

HONEYSUCKLE IS CHANGING



Community ideas included rooftop spaces.

OUTCOMES TO HELP TRANSFORM HONEYSUCKLE

Community ideas and feedback from the Honeysuckle Ideas community engagement program have been transformed into a series of project objectives which will guide the next stage of HCCDC's transformation of Honeysuckle.

The 3.3 hectares of land in the western end of Honeysuckle represents the final lands to be transformed and is located adjacent to the Newcastle Interchange and alongside the harbour.

The engagement process asked for the community's thoughts on how the final piece of the spectacular Honeysuckle landscape could be transformed, with a focus on **social**, **economic**, and **environmental** outcomes.

Thank you to those that participated in our engagement program. We're excited to continue creating great places where people choose to visit, play, and work with different uses that showcase the city as an innovative, vibrant, and dynamic global city.

The adopted project objectives are:



Create a magnetic mixed-use destination



Create a great place that is connected



Respect and acknowledge heritage and culture



Demonstrates excellence in design and sustainability



Be people focused and accessible

Want to read the Honeysuckle Ideas Outcomes Report in its entirety? Scan the QR code for more!



IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE CITY VIA HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE

A wider and re-aligned road, improved merging lanes, footpaths and cycleways on both sides of Honeysuckle Drive: these are a few of the features of the just-finished \$12 million upgrade delivered by HCCDC, aimed at improving ease of use, accessibility, and safety.

Already, the upgrades have improved the flow of traffic, made safety a priority for both recreational and commuting cyclists, as well as now offering some stunning visual streetscape upgrades for commuters to enjoy.

An integral part of the Honeysuckle Drive works is the architecturally designed Cottage Creek Bridge,

which replaces the old concrete structure with a new bridge in its place, spanning 30 metres in length.

Attractive future landscaping will also encourage coastal vegetation to regenerate while decreasing the flood risk in the future.

These aesthetic features complement other works along the harbour and throughout Honeysuckle Park, giving the entire Honeysuckle precinct an attractive and engaging feel as HCCDC continues to transform the entire area into a thriving community-centred destination.

New road **420** METRES

35,000 project hours worked

20 PILES driven into the ground to support the bridge

On the site of the new bridgeworks, green renewal has been a focus. This has seen a total of

17 TREES PLANTED



The Cottage Creek Bridge makes a statement by night.

CREATING NEW PUBLIC SPACE IN HONEYSUCKLE PARK

Honeysuckle Park is continuing to take shape, with installation of the natural sandstone seating complete and pathways now underway.

Honeysuckle Park is set to become another beautiful location to take in the harbourside activity. The feature sandstone seats provide a unique amenity, allowing a new level of interaction between water and public domain. With direct north facing views, you can catch the sunrise over Nobby's Headland or enjoy a coffee perched on the side of the harbour.

It was also a key piece of feedback from the community engagement (Honeysuckle Public Domain Concept Plan 2019) that HCCDC is proud to deliver.

The construction of Honeysuckle Park is part of HCCDC's continued revitalisation of the Honeysuckle waterfront.



Installation of sandstone seating will offer residents and visitors a new way to enjoy the Honeysuckle foreshore.

OUR COMMUNITY: DELIVERING CHANGE

In this edition, we are pleased to profile **Nicola Roche, the Cultural Heritage Manager for Umwelt, an environmental consultancy based in Newcastle.**

In her role, Nicola works to document and catalogue the archaeological discoveries uncovered as HCCDC continues with its extensive development of the Honeysuckle area.

An adopted Novocastrian, Nicola has stood witness to the stunning transformation of Newcastle from an industrial city to the bustling hub of tourism, culture, and heritage that it is today.

We spoke to her about her role in that transformation, and how her archaeology and anthropology background is helping us to better understand Newcastle's rich history.

Q. Hi Nicola! Can you tell us a little bit about how your life led you to Newcastle?

A. I moved to Newcastle from Brisbane around 14 years ago – my mum is from Lake Macquarie so that connection was always there. I studied Anthropology at the University of Queensland and went on to work in the UK and Ireland. When a job came up here in Newcastle, I jumped at it!

