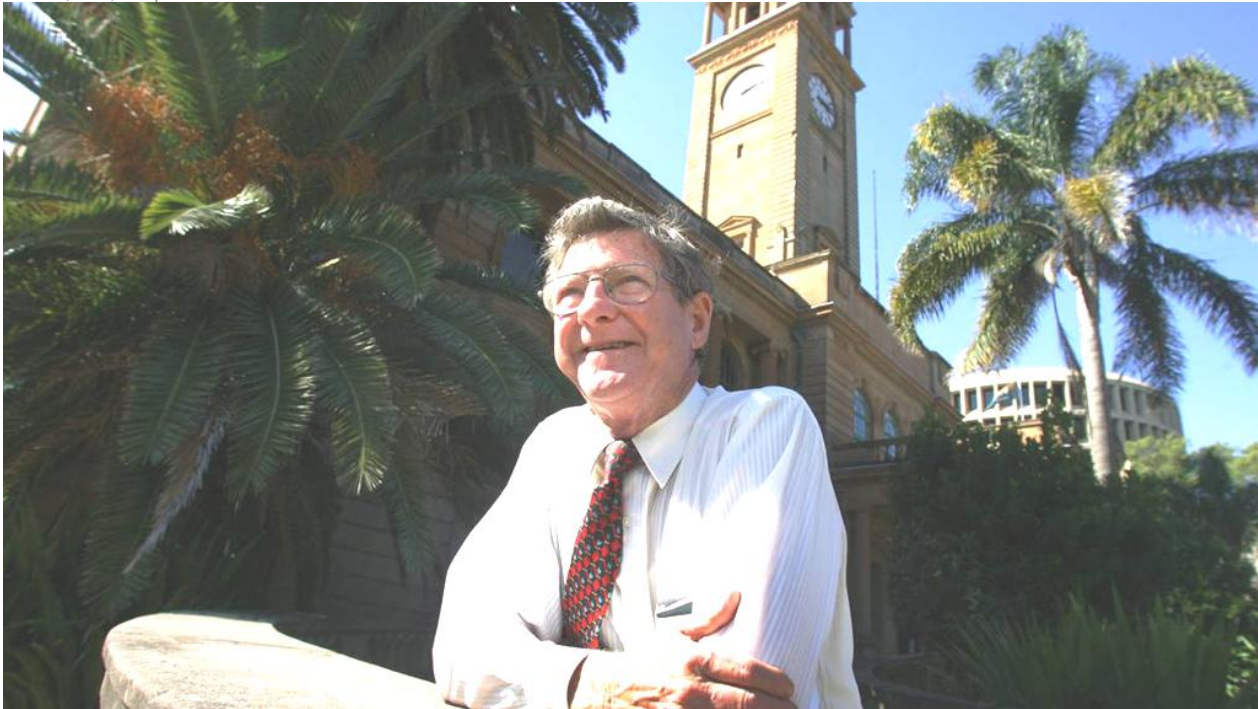


John McNaughton - New title recognises loyal civic service

By JASON GORDON
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Former Newcastle mayor John McNaughton.

FORMER lord mayor John McNaughton has been honoured for his years of service to Newcastle with the state government granting him the title of Emeritus Lord Mayor.

Mr McNaughton, who attended Tuesday night's council meeting to accept the acknowledgement with his wife Margaret, served as lord mayor from 1986 to 1995 .

He was instrumental in plans to create the Fernleigh Track and the development of Newcastle Airport, but he is perhaps best remembered for his leadership following the 1989 earthquake.

Mr McNaughton said the acknowledgement was a great honour and he felt "quite nostalgic" to be in the council chamber again, only this time in the public gallery.

John McNaughton was lord mayor when an earthquake hit the city, causing more than \$1 billion damage.

He said his family made a great sacrifice to allow him to hold a public office, and much of the credit for his achievements belongs to others.

"I'm very honoured," he said.

"Nine years is a considerable period of time when you're totally engrossed in community affairs.

"It's the achievement that was made by councillors, which I had a part.

"And there are so many people who don't really get the credit for what they did."