

# Newcastles of the World

Newsletter April - June 2019 [www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

Distributed directly to over 2000 people in more than 50 "Newcastles" around the world - help us reach more by sharing!

## Neuchâtel's Blueman: waiting to visit other Newcastles !

Neuchâtel (Switzerland) is offering other Newcastles the chance to welcome an exhibition from The Blueman, an artist living in their city - at no cost to the towns that host the project. Operating from a blue tent, this is an exciting intercultural project about communications and connectivity.



<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2019/03/05/neuchatels-blue-man-is-waiting-to-visit-other-newcastles/>

Blueman has travelled the world in the past 20 years, building stimulating new links and engaging with people and communities. The blue tent exhibition will be inaugurated in September 2019 in Neuchâtel and is available to travel to other Newcastles later in the year and in 2020. Click the link below the photo to find out more!

Contact your Newcastles of the World team for information, ideas or help:

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## OUR FIRST "NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD DAY" - in Herceg Novi

We give a big "thank you" to Herceg Novi for hosting the first-ever "Newcastles of the World" day - see page 4 for Zélie Guérin's report on the event.



Visitors and hosts at the opening of the Newcastles of the World exhibition in **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro. Herceg Novi municipality included Newcastles of the World day, plus a 3 week exhibition, as part of their famous Mimosa Festival this year.



Cherry blossom time in Shinshiro - see page 3 for more photos, and from other Newcastles



It's SO cold !

**The 50th Donauschwimmen!** In January, almost 2000 winter-hardy participants from 220 places including almost all the federal states of Germany as well as from Austria, France and Poland travelled to **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany for the biggest winter swim event in Europe. The spectacle took place at four degrees water temperature in the River Danube, and 70 swimmers managed 400 meters without any protective suit! There was a floating cake and the team from Oberhausen near Neuburg again exceeded all expectations with a spectacular "Star Wars Show". See page 3 for more photos



Fearless folks plunged into the chilly waters of Lake Ontario in **Newcastle, Canada** and raised money for a good cause at the annual New Year Clarington Polar Bear Swim. The annual autism fundraiser had around 100 dippers and raised \$9,000, way up from last year's swim.



# ALEX SHARES OUR NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD VISION

Communications consultant **Alex Fitzek** in **Neuburg an der Donau** was recently successful in pitching an idea to the prominent south German newspaper *Augsburger Allgemeine* for their annual “Visions” publication - it was to include a feature on the “Newcastles family” as an example of innovation and cooperation. The idea was accepted and Alex, who runs a communications business in Neuburg, was commissioned to put together the feature. She worked with the Newcastles of the World Secretariat and with some of our contacts in different Newcastles to create the article which was published to a readership of the newspaper of one million people!



Alex says “*although I had so much material that we could have filled much more the Visions publication if space had allowed us, I am so happy that our article got a central and privileged place in the main part of "Visions"*”.

So what is Alex’s connection with Newcastles of the World, apart from living and working in Neuburg? She tells us: “*My husband Ulli and I were members of the delegates in 2000 during the summit in Neuchâtel, Switzerland; and we created the original Newcastles logo and the claim "My home is my Newcastle" back in 2000*” It was a great promotion, Alex - well done! And thank you also to our dear friend and Newcastles of the World champion, Walter Friemel who translated the article for our newsletter - see below !

## “My home is my Newcastle”

### Seventeen cities with the name of Newcastle create a world of inspiring cooperation, by Alex Fitzek

If someone says he comes from Neuburg (Newcastle), he will be asked “which Neuburg?”, as there are five different Newcastles in Germany between Mecklenburg and Passau. Neuburg on the Danube is a Renaissance town that is proud of its cosmopolitan history. Becoming part of a world-wide alliance is right in line with the town’s vision for the future. The “Newcastles of the World Alliance” began in Shinshiro, the equivalent of the Japanese Neuburg, in 1998. A vision turned into reality when in 1996 the deputy mayor of Shinshiro, Yoshio Yamamoto, came to Neuburg to present his idea of a world-wide alliance. He was also able to convince a number of other Newcastles of his idea: Neuchâtel in Switzerland, Neufchâteau in France, Newcastle under Lyme in England, the Newcastles in Indiana and Pennsylvania (both USA) and Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). In the meantime, other Newcastles have joined the Alliance: Newcastle upon Tyne (England), Newcastle in Ontario (Canada), Nové Hradky (Czech Republic), Newcastle (Australia), Kota Bharu (Malaysia), Jaunpils (Latvia), Akhaltsikhe (Georgia), Nyborg (Denmark), Nove Zamky (Slovakia) and Herceg Novi (Montenegro).

### Productive talks

The 17 Newcastles meet every second year at the Newcastles of the World Conference. After the first meeting in Shinshiro in 1998, there were conferences every two years, including in Neuchâtel in 2000 and in Neuburg in 2008. In 2018 the member towns and cities returned to Shinshiro to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Alliance. The delegations exchanged ideas on education, culture, tourism, politics and social and economic topics.

