

Welcome to the spring edition of Honeysuckle News!

The spring edition of the Honeysuckle News is full of news about construction progress, community engagement and exciting things happening across the broader Honeysuckle precinct.

Over the past few months, we have been busy delivering infrastructure works along Honeysuckle Drive, as well as planning for the commencement of construction for the new Honeysuckle Park at Worth Place. You can read more about this exciting project in the Construction Updates.

Importantly, we have also been working hard on creating a community engagement program to seek ideas relating to the future use and function of development outcomes on the remaining Honeysuckle lands. This engagement program is now live and you can read more about it in this newsletter – make sure you have your say!

We have also been busy working with Newcastle Afoot as the proud Platinum Sponsor of the Big Picture Fest Newcastle – a fantastic art event that features prominent artists and large artworks on buildings in the city centre. We are particularly proud to support the artwork at Museum Park as another beautiful element to the public space that we created.

In this issue, we are also pleased to introduce Fiona Robinson from Rambol. Fiona is a proud Novocastrian and is an absolute inspiration for women working in the construction and STEM related industries.

There is a lot happening as we approach the end of 2020, and we look forward to keeping you up to date!

University of Newcastle's new Honeysuckle campus is powering ahead.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Honeysuckle Park construction about to commence.

Construction of Honeysuckle Park will commence in October – creating a vibrant recreational space at Worth Place. The park is currently known as Worth Place Park West and is being renamed Honeysuckle Park.

On completion, the park will feature a 'maritime-themed' play area, shaded BBQ facilities and stunning sandstone block steps at the edge of the harbour, perfect for grabbing an ice cream with your family and sitting right on the water's edge!

Residents in the area will be provided with contact details of the successful tenderer in the coming weeks, should you have any questions during construction.

University campus taking shape.

Construction of the University of Newcastle's new Honeysuckle City Campus building is progressing well, with the structure's concrete core almost complete.

The next step is to install the unique timber structure which is encased in revolutionary electrochromic (dynamic) glass. This high-tech glass keeps the natural timber on display while keeping those inside comfortable with automatic tinting in the brightest and warmest times of day. This finish will be the feature that sets the Honeysuckle City Campus building apart in the precinct.

OUR COMMUNITY: DELIVERING CHANGE

In this edition we are pleased to profile Fiona Robinson, the Division Director, Australia and New Zealand for Rambol, an international sustainably focused engineering firm.

Fiona is proud to share her love of Newcastle as 'a place where you can have a fantastic lifestyle, and a rewarding and interesting career as an engineer'.

We talked to Fiona about women in construction and her role in the transformation of the Honeysuckle precinct.

- Q:** Hi Fiona! Can you tell us where and what you studied at University?
- A:** I studied Environmental Engineering the first year it was offered at the University of Newcastle (UON). At the time I was one of only six women in a course of 24, and one of eight women in the civil engineering faculty.
- Q:** Have you found being a woman has affected your career in the engineering industry?
- A:** I've never had an issue being a female in my work. My approach has always been to be professional, do the job and do it well.
- Q:** As HCCDC implements a 'women in construction' initiative to bolster female participation in its project delivery, how do you suggest we can encourage more young women to consider a career in engineering or construction?
- A:** I think that Industry needs to work with the education facilities to encourage female participation and I've seen some great results from Hunterwise, which is doing exactly this. As employers, we need to offer the same flexibility for men and women in the working week, so family household commitments are shared.
- Q:** You would have seen a lot of change given you have worked on the Honeysuckle foreshore projects since the 90's. What has been your favourite remediated space to date?
- A:** What HCCDC and the community have been able to achieve is quite an accomplishment. Enabling precinct scale land use planning and redevelopment and finding practical ways to achieve this, is a credit to our region.
- Q:** Your expertise has been an asset to the transformation of Honeysuckle. What has been your proudest moment?
- A:** I enjoy working on the Honeysuckle project and I'm proud of the role we have played in the revitalisation of Newcastle and improving liveability of our city for the future.

HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE UPGRADE NEARS COMPLETION

The \$9.5-million upgrade of Honeysuckle Drive between Hannell and Steel Streets, including the replacement of Cottage Creek bridge, is on track to be delivered by the end of the year.



The improvements allow for a wider road, new and safer transition lanes for cars, bike paths for commuters and recreational cyclists, streetscape improvements, new footpaths and some new parking.

An exciting outcome of the works is the architecturally designed Cottage Creek bridge, featuring a striking steel balustrade with splayed iron arms, painted in a rich earthy orange colour. At nighttime, LED lighting will illuminate and showcase the bridge.

The naturalisation of Cottage Creek is also a significant aspect of the project, with concrete walls replaced with sandstone blocks and attractive new landscaping to encourage coastal vegetation. We are collaborating with Hunter Water to deliver a more natural looking Cottage Creek.

The delivery of this project is another important milestone as we continue to transform Honeysuckle into a thriving community-centred destination.



Fiona Robinson from Rambol has been instrumental in the change taking place in Honeysuckle for more than 20 years.

BIG PICTURE FEST DELIVERS A NEW STREET ART TRAIL



Anti clockwise from left, murals by Patricia van Lubeck, Jordan Lucky and Fintan Magee.

HCCDC is proud to partner with Newcastle Afoot to bring Big Picture Fest 2020 to the streets of Newcastle.

Held over three days during the October long weekend, the Big Picture Fest celebrated Newcastle's history and creative culture by bringing together 12 world-class artists to develop works of art on high-visibility inner-city walls.

We were particularly thrilled to support the mural created in Museum Park by inspirational Sydney based social realist painter, Fintan Magee. Widely acknowledged as one of Australia's leading public artists, Fintan's creation features a hopeful-looking woman standing behind a glass wall and holding a flower in one hand – as if handing it to the adoring onlookers below.

Magee said his inspiration for the design came from his observation of Newcastle as an emerging city, combined with the after-effects of COVID-19 on the community.

"I like the idea of the figure holding a flower behind glass. I think it's a nice symbol for regrowth and renewal after COVID-19 is over.

"I think it's also just a nice symbol for new life, given that Newcastle is a post-industrial city and is taking on tech and other new industries. I thought it worked well," Mr Magee said.

From natural beach scenes to classic graffiti styles and urban realism, the Big Picture Fest has created a colourful artistic trail which weaves its way through our city, creating a magical and mystical visual feast for the community and visitors to enjoy.

We were proud to sponsor the Big Picture Festival.

Honeysuckle
is experiencing
the next stage
of transformation.

STAY UP TO DATE

To keep informed of what's changing in Honeysuckle, register your email at honeysuckle@hccdc.nsw.gov.au

 Honeysuckle NSW

www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au