

## Inside this Issue

- Fortress restoration in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia p2*
- Canadian anniversaries p2*
- Jaunpils celebrates p2*
- Kota Bharu football success p3*
- Audi invests in Neuburg p3*
- New mayor for Newcastle, Australia p3*
- Memories from last summer p4/5*
- Newcastle-under-Lyme is blooming! P6*
- Nové Hradý's rural spaces conference p6*
- Neuchâtel's eco-explorer p7*
- Newcastle - festival city p7*
- The story of "Newcastles of the World" p8*
- News in brief p8*
- Send us your news for the next edition!*  
*By the end of March - to david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk*  
*How about a Youth Council page?*

www.newcastlesoftheworld.com



## Awards for Newcastle KZN

Newcastle Municipality won two prestigious awards at the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) department's KwaZulu-Natal Excellence Awards in September.

Mayor Afzul Rehman was announced the **best local performing mayor** in the province on account of his exceptional leadership of the municipality and for overseeing progress in many aspects of service.

And for making Executive Committee meetings paperless through the introduction of online agendas, the municipality received an award for the **most innovative project**.

In a separate scheme Newcastle was named the second cleanest town in South Africa during a prize-giving held in Johannesburg in late November.

The road which led to the finals has seen Newcastle also bring home the award for the **Cleanest Town in KwaZulu-Natal**, and with the second place nationally the town was given R3 million to spend on improvements.

### Green and efficient

The competition not only judged the town on its general cleanliness, but also on the town's green cleaning projects which included the cleaning of the Ncandu River, the placement of bins throughout the town, and the walling off of the taxi rank among others.

"KZN is moving forward and Newcastle is one of the driving forces within the province," said Mayor Rehman as he thanked the community for its support.



## Shinshiro City's new Youth Assembly

A special conference in October of around 200 people was attended by the **Mayor of Shinshiro** and other senior officials to hear from the delegates to the 2012 Newcastles of the World summit about their experiences.

One of the outcomes was to encourage the youth delegates to set up their own Youth Assembly. "Our youth members have now started to think about our city from the point of view of young people" said **Miho Ishino** "We thank David Matthews



and all the youth members of the Newcastles of the World summit for supporting us to establish it". The delegates have also been sharing their experiences with the people of their city via local radio.

It was a special year for international collaboration in Shinshiro as it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city's International Exchange Association.



## Nové Hradý to host Summit in 2014



We're pleased to announce that **Nové Hradý**, in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic, will host the 2014 Newcastles summit. Mayor **Vladimir Hokr**, who brought a delegation of nine people from his town to the 2012 summit, confirmed his willingness to host once we all became aware that Newcastle in Ontario, Canada, would prefer to wait a little longer before presenting a summit. (See page 7 for more)



# Stunning fortress restoration in Akhaltsikhe

An investment of over 30 million euros has created a wonderful restoration of the Rabat fortress area at Akhaltsikhe - the “new castle”. On August 16 the President of Georgia visited Akhaltsikhe for the opening, accompanied by the then Prime Minister Vano Merabishvili – who is from the Akhaltsikhe area.



Contact Giorgi at [cherkezatravel@yahoo.com](mailto:cherkezatravel@yahoo.com)

The marvellous day for the city concluded with a concert by Charles Aznavour, the famous French singer, whose Armenian ancestors lived in Akhaltsikhe.

**Giorgi Cherkezishvili**, Deputy Director of the Fortess Project, has been in touch with us to explain that the complex has become the tourist centre for the entire region. “Tourism, science and education are our main priorities for the work of the centre.”

He says “We hope for collaboration between the Newcastles on the implementation and promotion of key projects like this. We will find it useful and efficient to link our museums and tourist companies to share experience and our cultural heritage“

## A day of Celebration in Jaunpils

On 18 November Latvia celebrated the day of Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia. In 1918, national representatives convened in what is now the National Theatre and proclaimed the independence of the Latvian state.



This is a public holiday and is celebrated with several events. In **Jaunpils** every year on this day there is a concert of celebration, and chairwoman **Ligita Gintere** presents diplomas to local citizens of Jaunpils in recognition of their contribution to the community.



## 2013 - A special year in Newcastle, Ontario 175 years for the Port of Newcastle

Gaff rigged schooners, paddle-steamers, long dresses, and wide brimmed hats - it's not every harbour on Canada's Lake Ontario that can boast a history dating back to 1838.

