



## New look enquiry centre

Our customer enquiry centre at 282 King Street, Newcastle has just been overhauled in preparation for the customer contact centre launch later in 2015. We currently handle between **1700-2500 phone, mail, face to face and online enquiries** per month through our enquiry centre.

## Our website

Our website has over **1,900** pages and receives **100,000+** visitors each month. We are working on a new website which will be launched **mid-2015**. It will be simpler, searchable, resize for mobile devices and provide more ways for you to find information.

## Newcastle economic profile

Newcastle's economic profile is now **available on our website**. Some key statistics about our city are: Newcastle has a population of **158,553** with **87,489** jobs and gross regional product of **\$13.587 billion**.

We are the economic hub of the Hunter Region, accounting for approximately **30%** of the Hunter's developed industrial space and **80%** of the office space.

## Library services

Newcastle Library can help you uncover your homes history, including rate books, maps, and online databases. Call 4974 5332 to make a booking.



## The Making of Midnight Oil

20 February – 10 May 2015

Discover the power and the passion of Australian band Midnight Oil.

The Making of Midnight Oil examines the iconic band's impact on social and cultural history across a 40 year period.

It is jam packed with rare and iconic items including stage props, instruments, protest banners, hand written lyrics, photographs and posters sourced from public and private collections as well as the band's own archives. It also highlights the band's various actions and causes across the years.

Admission charges apply.

For more information visit:  
www.newcastlemuseum.com.au



## NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY



## CAPITAL & COUNTRY

THE FEDERATION YEARS 1900-1914

A National Gallery of Australia Exhibition  
**7 MARCH - 31 MAY 2015**  
NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY  
1 Laman Street Newcastle | 4974 5100 | nag.org.au  
Open 10am - 5pm Tuesday to Sunday

The National Gallery of Australia is an Australian Government Agency  
Image: Sydney Long Flamingoes c.1907 oil on canvas 30.6 x 60.1 cm  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, acquired with the assistance of the Masterpieces for the Nation Fund 2006  
Reproduced with the kind permission of the Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia

Gallery Sponsors: HERALD, PAPA & BROS, NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY FOUNDATION, NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY SOCIETY  
Exhibition Sponsors: ABC Local Radio

## Nikon Walkley Press Photography

27 January - 7 March 2015



Caravan on fire: Adam Hourigan The Daily Examiner

Nikon Walkley Press Photography Exhibition presents a glimpse of the biggest stories of the past year, as seen through the lenses of Australia's best press photographers.

Heartbreak and triumph, jubilation and devastation, it's all on show. This exhibition celebrates outstanding moments in sport, daily life and news reportage.

## Launch and floor talk

Join us to hear the stories behind the images from one of the 2014 Walkley Award finalists. This is an event not to be missed.

**When:** 5.30pm, Friday January 30, 2015  
**Where:** Newcastle Region Library, Laman Street, Newcastle

**RSVP:** 4974 5300

For more information visit:  
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au or call 4974 5300

2015 SEASON



## CIVIC THEATRE NEWCASTLE PRESENTS SEASON 2015

Season 2015 is a curated program representing a rich variety of 17 of the best local and national productions. Come and celebrate with us this year as the Civic Theatre marks her 85th year!

## CREATE YOUR OWN SEASON PACKAGE CHOOSE FOUR OR MORE AND SAVE

Contact us to subscribe to season 2015, or for a copy of our season brochure today!

TICKETEX BOX OFFICE  
(02) 4929 1977  
www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au

Simply purchase tickets to four or more shows to receive great discounts!

Show your season card at our Lounge Bar to receive discounted drinks at each of the shows in our season

Get access to the best seats in the house

Defer payment until three weeks before each show\*  
\*available directly through Box Office only



## Council News

Community Newsletter from The City of Newcastle



## SRV UPDATE



During October 2014, we asked for feedback from the Newcastle community about three rating options for the city from 2015/16 for five years.

