mansion, as well as enjoying shared adventure activities and visiting a rural family that preserved the old lifestyles..

They presented their city, its natural beauties, lifestyles and cultural values, at a reception organised by the Herceg Novi municipality, where they were welcomed by the Vice President of the Municipal Assembly, Dragana Stanišić.

Assistant Secretary for Social Activities and International Cooperation, Mitar Kisjelica reflected that the friendship with Shinshiro began at the Newcastles of the World conference in Nove Hradky in the Czech Republic last autumn.



The youth exchange was introduced live on local television, and the students were interviewed! The young visitors said they were delighted with the city and grateful to their hosts for the wonderful hospitality that was shown to them.

## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

[www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)



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, Newcastle South Africa in 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) & 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradky (Czech Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016, Shinshiro again in 2018 and Nové Hradky again in 2023. Our aim is to foster individual, group and civic friendships, with practical links through culture, education, business and tourism.





## MARIAM'S A CHAMPION!

## YOUTH

We applaud the success of Mariam Migriauli, a 5th grade student in **Akhaltiskhe**, our "Newcastle" in the Republic of Georgia, who has just won the girls' championship at the International Chess Festival "Black Sea Dolphin 2024" in Batumi.

Mariam is a member of the "Akhaltiskhi Sports Union" which promotes chess and many other activities. Chess is a huge activity in Georgia - maybe Mariam will follow in the footsteps of Nona Gaprindashvili from Georgia who was winner of the Women's world championship five times? Readers might remember that last year Saba Papashvili of Akhaltiskhe won our international online Newcastles of the World chess tournament?

In July, a new Youth Parliament was elected in **Neuburg** an der Donau, Germany. For the first time girls and boys from the age of 12 to 21 were able to put their vote forward.

The new parliament consists of 16 young people of whom some do not live in Neuburg itself, a first for the parliament. This is aimed at including students who with an association with Neuburg because of their school attendance but do not actually live in Neuburg.



## CRUISE-IN FOCUSES ON YOUNGSTERS

In past editions we have covered the very enjoyable Broad Street Cruise-Ins of **New Castle, Indiana, USA**, with a focus on wonderful vintage cars that remind everyone of the importance of the city in the country's motoring heritage.

Early August saw a Cruise-In "Kid's Night" for the first time - a chance for the youngsters to cruise the downtown in complete safety in pedal cars, power wheels, bikes and trikes, even push buggies.

Sponsor Poynter Bros added a Bike Giveaway event and donated several bikes to lucky youngsters. They believe that riding bikes promotes physical health, mental well-being and a connection to the outdoors. It teaches resilience, builds confidence and fosters a sense of community. Whether it's the thrill of exploring new paths, the satisfaction of reaching personal goals, or the simple pleasure of a leisurely ride, riding bikes has the power to help transform lives.

## RENEWING STREET GAMES IN JAUNPILS



Young people in **Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia have been refreshing and improving a street games area behind the Jaunpils Sports Hall. This is part of the Tukums Municipality Youth Initiative. Jaunpils youth are renewing the paint on the most worn-out characters and adding new elements with fresh designs. But that's not all—this year, there are plans to bring the "White Kitten" characters to life in and around the Jaunpils Mill, in collaboration with the "7 Balles" The project coordinator is Kintija Kora Krastiņa.



7 Balles is a local agency who aim is to interest and involve the people of the area in aesthetically valuable, environmentally friendly, creative activities, promoting handicrafts and applied arts as everyday and creative.



## HENRY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The New Castle - Henry County Chamber of Commerce in Indiana, USA, is a non-profit member organisation that provides support to member businesses. It also has an eye to the businessmen and women of the future and has just completed the second year of its summertime Youth Ambassador Programme (YAP).



The YAP aims to cultivate strong and engaged young leaders who will contribute to the growth and development of their communities. This is an opportunity for young people from local high schools to develop leadership skills, network with businesses and make connections that might help their future careers. They can serve as liaisons between local businesses and the youth community, providing valuable experience in community involvement.

Executive Director, Shonda Kane and Cindy Brooks, Chamber Member Services arrange and present a varied programme of guest speakers, visits and projects throughout June and July. Engagement with local businesses covers such topics as resume (CV) - writing, investment, marketing, economic development, civic-mindedness.

Thank you to Cindy for information about the YAP - you can find out more via [www.nchccchamber](http://www.nchccchamber).



A visit to City Hall with Mayor Greg York



August 12, International Youth Day, was celebrated with a variety of entertainment events for young people at Rabati castle in **Akhalsikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia.

Participants had the opportunity to participate in music-based activities, art and craft workshops and quizzes. The special theme was "Festival of Colours" which concluded in the evening with a gala concert. The event was organised by Akhalsikhe Municipality Hall and with the participation of the Youth Council.

In recognition of their significant milestone and for proudly representing **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal**, South Africa, the Mayor of the Municipality, Councillor Xolani Dube, honoured the schools that excelled in the provincial choir competition.



One of the schools that was recognised by the Mayor was Mntimande Primary, located in the Madadeni Township, a school that Newcastles of the World has had a particular relationship with over the years.



They maybe back at school now, but we love the way that the young students of **Neuchâtel** in Switzerland celebrated the start of their summer break. Thousands paraded through the city streets, all dressed in costumes based on a theme of "time travel" - cavemen and women, dinosaurs, knights, pharaohs (shown here) and even astronauts, applauded by their parents, friends among the large crowds that always enjoy this occasion.