Indians were first to recognise this safe natural harbour, camping near today's breakwater and fishing the salmon. However the bustle of port activity was not to heard until the mid 19th century when schooners and barges docked at Newcastle in answer to the call from industries which were starting to boom in the town. There was milling and weaving, distilling and machinery manufacture for the large farming community. It was at the Port of Newcastle, known then as Bond Head Harbour, that Daniel Massey started his first foundry producing ploughs and cauldrons for syrup.



Massey appreciated the long, deep docks, safe waters, and the convenient location for trade along and across the lake. It was here that the foundations were laid for the famous Massey Ferguson Company. The Massey factory started in 1849 in Newcastle, producing ploughs and farm tools. Daniel Massey, a farmer who lived in nearby Bond Head, started building farm implements in the workshop at his farm in 1847 before moving the operation to the main street of Newcastle.

In 1995 the marina was purchased by the Kaitlin Group which has been operating the marina and developing the adjoining property for housing since then.

The Port of Newcastle has become popular as a picturesque harbour to visit and to sail from.

**ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY-** The **Newcastle Village Community Hall** was built **90 years ago** in 1923 by Chester Daniel Massey, the grandson of Daniel Massey. It was a gift to the community and is the hub of Newcastle Village. The Neo-Georgian brick and stone building is designated a heritage property. Clarington (population 85,000) is a municipality in Ontario in the Region of Durham, created in 1973 with the merging of the Town of Bowmanville, and the townships of Clarke and Darlington. It took its present name in 1994 after having been known as the **Town of Newcastle** from 1974-93. Newcastle was incorporated as a town in 1856 **Newcastle Village** is situated in one of the most highly developed and prosperous regions of Canada on the north shore of one of the Great Lakes - Lake Ontario - which is 298 km from east to west, and across the Lake - just 64 km away - is the United States of America.



# New Lord Mayor for Newcastle, Australia

Newcastle Australia has a new Lord Mayor. Following recent direct elections **Jeff McCloy** has taken over the role that John Tate occupied for the previous 13 years before standing down.

After gaining a degree in civil engineering from Newcastle University, Mr McCloy worked in Sydney in high-rise construction with Lend Lease. He returned to the Newcastle area in the late 1970s to work for and eventually run D.F.McCloy, the building company founded by his father, Don. Throughout the 1980s and '90s the business delivered several important developments including the John Hunter Hospital, Green Point residential development and Jewells Tavern and shopping centre.

He has built a reputation as a major contributor to property development and infrastructure in the Hunter region. He became the Hunter Business Chamber 2008 Business Person of the Year and in 2009 was



presented with the City of Newcastle medal in honour of distinguished service to Newcastle and its citizens, being an outspoken advocate for bringing development and prosperity to the city. His generous monetary donations, and guidance and support of charities, education and welfare groups, medical research, sports teams and clubs were also recognised.

Lord Mayor McCloy believes that the beaches and recreational areas are the city's biggest asset. The Lonely Planet travel guide last year marked Newcastle as one of its top 10 places to visit in the world, saying that it might be Australia's most underrated city. They cite its dining, nightlife, culture and tropical climate as just a few of the reasons to visit.

"We have great beaches, a great working harbour, fantastic facilities, and it is easy to access all areas of Newcastle and the Hunter" he says. "What we do need is revitalisation of Hunter Street in the Central Business District and to open up the City to the harbour which will bring about many opportunities for Newcastle and its people."

*We were sorry to learn that former Councillor **Bob Cook** did not retain his seat at the elections, but he and **Lyn** will continue to be keen supporters of Newcastles of the World.*

## KOTA BHARU'S FOOTBALL SUCCESS

**Football** - The new Malaysian Superleague season is just getting under way and Kota Bharu-based Kelantan FA (the "Red Warriors") are aiming to win the league for the third successive year. Last year they also won both cups! The team plays in the 30,000 capacity Stadium Sultan Muhammad IV (and it's usually full) but a new and larger stadium/sports complex is planned. The team have lost a few key players but are optimistic about the quality of the replacements.



