



Honeysuckle Park has something for everyone: green space to relax, equipment for kids to play, pathways to connect west to east, and more.

HONEYSUCKLE IS CHANGING

Honeysuckle Park Open

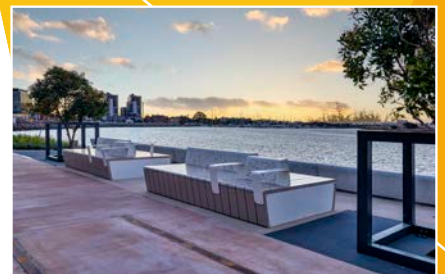
HCCDC's revitalisation of the Honeysuckle waterfront has taken an exciting step forward, with the opening of Honeysuckle Park! The playground's ship and restored Maritime assets have proved particularly popular with the younger members of our community, while the sandstone steps are a great place to enjoy a coffee.

The completion of Honeysuckle Park marks a key step towards completing the magnificent 11km stretch of community pathways and connections from Throsby Creek to Merewether Beach.

Sandstone seating around the water's edge is a unique feature, providing connection between the water and the public domain and a perfect stop to admire the harbour views.

BBQ shelters and picnic seating, combined with a maritime themed play space that reflects Newcastle's history as a shipping thoroughfare, means Honeysuckle Park is a space designed with families in mind.

HCCDC is proud to deliver a diverse, unique, and multi-use space in the heart of Honeysuckle. This is a significant step in HCCDC's delivery of new public domain, and we look forward to seeing the community make full use of Honeysuckle Park in the years to come.



Winter 2021



**Hunter & Central Coast
Development
Corporation**

Stunning, stylish, and sustainable: UoN comes to Honeysuckle

WICKHAM SCHOOL OF ARTS WORKS



COMPLETION OF UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE BUILDING

The School of Creative Industries and Innovation Hub have a new home in the heart of Honeysuckle, after the keys to the brand-new University of Newcastle building were recently handed over.

Honeysuckle City Campus – or Q Building – will house new facilities for the University's creative disciplines, along with the Future Arts and Science and Technology Lab (FASTLab) and the Integrated Innovation Network Hub (I2N).

University of Newcastle Vice Chancellor, Professor Alex Zelinsky described Q Building as the 'entrepreneurial epicentre of the Hunter'.

Sustainability was front of mind throughout construction. Thermal glass encases the north and west sides of Q Building, which tints according to the intensity of the sun. This feature assists in the building's climate moderation while retaining the design principles of openness and transparency.

In addition to this, a concrete core and a sustainably-sourced, cross-laminated timber internal structure further shows a collective commitment to building for the future.

Q Building opened its doors to students from July 19. The NSW Government is proud to have helped fast-track this project during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Repair works at the former Wickham School of Arts building in Honeysuckle are set to get underway in the coming weeks.

The replacement of the roof, resealing of windows and doors, and the removal of hazardous materials are among the repair works planned.

In addition, a non-heritage annex structure, built in the 1950s, will be removed along with two neighbouring buildings that are also not heritage listed.

These repair works will maintain the heritage integrity of the building, giving the former Wickham School of Arts building the best opportunity to be re-purposed as part of a future development.

MARITIME LANTERNS A CALL-BACK TO NEWCASTLE'S PAST

*Maritime lanterns look
great in the day, and
light the way at night*



Newcastle's rich history has been interwoven into HCCDC's latest project, with a series of historic maritime artefacts restored and installed in the brand-new Honeysuckle Park.

The artefacts, including refurbished lanterns and bollards, along with plaques that detail key vessels that have graced the harbour of Newcastle throughout its history.

Lanterns, painted red and green, are an eye-catching addition to the location and will light up the harbour of an evening while the bollards are perfect for sitting and enjoying a break.

A number of these bollards are in the kids' playground, which in addition to featuring restored elements, also boasts an exciting boat play-set for the littles ones to climb and enjoy.

Bob Cook from the Newcastle Maritime Museum Society said it was a thrill to see pieces of Newcastle's history put to good use.

"It's really good to have them out of storage after all this time and be able to put them in a place where people can touch them, see them, feel them," Mr Cook said.

"The history of Newcastle is quite important and complex, and this maritime facet of our past is really an important part of Newcastle's history.