Q. As a Cultural Heritage Manager... what does your job involve?

A. I specialise in Aboriginal heritage while Umwelt specialises in historical archaeology. My job is to document and characterise the archaeological record in Newcastle. We've salvaged a lot of artefacts which have helped to show how much Aboriginal activity occurred in Newcastle prior to European settlement.

Q. That sounds like interesting work! What are you most proud of achieving during your time in Newcastle?

A. We've uncovered a resource that wasn't well known or well documented, and the engagement from the community on what we're uncovering has been great. There is an increasing interest in the history and culture of the Aboriginal people here in Newcastle – people want to know more, and our work helps them find out more.

Q. As a woman working in the construction industry, what kind of challenges have you faced throughout your career?

A. I've always tried to lead with my actions. I think that whatever doubts people might have about me vanish once they see me getting my hands dirty with a shovel and pick – they respect that and respect what I do.

My anthropology background helps me with this too, as I've been trained to understand people's motivations and experiences. For example, older Aboriginal men will call me 'Bub', but it is not disparaging in any way. It's a term of endearment, they're not doubting my ability!

*University of Newcastle's School of
Creative Industries and Innovation Hub*

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE'S FIRST HONEYSUCKLE BUILDING NEARS COMPLETION

Stage one of the University of Newcastle's new Honeysuckle City Campus Development is well and truly taking shape, as works advance full-steam ahead following the building's topping-out ceremony in December.

Sustainability has been a key focus throughout the design and build of the University of Newcastle's Innovation Hub and School of Creative Industries. Installation of the innovative glazing on the building's 'electrochromic' windows is complete, and the building is continuing to grow around its timber frame.

That iconic timber frame is not just for show: wood is the only material that can remove carbon from the atmosphere for the lifetime of its usage, reducing the building's impact on the environment over the long-term.

Recognising its role as a leader in sustainability, the University of Newcastle has ensured that the building will meet several key environmental goals – both during and after construction – including reduced waste targets, offset greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and significantly lowered electricity and water usage.

On completion, the Innovation Hub and School of Creative Industries is expected to receive the first 6-star Green Star building rating for sustainable development of any structure in regional NSW.



Nicola Roche is helping HCCDC uncover Newcastle's archaeological past.

HCCDC TO UNDERTAKE WICKHAM SCHOOL OF ARTS REPAIRS

As part of our final transformation of Honeysuckle, HCCDC has lodged a development application (DA) to undertake repair works to the former Wickham School of Arts building.

The DA proposes to remove asbestos, install a new roof, reseal windows and doors, waterproof the structure, remove a non-heritage annex and demolish two neighbouring buildings that are unsafe and are not heritage-listed.

The proposed works are intended to provide the best possible chance for the building to be successfully incorporated into the site's future development.

Subject to approval, HCCDC hopes to commence work in mid-2021.

HONEYSUCKLE PROJECTS: AN UPDATE

Development is continuing on several projects throughout Honeysuckle, with milestone moments marked in the progression of works at 35, 42, and 45 Honeysuckle Drive.

The NSW State Government approved Doma Group's revised plans for 42 Honeysuckle Drive early this year, which will now see a mixed-use precinct occupy the site.

The development will include a nine-storey, 5500-square metre office tower and an eight-storey, 187-room Little National Hotel.

The hotel building will house a gym, bar, and café – all of which will be open for the public to use and enjoy.

Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

The Huntington project at 35 Honeysuckle Drive is tracking well and is on schedule to be completed by late 2022. The contractors are currently completing bulk excavation and remediation works onsite and have now commenced construction of basement carparking.

And just up the road at 45 Honeysuckle Drive, the Horizon on the Harbour project is currently pre-selling apartments with a view to commencing construction later this year.

An artist's impression of the mixed-use precinct going up at 42 Honeysuckle Drive.



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