Since 2012 **David Faulkner** from **Newcastle upon Tyne** has been in charge of publishing the Newcastle Newsletter four times a year. The latest news on all the members of the Alliance is made available both here and on Facebook. David is convinced: “The great advantage of being a member is the opportunity to share experiences and to learn from one other – in an atmosphere of sincere, real friendship” Yet promoting and inspiring cooperation is encouraged not only when exchanging ideas in meetings, but also during private talks and on account of the ensuing friendships. “In discussions on education, health, migration, integration or voluntary work we had the opportunity to let other delegations gain from our experience and to provide new ideas on how to tackle problems,” says **Walter Friemel**, who has been a member of the delegation from Neuburg on the Danube since the year 2000.



With the introduction of the **Newcastles Passport**, all tourists can enjoy benefits when visiting one of the Newcastles. At the beginning of the conference in Shinshiro, the Newcastle Cookbook was presented fresh from the press, in which each Newcastle introduced two recipes typical for its region. It is available at the Tourist-Information-Centre in Neuburg on the Danube as well as a new edition of the book entitled “Newcastles of the World” At the moment, the alliance is working on a number of projects such as a bike trail or a cultural trail that will connect the European Newcastles, exchange programmes for young people, students and trainees or planning joint events such as exhibitions or festivals.

**Thulani Phakathi**, a school teacher in **Newcastle, South Africa**, expressed his pride in being part of the alliance with his traditional dance group “*Mntimande Imgoma*”. “In 2017 we were invited by **Akhaltsikhe** to come to Georgia for a stage performance at a festival in Rabati together with a group from Newcastle upon Tyne. I would like to get to know more Newcastles and to take part in cultural exchanges”, he said.

# ALEX SHARES OUR NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD VISION - Continued

## Common Values

The Newcastle Alliance would only be of theoretical value without the involvement of the people who live there. They ensure that each Newcastle Conference is a great success and a memorable event. **Zélie Guérin**, project manager, describes how special it was to be welcomed into the wonderful world of Japanese culture at the youth conference in Shinshiro (2017). Feeling encouraged, she learnt some basic Japanese, which she used in her speeches at the 20th anniversary conference in 2018. Zélie said: "Much to my surprise and delight I was given a round of applause by the kind citizens of Shinshiro during my speech. They came up to me afterwards, thanking me and saying in Japanese: 'You spoke my language'. This was a heartfelt moment."

**Christine McSorley** from Canada reports: "At the Japanese Festival we were immersed in the rich culture of Japan: trying on a kimono, preparing matcha tea or trying to master Japanese calligraphy – a unique experience!" For **Marieluise Kuehnl**, head of the tourist office in Neuburg on the Danube, the welcoming ceremony by pupils from local schools was one of the highlights. "More than 120 people took part in the conference in Shinshiro in 2018", said **Sakura Asakura**, who works for the Shinshiro Council. "Our aim as hosts was to welcome the delegates in the tradition of the Japanese hospitality 'Ometashi'. At the same time, we realized that the feeling of trust that was growing between us and our guests was just like in a family – in our culture the most important basis for relationships of any kind".

In addition to having the same town name, the Alliance is carried forward by common values and perspectives such as the belief in an open, multicultural and tolerant society. "Everybody can gain from being a member of the Alliance", says town councillor **Elfriede Mueller**. "I take pleasure in presenting our beautiful Neuburg all over the world. I am in regular contact with many friends from the different Newcastle – in keeping with the motto: 'My home is my Newcastle'."

## PHOTO SPOT

Some of our castles are edible! - Here (right) is the winner of a recent cake-making competition in Nové Hradý, our "Newcastle" in the Czech Republic



## THE TURNING OF THE SEASONS

Winter brought heavy snow to Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia - making the castle after which it is named look even more stunning - and to Jaunpils, our Newcastle in Latvia - see photos above. But Spring has arrived in the northern hemisphere and we have been enjoying lovely blossoms - none better than in Shinshiro, Japan.



As we write, the annual blooms of the festival in Sakurabuchi Park are coming to an end. This is a designated Prefectural Nature Park, and takes its name from its avenues lined with cherry blossoms ("sakura") and its deep pools of water (the "buchi" in the park's name) and features some of the most outstanding scenery in the prefecture. The park is famed for its blooming cherry blossoms that seem to dye pink the banks of the Toyokawa river that meanders through the park's centre. Various events are held during the Cherry Blossom Festival when it is held from late March through to early April.

## Nové Hradý's new community centre

A new community centre for the people of Nové Hradý, Czech Republic, was opened at the end of March. by Deputy Mayor Michal Jarolímek -

The facility has been established from the former crèche, and incorporates a library and reading room, advice centre for counselling, children's club, ceramic and other workshop spaces, kitchen and garden.



## More photos from the 50th Donauschwimmen in Neuburg !



## First Newcastles of the World Day: Herceg Novi, Montenegro, 03 February

Herceg Novi, the latest Newcastle to join the Alliance, took the great initiative of proposing and hosting our first Newcastles of the World Day. Held on 03 February, the Day was set within the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mimosa festival. The very warm welcome that Mayor Stevan Katic, Simonida Kordic, Head of International Co-operation, Aleksandra Petronijevic, Ivan Otovic and other staff members together with the people of Herceg Novi extended to us was very special. It is true that the bright yellow of the mimosa flower evoked our happy and vibrant experience in Herceg Novi!

