



city talk

working towards a city that is attractive, clean, safe & fun!

ISSUE 3

Website of the Month

This month we invite you to visit the Village Well website. The Committee has invited Village Well to assist us in planning our contribution to the Mall re-opening – www.villagewell.org

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

Unknown

Renew Newcastle – Pledge Honoured

The Newcastle City Centre Committee presented a cheque on Tuesday 7th April to 'Renew Newcastle' to help fund further initiatives in the City Centre.

The Committee last year pledged a contribution of up to \$20,000 to the project should it go ahead and prove to be successful.

"We are delighted to have our pledge called in," Edward Duc, Chair of the Committee said.

"The Committee recognizes the challenges faced by smaller retailers in the City Centre at the moment. Overseas experience tells us that arts and cultural projects are important in city regeneration, so we are delighted that the arts community has stepped forward to make its contribution to keeping the Newcastle City Centre busy and interesting through the difficult transition phase.

"Renew Newcastle, with the assistance of GPT, has successfully encouraged 11 arts-based activities to bring their work to the City Centre. Photographers, multi-media, local arts products and interesting installations. It is a showcase for innovative and creative minds.

"We congratulate the team at Renew Newcastle on their vision and hard work. "



City Guides

Our volunteer guides are extending the range of work they do on your behalf. In the near future you will see their bright orange shirts replaced with a blue shirt with the City Centre Committee's logo displayed. As well as the historical research and 'meet and greet' programs the Guides run, they take an active role in distributing our newsletters, keeping track of media reports on city issues, carrying out surveys and tracking city changes through a photographic record.



Meet City Guide—David

Small Places

The Committee has begun to investigate ways in which some of the neglected small places in the city can be made to look and function better. Each one of them has complications (which is why they have become run-down.) It's a longer-term strategy but the work has begun. Council has scheduled a tidy-up of the little garden near Civic Station and the Committee has engaged a company to fix the row of King St lights installed some years back by the Tower Precinct Committee. We are also trying to untangle the issues around the tiny little setback in King St (just east of Darby) and have begun some research into the convict history of Watt St which we hope will ultimately end up with a tribute to the early importance of this street in the city's history.

Re-opening the Mall

The Committee congratulates Council on its decision to re-open the Mall and therefore has voted \$100,000 towards the project. The money will be invested in physical enhancements of the Mall area and approaches to make the area more attractive for people to spend time and visit businesses. At the moment it is intended to help fund elements such as seating, shade, signage, plants, banners, public art and so on.

Council will place the proposal on display in one of the vacant shops in the Mall and we urge people to look at the concepts closely and respond to Council on this important issue. We want to get this opportunity right!

We'd like to increase our volunteer group.

The City Guides meet and greet visitors to the city. They also help deliver the newsletter to businesses and assist with administration, evaluation, surveys, various research studies, media analysis and a host of other jobs. They are our eyes in the city centre and their work is highly valued. They also seem to have some fun together while they work. If you have a couple of days a month to devote to the future of our city we'd love to hear from you. Call Annette at the office and she'll tell you about the program.

Security Trial - Update

The Committee is about to begin its trial of two separate camera systems for City Centre surveillance. Our thanks go to SNP and Ipera for sponsoring the trial. The information we gather will become part of a citywide trial by a number of private property owners and organisations, both of whom are keen to see security improved.

Next Meeting

The Committee welcomes visitors to its meetings. The next one will be held on Tuesday May 19th **7am-9am** at **Newcastle Leagues Club**, National Park St. If you'd like to come along please give us a call so we can make sure there's enough coffee. If you have an issue you would like to raise call Cheryl on 49294644 so we can make some time on the agenda. Core office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9am -3pm.

For more information contact Newcastle City Centre Committee

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