

## Confirmed Meeting Minutes

|   |                            |                                  |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> 7 February 2023  | <b>Time:</b> 5.30 – 7.30pm | <b>Venue:</b> City Hall Chambers |
| <b>Meeting Objective:</b> To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA. |                            |                                  |

### 1 Welcome

Councillor Duncan acknowledged the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

#### 1.1 Attendees

##### Members

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cr Carol Duncan   | – Councillor Member (Chair)        |
| Cr Margaret Wood  | – Councillor Member (Deputy Chair) |
| Cr Jenny Barrie   | – Councillor Member                |
| Dr Shane Bransdon | – Community Member                 |
| Anna Hombsch-     | – Community Member                 |
| Janice Musumeci   | – Community Member                 |

##### Guests

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Lynn Duffy          | – Acting Executive Director Creative & Community Services, City of Newcastle (CN), (Committee Facilitator) |
| Helen Payne         | – Executive Assistant (Committee Secretary)  |
| Delia O'Hara        | – Executive Manager Civic Services, CN   |
| Lauretta Morton OAM | – Director Newcastle Art Gallery, CN   |
| Janie Gibson        | - Whale Chorus   |
| David Boyce         | - Omega Ensemble (through Teams)   |
| Adrian Burnett      | - New Annual Senior Producer & Curator, CN (through Teams)   |
| Katerina Skoumbas   | – Big Picture Fest   |
| Zephie Cerny        | - Octopod  |

##### Apologies

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Cr Nuatali Nelmes | – Lord Mayor   |
| Dr Ann Hardy      | – University of Newcastle, Stakeholder Member                                |
| Nick Kaiser       | - Acting Executive Manager Media Engagement Economy & Corporate Affairs (CN) |
| Julie Baird       | – Director Museum Archive Libraries & Learning (CN)                          |
| Jasmine Fletcher  | – Community Member   |

#### 1.2 Declaration and Conflicts of Interest

1.2.1 Nil.

### 2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held 31 October 2022 endorsed.

## 3 Committee Performance

3.1 The Annual Performance Report (**attached**) was endorsed.

3.2 Strategic Focus Areas for 2023

The draft Cultural Precinct Masterplan on [CN's website](#) including Public Domain improvement, Museum Park, Civic Park, Wheeler Place, some streets and public areas in between to make the area more useable will be working with key stakeholders and partners. Ideas for topics and guest speakers for meetings this year are most welcome.

## 4. Omega Ensemble

David Boyce briefed the Committee on [Omega Ensemble](#) including:

- Omega Ensemble was founded in Sydney in 2005 by clarinettist and Artistic Director David Rowden. The Ensemble includes six core players and often expands to a chamber orchestra (15-20 players).
- Led by vision of uncovering 'Classical music for Contemporary Australia' to embrace and cherish the traditions of classical music.
- Supported through Create NSW, the box office and philanthropy.
- In 2020, Omega Ensemble introduced the Newcastle Concert Season with five performance planned at Newcastle Art Gallery. Following COVID disruptions, the Ensemble launched the 2021 Season as part of the inaugural New Annual Festival. Following a second year of disruptions, the Ensemble launched the 2022 Newcastle Season performing in Newcastle and completed all performances as planned.
- Challenges to continue to perform in Newcastle are venue availability and suitability for acoustic performance, promotional networks through venues and city and local investment for future sustainability.

## 5 Whale Chorus Theatre

Janie Gibson briefed the Committee on [Whale Chorus](#) including:

- A summary of her background travelling the world performing, teaching, producing and being a voice coach who returned to Newcastle during the pandemic.
- Janie read her vision statement.
- Janie is planning to produce large shows and develop emerging artists in the city (seeking funding and partnerships).
- Their presentation of Shakespeare Under The Stars performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Pacific Park on 28 & 29 January supported by CN's Special Business Rate Program was a huge success with the inaugural season sold out one week prior.
- Funding has already been secured for next year.
- "Voices of Joan" is a solo performance of a feminist punk ritual looks at the history of misogyny. With written direction by Anu Almagro (of acclaimed Polish theatre company) to be here in July. Further details at [link](#).
- Janice Musumeci advised she would be happy to introduce new people to the Business Industry Association board.

