



# UNITE FOR THE ASIAN CUP

It's just four months to go until Newcastle plays host to four games of international football for AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015. This is the biggest football tournament Australia has ever hosted and Newcastle is one of five host cities.

We play host to two qualifying games, a semi final and the 3rd v 4th playoff. Make sure you are there to witness history when Newcastle hosts Asia's biggest football stars.

Get your tickets now from [afcasiacup.com/tickets](http://afcasiacup.com/tickets)

JAPAN VS PALESTINE	MON	12 JAN
OMAN VS KUWAIT	SAT	17 JAN
SEMI FINAL	TUE	27 JAN
3 <sup>RD</sup> /4 <sup>TH</sup> PLAYOFF	FRI	30 JAN

For more information, visit  
**AFCASIACUP.COM**



WHAT'S ON



Photograph by: Just Stunning Photography

**Two of our projects received top prizes at the 2014 Lower Hunter Urban Design Awards.**

Fletcher Community Centre won the **GHD Small Scale Commercial Development Award.**

Now open for use by the local community, the centre "demonstrates sustainable building practices with community, environmental and social benefits."

UrbanGrowth NSW turned over ownership of the

building to Council and we are seeking expressions of interest for management of the facility.

The Merewether Beach public domain improvements won the award for **CityGreen Landscape and Public Art.** The jury noted that "returning priority to the pedestrian and providing a place to enjoy Australia's national surfing reserves are two intended design objectives that are immediately clear when arriving at the site."



## Permian Monsters: Life before dinosaurs

8 November 2014 - 1 February 2015

Step back in time 290 million years when bizarre-looking animals dominated life on land and sea!

See an amazing collection of fossils, models of giant insects and bizarre looking sharks and meet the top predator of the time, the giant saber-toothed gorgonopsid 'Inostrancevia'.

Entry fees apply.

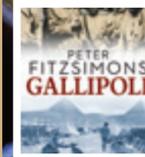
For more information visit:  
[www.newcastlemuseum.com.au](http://www.newcastlemuseum.com.au)



## LIBRARY EVENTS



**Book Launch**  
**Kurt Fearnley**  
5.30pm, 11 November 2014,  
Lovett Gallery - City Library,  
Laman St, Newcastle



**Book Launch**  
**Peter Fitzsimons**  
6pm, 14 November 2014,  
Lovett Gallery - City Library,  
Laman St, Newcastle



**Event**  
**Access All Areas Film Festival**  
10.30am, 21 November 2014,  
Wallsend District Library,  
Bunn St, Wallsend



**Exhibition**  
**World War 1: Three Soldiers**  
Until 13 December 2014  
Local Studies Lounge - City  
Library, Laman St, Newcastle

CROSBIE WEALTH MANAGEMENT PRESENTS



**Pete the Sheep**  
A very sheepish, brand new musical based on the quirky and quintessentially Australian picture book. Pete the Sheep explores being an individual and challenging your strength whilst working in a flock.  
MONDAY 20 OCTOBER, 6.30PM  
TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER, 10AM AND 12.30PM

ROCK CITY PRESENTS



**THE TAP PACK**  
Smooth songs, sharp humour, thrilling dance. They bring a new, invigorating energy to a timeless style.  
FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER, 8PM  
SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER, 2PM AND 8PM  
SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER, 7PM

For more information call (02) 4929 1977 or visit [www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au](http://www.civictheatrenewcastle.com.au)



**LIKE US PATRICIA PICCININI**  
29 NOVEMBER 2014 UNTIL  
22 FEBRUARY 2015  
NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY  
[WWW.NAG.ORG.AU](http://WWW.NAG.ORG.AU)



LIKE US IS AN EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND VIDEO WORKS BY INTERNATIONALLY RESPECTED AUSTRALIAN ARTIST PATRICIA PICCININI.

Patricia Piccinini Nature's little helpers - Surrogate (for the northern hairy nosed wombat) 2004 (detail), silicon, polyurethane, leather, hair and wood. Purchased in 2006 by the Newcastle Region Art Gallery Foundation. Newcastle Art Gallery collection



LIKE US? FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



SPRING 2014

## Council News

Community Newsletter from The City of Newcastle



CITY NEWS



Newcastle will be showcased to a global audience this summer as we host four games as part of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup tournament from 9 to 31 January 2015.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to welcome our neighbours from across Asia to experience everything our city has to offer and I encourage all Novocastrians to support the tournament.