Friends from Shinshiro, Nové Zamky and Newcastle upon Tyne participated, together with Herceg Novi. Folk musicians, Steel Rigg, from Newcastle upon Tyne performed, playing the Northumbrian pipes, fiddle and accordion, and did some great clog dancing. Local people thoroughly enjoyed the show. Crowds clustered around Shinshiro's demonstration of calligraphy, and some ventured to begin to learn how to do the beautiful brush strokes. Nové Zamky's local produce was very popular with everyone. We opened the Newcastles of the World exhibition, which was displayed throughout the Mimosa festival, and we were delighted to be interviewed by local and national media. Meeting with the Mayor facilitated discussion on collaboration.

I found that our first Newcastles of the World Day brought new connections, new friendships, a great cultural experience, and provided me with a valuable opportunity to discuss and progress areas of co-operation across our Newcastles of the World themes: tourism, business, education and culture.



As you plan holidays, I would recommend you to include a trip to the charming coastal town of Herceg Novi. Overlooked by snow-capped mountains, the waves from the Adriatic Sea crash into the bay. You can wander up into the historical Old Town and sample the local food and drink, whilst participating in one of the many festivals. From April to August alone there are fourteen festivals! With Tivat airport and Dubrovnik airport close by, Herceg Novi is a must-see destination!

Zélie Guérin, Project director, Newcastles of the World

## REVISIT KOTA BHARU 2019 TARGETING MORE FOREIGN TOURISTS

Last year as for the Visit Kota Bharu 2018 campaign, Kota Bharu managed to attract more than 6 million tourists to Kelantan. Almost 70% of the tourists were the local people from all various part of Malaysia, while 30 % were foreign tourists from Thailand, Singapore, China, Korea, Australia and Indonesia. Heritage, culture and food are the main attractions for tourists to visit Kota Bharu. Kota Bharu is well known as the cradle of the Malay Culture. 70 % of the population in the Kota Bharu came from the ethnic Malay. The tradition of the Malay culture is still nourished in Kota Bharu. In February Kota Bharu City Hall launched 'Revisit Kota Bharu 2019' as a continuation for the Visit Kota Bharu 2018 and pre-preparation for the 'Visit Kelantan Year 2020'.

Numerous Festivals have been programmed through up the year for the 'Revisit Kota Bharu 2019'. Among the biggest events include the Kelantan Art and Culture Festival ( 22-24 March 2019), Cross Culture Festival (April 2019), Ramadhan Festival (Mei/June 2019), Women Carnival (June 2019), Kota Bharu- Japness Cultural Festival (June 2019), International Kite Festival (August 2019), Traditional Food and Craft Festival (September 2019) and Kelantan International Car and Motor Festival (October 2019).



Kota Bharu is well connected by air with 36 daily flights from Kuala Lumpur, Subang, Penang , Kota Kinabalu, Kuching and the latest direct flight from Malacca. The 'Revisit Kota Bharu 2019' and 'Visit Kelantan 2020' are the initiatives to attract more foreign tourists to Malaysia and in line with the 'Visit Malaysia Year 2020'. The 'Revisit Kota Bharu 2019' was launched by YB Dato' Nik Amar Nik Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister of Kelantan State. Cultural performances including the famous choral singing group (Dikir Barat) was performed before the audience. Thousands of citizens and tourists attended the launch event.

# PEOPLE

# Welcome to Erum

A big welcome to Erum Khalid, who has come on an internship with the Newcastle of the World Secretariat in Newcastle upon Tyne. Erum is undertaking a BA in marketing management at Odisee University, Belgium. Originally from Pakistan, Erum has lived and studied in Brussels for ten years. She is providing support on project work and data management, and will be with us until early June.

Erum said: "I am very pleased to have been provided the opportunity to work with such a unique international organisation. Being part of the Secretariat not only is enhancing my existing skills but also, I am being provided with the chance to learn new ones as well. I hope these skills will be of benefit to the organisation and bring value to the work and projects it has undertaken.

I would also like to thank my mentor Zélie, who is guiding, understanding and supporting me throughout my internship.



Erum and Zélie

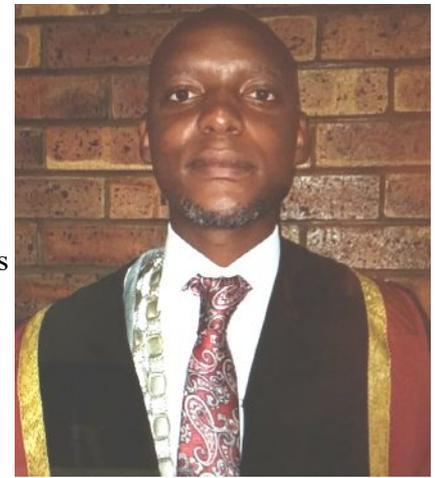


Congratulations to Willie Woo of Newcastle, Ontario, Canada who has received the prestigious Canadian Government Community Service Medallion from Hon. Erin O'Toole, Member of Parliament for Durham. This is in recognition for the many years of service that Willie has given as a municipal and regional councillor. Although he has now retired from these roles, Willie is still very much involved in activities in his local community, and is a great supporter of Newcastle of the World.

## "THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN"

These were the opening remarks by the newly elected Mayor of Newcastle, South Africa, at a special council meeting at the beginning of March. The election of the Mayor

comes after the sudden resignation of former Mayor Advocate Makhosini Nkosi who left office in January. Before his election as the new Mayor, Dr NNG Mahlaba, who is a General Practitioner, was sworn-in as a Councillor last October, then nominated as an EXCO member by the ANC councillors.



