



Welcome to Country

I would like to begin by paying my respects to the traditional custodians, their elders both past and present

Today we are meeting on Awabakal Land. These traditional lands of the Awabakal people are ancient and sacred, so please respect and look after them and they will look after you. We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt this is, was, and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

It is my privilege on behalf of the Awabakal people to welcome you all to the land of our ancestors. I am a proud Awabakal woman from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie areas.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and our non-indigenous who may join us today.

Welcome to you all.

NEWCASTLE PRIDE COMMITTEE REPORT 2020

Welcome all to our second Annual General Meeting of Newcastle Pride Inc. and thanks to the community for its continued support and engagement with Newcastle Pride and its outreach activities. 2020 has been a year! 2020 has been a year like no other, from drought, bushfires, and floods in 2019 to a global pandemic in 2020, we were all forced to think differently, change our day-to-day routines, and re-evaluate what is important. Covid-19 impacted so many plans, celebrations, and parties, and even the precious moments when we celebrate the accomplishments and life of those closest to us who are no longer with us. But despite 2020 robbing many communities including our own of the 2020 Newcastle Pride Festival, we stood shoulder to shoulder and found creative ways to stay connected and support each other. However, the current committee has still been working throughout the year to provide support to the community.

Brief Background

Newcastle Pride was incorporated on 11 April 2018 ABN (15977895046). Since this time, we have mounted two successful annual Festivals to foster LGBTIQ+ Pride and community spirit in the region. We currently have 179 paid members and Newcastle Pride social media Facebook page currently has 6,314 followers, our Instagram page 2,046 followers so almost 8,360 members/followers in total to date.

Mission of Newcastle Pride

Newcastle Pride is an inclusive, vibrant, and fun not-for-profit LGBTIQ+ community-based organisation established to make Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, and the wider Hunter Region a safer, happier, healthier, and more culturally rich place for all the LGBTIQ+ community. A place where we celebrate equality, diversity, and authenticity.



Structure

Interim / Current Committees

2018 Founding committee

In its year of inception, the Committee consisted of Founder, Lee-Anne McDougall, Co-Founder Ivan Skaines and Committee Members Mike Wilkins, Judy Nadin, Geoff MacFarlane, and Debbie Hansen, who delivered the first annual Pride Festival in 2018.

2019 Interim Committee

In 2019, a more formal Interim Committee was established consisting of President Lee-Anne McDougall, Vice-President Ivan Skaines, Secretary Geoff MacFarlane, Treasurer Debbie Hansen, and Committee Members Hellen Richards, Jay Bellamy, Sally Franco, and Ed Abbott. The team worked cohesively to deliver an extraordinarily successful 2019 Festival, along with several other related events and initiatives.

2020 Committee

The 2020 elected Committee consists of President Lee-Anne McDougall, Vice-President Ivan Skaines, Secretary Tory Curran, Treasurer Joshua Yelds and Committee Members Hellen Richards, Jay Bellamy, and Ed Abbott. The team have worked all year in this COVID-19 period to achieve several initiatives.

Activities and Achievements

• **Newcastle Pride Festival 2020**

Planning was well underway for the 2020 Newcastle Pride Festival but once we were struck with COVID-19 life changed and so did festivals and events all around the world. Festivals, events, travel were all cancelled and sadly this affected us and our 2020 Newcastle Pride festival. This was extremely sad time for the Committee and our LGBTIQ+ community.

The program that was planned for 2020 will now carry over to the 2021 festival planned for Friday August 12th – Sunday September 5th.

• **Other engagement 2020 activities in the community**

1. Saturday 25th January, we partnered with Timberlina Productions and Heaps Gay and held the Queer Bush Fire Fundraiser at Mayfield Bowling Club (\$7043 raised) this was an extraordinarily successful event, and we donated the money raised to Port Stephens Koala Hospital and RSPCA.
2. Sunday January 26, Newcastle Pride was honoured when we were awarded Community Group of the Year for 2020 by City of Newcastle.
3. We participated in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade and we were ecstatic when we were nominated for 2020 Best Float design, we also featured on ABC News Breakfast. Unfortunately, we did not win but in the eyes of the 80 participants we were the winners, as they all had an amazing night.
4. Under Newcastle Pride's rainbow umbrella, we registered the names Lake Macquarie Pride and Hunter Pride with ASIC earlier in the year to reach and include our Hunter Region communities.

5. June 27, the Committee participated via zoom in the 2020 Global Pride as part of the Australian Contingent.
6. October 19th-25th Newcastle Pride held a Popup stall at Charlestown Square where we had the opportunity to be visible and engage with community members, parents, family members and had time to chat and listen to their concerns and needs.
7. Our new T-shirt designs are now available at the Newcastle Visitors Information Centre.

- **Other partnerships**

During 2019 Newcastle Pride developed a partnership with Charlestown Square and we will be continuing into 2021.

- **The 2021 Festival and future initiatives**

Newcastle Pride is now an established organisation with skills and corporate knowledge in event management, governance, sponsorship, grant writing, promotions and finance, and plans have begun for the 2021 Festival Program. The 2021 themed festival '*This is Me*' is set to be huge with an expanded program of LGBTIQ+ events including Fair Day, Dance Party, Cabaret, Cinema, Sports, Trivia, Art, Food and Wine. Next year we plan to be more inclusive of communities in our region, with events planned in both Lake Macquarie and the Maitland areas and inviting others to stage events as part of the Festival via an Expression of Interest process. Events details will be announced early in the new year.

- **The Youth Pride Tribe**

Is on schedule to launch in 2021 Youth Pride Tribe is a distinct LGBTIQ+ youth focused entity under the Newcastle Pride brand due to the evident need in the local Hunter region to provide a social support group for LGBTIQ+ youth to find each other, forge long lasting friendships, stage LGBTIQ+ youth focused events and empower the current and future generations of LGBTIQ+ youth in our local community.

Finally, I wish to extend our thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors and supporters, performers, allies, and our community for the continued success and building of a strong vibrant and proud LGBTIQ+ community in the region.

Lee-Anne McDougall
President
Newcastle Pride Inc.



www.newcastlepride.com.au