We are working with the Local Organising Committee and Destination NSW to attract international visitors to Newcastle as well as business, industry and education partners to develop an attractive program of events throughout the tournament to ensure the event provides an ongoing legacy for the city. First game in Newcastle is on Monday 12 January.

**Ken Gouldthorp, General Manager**

Newcastle is one of five host cities and the only non-capital. Our first game will see defending champions Japan kicking off their campaign against Challenge Cup winners Palestine. We will then host Oman and Kuwait followed by a semi-final and then the play-off for third and fourth place.

BY-ELECTION

A by-election will be held on Saturday 15 November 2014 to elect the new Lord Mayor for Newcastle.

It is compulsory for Australian citizens residing in the Newcastle local government area, 18 years of age or older to enrol and vote.

The by-election will be administered by the NSW Electoral Commission.

**Returning Officer's Office**  
158 Darby Street, Cooks Hill, NSW 2300  
Office opens Tuesday, 7 October 2014.

**Office Hours**  
8.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday

**General Enquiries**  
1300 135 736

3 November	Pre-poll voting opens
7 November	Registration of Electoral Material closes
10 November	Close of Postal Vote applications
14 November	Pre-poll voting closes
15 November	Election Day
17 November	Return of Postal Votes closes
18 November	Distribution of Preferences (if required)
20 November	Declaration of Results



# CITY WORKS



- Progress was made on city works despite severe challenges from ongoing wet weather.
- Construction of traffic calming devices in King, Wolfe and Newcomen Streets, **Newcastle** is complete.
- Works are nearing completion at the intersection of Northcott Drive and Wade Street, **Adamstown Heights**. The project will assist pedestrians moving from the residential area on the western side of Northcott Drive across to the **Fernleigh Track**. Upgrades include a pedestrian crossing, ramps, wheelchair access and bus stop access.
- Night time drainage work continues at Bridges Road, **New Lambton**. Weather and issues with utilities have slowed the project; however the western side is nearly complete.
- Major drainage works continue at Bar Beach Avenue, **Bar Beach**.
- Construction continues on 775 metres of shared pathway parallel to Wilkinson Avenue in **Birmingham Gardens**. The new shared pathway will connect to **Wallsend** cycleway.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## Community centres and halls for hire

Council owns and operates **22 community centres, halls and senior citizen's centres**. The centres are available for hire to local residents and visitors on a casual or regular basis. Each centre offers a diverse range of activities to cater to a broad cross-section of the community. Visit [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

## City Hall gets a wrap

The banner around **City Hall clock tower** is now in place to help make the site more attractive during restoration.

Work on the clock tower is due for completion in mid 2015.

## Seniors living vacancies

Independent living for seniors is now available in the heart of Newcastle with **vacancies at three villages** managed by The City of Newcastle.

There is one vacancy in our village at Jesmond and six vacancies across two villages at New Lambton. Villas are available on a loan/lease contract arrangement which guarantees a return on your original investment.

Our villages are close to local shops, transport links and are all accessible villas. Join this close knit community today. **To enquire call 4974 2000.**

# ROAD TO RECOVERY



## Option 1: Take no action

This is not a long term option. Taking no action now will result in a deteriorating operating position and the depletion of cash reserves. Whilst our actions to date have delayed this issue, it is not a sustainable solution. Our financial forecasts show that cash reserves will diminish to an unacceptable level and we will not have enough money to cover costs.

This option limits rate rises to the annual capped rate increase determined by IPART. This is forecast at 3% per year, a cumulative increase of 15.9% over the five year period.

## Option 2: Fund financial sustainability

This option, as outlined in the 2013-17 Delivery Program, will retain and in some cases improve the existing level of services without depleting our cash reserves and ensure our financial sustainability. We will provide all the services we do now. We will also be able to improve infrastructure maintenance, reduce our maintenance backlog and invest in some asset renewal.

This option includes the forecast IPART rate peg of 3% per year plus moderate additional increases for a five year period. The annual rate increases will be 6.5% to 6.8% per year for five years including the 3% rate peg. This option will mean an increase of 22% above the rate peg – or 37.9% total increase over five years.

## Option 3: Fund revitalisation

An additional option for consideration will allow us to improve current service levels into the future. We will be able to accelerate the completion of our priority projects as well as make substantial reductions to our infrastructure maintenance backlog.