In February, Ligita Gintere, Chairperson of Jaunpils municipality (left in photo) was in Brussels as a member of the delegation from the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments at the European Union Forum on Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation. The forum was organised by the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission to advise and set policy for the future growth and development of towns, cities and regions of member states.



It's good to hear about the growing success of Main Street - New Castle, Indiana, USA, revitalising the centre of the town. Here's a delegation from New Castle at the national Main Street conference in Seattle, including (second from left) our friend Beverly Smith-Matthews, Executive Director of Henry County Community Foundation, based in New Castle.



Town criers (also known as bellmen in some countries) are familiar around the world, bringing the news to the people. They date to the time before mass media and when there was much illiteracy, so many could not read newspapers. Here's the town crier from historic old market town Newcastle-under-Lyme in England - Gordon Brayford took over the role four years ago. Ringing their bells, "oyez, oyez" the criers shout - meaning "hear this".

## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and in different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastle of the World together via the Newcastle of the World summit in 1998. Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech and back to Shinshiro in 2018 Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016. The aim of Newcastle of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism. [www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)



A photo here of Irini Kassas (left) on Australia Day, with Newcastle's Lord Mayor Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, presenting Newcastle's Young Citizen of the Year 2019 award to Bhavi Ravindran.

Irini was the 2018 Young Citizen, and in the past year we have come to appreciate and value her great support for, and commitment to, Newcastle of the World!

### Herceg-Novi youngsters selected for the final of the "Montenegro in the rhythm of Europe" competition

Young people from Herceg Novi have been selected to represent Belgium through singing and dancing at the final of the competition "Montenegro in the rhythm of Europe". The rehearsals are being organised until May, led by a creative project team. "This project is, among other things, a good way for children to learn something new about European countries, their music and culture. An invitation will be sent to the Belgian Ambassador to visit the Municipality of Herceg Novi, to get to know the place" said Ana Zambelić Pistalo, who is the project coordinator in Herceg Novi. The finals will be held during spring in Tivat, and will be broadcasted by television on national frequency. The winner of the competition will be the host of the event next year and the voting is going to be via SMS. "We are counting on the support of all the inhabitants of Herceg Novi, on the entire community supporting youngsters that are successful and creative people who will represent our city," said Ana Zambelic Pistalo.

"Montenegro in the rhythm of Europe" is a musical and theatrical event supported by the ambassadors of European countries, and it is created in accordance with the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Life at Municipal and Regional Level and other European documents addressing youth issues. The project is being realized in Herceg Novi thanks to the cooperation with the Secretariat for Culture and Education and all the schools as well.



### A message from Yusuke Furuichi of Shinshiro.

Between 25<sup>th</sup> Feb and 8 March, I travelled to Europe for my graduation trip. Specifically, on the last 2 days I went to **Jaunpils** in Latvia, and to London to meet my "Newcastle" friends who I met at our conference in **Shinshiro**. In Jaunpils, I had a really great time because I gave a lesson to local students, visited the castle and city hall. In London, I met Marie Desaules from **Neuchâtel** who spent almost a year in Shinshiro helping with planning for our Newcastle of the World conferences. Marie is studying international and environment law at university but also studying Japanese - polite words ! She said that now she could understand spoken Japanese - I hope that she comes to Japan again: I want to listen to her speaking fluent Japanese!

On this trip, I was really happy that I could meet a lot of my friends. Everyone looks good, and I hope that they come back to Japan, especially Shinshiro. From April, I am going to start work - it's in Tokyo, so I have to leave, but I want to come back to Shinshiro again.



Yusuke (third from the right) in Jaunpils



Left - the newly-elected members of Jugendparlament (youth parliament or council) of **Neuburg an der Donau, Germany** - getting to work !

Jaunpils, our Newcastle in Latvia, has again organised its "shadow day" for local students - to help them learn about how local government (the дума) works in their town. This year there was a particular focus on the work of the head of the development department, including briefings about national and international projects as well as the development planning process for the area. The aim of the shadow day is to link the educational students of young people with real life, helping them plan their careers, make choices about their future profession and prepare for the labour market properly. For employers who are involved, it is a good opportunity to build the visibility of their companies and to attract potential future workers. During the visit the students had meetings in the Jaunpils Secondary school. and visited Jaunpils castle (they explored the escape room) and visited the House of Crafts.

### Work shadowing Day in Jaunpils



## Connectle: Our Youth travel and tourism app - by Zélie Guérin, Project Director, Secretariat

The tremendous idea to create a 'Newcastles youth travel and tourism app' was generated at our first global youth conference, held by Shinshiro. The representatives came from Youth Councils and Youth Parliaments. Driven by the desire to travel, to experience each other's cultures, make friends and gain new opportunities, the youth delegates decided that developing and using an app would help achieve their aims. They have named the app 'Connectle'.

Development of this exciting project is underway. During their future travels Newcastles youths will be able to access the app to find out about the tourism offer of other Newcastles from a young person's perspective.

Strong partnership working is the key to making it happen. The Secretariat has been collaborating closely with Newcastles youths, Shinshiro's international team, Nyborg school teacher, to make progress. Working with a software development company, Shinshiro has created an app via a weblink.