## 6 New Annual

Adrian Burnett briefed the Committee on [New Annual](#) including:

- Festival of art, culture and creativity runs for ten days from Friday 22 September to Sunday 1 October 2023.
- Strategic priorities are to:
  - **Develop** CN's reputation as a world-class creative destination and drive event tourism
  - **Showcase** Newcastle's unique businesses, venues, facilities, and natural environment
  - **Acknowledge** and share the history and culture of our First Nations communities
  - **Build** capacity, strategic partnerships and audiences for local artists and arts organisations
  - **Provide** new creative experiences to the people of the Hunter region and beyond
  - **Strive** for inclusivity and accessibility in all activities
  - **Commit** to sustainable events practices
- New Annual was recently granted \$400,000 (\$200,000 per annum for 2023 and 2024) through the 'Stronger Together' grant program from Multicultural NSW.
- Total economic impact for 2022 was \$7,901,738
- Released EOI for Local Artists at [link](#) offering up to \$15,000 per project – applications close 26 February.
- Festival Control Group and Project Working Group will be running this year aiming to have program finalised mid-April.

## 7 Come From Away

Delia O'Hara briefed the Committee on Civic Services and Come From Away.

## 8 Newcastle 500

The last Newcastle 500 event under the existing tripartite agreement with Destination NSW Supercars Australia will be held 10-12 March 2023. Council is committed to undertake extensive and broad community and stakeholder consultation in relation to the decision to extend the current agreement beyond 2023 under a plus five year option.

### Newcastle Destination Management Plan

[Newcastle Destination Management Plan 2021-2025](#) was unanimously endorsed by the elected Council in March 2021. The reimagined leisure destination proposition for Newcastle is Newcastle – Seek Off Beat campaign which continues to be rolled out and implemented.

## 9 General Business

- 9.1 Request that CN case studies be created featuring successful recipients featuring the benefits of being recipients of CN cultural grants and/or SBR Funding. These case studies would be of benefit to other arts and cultural organisations or individuals of ways in which CN can help with business and economic development.

### 9.2 Creative Industries Economic Development event

Cr Duncan met last year with Olivia Olley who has been approached by Apple TV who want something written, produced and made in Australia. Have requested through MEECA an event at 12 Stewart Avenue gathering people for a presentation workshop what CN could do for you and if not, providing the contacts.

**Action:** To be organised with MEECA/Nick Kaiser

### 9.3 Show of Pride as Newcastle supports celebration of diversity and inclusion

CN's Night Galleries installation at Kuwami Place on Hunter Street will set the mood on Friday 17 February with the launch of the Inside/Out art exhibition curated by Newcastle Art Gallery and Queer & Now founder Jasmine Fletcher, showcasing works by local artists with those from the Gallery's collection.

- 9.4 Cultural/events media releases should be shared to the Committee.
- 9.5 Events sponsored or supported by CN should be promoted on CN's owned social media channels. Facilitator to discuss internally on how to best ensure CN sponsored events are promoted.

## **8 Closing**

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Next meeting: 5.30pm 4 April 2023, City Hall Chamber

## Foreword from the Chair



In 2023, we enter the fourth year of the Covid-19 pandemic and if we look back at the immense challenges that have faced our community since 2020, it gives us even more reason to celebrate the strength and resilience of Novocastrians, none more so than in our arts and cultural sectors.

As Newcastle continues to gain renown as a city in which arts and cultural events, tourism and the visitor economy, along with education, health and research, become even more significant economic drivers, the pandemic is also a powerful reminder of how critical arts and culture are to us as humans. The desire to feel included, to be creative, to share experiences and foster opportunities run deep.

The Committee is proud to have successfully presented a new cultural framework - the [Newcastle Cultural Precinct Masterplan](#) which was developed following consultation with many cultural institutions, community groups and local businesses. It identifies the importance of key cultural projects such as the expansion of the Newcastle Art Gallery and the refurbishment of the Victoria Theatre, which, along with increased collaboration across institutions, will help unlock more than \$16 million in direct and indirect benefits to the local economy each year, including almost 35,000 additional visitor nights.

Collaboration between the Committee and other Newcastle cultural and community bodies continues to grow important links between local government and organisations that strive to improve the lives and experiences of all Novocastrians and visitors to our city. We are delighted that World Pride, in 2023 hosted by the City of Sydney, has chosen Newcastle as its only official regional event hub. We're grateful for the generosity of knowledge and experience shared with us by invited guests, including Janine Collins - the Director of Music In The Regions, and Lisa Colley - the City of Sydney Manager of Cultural Strategy. We not only learn from these links, but it creates even more opportunities for connection, inclusion and creativity.