The Vegvisir Race is Northern Europe's largest doublehand sailing event and took place in **Nyborg**, Denmark at the end of August. Sailors from all over Europe came to compete in distance racing in different classes, almost 200 of them in over 100 different boats. Sailors could choose one of three lanes; a long 235 nautical mile course, a medium 151 nautical mile course and a short 95 nautical mile course. The long course was for doublehands (two people on board), while the two shorter courses were for the participation of both doubles and singlehands (two or one person on board).



"Vegvisir" is an Icelandic word that means "guide" - it's also an ancient symbol that was designed to help sailors across the sea in rough weather. The many boats, from racers to cruisers, were on view to the public in Nyborg Harbour in the harbour before and after the racing. The weekend also saw the Danish eSeries season finals. In addition to "virtual eSailing", there was also music and entertainment in the harbour area during the race days.

In **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**, the Hunter Region Sporting Hall of Fame has recognised sporting excellence with its latest inductees. They include Amelia Matheson, an assistant coach for the Newcastle Northstars and a former member of the Australian women's national team. She is the first ice hockey player to be represented. Also from Newcastle is Ben Demery, a Paralympic tandem cyclist with a vision impairment, a medal winner at the World Championships and at the Olympic Games, and sailor Chris Nicholson sailor who has competed in multiple Summer Olympics and Volvo Ocean Races and has won six World championships.



The others were Andrew Garvie - Clay Target Shooting; Dan Repacholi - Pistol Shooting; Matthew Ryan – Equestrian. This marks the 32nd induction ceremony, adding to a legacy that now includes over 350 athletes who have proudly represented Australia or competed internationally after honing their skills in the Hunter region. Demery, Matheson, and Garvie are pictured above at the ceremony on 29 August.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Great North Run, the world's biggest half marathon, took place on 8 September, with 60,000 registered starters. This year, the run, from **Newcastle upon Tyne** to South Shields, was awarded a World Athletics Heritage Plaque in recognition of its contribution to sport - over 1.3 million people now having participated.

In difficult running conditions this year, the winner of the men's elite race was Abel Kipchumba from Kenya, who had previously won the 2024 New York half marathon, The women's race was won by Mary

Ngugi-Cooper, also from Kenya, a world half marathon championships silver medallist. The photo is of some of the elite runners with the originator of the race Sir Brenda Foster (in the centre), himself a former Olympic medallist and world record holder.



In **Kota Bharu**, our "Newcastle" in Malaysia, its half-marathon race was held on 7 September and was better supported than ever.

The winner of the men's open race was Ahmad Luth Bin Hamizan, and the women's race was won by Noor Amelia Musa, *pictured right*.



The winners of each of the 20 bowling districts in **South Africa** met in **Newcastle, Kwazulu-Natal** to compete for the national Mixed Pairs Championship. Bowls South Africa representatives, Owen James and Arthur Langley, complimented the tournament committee and the Newcastle members on an extremely well-run tournament, with special mention being made of the playing surface of the greens and the teamwork of all concerned.



A silver medal winner at the Paris Olympics is Jessica Hull, an Australian middle and long distance runner. She was previously US-based, but relocated to **Newcastle, New South Wales**. Hull is a four-time national champion, with two titles in the 5000 metres and two in the 1500 metres – the latter is the distance at which she won her silver medal. Five days after becoming the fifth-fastest women's 1500m runner in history in Paris, she became the quickest 2000m runner of all time, setting a world record at the Diamond League meeting in Monaco on 12 August.



**Nyborg**, our "Newcastle" in Denmark, has been celebrating its sporting champions. Over 40 winners from sports as diverse as handball, karate and remote-controlled model car racing were received by Mayor Kenneth Muhs (far left in photo) at the City Hall. They have all won gold for Denmark or other titles in international events. Congratulations to them all. And look at the backdrop to this photo, reproducing the magnificent, historic castle of Nyborg.



MC "Cruiser" motorcycle club from **Herceg Novi, Montenegro** hosted the 11th International motorcycle rally over three days from August 30 to September, offering socialising, fun, good music and excitement. The organisers provided a rich and varied programme with concerts during the evenings, a unique motorcycle parade through the streets of Herceg Novi, and competitive biker races and games. It is the only such event in the country.



In the spirit of strengthening cooperation between two sister municipalities, **Herceg Novi, Montenegro**, was a partner city in this year's International Sports Film Festival in Zlatibor, Serbia, one of the most important in Europe. Awards were presented to the celebrated water polo player and sports worker, Zoran Mustur from Herceg Novi, for his outstanding contribution to sports and film, as well as to Ivica Vidanović, the director of the film "On the Golden Scales" produced by the Municipality of Herceg Novi and Cinne Sport. The film was awarded a prize by the jury for the story of a large number of Olympians who came from Herceg Novi and were decorated with numerous medals..

The shores of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland vibrated to the rhythm of sport and celebration on the weekend of 24 and 25 August. Demonstrations, most of which were free, were open to all. More than 40 clubs or schools shared their passion on the occasion of this 24th edition of the Sports Festival, on several sites on the lakeside. The fencing (*right*) was very popular!



**Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia, again hosted a round of the Latvian national motorcross championships this summer. The winner of the class A race was Oskars Urbanovičs who commented that "the track in Jaunpils was prepared in perfect condition"