The first global youth conference as well as the recent 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, also held in Shinshiro, have facilitated discussion and collaboration. A youth homestay scheme (18 – 30 year olds) has been developed as an integral part of Connectle, and an app userguide.



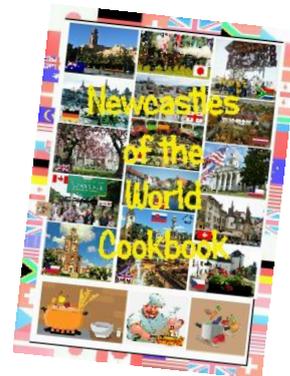
**Making It Happen !** We are setting up a Connectle Newcastles Alliance working group, with Nicola Spoletini, Youth Parliament, Neuchâtel, as Chairman. Newcastles are currently joining with lead contacts from Shinshiro, Newcastle upon Tyne, Kota Bharu, New South Wales, Newcastle, Ontario in place. Nové Zamky and others are set to join. The Secretariat has also created a Newcastle upon Tyne Connectle working group to feed into the larger one. Together, we have a great opportunity to partner in developing the app's content, engaging young citizens, and working towards launching it. Let's make Connectle happen!



## WHY NOT TRY THE DELICIOUS RECIPES FROM OUR COOKBOOK?

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/>

**KHACHAPURI** is the Republic of Georgia's national dish, a delicious 'cheese bread'. There are regional variations - most begin with yeasted, white wheat flour dough, but they can be mixed to different consistencies. There are two main types of Khachapuri – Imeretian, which is round and shaped like a pizza – and Adjarian, which is shaped like a boat and topped with pats of butter and raw egg to create a rich, gooey sauce. Because it's hard to get Georgian cheeses outside the country, use a mixture of low moisture mozzarella and crumbled feta, which comes very close to the traditional recipe. "We enjoyed much delicious khachapuri in **Akhaltshikhe** on our visits in 2010 and 2017" says David Faulkner of Newcastles of the World.



**Ingredients for the dough:** 1 tsp salt; 1 tsp yeast; 1 tbsp sugar; 3 1/2 cup flour; 1 cup water; 1/2 cup milk; 1 tbsp oil.  
**for the filling:** 1 1/2 cup Farmers cheese (dry curd cheese or pressed cottage cheese); 1 1/2 cup Shredded mozzarella; 1

1/2 cup Feta cheese; 4 eggs +1 for egg wash; Butter (optional)



**Method** 1. In the bowl of a stand mixer combine the salt, yeast, sugar, and flour.

2. Heat water and milk to about 115 °F and pour it into the bowl of dry ingredients.

3. Begin kneading the dough with the hook attachment until it is smooth and elastic.

4. Add the oil into the dough and knead for another minute

5. Drizzle a little olive oil onto the bottom and sides of a deep bowl. Place the dough inside the bowl and cover with plastic wrapping. Set the bowl in a warm place until the dough doubles in size, about 1 hour.

6. Remove the plastic wrap and press into the dough a few times with your hands. Cover with plastic wrap once more and let it sit in a warm place for another 30 minutes.

7. Meanwhile, combine the farmers cheese, feta, and mozzarella in a bowl.

8. Remove the dough from the bowl, place on floured surface and cut into 4 equal pieces.

9. Spread each piece of the dough into a circle about 9 inches in diameter. Then roll two opposite sides of the circle towards the centre so it ends up having a boat-like shape. Then pinch the corners together.

10. Transfer the khachapuri onto a baking sheet lined with greased parchment paper.

11. Stuff each khachapuri with the cheese mixture. Beat 1 egg with a teaspoon of water, brush the dough with egg wash.

12. Bake at 450°F in preheated oven for 15 minutes or till the crust is a golden brown.

13. Make a well in the centre of each khachapuri with the back of a spoon (about 7cm in diameter) and drop 1 egg into each well. Add a few small pieces of butter into the cheese.

14. Return the khachapuri to the oven; bake for another 5-6 minutes. The egg white should be white but still pretty runny. It will cook further as it sits in the hot cheese. When serving, mix the cheese and egg with a fork and serve immediately. 7

# THE NEWCASTLES PASSPORT

## PASSPORT VISITS PLANNED WITH MUSICIANS TO VISIT GEORGIA

We've had growing interest in our Passport scheme of late, with some interesting visits in the planning stages for the coming year. One of these is a group of musicians from **Neuchâtel, Switzerland** who have been in touch through Passport to have a special welcome arranged for a coming visit to **Akhaltshikhe, Georgia**, to take part in a music festival planned for 2020.

Levan Mikaberidze, Passport contact in Akhaltshikhe said of the visit: "We look forward to hosting the musicians from other Newcastles for 2020. It would be great for promoting our little town." We can't wait to see photos from their upcoming trip - here are some of previous performers at Rabati Castle where the festival will be held.

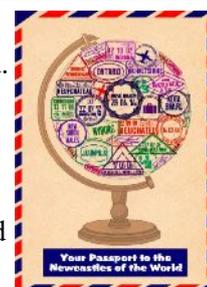


## So, what is the Newcastles Passport?

The Newcastles Passport scheme promotes tourism and friendship between Newcastles around the world.

Each Newcastle taking part has carefully selected a series of special offers just for visitors from other Newcastles. These could be a customised programme if the visitor has any special interests – places to visit or people to meet, or special discounts from local businesses.