I want to extend my thanks to each member of the Committee for their support and enthusiasm, each guest who has joined us, and the City of Newcastle staff who help make this work possible.

It's a privilege and a joy.

## Membership

Cr Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor  
Cr Carol Duncan, Chair  
Cr Margaret Wood, Deputy Chair  
Cr Jenny Barrie, Councillor Member  
Dr Ann Hardy, University of Newcastle  
Matt Endacott, Wren Street Consulting  
Dr Shane Brandson, Community Member  
Anna Hombsch, Community Member  
Janice Musumeci, Community Member  
Jasmine Fletcher, Community Member



# Community and Culture Advisory Committee – Annual Report 2022



## Objective of the committee

To provide advice and guidance on the development of strategies, and identification of challenges and opportunities, in relation to cultural planning, arts and cultural opportunities, community pride and local identity, and community involvement which encourages a sense of belonging within the LGA.

## Summary of key items of business considered

| Date of Meeting              | Business Item  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Thursday<br>17 February 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference</li> <li>• 2021 Annual Report</li> <li>• Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy and Draft Local Social Strategy</li> <li>• Draft Cultural Precinct Plan</li> <li>• Priorities for 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Annual, cultural events and CONDA</li> <li>- Implementation of Cultural Precinct Plan</li> <li>- Illuminating Cities</li> <li>- Library Strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consideration of Working Parties for 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Precinct</li> <li>- Cultural Events</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| Tuesday<br>5 April 2022      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcastle Museum Visitation Strategy</li> <li>• Libraries and Learning Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Library Management System</li> <li>- Lambton Library and OPEN+</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Big Picture Fest Newcastle</li> <li>• Curious Legends</li> <li>• OzTheatrics</li> <li>• Community Members EOI</li> <li>• Operating Procedures for Working Parties – Cultural Precinct and Cultural Events</li> </ul>   |
| Tuesday<br>2 August 2022     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt Committee Terms of Reference</li> <li>• City of Sydney Cultural Strategist</li> <li>• New Annual</li> <li>• Our Sustainable Waste Strategy</li> </ul>   |
| Monday<br>31 October 2022    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CN Structure Change</li> <li>• Newcastle Art Gallery update</li> <li>• Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy and Draft Local Social Strategy</li> <li>• Music in the Regions</li> <li>• Newcastle Cultural Precinct Concept Masterplan</li> <li>• Newcastle Pride involvement</li> <li>• Big Picture Fest</li> </ul>   |



# Community and Culture Advisory Committee – Annual Report 2022

## Summary of key achievements

Newcastle Museum Visitation Strategy (Dr Lynda Kelly)  
City of Sydney Cultural Strategist (Dr Lisa Colley)  
Newcastle Cultural Precinct Concept Masterplan  
Music in the Regions (Janine Collins)

## Summary of performance and governance

| Date of Meeting              | Quorum achieved | Members in attendance  | Agenda circulated to members and published on CN's website | Declaration of conflicts of interest listed as agenda item | Minutes circulated to members, adopted by the committee and published on CN's website |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---|
| Thursday<br>17 February 2022 | Quorate         | Cr Carol Duncan, Chair<br>Cr Margaret Wood, Deputy Chair<br>Cr Jenny Barrie, Councillor Member<br>Dr Ann Hardy, University of Newcastle<br>Matt Endacott (guest)<br>Dr Shane Brandson (guest)  | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Tuesday<br>5 April 2022      | Quorate         | Cr Carol Duncan, Chair<br>Cr Margaret Wood, Deputy Chair<br>Cr Jenny Barrie, Councillor Member<br>Dr Ann Hardy, University of Newcastle<br>Matt Endacott<br>Dr Shane Brandson, Community Member  | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Tuesday<br>2 August 2022     | Quorate         | Cr Carol Duncan, Chair<br>Cr Margaret Wood, Deputy Chair<br>Cr Jenny Barrie, Councillor Member<br>Dr Ann Hardy, University of Newcastle<br>Dr Shane Brandson, Community Member<br>Anna Hombsch, Community Member<br>Jasmine Fletcher, Community Member | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |
| Monday<br>31 October 2022    | Inquorate       | Cr Carol Duncan, Chair<br>Cr Margaret Wood, Deputy Chair<br>Cr Jenny Barrie, Councillor Member<br>Dr Ann Hardy, University of Newcastle  | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   |



*Tibetan Community Festival*



*Lowlands Bowling Club 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



*City Hall Event*



*Live music (Les Poetes Pop)*