## These were:

1. Take no action and retain rate peg increase only
2. Fund financial sustainability with a 6.5 to 6.8% increase including the rate peg
3. Fund revitalisation with a 8% increase including the rate peg

Option two received the most support in the telephone and online surveys, and feedback from the other channels was more polarised. Two in every three community members gave their first preference to the options that involved a special rate variation (options 2 and 3). The full engagement report is available on Council's website.

At the 25 November 2014 Ordinary Council meeting, Council supported option three and an application is being prepared to IPART for a special rate variation of 8% (5% above the rate peg) per year for five years. The application is due in February and IPART will make a determination if a special rate variation is warranted.

## COASTAL REVITALISATION



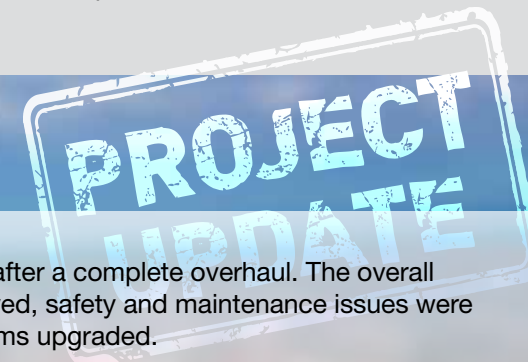
The **Merewether Baths** reopened in November after a complete overhaul. The overall appearance and access to the facility has improved, safety and maintenance issues were addressed and the pumping and pipework systems upgraded.



Construction work on stage two of the **Bathers Way** from **Dixon Park** to the **Cooks Hill Surf Club** is expected to commence in early 2015 and includes a minimum four metre wide shared pathway, lighting, furniture, shade trees and structures, landscaping, pedestrian access upgrades, and road and streetscape improvements.



Construction work on the **Bathers Way** between **Nobbys Beach** and **Newcastle Beach** is underway. **Shortland Esplanade** is now one-way, with works being completed progressively from Nobbys Beach precinct heading south towards Newcastle Beach. The next stage of works involving the embankment stabilisation overlooking Newcastle Beach starts mid 2015.



## Summer events in Newcastle

Surfest 30th Anniversary

Markets in the CBD

**Merewether Beach and Honeysuckle February 2015**

Music, movies, interviews and more!

**Newcastle Museum 16 February to 15 March 2015**

A photographic exhibition of surfing in Newcastle from 1956-2010.

**Light up Newcastle Lantern Walk 21 February 2015**

Celebrating the Chinese New Year.

**Civic Park 7 February 2015 and first Saturday of every month after**

Come and check out the great mix of stallholders from the creative industries as well as gourmet artisan produce, food and refreshments.

We are working with The Olive Tree Market to maximise cultural activity in Civic Precinct on market days and to minimise environmental impact on the park.

We have been busy expanding the ways in which we communicate news, project updates, events and engage with the community.

If you're looking for the latest information or just want to keep up-to-date with what's happening in your city you can:

- **Subscribe via email:** Council eNews (weekly), Library eNews (monthly), Museum eNews (monthly) and more
- **Subscribe via RSS:** Media releases, DA applications and more
- **Connect via Social Media:** Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Instagram

Find out more and get direct links to our different communications channels by visiting:

[www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stayconnected](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/stayconnected)







This year we will see **unprecedented investment in the city with renewal projects planned throughout the city centre.**

I am looking forward to seeing the further progress on the revitalisation of the inner city and we will be working closely with the relevant agencies to keep the Newcastle community informed on progress.

We are midway through our busy event season and I would like to thank the Newcastle community for coming together and welcoming our guests for the AFC Asian Cup 2015.

The tournament brought more than 30,000 visitors to the region and I'm sure they were suitably impressed and will return time and time again.

Looking ahead, we will see the Nobbys to Newcastle section of the Bathers Way really take shape, completion of the clock tower works at Newcastle City Hall, proposals for mixed community and commercial developments at our two ocean baths pavilions and further progress on the Blackbutt Reserve priority projects.

It is a great time to be in Newcastle and 2015 is shaping up to be a fantastic year.