Visitors sign up for a free 'Passport' through our website, then the named contact from that Newcastle gets in touch to start arranging their special visit. Each Newcastle is committed to offering a personalised touch, with a warm and friendly welcome to anyone living in or from an affiliated Newcastle.



## Spotlight on Neuchâtel, Switzerland

The beautiful city of Neuchatel in Switzerland is our featured Newcastle this newsletter, and one of the founding members of Newcastles Passport.

Neuchâtel is a French-speaking city which lies on the northern shore of Lake Neuchâtel. Its medieval old town spreads beneath the Château de Neuchâtel, a castle begun in the 12th century. The adjacent Collégiale is a Gothic church from the same period. In the Jura Mountains west of the city, Creux du Van is an amphitheatre-like canyon with hiking trails and panoramic views.

Our friends in Neuchâtel have arranged a wide range of exclusive offers for visitors.

- \* Free Entrance in the City's four museums (Jardin botanique, Musée d'histoire naturelle, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Musée d'Ethnographie)
- \* Half price on all cruises on Neuchâtel's Lake and the chance to have a drink with the shipping company's director
- \* With prior arrangement the chance to meet with City Councillors and/or to visit official buildings
- \* Half price on a guided visit to "[Neuchâtel à la Belle Epoque](#)"

Neuchatel is famous for its chocolate making and has the following exclusive offers:

- \* 10% off plus a small gift at Chocolaterie Walder
- \* A Choclatissimo gift at Confiserie – Chocolaterie Wodey-Suchard, Schmid or Mäder
- \* 10% off each purchase at Coutellerie des Halles (Swiss Army Knives)



## Other exclusive offers from Newcastles include:

- \* Invite to a tea-making ceremony in Shinshiro, Japan
- \* Meet the Mayor of Neuburg, Germany
- \* Guided Amish tours of New Castle, Pennsylvania
- \* Afternoon tea with members of the Elders Council of Newcastle upon Tyne, England
- \* Free entry into Rabati castle in Akhaltshikhe, Georgia
- \* Become a real medieval hero in a romantic seventh century-old castle in Jaunpils, Latvia

The latest promotions are shown on each Newcastle page taking part in the Passport scheme on our website at <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/>

Please note these special offers are only open to visitors to each Newcastle and are not available to residents of those cities.

# BUSINESS NEWS

What's the time in **Shinshiro, Japan**, **Newcastle KwaZulu-Natal**, in South Africa, **Newcastle upon Tyne (UK)** and **New Castle Pennsylvania** in the USA? All different of course but you can check them all out together on the wall of the Lawrence County Regional Chamber of Commerce in New Castle, PA! What a great idea, especially to make it easier for the business folk to contact each other. Why don't we all do it? Thanks To Alex McCoy, the Chamber's Director, for the photo.



**Newcastle upon Tyne** international airport in the United Kingdom named as best in Europe for its size - for a second year running. The airport tops the list for airports among those serving between 5m and 15m passengers – as decided by the Airports Council International (ACI). Nick Jones, chief executive officer at Newcastle Airport, said: “It’s fantastic to have been given this award for the second year in a row – and it is especially pleasing to know that this was voted for by our passengers.”



It's great to see **Nyborg, Denmark** sharing with city council and business colleagues the story of our successful conference in Shinshiro and the great opportunities that collaboration through Newcastles of the World can offer.

It was even better that colleagues from **Shinshiro** (Japan) and **Neuchâtel** (Switzerland) joined online - here's Mayor Ryoji Hozumi from Shinshiro and Fabio Bongiovanni, Neuchâtel's cabinet member responsible for International Relations.



## PROFILE: **LARA'S THEME** - bringing top fashion to Newcastle

**Façon Australia** (<https://www.faconaustralia.com/>) is a 200 page high fashion magazine, **Newcastle-** owned and managed. It contains fashion trends, articles on health and lifestyle whilst promoting beauty brands produced wholly in Newcastle. The magazine's publishing and digital capabilities act as a vehicle which allows the advertising of local brands globally, and global brands locally, produced within a regional environment, sustained around “working local,



Façon's team of talented creators are led by the founder **Lara Lupish**, who has come back to her home city of Newcastle to expand her business. Lara has forged a hugely successful career making top names in film and TV look good – including Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo and Laura Dern - and she regularly styles stars for the covers of Sydney glossies.



The daughter of immigrants – her Russian mother was a social worker at a migrant centre, her Belarusian father an engineer at BHP - she has been based in Canada, the UK and Sydney for the past 20 years, but has now returned to Newcastle to set up her own styling business. And even she is surprised how much she is loving it, given she couldn't wait to leave town after finishing an arts degree, with double majors in psychology and education, at the University of Newcastle. “I never thought I'd be back,” she admits “but it has changed so much, there are so many international and well-travelled people who are converging here, it's such a cool town.”

