

HONEYSUCKLE IS CHANGING

Artist impression
of Honeysuckle HQ

Honeysuckle HQ to transform Newcastle CBD

HCCDC is continuing to deliver outstanding places in Honeysuckle, and we're now seeking an experienced development partner to help us turn the final Honeysuckle lands into an enviable and vibrant destination.

We've branded it Honeysuckle HQ and it's where the new CBD of Newcastle, in the west of the city, will meet the waterfront.

It's made up of two parcels of land: Honeysuckle Quays, located on the northern, waterfront side of Honeysuckle Drive and Honeysuckle Quarter, located on the southern, city side.

Our objectives for both places are community-focused and guided by an extensive community engagement program. Honeysuckle HQ will seek to deliver on our community's aspirations for this precinct, with a special focus on environmental, social and economic outcomes.

The artist's impression of how Honeysuckle HQ may look in the years to come is simply stunning: a vibrant and modern city centre, with outdoor and rooftop dining, a mix of business and residential spaces, easily accessible to all.

This is in line with HCCDC's determination to build a space that caters for the entire community, residents and visitors alike. We will work with the development industry to deliver high quality architecture and design, incorporating accessible and dynamic offerings that enhance Newcastle's cultural, social, and economic objectives.

You can learn more about our Honeysuckle Ideas community engagement program and read our Outcomes Report at www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au/honeysuckle-ideas

HCCDC has five overarching objectives for Honeysuckle HQ:



Create a magnetic mixed-use destination

A landmark precinct that attracts people to work, live and play



Create a great place that is connected

An enviable destination that links people to transport, place and the waterfront



Respect and acknowledge heritage and culture

Care for Country and embrace the unique culture and history of Newcastle's waterfront



Show excellence in design and sustainability

Quality urban and architectural design incorporating best practice sustainability



Be people focused and accessible

A place for the whole community

Summer 2021



Hunter & Central Coast
Development
Corporation



Artist impression of
Honeysuckle Promenade

Continuing the promenade and naturalising the creek

HCCDC is proud to be delivering another fantastic public domain in Honeysuckle, with the construction of a quality waterfront promenade and new pedestrian bridge over Cottage Creek commencing in October.

The promenade forms part of HCCDC's \$55 million commitment to infrastructure and public domain delivery as the final transformation of Honeysuckle is realised, and the development of Newcastle West continues.

Once the works are complete, residents and visitors will have waterfront access to even more of the harbour with a wide and attractive shared path suitable for cyclists and pedestrians.

Activating the precinct day and night will be a feature of the works, with interesting architectural elements like tiered sandstone seating to help bring the precinct to life.

Local landscape architects, Terras, will deliver the plan for the natural transformation. This will mean an attractive range of garden beds, a twin-tree lined promenade, water's edge seating, an observation node, and native plantings suitable to the area along the creek.

It is anticipated that the promenade and naturalisation of Cottage Creek will be completed and open to the public by Spring 2022.

Future park amenities

Community feedback on the newly opened Honeysuckle Park has been resoundingly positive, with residents and visitors alike enjoying the waterside park.

It's been great to see families, young and old, enjoying the space with kids climbing all over the maritime-themed playground and adults picnicking on the rolling lawns.

Thanks to extensive community consultation since the opening of the Park, it's been identified that the missing piece of the puzzle is accessible amenities.

We'll continue to engage with our community and stakeholders before installing additional, permanent amenities adjacent to the Park, which will likely be operational by mid-2022.

In the intervening period, HCCDC will install a temporary facility for the community.

Wickham School of Arts repairs underway

Repair works have commenced at the former Wickham School of Arts building as HCCDC seeks to make the building safe and increase its future usability.

The works are intended to give the building the best possible chance to be successfully incorporated into a new use.

Among the works are the removal of asbestos, installation of a new roof, waterproofing, and the removal of neighbouring buildings and an adjoined annex which have no association with the original Wickham School of Arts, or heritage value.

The building sits on part of the larger site identified for the future CBD of Newcastle, and these works will make the former Wickham School of Arts building safe while the future of the site is determined.