**Ken Gouldthorp**  
General Manager



## PARK SAFE, STAY SAFE

The park safe, stay safe school program has been designed to partner with schools, principals, parents, students and the broader community to improve road and children's safety around schools.

**Common parking and road safety issues in school zones:**

- drivers picking up/dropping off on or too close to school pedestrian crossings
- drivers picking up/dropping off in no stopping and bus zones
- drivers stopping for long periods of time in no parking zones
- drivers parking for too long in drop-off and pickup zones.

We have booklets and flyers available to educate everyone on how to park safe, stay safe around schools. For more information visit [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au) or call **4274 2000**. Parking officers will be active around schools from February 2015. The emphasis of the park safe, stay safe program is education and safety to ensure our children are safe when arriving and leaving school.

## Local Planning Strategy: Visions for neighbourhoods

We have recently developed a draft Local Planning Strategy to guide land use planning throughout the city but what does this mean for you?

The strategy sets the pattern for development and answers questions such as how much land is needed to house Newcastle's growing population to allow people to work close to home and still have enough space for recreation.

The Newcastle community set the vision and objectives for our neighbourhoods in 1998 as part of the existing Newcastle Urban Strategy. It is time to hear from you again about whether vision and objectives for your neighbourhood are relevant and reflect the current community.

The draft strategy will be on public exhibition for 12 weeks during February, March and April. Don't miss the opportunity to shape how your neighbourhood will look in the future. Visit our website or follow Newcastle Voice on facebook to keep up to date with what is going on.

## RECREATION



We're continuing to improve our parks and recreation facilities across Newcastle by upgrading our sporting facilities and maintaining our parks and reserves.

**Waratah Park** users are enjoying a new canteen and storeroom and will also benefit from new flood lighting this year.

A shared pathway is being constructed at **National Park** between Union Street and the footbridge at the stormwater channel, along with shade tree plantings, public seating installation and landscape improvements.

To kick off the new year, **National Park No. 4 Sportsground**, **Mayfield Park** and **Blackley Oval** amenities buildings will be upgraded to improve overall functionality and accessibility. We're also working on the design of an upgrade to the amenities building at **Islington Park**.

Other upcoming work includes flood lighting at **Tuxford Park** Shortland, irrigation at **Novocastrian Park** New Lambton and new fencing at **Passmore Oval** Wickham.

## GUTTER TALKS IS COMING TO COOKS HILL

There are simple things we can do in and around our home that reduce stormwater pollution and improve water flowing from our streets to our harbour.