"I'm very keen to see Newcastle's maritime history told and presented in interesting ways and this space definitely ticks that box."

PEOPLE PROFILE

STEVE AEBI

Steve Aebi is a Dubbo boy originally, but now regards himself a proud Novocastrian.



He's also a Project Leader here at HCCDC and has played a role in some of your favourite transformations around Honeysuckle and Newcastle at large.

We sat down for a chat with Steve to pick his brain on what it's like to be on the other side, planning and delivering such big changes around our city!

Q: Steve, can you tell us a little bit about your role?

A: I lead a motivated team of development managers. They deliver urban revitalisation projects in Newcastle (like Honeysuckle Park and The Station), providing the community with improved public domain, residential, commercial and retail opportunities.

Q: Can you tell me a little about your role in the Honeysuckle Project?

A: It's a massive project, delivered progressively in stages. We're at the last stage now, the last five hectares of 50 in total – so we're down to the last 10%. Effectively, what my role has been is to plan and deliver that last five hectares. Honeysuckle Park, the foreshore promenade to link up with the marina, residential developments to name a few.

One of the biggest projects, just recently, has been the realignment of Honeysuckle Drive. That set the structure for the rest of Honeysuckle, it provided the road infrastructure, the servicing for future development lots. It's almost like the puzzle has been made, and now it's a matter of colouring it in.

Q: What excites you most about the change taking place in Newcastle and Honeysuckle?

A: City plans developed ten years ago are being realised with better connections, destinations, and vibrancy. And the most exciting part is that this is just the beginning for Newcastle, it's a once-in-a-generation change that will build a smart Newcastle for those generations to come.

Q: What has been your experience working on HCCDC projects?

A: It's great to work with a group of passionate locals. We live in Newcastle; our kids go to Newcastle schools and play community sport. We understand what it is to be a Novocastrian because Newcastle is our city, and that passion ensures we strive to deliver the best outcomes we can for the community.

Q: What's do you enjoy most about your work for HCCDC?

A: My job is to have 20 experts around me, each in their own field, but someone has to balance that. It's like being a conductor of a band – they don't necessarily know how to play a violin or a tuba, but they know how to bring all the instruments together to make it sound good.

That's what I see my job as: I have all these experts, each providing their own input and I'm the one trying to balance things and solve the puzzle, to get a good result to serve not only today's generation, but also the next.



Artist impression of Cottage Creek.

NATURALISATION OF COTTAGE CREEK

The next step in the development of public spaces in Honeysuckle is the naturalisation of Cottage Creek, with work to begin on the transformation of the current concrete waterway in the coming weeks.

HCCDC will add rocks and plantings to the banks to give the creek a more natural appearance. These works will also assist in preventing future flooding and erosion in the area. A more accessible and green space is set to be available to residents and visitors alike, with a pedestrian bridge one of the key features of the planned works. Eventually, the path alongside the Creek will connect through to King Street.

We look forward to bringing you more information on the naturalisation of Cottage Creek, or you can keep up to date on our Honeysuckle Project Page on our website.

HOPE AT HONEYSUCKLE DA LODGED

The transformation of the historic Wharf building into Newcastle's newest destination for food, entertainment, and gourmet Hunter Valley produce is a step closer with the DA lodged for 'Hope at Honeysuckle'.

Described as a 'cellar door by the sea', Hope at Honeysuckle will bring the best in food and wine from the Hunter Valley's Hope Estate into the heart of Newcastle.

To passers-by, the Honeysuckle Drive frontage won't change much, but things will get a shake-up on the harbour side: there are plans for an all-weather space and the opening up of the deck area, to bring visitors closer to the water and nurture an indoor-outdoor feel.

HCCDC Chief Operating Officer Valentina Misevska described the submission of the DA as a 'key milestone' for the exciting venture.

"Hope at Honeysuckle is set to become something really special and once fitted-out, the adaptive reuse of the building will really showcase the best of this precinct and create a unique experience for both locals and visitors," Ms Misevska said.

"Creating a vibrant, destination venue that offers fun experiences both day and night, encouraging people to linger longer while enhancing our built heritage definitely aligns with our objectives for the broader precinct."

Hope at Honeysuckle is expected to open in late 2022.

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

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