## YOUTH ELECTIONS

The election of the new members of the **Neuburg** youth parliament took place end of November, in which 21.2% of its young population cast their votes. It consists of 16 youngsters, one group between the age of 12 – 16, the other group 17 – 21. **Newcastle upon Tyne's** new Youth Council members were also elected recently - but from age 11 to 18, a little different. (see below)



*Kelantan FC in action, and fans*

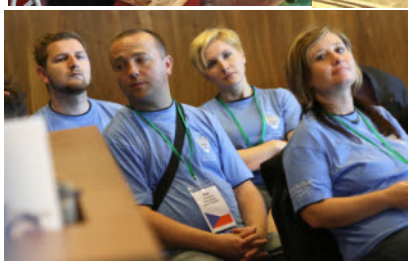
## REMEMBERING LUC

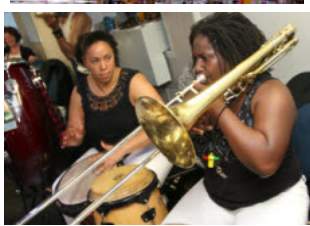
The late Lucky Dube was honoured at a special tribute festival in his hometown of Newcastle, South Africa last year. It involved the unveiling of a memorial monument on October 18, the fifth anniversary of his murder in Johannesburg, together with a tribute concert on October 27. Lucky Dube was South Africa's most famous reggae musician – some say the greatest in the whole of the African continent. He recorded 22 albums in Zulu, English and Afrikaans in a 25-year period and was South Africa's biggest selling reggae artist. Listen to his great songs *Respect*, *Prisoner* and (ironically) *Remember Me*. We will.



# MEMORIES FROM THE 2012 SUMMIT IN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Newcastles of the World 2012 attracted a record number of 100 delegates, including 80 visiting guests. Twelve different Newcastle's were represented - also the most yet.





A Week of International Celebration

21 - 27 July

- Shinshiro
- Neuburg an der Donau
- Neuchâtel
- Newcastle NZN
- New Castle Indiana
- Jaunpils
- Newcastle NSW
- Akhalsikhe
- Kota Bharu
- Newcastle Ontario
- Newcastle Under-Lyme
- Nous Hradu
- Newcastle upon Tyne



# BRITAIN IN BLOOM SUCCESS

**Newcastle-under-Lyme** residents are celebrating after winning gold in a prestigious floral competition for the eleventh consecutive year. Newcastle-under-Lyme won the highest honour in the small city category of the Heart of England in Bloom campaign.

The result was announced at an awards ceremony at All Saints Church in Kings Heath, Birmingham in front of more than 200 delegates.



Councillor **David Becket**, the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme, said: "We're thrilled to win a gold award for the eleventh year in a row. I would like to congratulate everyone who has played their part in this fantastic achievement and thank local businesses for sponsoring the activities. The beauty of this competition is that it brings the council, residents, community groups, schools and businesses together to make Newcastle a better place to live, shop and visit."

## Let's get the schools connected!

Several schools in different Newcastles were linked up as part of the 2012 summit - let us know if you would like to link with a school in Newcastle upon Tyne, or with any of the other Newcastles. Contact - [david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk)

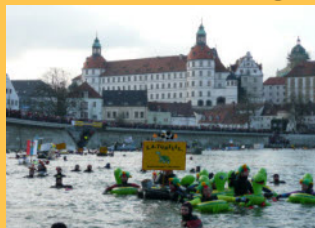
Specifically, Newcastle-under-Lyme Mayoress **Anne Becket** has suggested a link with the schools of the town, and all Newcastle's have been contacted. So far three have responded and work is in hand to set up links. If you or any of your schools are interested in joining this programme please contact Anne, at [becket@phonecoop.coop](mailto:becket@phonecoop.coop)



*Students in Kota Bharu are connected!*

## Looking forward in Neuburg

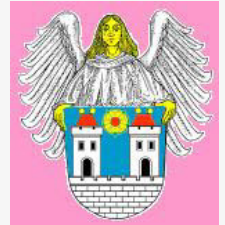
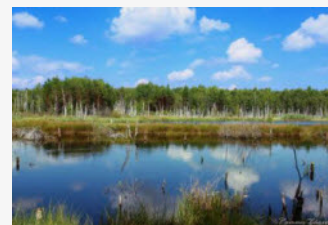
The coming year will see two major events in **Neuburg an der Donau**. Winter Swimming in the Danube at the end of January with about 2000 participants swimming a distance of 2.5 miles in 2-3 degrees "hot" water of the Danube



The last weekend in June and the first weekend in July will attract thousands of people to the Renaissance Castle Festival. If you want to be there you should decide quickly as hotel capacity is limited. Contact Marieluise Kühnl [tourismus@neuburg-donau.de](mailto:tourismus@neuburg-donau.de)

## Nové Hradý Hosts

In the autumn **Nové Hradý** hosted the Czech Republic Local Action Groups' National Conference 'Rural Spaces'.