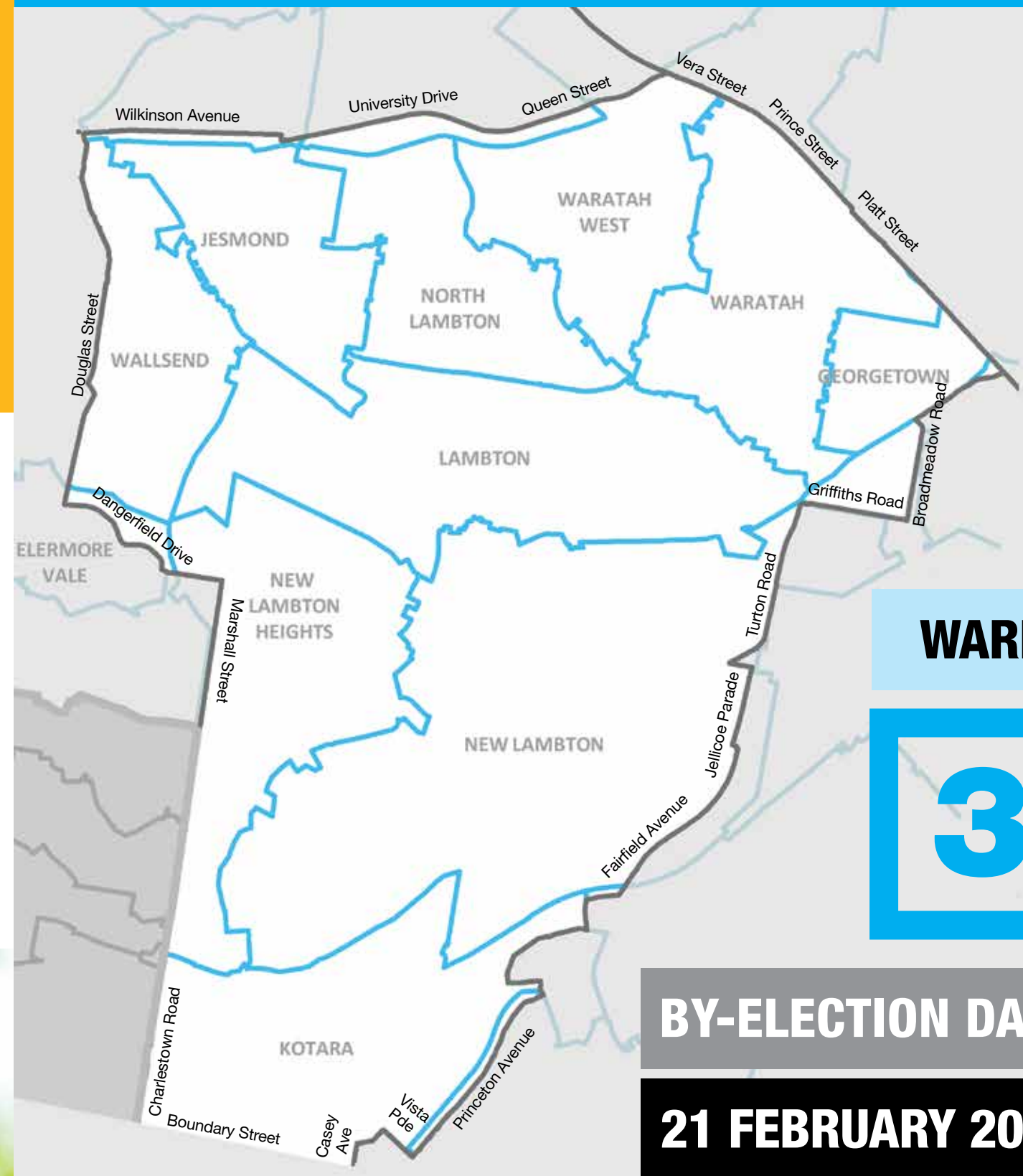
**We will be out and about in the Cooks Hill community in the next few months talking about stormwater, drainage and what you can do to help make Newcastle a water sensitive city.**

Come along and trade in your old broom for a brand new one and discover how your household can help improve the quality of stormwater that ends up in Cottage Creek, Newcastle Harbour and beaches.

Keep your eyes peeled for Gutter Talk dates and times.



## COUNCIL ELECTION



Congratulations to Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, elected as Lord Mayor of Newcastle in the November 2014 by-election. This created a vacancy in Ward 3 and a by-election will be held on Saturday 21 February 2015 to vote for a new councillor.

The by-election will be managed by the NSW Electoral Commission and is compulsory for all registered electors who live in Ward 3. To determine your ward, view the city ward maps on Council's website: [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au).



- Drainage work at Curzon Road **New Lambton** is complete
- Road work at Bridges Road **New Lambton** was completed for Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) ahead of time and under budget
- Pedestrian access work at the intersection of Northcott Drive and Wade Street **Adamstown Heights** (also for RMS) is complete
- Road work at Denney Street **Broadmeadow** was completed before Christmas in preparation for the Asian Cup

### Upcoming work in 2015

- Shared pathway construction at National Park **Cooks Hill**, Brickworks Park **WallSEND**, and Alder Park **New Lambton**
- Major drainage works will continue at **Bar Beach**
- Road rehabilitation at Bibby Street **Hamilton**
- Footpath upgrade on King Street **Newcastle** between Crown Street and Brown Street
- Traffic signal works at Glebe Road and Smith Street **Merewether** and Glebe Road and Park Avenue **Adamstown**
- Transport stop upgrades including bus stop shelters at various locations