



## Honeysuckle update

Autumn 2022

Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation

# Promenade one step closer to connecting city and sea

**The showpiece of the Honeysuckle promenade has been installed, with construction teams recently lowering the bridge into place over Cottage Creek – a key piece of our coastal pathway infrastructure.**

Works are continuing on the remainder of the project, with features including tree-lined granite pathways for pedestrians and cyclists, and extensive seating along the promenade.

Teams have also recently completed landscaping works around Cottage Creek, naturalising the area by adding sandstone blocks and native plantings along the creek's edge.

We'll add to this in the coming weeks by providing garden beds with more native flora, and trees that will provide future shady places.

Work is progressing well, and the promenade is on track to be open to the public in Winter 2022, with a temporary path to the marina to be opened by Spring.

The next stage of works in this area is permanently extending the promenade further west, connecting it with the marina, as part of the Honeysuckle HQ works.

Once those works are complete, we'll have created an uninterrupted 11km harbourside path to get you from Wickham in the west, to Bathers Way in the east.



Lowering of the bridge structure was meticulously planned and executed by the project team.



HCCDC is proud to be working with the dedicated team from PSG Holdings.

# In the spotlight: PSG Holdings

**We're proud to be working with 100% Indigenous-owned PSG Holdings to repair the former Wickham School of Arts building at Honeysuckle.**

The construction and services company aims to increase Indigenous participation through both direct employment and the suppliers they engage. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people already make up over a quarter of the company's workforce.

The driving force behind PSG is founder and director, Troy Rugless, a proud Wiradjuri man. The Wiradjuri people hail from central west NSW.

"Our vision is to achieve reconciliation through business, which involves working together to find opportunities for Indigenous economic advancement," Troy said.

"We support the growth of Indigenous businesses by showcasing the unique skillsets

they offer to the industry. This helps enhance cultural awareness and build mutual trust and respect.

"PSG Holdings is excited to partner with HCCDC to showcase a successful Indigenous business to the local community. Through this project, we aim to further connect with local Indigenous businesses and introduce them to new networks and growth opportunities.

"We strive to be an Indigenous business that gives hope and inspiration to others, so they can see that their dreams are achievable."

Aboriginal participation is a priority at HCCDC and is encouraged at all stages of project delivery. Learn more about our social initiatives at [hccdc.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-participation](https://hccdc.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal-participation).



## Fresh outlook for Wickham School of Arts

The former Wickham School of Arts building is being given its best chance of reuse in a transforming Honeysuckle, with repair works continuing at the heritage building.

As you would have noticed, the neighbouring non-heritage buildings have been demolished and the related material removed from site.

Works on the building itself are also progressing, with a new roof, gutters, and downpipes being installed, and minor repairs to the facade now underway.

We're expecting these works will be finished mid-2022.



## People profile: Brian O'Mahony from PSG Holdings

**One of the most crucial roles on any construction site is that of the site manager.**

Responsibility for everything, good and bad, falls to the site manager. They oversee the entire construction process, from day one to day done.

At the Wickham School of Arts site, this role has been entrusted to Brian O'Mahony, from PSG Holdings.

**Q. Hi Brian! Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

**A.** I'm a carpenter by trade. I started my trade back in Ireland before I moved over to Australia (mainly for the warmer weather and Australian lifestyle) at the age of 22.

I worked with PSG Holdings as a heritage carpenter on one of their early projects. I liked what I saw, and I liked the genuine culture of the business so much that I decided to stay.

**Q. Tell us a little bit about your journey with PSG Holdings.**

**A.** From carpentry, I moved into construction management, and became involved in establishing

PSG Holdings divisions across Australia. I first worked on setting up in WA, followed by ACT and then Newcastle.

It was in 2016 that we completed our first Hunter project, and I quickly realised that I'd found the place I wanted to call home.

**Q. As Site Manager at the former Wickham School of Arts project, what does a typical day hold?**

**A.** I'm the first person on site every morning. My day includes pre-start discussions, site inspections, task observations, updating programs, and making sure contractors are completing their work in a safe and productive way.

One of the most enjoyable parts about the job is the daily interaction with people, along with seeing projects progress. It's a great feeling watching it all come together throughout the various stages, and then handing the finished product to a happy client.

**Q. What might we find you doing outside of work?**

**A.** Probably still on the tools! I'm currently renovating the house. Apart from that, I like to find time to play the guitar, go wakeboarding, and go camping to explore this beautiful part of the world.



## Permanent amenities for Honeysuckle Park

HCCDC is working with City of Newcastle to deliver permanent amenities in Honeysuckle Park later this year.

The temporary toilets we installed in January are getting plenty of use, as the park and foreshore walk continue to attract both locals and visitors.

We'll soon build new wheelchair accessible amenities with appropriate baby change facilities, to better cater for everyone at this popular destination.

We've been speaking with residents about the location and design of the toilets, and you'll be able to have your say when the project's environmental assessment goes on public exhibition in the coming weeks.

# In short:

There are a number of projects happening around Honeysuckle at any one time, at various stages of construction.

We've checked in on two of these progressive projects to bring you the latest.

## Q Building receives environmental accolade

The University of Newcastle's Q Building has become the first building in regional NSW to achieve a 6 Star Green Star 'Design and As Built' certified rating.

The award recognises that Q Building began life as a good design, followed it throughout construction, and will continue to be sustainable throughout its operations.

Opened in June as the first stage of the university's new Honeysuckle City Campus, the university has committed to reaching carbon neutrality by 2025.

Some of the building's sustainability features include thermal glass on the north and west sides which tints according to the sun's intensity, and a sustainably sourced, cross-laminated timber internal structure.

HCCDC is proud to support projects that strive for positive environmental outcomes while bringing more people into the city centre.



UoN's Q Building received the first 6 Star energy rating in regional NSW.



Thanks to GWH Build for taking HCCDC team members on a site tour of the soon to be completed building and public space.

## Darby Plaza to connect Hunter Street with Honeysuckle

The covers are coming off at the much-anticipated Darby Plaza, where the building is starting to take shape. We were lucky enough to be able to tour the site in early March and check it out for ourselves.

The eight-storey building boasts more than 8,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space, and more than 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of public space that links the city with the harbour.

The public space will improve pedestrian access from one of Newcastle's busiest streets, Darby, to the harbour foreshore, and intelligently links public and private spaces.

We're proud of the work our team did to rezone the site, establish the development controls and ensure the planned public domain connections were delivered along with the development.

We look forward to welcoming more workers into the city when the Plaza opens in Autumn 2022.

## Honeysuckle is experiencing the next stage of transformation.

To keep informed of what's changing in Honeysuckle, register your email at [honeysuckle@hccdc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:honeysuckle@hccdc.nsw.gov.au)

[www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au)

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