

You are invited to follow the steps of Newcastle's 200-year journey that traces the great changes that have occurred since European settlement during this time. The Newcastle East Heritage Walk will take you on that journey as it takes you past many notable points of interest and spectacular coastal views that will enrich your understanding of Newcastle East's remarkable history. The Heritage Walk follows a path 3.12 kilometres in length and will take approximately 1.75 hours to comfortably walk. A number of the points of interest have been brilliantly illuminated for evening viewing under the Illumination Newcastle program. These are indicated on the accompanying map.

The Hunter River, the ancient estuary, originally a valued resource for the local indigenous Awabakal people, is now a world-renowned port. The European settlement that made the shoreline founded and developed a notable city of industry and commerce. Former landscapes can be glimpsed in old photographs captured in the signs along the Walk, while present landscapes highlight the interest and beauty of the city today.

Newcastle East is the birthplace of the city and the Hunter region. Originally a meeting and fishing place for Aboriginal people, the scene began to change in 1804 to one of settlement and profound modification of the land and estuary. The intensive utilisation of Newcastle East since that time for industry, transport, services and community living has left layers of history apparent in every view. Today, Newcastle East is leading the way in the revitalisation of the city.

places of interest

- a Nobbys Headland
- b Fort Scratchley
- c Ocean Baths
- d The Obelisk
- e King Edward Park Rotunda
- f Christ Church Cathedral
- g Court House
- h Post Office
- i Paymaster's Office
- j Stationmaster's Residence
- k Customs House
- l Earp Gillam Bond Store
- m Boat Harbour
- n Former Military Barracks
- o Soldiers Baths
- p Convict Lumber Yard



The Newcastle East Heritage Walk leads from the site of the Watt Street wharf, along Watt Street (2), turning east past the front of Customs House (3), into the Convict Lumber Yard, left into Scott Street then on into the Newcastle East residential and warehouse precinct (4). At Stephenson Place, the Jean Perrett stairs lead to the former rail marshalling yards (5) and old commercial wharf area (6). The pre-European indigenous inhabitants, the Awabakal people's visits to the estuarine foreshore are acknowledged (7) as the Walk passes the site of the former Power Station, and on to Nobbys Road (8).

Macquarie Pier can be explored from here and the ocean promenade can be followed around Fort Scratchley to the Newcastle Ocean Baths.

The Walk continues along Nobbys Road south towards Parnell Place (9) and the old gaol site (10). Several of Newcastle East's streets can be visited from here before continuing down to the Newcastle Ocean Baths (11). A promenade leads around to Newcastle Beach (12) then at the surf pavilion the Walk crosses the former Shortland Park (13) and, via the subway, reaches Pacific Park (14) and the Newcastle Hospital (15). Returning to the beach, the Esplanade is followed to Fletcher Park (16). After noting the historic precinct of Upper Watt Street (17), the Walk descends down Watt Street, along which are numerous plaques marking the sites of several historic convict-era buildings. The Walk then reaches its final destination opposite Newcastle Train Station (18) completing the circuit.

Public toilets and refreshments are available at the Nobbys Beach Surf Pavilion, Newcastle Ocean Baths and Newcastle Beach Pavilion during swimming months, and in cafes near Pacific Street area all year.



Heritage

2

Watt Street



PHOTO: Looking north along Watt Street, c. 1900. © Hunter Collection

Newcastle's most historic street

A walk along Watt Street is a walk through Newcastle's past. The well-trodden uphill path from the first boat landing place provided Newcastle with a street that encompasses the city's social and economic history. Watt Street was the track climbed by the convicts working in the small coal pit near the top of the hill who wheeled laden barrows down the steep incline to the wharf.

Watt Street was the place of colonial government in Newcastle. Plaques along the street mark the sites of the convict-era commandant's house and grounds, the Military Barracks, the Commissariat store and the Sappers House. In earlier years, whitewashed cottages made of timber and plaster dotted Watt Street and adjoining land. They provided accommodation for both convicts and their military guards. Later, renowned and influential pioneers of the city built comfortable homes here.

The street contained the best hotels, numerous shipping agencies and several foreign consulates. Events of great importance in maritime affairs occurred at their rooms. Watt Street was the location of Newcastle's early schools and Mechanics Institute, professional and commercial premises, merchants establishments and

first theatres.

Watt Street was the first street properly built after Newcastle was declared a city in 1850. The section between Scott and King Streets took shape in early 1860.

From 1884 to 1899, the Municipal Council governed the city from chambers in Watt Street. Customs, shipping and rail administration officiated from premises near the wharves and rail terminus. Seafarers congregated to find work, or a place to sleep. Mail and passenger coaches departed to Maitland, emphasising the street's role as a transport focus. Nearby hotels catered for thousands of business people and travellers.

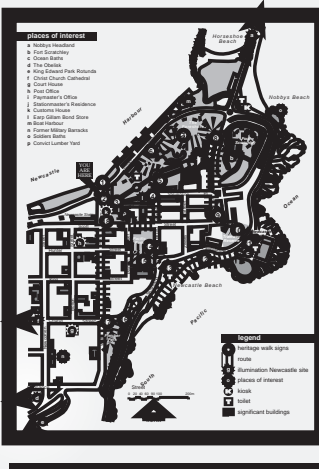
Additionally, Watt Street forms a link between the city's most scenic and historic recreation grounds - the Foreshore, and King Edward and Fletcher Parks. The realisation of the 1988

WALKS

Sign No. 3. Newcastle's Coal & Convict Heritage

Walk east along Bond Street to find

Sign No. 3.



Sign 2 Newcastle East Heritage Walk

HERITAGE INFORMATION

Newcastle City Council is committed to the promotion and conservation of the City's cultural heritage through its Heritage Policy. Information may be obtained from Council's Heritage Officer on 4974 2000.

TOURISM INFORMATION



For more information on other attractions of historic Newcastle please contact NEWCASTLE TOURISM.

NEWCASTLE TOURISM is located at 363 Hunter Street, Newcastle. The office is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 3.30pm on weekends and public holidays. The office is closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday only.

MOBILITY ACCESS INFORMATION

Newcastle is becoming a user friendly city. Newcastle City Council has made many improvements to public areas and is encouraging the private sector to make access easier. Council has a commitment to providing its community with a high quality of life that is sustainable and accessible to all its citizens. A comprehensive Mobility Map of Newcastle CBD is available from NEWCASTLE TOURISM.

Heritage Walk



NEWCASTLE EAST



Walk



Heritage



newcastle
nsw