By offering internships for young creatives and interns at Façon, Lara also coaches models with a practised professionalism. Façon allows students studying in the fashion and creative industry to receive an internship equal in experience to that offered in major publishing houses and media companies in metropolitan areas. The company utilises local volunteers, hair, make up, back stage dressers, models, giving them invaluable experience and producing local fashion events that further bolster the industry in Newcastle. Façon adds to a regional economy by securing and encouraging a local identity, a feeling of ownership in a regional market and pride and confidence in a creative field. With an office in inner-city Sydney, Lara is now building a Hunter client base in Newcastle before opening a bricks and mortar fashion shop “with a twist” in Newcastle, and an online store. Her services will include personal styling, small workshops on topics ranging from dressing to suit your body and swimwear, all with the aim of bringing style to the forefront of Newcastle. Lara also promises Newcastle fashionistas exclusive previews of new season collections!

## Newcastle's Business School receives 'top accreditation' seal of approval

Newcastle University (UK) Business School has been approved by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). This is said to be the highest standard of achievement in business education. EQUIS is an international system of quality assessment, improvement and accreditation of higher education institutions in management and business administration. The fundamental objective of EQUIS is to raise the standard of management education worldwide. Its focus is on all management programmes offered by an institution from undergraduate level to PhD. 9

# SPORT

The exciting news has been announced that Denmark will become the tenth country to host the Grand Départ of the Tour de France, in the 108th edition of the world's most famous cycle race, in 2021 – and the finishing line to one of the stages will be in **Nyborg** – “Newcastle” - the historic heart of Denmark. The first of the three Danish stages starts in Copenhagen, the most bicycle-friendly city in the world - home to more bicycles than people. The second stage, of 190km will give riders and viewers alike the opportunity to discover the island of Zealand and take the spectacular 18 km Great Belt Bridge to Nyborg on the island of Funen.



## THE TOUR DE FRANCE WILL COME TO NYBORG !

For more information and photos see <https://www.facebook.com/nyborgkommune>

## MARIA IS TOP ROWER



Czech rower Marie Natálie Jurková, who was born in **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in South Bohemia, has become the world champion in indoor rowing (with simulator) in the class of up to 23 years. Her gold medal performance in Long Beach, California, USA, improved the Czech record of Miroslav Topinková from 2005 and followed Marie's silver medal at the January European Championship in Copenhagen. Over 700 rowers took part in the championship - and Marie (centre), who finished half a minute clear of the American silver medallist, can now look forward to next year's Olympics. She started her her career with the rowing club in Třeboň, Bohemia, coached by Jan Veselý.

The **Shinshiro Rally** took place again in March - Round 2 in the all-Japan Motor Rally Championship. The winners of the main event were Yuichi Ishida and Norihiko Katsuta, and the rally drew huge crowds to Shinshiro again. Katsuta is the eight-time Japanese rally champion, and drove a Subaru.



The US Sports Magazine "Swimming World" has selected Alexander Ivovića from **Herceg Novi** in Montenegro, as the best Waterpolo Player in the planet in 2018. He started his career at Herceg Novi's famous waterpolo club PVK Jadran and now plays in Italy. He has played for the national team many times, including at two Olympic Games. He has also twice been Montenegro's "Sports person of the Year"

Lauren Parker firmly declared her Paralympic intentions with an emotional home-town win last month over world champion Emily Tapp in the Oceania paratriathlon championships in **Newcastle, Australia**.

Lauren, who was paralysed from the waist down in a terrible training accident in 2017, added the Oceania women's wheelchair title to bronze medals from last year's Commonwealth Games and world titles and has her eyes on the paralympics in Japan.



## COME TO JAPAN - FOR RUGBY AND SHINSHIRO !

Many of our Newcastles are in rugby union-playing countries, and will have an interest in the Rugby World Cup in Japan this year.

**Shinshiro City** has offered to welcome and host visitors from other Newcastles who come to support their teams at matches that will be played close to Shinshiro – don't miss this chance to see beautiful Shinshiro! If you're travelling to Japan for the World Cup and would like to visit Shinshiro just email [newcastle@city.shinshiro.lg.jp](mailto:newcastle@city.shinshiro.lg.jp). Just an hour away from Shinshiro by bus will be these games -

At the City of Toyota Stadium, Aichi Prefecture, Toyota City, it's Wales v Georgia (23 September), South Africa v Namibia (28 September), Japan v Samoa (5 October) and New Zealand v Italy (12 October) At the Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa, Shizuoka Prefecture, it's Japan v Ireland (28 September), South Africa v Italy (4 October), Scotland v Russia (9 October) and Australia v Georgia (11 October)

Watch Rugby and Tour Shinshiro for One Day

We can make a Bespoke Tour! From both stadiums to Shinshiro, it takes around one hour by bus.

<https://www.rugbyworldcup.com/venues>

For more information, contact [newcastle@city.shinshiro.lg.jp](mailto:newcastle@city.shinshiro.lg.jp)

# MORE NEWS

## Nové Zámky's ambitions as a City of Culture

The city of **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia, is again in the final of the competition for Slovak "City of Culture" having been selected by the Arts Support Fund of Slovakia for the shortlist for 2020. To support this year's project, even more cultural agencies and initiatives (up to a total of 37 participants) are being involved in the preparation. The intended programme has more genre diversity and further expansion of target groups to which individual projects are addressed. The aim of the project AIR LOCATION 2020 is to create a new cultural audience, to initiate mutual cooperation, to revive public spaces, to create new cultural traditions and to enrich the cultural offer of the city of Nové Zámky for programmes that have not been present on its territory to date.