A number of presentations were given from Ministerial and other representatives about what challenges and opportunities lie ahead in the next EU rural programme 2014 – 2020. This was followed by workshops on Rural Environment, Rural Heritage, Rural Skills and Resources, Rural Community Life and Rural Enterprise.

## FLOODING IN KOTA BHARU AREA

In December, floods triggered by torrential monsoon rains in Malaysia forced 20,000 people to flee their homes and seek shelter at relief centres. Rainstorms coinciding with high tide flooded hundreds of homes in three north eastern states - Terengganu, Pahang and Kelantan - with people being housed at evacuation centres before the situation started to come under control.



*Children playing in a flooded street in Kota Bharu*

## NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE CITY COUNCIL

Pat Ritchie has been appointed Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council. Pat joins from being Chief Executive of the national Homes and Communities Agency. She was formerly a director at the North East's regional development agency, having begun her career in economic development at the City Council



# Neuchâtel welcomes eco-explorer Domjan

At a civic reception in the summer, Neuchâtel honoured one of its most famous sons, “eco-explorer” Raphaël Domjan, the man behind the world’s largest solar-powered boat - which last year completed an incredible around-the-world voyage. MS Tûranor PlanetSolar, began its two year voyage in September 2010 with a mission to promote renewable energy. It takes its name from J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of theRings



Electrical engineer Raphael Domjan, who was born in in 1972, was inspired to start the project nine years ago after seeing the effects of climate change on an Icelandic glacier. He explained: "The idea was not to perform a feat but an eco-adventure with the aim of passing on the message that change is possible."

Designed and constructed over a period of two years, the catamaran cost a total of 15 million euros to build following funding by a number of sponsors and private partners. Measuring 31 metres in length and featuring 537 square metres of solar panels mounted around its raised cockpit, the boat sailed more than 60,000 km during its 19-month adventure, travelling over every ocean and continent using only photovoltaic energy.

The boat made stop-offs in 28 countries including Mexico, Australia and Singapore with the breaks used to promote the use of solar energy at local events. Festivities celebrated the boat's arrival in Monaco at the end of the voyage with a light show and a concert by Swiss band Sonalp, both being powered in suitable fashion by the energy stored in the craft's batteries.



Mayor of Neuchâtel **Pascal Sandoz** told us: “*Le Neuchâte- lois Raphaël Domjan a été reçu le 6 juin 2012 par le Conseil communal, qui l’a félicité de l’exploit accompli à force de ténacité et grâce à toute l’équipe engagée à ses côtés*” He described Domjan’s achievements as “worthy of Jules Verne”



## A Message from Newcastle Ontario

We’ve been contacted by a representative of the Mayor of Clarington, Ontario (in which Newcastle is located) about their hosting of our 2014 summit and have been advised that they would like to withdraw their offer and consider for a future occasion.

They feel that they would like to have the experience of attending at least one other summit before they consider being host, giving time for reflection on how they would like to structure and present the summit. In particular they would like to have input from civic representatives to augment the contribution of volunteer delegates.

They wish to emphasise that they are committed to being a supportive member of the Newcastles family, and intend to be represented at future gatherings, including 2014.

We’re therefore very grateful to **Nové Hradý** and Mayor Vladimir Hokr for agreeing to fill the gap and host in 2014.

# Newcastle - Festival City



The **Winter Festival** in Newcastle and Gateshead runs right through from late November to early February, culminating in the Chinese New Year celebrations in Newcastle’s Chinatown. From Christmas Markets and city lighting to New Year parades and fireworks, it just gets more and more popular.



In May Newcastle hosts the annual **Evolution Festival** of contemporary music - one of the country’s largest. Last year’s top of the bill was renowned rapper Dizzee Rascal.