HCCDC is proud to be working with Indigenous-owned PSG Holdings to deliver the repair works, which will be completed in early 2022.



Former Wickham School of Arts building



Artist impression of Honeysuckle's Wickham site

Daracon women in construction

In engaging contractors to continue the transformation of the Honeysuckle precinct, diversity and inclusivity are two words that are always front of mind for HCCDC.

These values were important in the decision to engage Hunter-based Daracon Group to undertake works to continue the harbour promenade along Honeysuckle and construct a bridge across Cottage Creek.

Daracon Group is committed to supporting women in joining and remaining in the construction industry, and has demonstrated this commitment in the gender diversity of the team who will be completing the works.

Women are in key roles throughout the Honeysuckle project: Neisha Lowe is the Project Engineer, Aleashia Kircher is the Environment Lead Projects, Louise Neville is the Community Relations Manager, Stacey Penfold is the Quality Manager and Lisa Lloyd is the Project Administrator.

To support these aims, Daracon has implemented corporate initiatives as well as opportunities for hands-on experience on work sites. These include:

- Signatory to the CCF NSW (Civil Contractors Federation) 50/50 initiative – 50% women in the construction industry by 2050
- Selection and participation in Career Revive – a Commonwealth Government funded program aimed at recruiting, retaining and supporting women in the workplace

- Opportunities for undergraduate civil engineering students from the University of Newcastle, including a site tour of the Honeysuckle Promenade project.

HCCDC is thrilled to see a high level of female representation across its projects in Honeysuckle.



Neisha Lowe,
Project Engineer

SARAH COLLINS

One of the most important parts of what we do at HCCDC is engaging with our community, on everything we do.

Our goals are to make spaces that benefit everyone, which is what makes community engagement such an important aspect of our work.

One of those people who works hard behind the scenes to hear, respond, and action your feedback is Acting Senior Communications Manager, Sarah Collins.



Q: Hi Sarah! Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?

A: I've always worked in marketing and communications roles across a variety of industries. I moved to Newcastle five years ago, worked with Urban Growth NSW which merged to become HCCDC.

I'm passionate about great food and great dining experiences. I love bike riding and recently started exploring the bike tracks around Lambton and the Fernleigh track.

Q: What does your role as Acting Senior Communications Manager entail?

A: Well, no two days are ever the same! A lot of what I do is working on the communications and engagement strategies for HCCDC projects across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, and the Central Coast to determine how we can best talk with our community.

Internally, I'll work with project managers to ensure the right messages are being delivered at the right times as well as managing community and media enquiries. Externally, I engage with our stakeholders and community to understand their ideas and aspirations so we can incorporate them into our projects.

Q: Can you give us an example? What's your role on a project like the newly-opened Honeysuckle Park?

A: I'm responsible for telling the story of the construction of Honeysuckle Park. The project had a number of historical elements that were restored and installed in the Park, plus we installed beautiful sandstone steps which overlook the harbour, and I love the process of working out how best to tell our community about that.

Another important part of my role in that project is stakeholder consultation. That means co-ordinating with the project manager and construction team, and ensuring we make everyone - from residents to visitors alike, aware of the temporary disruption that kind of construction brings.

Q: You mentioned you only moved to Newcastle five years ago. What kind of change have you seen in the city in that short time?

A: Phenomenal change! Turning the rail corridor into green space, interesting architectural new buildings like the University's NewSpace, Verve Apartments, EastEnd, and Lume. An influx of cool restaurants and cafes, Light Rail, turning a Council building into a 6-star hotel, and large-scale events being staged in the city including Le Diner en Blanc, Matildas v USA and Supercars.

Q: What do you enjoy most about your role at HCCDC?

A: I'm someone who can genuinely say that I love my job. It's such a diverse role. One project that stands out in my mind is Market Street Lawn and developing a program of community events on the newly turfed rail corridor as part of the Revitalising Newcastle project.

It's great forming relationships in this community and playing my part in the change and evolution in Newcastle.

Honeysuckle
is experiencing
the next stage
of transformation.

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

 Honeysuckle NSW

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