Last year's competition convinced the local cultural community that it was possible to aspire to the title of a city of culture. This consciousness has been transformed into the programme concept this time. The Arts Culture Fund will select the City of Culture 2020 in early summer, with Spišská Nová Vá and Stará Ľubovňa as closest competitors.



The **Clarington (Canada)** Mayor's annual gala "For the Love of Art" is an initiative which showcases local artists, with musical entertainment and a creative silent auction - an evening that captivates the senses and creativity and is a fundraising event on behalf and in support of The Visual Arts Centre and **Newcastle's** "A Gift of Art", two exceptional not-for-profit agencies. This artistic event again included many unique works of art - jewellery, pottery, metal & ironworks, sculpture, photography, poetry, fabric and glass to name a few - and raised valuable funds to support the arts locally.



The dismantling of old telephone booths gives rise to new creative uses of public spaces. The proof is in **Neuchâtel**, where the bus shelter of the post office now hosts an open-air library and a work by the Neuchâtel artist Mandril. The entrance to the post office bus stop on Place du Port included a metal wall, a remnant of two telephone booths. It now hosts a fresco by Mandril, entitled "Caravane des livres". She compiles a multitude of references gleaned for years in biennales, art fairs, museums, antique shops, flea markets ...a work that required more than 500 hours of effort! In the south-west corner, shelves filled with second-hand books await the curious, who will be able to take the books and deposit new ones.

**Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, is Championing the use of electric vehicles and has recently installed thirteen new charging points in the city. In the photo, inaugurating one of the charging points, are (left) Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, City Councillor in charge of Infrastructures and (right) Christine Gaillard, City Councillor in charge of Environnement and Mobility.



## IT'S MASOPUST TIME AGAIN IN NOVÉ HRADY!

"Masopust" is the annual (noisy and colourful) festival at this time of year in **Nové Hradý**, our "Newcastle" in South Bohemia in the Czech Republic. The timing of the festival is associated with both the driving out of winter (maybe not quite yet!) and the feasting that precedes the time of fasting and abstinence during Lent.



So it's a carnival of music, marching, eating and drinking, and of wearing masks and costume. The timing and form vary in different countries and cultures (many will know "Mardi Gras") but the origin is common - from pre-Christian times in ancient Greece and Rome - and there's no doubt that people enjoy the spectacle (and dressing up) despite the cold weather.



## Newcastle's Hopes are Sailing

City of **Newcastle, Australia** saw the return of the spectacular Sailfest Newcastle Regatta from 29-31 March. The event featured skiffs, catamarans and two hallowed pieces of silverware in Newcastle's sporting pantheon - the 110-year-old Cock of The Harbour Trophy for the fastest boat on the harbour and the Newcastle Harbour Regatta trophy first contested in 1834. The event will also help a push by the City and the local sailing community to stage a stopover of the global Ocean Race sailing event in 2021. The Ocean Race - formerly known as the Volvo Ocean Race - is often described as the longest and toughest professional sporting event in the world and one of the sport's Big Three events, alongside the Olympic Games and America's Cup. The 2021 event will begin in Alicante, Spain, and hopefully feature Newcastle as a port of call in its yet-to-be-confirmed route.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## KOTA BHARU'S GROWING LINKS WITH JAPAN

Friendship between Malaysia and Japan is strong and growing, shown by the opening of a Japanese garden in **Kota Bharu**, marking the city's special links with its Japanese twin city Kasaoka.



To mark the new academic year in schools in South Africa, as part of the Mayoral School Uniform Distribution Programme, former Newcastle Mayor Cllr E.M Nkosi visited three schools Celani Primary School, Sizakancane Primary School and Buhlebomnzinyathi High School, to donate school uniforms to underprivileged learners, identified by the schools (right).



## Commissioner Visits Nové Zámky



At the end of February the residents of the city had an opportunity to meet the Slovakian Commissioner for People with Disabilities, Zuzana Stavrovská, following an official meeting with Mayor Otokar Klein and visits to local social institutions.



## News from other Newcastles

It's always good to share news about the Castelnuovos and Castelnovos ("Newcastles") in **Italy** - there are around 30 of them! Here the Alpini National Association Group of **Castelnuovo Don Bosco** (Asti province) are visiting **Castelnuovo Rangone** (Modena) where they saw a balsamic vinegar cellar, a Parmesan cheese factory, and the famous Ferrari car factory, nearby in Maranello. In the picture you can see our tower, the municipal building and the famous pig monument of Castelnuovo Rangone - a great pork processing area, - plus the the Mayor (with sash) and our correspondent Alberto Soli (with cap) between the crowd.

## Italian "Newcastles" visit each other



Right - A painting of New Castle Delaware USA by the talented local artist Dennis Young whose work is displayed in the wonderfully named Moz'Art Gallery

**US New Castles - Delaware (left) and Colorado (right)**



New Castle, Colorado, USA has again celebrated its annual Founders Day (right) - 131 years since the famous coal mining town was established.

## Stepping up with poetry

This year marks 20 years since the death of Michael Hartnett, one of Ireland's most famous poets of the 20th century - and a wonderful project in his hometown of **Newcastle West** County Limerick honours the poet and brings vibrant colour to a part of the town that he would have remembered well. Steps on a steep pathway in Newcastle West have been painted with words from his poems (see left). There's a statue of the poet in the centre of the town and an annual literary festival, the "Éigse Michael Hartnett", held in his honour.