This option includes the forecast IPART rate peg of 3% per year plus an additional 5% per year for a five year period. The annual rate increase will be 8% per year for five years including the 3% rate peg. This option will mean an increase of 31% above the rate peg – or 46.9% total increase over five years.

All Newcastle households would have recently received information about our proposal to apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a multi-year special rate variation.

There are three different options being considered and we encourage the Newcastle community to find out more information and provide feedback about the proposals.

This month we are hosting community drop in sessions at all our local branch libraries where you can come and talk to our engagement team about the proposals.

All the details are available on our website. Go to [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au) and search for **road to recovery**.

Which option do you think is best for the city?

Impact on average residential rate payer	Take no action Rate peg only Total increase 15.9%	Fund financial sustainability 22% above the rate peg Total increase 37.9%	Fund revitalisation 31% above the rate peg Total increase 46.9%
Annual Rates 2014/15 - Year 0	\$1,074	\$1,074	\$1,074
Annual Rates 2019/20 - Year 5	\$1,244	\$1,481	\$1,578
Total rate increase over 5 years	\$170	\$407	\$504
Average increase per year	\$34	\$81	\$101
Average increase per week	\$0.66	\$1.56	\$1.94

Other Councils across NSW have also been affected by financial pressures. Our neighbouring councils have had special rate variations approved, with Maitland receiving an increase of 63.2% over seven years and Lake Macquarie a 57.5% increase over seven years.

Visit our website to find out more about business and farmland rates to have your say [www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au)

# COASTAL REVITALISATION



Construction work on **Bathers Way** from **Dixon Park** to **Bar Beach** at Kilgour Avenue is nearing completion for Stage 1.

Detailed design is almost complete for Stage 2 Bathers Way from **Dixon Park** to the **Cooks Hill Surf Club**. Construction tenders are expected to be called in October.

Bathers Way at **King Edward Park** is currently at detailed design stage.



Construction work on **Bathers Way** between **Nobbys Beach** and **Newcastle Beach** has commenced. Shortland Esplanade is being converted to one-way (southbound). Work involves the construction of the shared pathway, a dedicated on road cycle path, cliff stabilisation work and new furniture, lighting and landscaping. *This project obtained a grant under NSW Restart, Resources for Regions Round 2.*

Work is progressing well on the rehabilitation of **Merewether Ocean Baths**, scheduled for completion later this year, weather permitting.

# SWIM SEASON OPEN

# Get your swimmers on!



The swimming season is now underway. It starts in the September school holidays and finishes at the end of April school holidays.

Seasonal patrols happen at **Newcastle, Stockton, Dixon Park and Merewether Beaches** while **Newcastle Ocean Baths, Nobbys and Bar Beaches** are patrolled all year round. Swim safe this summer and remember **no flag = no swim**.

All our inland pools are also open. We are operating **Beresfield Swimming Centre**, with opening times and entry fees available on our website. Lane 4 Aquatics have taken over operations at Lambton, Stockton, Mayfield and Stockton pools, visit [lane4aquatics.com.au](http://lane4aquatics.com.au) for all the details.

Visit [newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au) for more information about beaches and pools.

# OUR PEOPLE



Council staff make a difference in the community every day. Here are just a few examples:

- During the off season, our lifeguards provide water safety education to local schools. They wrapped up the 2014 program after talking to 13,857 kids in grades K-6 at 54 local schools.
- Our compliance rangers removed a safety hazard for motorists by capturing around 20 head of feral cattle that were roaming in the vicinity of Sandgate Road in Shortland at night.
- One of our waste collection staff assisted an elderly woman in Stockton who had fallen in her front yard, staying with her until emergency services arrived.
- Dozens of staff members were involved in the improvements to Merewether Beach precinct, including project planning, managing the tender process, community consultation, purchasing of materials, works on the ground and overseeing safety.

Council staff are working enthusiastically on countless projects and programs across the Newcastle LGA!



# Want to be more involved in shaping Newcastle's future?

Over 2,200 residents and businesses from across Newcastle have their say on a wide range of issues.

Upcoming surveys include **cycling, rates, Newcastle at night** and **Newcastle Museum satisfaction survey**. As a member of Newcastle Voice you will be invited to participate in consultations and engage with Council through some, or all, of the following:

- community workshops
- face to face meetings
- quick polls surveys
- surveys
- Facebook
- members Portal
- monthly newsletter

JOIN TODAY!

Register at:  
[www.mynewcastlevoice.com](http://www.mynewcastlevoice.com)  
[engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:engage@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
or call 4974 2238

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