Throughout June the **Festival of the North East** celebrates the region’s innovation and creativity with a programme of events spanning arts, heritage, creative industries, museums and engineering. This groundbreaking festival brings together arts and heritage organisations, local authorities and artists and practitioners.



The festival also heralds the arrival back home of the famous 8<sup>th</sup> Century **Lindisfarne Gospels** from the British Museum, for a three month exhibition. The manuscript is among our greatest artistic and religious treasures, created and used at Lindisfarne Priory on **Holy Island**.

# Newcastles of the World Alliance



In 1998 the **Mayor of Shinshiro** in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven Newcastles to his city. They have continued to meet every two years - in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana/Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008 and most recently in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in July 2012.

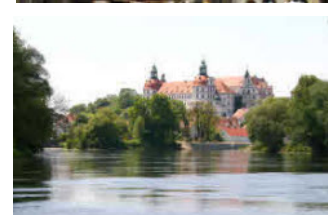
Newcastle upon Tyne-based John Nicolaou had come up with the idea in the mid-1990s to link those English-speaking communities who share the name "Newcastle". He contacted writers and photographers in Newcastles around the world and compiled a book which was published in 2000.

The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering has taken a discussion theme to ensure practical, usable outcomes, and there has been increasingly useful involvement of young people and of business representatives. Of all the possibilities for developing international associations, what more natural link is there than with the towns and cities that share the same name?

The Newcastles of the World network is ripe for expansion and we welcomed several new guests in July. A website for the alliance is now live and will be the vehicle for drawing in people and groups in many more Newcastles via open access, Facebook groups and other social networking. The richness and depth of the Newcastles network does not just depend on the support of mayors and municipalities but instead on ordinary people across the world eager to learn about other Newcastles and how their citizens live, and to build their own contacts and projects.



Represented at the 2012 summit were Shinshiro City (Japan), Neuburg an der Donau (Germany), Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Kota Bharu (Malaysia), Akhaltsikhe (Georgia), Nové Hradý (Czech Republic), Jaunpils (Latvia) and Newcastles from South Africa, Australia, Canada and UK (under-Lyme and upon Tyne). The Newcastles alliance also has current or previous association and contacts with former summit attendees Newcastle Indiana and Pennsylvania (USA) and Neufchâteau (France), and also with Nyborg (Denmark), Neufchâteau (Belgium), Savonlinna (Finland), Castelnuovo Berardenga (Italy) and Newcastle Oklahoma (USA)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

In August **Jaunpils** municipality took part in the EU programme *Active Citizens for Europe*, hosting town twinning citizens visits - 30 friends from Perano (Italy) and 42 from Plunge municipality (Lithuania). It was a pleasant and productive week of discussions and visits showcasing culture and traditions - and an opportunity to take a part in the annual Medieval festival organised at the knights castle. The week was crowned with the signing of a triangular collaboration agreement.



The city of **Neuchâtel** obtained the European Diploma in 1998 and, later in 2006, the Flag of Honour of the *Council of Europe* for its efforts to spread the European ideal for the triumph of peace, freedom and human rights. Since then, the city has undertaken numerous other actions to build on this work. So the Council of Europe will now further recognise the city with the award of the Plaque of Honour.

**Newcastle upon Tyne** Lord Mayor Jackie Slesenger's Christmas card to other Newcastles arrived at the offices of The Courier Times in **New Castle, Indiana, USA** and inspired them to research the history of their town's name. It was then they discovered the story of Allen Shepherd, one of New Castle's earliest settlers, who was born in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1768 and travelled to America in the early 19th Century. He arrived first in New York and then, accompanied by a small group of friends and relatives, travelled west to the Blue River Settlement, which later became New Castle in Indiana. Files at the Henry County Historical Society museum reveal Mr Shepherd became one of the area's first commissioners and named the town after his beloved Newcastle.

**Kota Bharu** has an extra air link with Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur. Using ATR 72 aircraft, Berjaya Air launched twice-daily operations on the route in October. Firefly's directly competing flights operate 54 times a week, but further indirect competition at Kuala Lumpur International Airport comes from AirAsia's 56 and Malaysia Airlines' 33 weekly flights.

Some of the core members (from the top) Shinshiro, Neuchâtel, Neuburg, South Africa, Newcastle-under-Lyme