

2 Parnell Place

Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Region Library collection



Shell damaged homes in Parnell Place, 1942

It was on the 8th of June 1942 that Newcastle was shelled by the Japanese submarine I-21. Newcastle was lucky, with only three of the 34 shells it fired exploding, only two casualties and no fatalities resulting from the attack.

Originally built to defend the city against a feared attack by Russian naval forces, the Fort remains the only coastal fortification in Australia to have fired its guns on an enemy vessel during the Second World War.

1 Fort Scratchley

Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Region Library collection 163001667



Servicemen firing 6 inch MKVII gun at Fort Scratchley, 1952

Standing sentry over Newcastle since 1882 is Fort Scratchley. Originally built to defend the city against a feared attack by Russian naval forces, the Fort remains the only coastal fortification in Australia to have fired its guns on an enemy vessel during the Second World War.

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Fort Scratchley

Moderate
2.5hrs / 4.4km

Audio and other information
www.visitnewcastle.com.au/attractions/walks-and-rides

NEWCASTLE

SEE CHANGE

WALKING TOUR

Newcastle at War

Explore Newcastle's stories of war through a self-guided walking tour of the city.

Newcastle at War

Generations of Novocastrians experienced the impact of war on their lives and their city.

Explore Newcastle through the conflicts that have shaped its landscape and character. Meet locals that left Newcastle to participate in some of the most devastating wars in history. You'll walk in their footsteps, and visit places dedicated to their memory.

This walking tour begins at Fort Scratchley, the only coastal fortification in Australia to return fire on an enemy vessel during World War Two. It ends at the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre (Newcastle Region Library); a place where locals gather not just to remember and reflect, but to learn, research and engage with art and culture.

You may choose to extend your journey to take in the magnificent Memorial Walk opened April 2015, the 100 year anniversary of the ANZAC landing on the Gallipoli peninsula. This walk commemorates those from Newcastle and the Hunter region who enlisted for service in WWI.

Newcastle Region Library
Ground Floor, 15 Laman Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 8pm
Saturday 9.30am – 2pm
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library

Fort Scratchley
Nobbys Road, Newcastle East
Wednesday to Monday 10am – 4pm, closed Tuesday
www.fortscratchley.com.au

Newcastle City Hall
290 King Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, closed public holidays
www.newcastlecityhall.com.au

Newcastle Museum
Workshop Way, Honeysuckle
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm,
Open Monday during school holidays
www.newcastlemuseum.com.au



Memorial Walk commemorates those who enlisted in World War I and features family names of men and women from Newcastle and the Hunter Valley who served during the war. It also recognises the contribution that BHP Billiton made to the war effort in supplying steel rail, ship plate and munitions.

WALKABILITY
Moderate-steep gradient
Steps



- 12 Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre (Region Library)**
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 8pm,
Saturday 9.30am – 2pm
- 11 Newcastle City Hall**
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm,
closed public holidays
- 10 Vietnam Memorial Civic Park**
open Monday in school holidays
- 9 Newcastle Museum**
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm,
closed Monday in school holidays
- 8 The Warriors Chapel**
- 7 Shepherds Hill and the Disappearing Gun**
- 6 Newcastle's First War Memorial**
- 5 Newcastle Post Office**
- 4 Royal Newcastle Hospital**
- 3 Pacific Park Air Raid Shelter**
- 2 Parnell Place**
10am – 4pm, closed Tuesday
- 1 Fort Scratchley**
10am – 4pm, closed Tuesday

3 Pacific Park Air Raid Shelter

Air raid shelters were constructed all over Newcastle during the Second World War. The council and government constructed pill boxes at key centres of population. Pacific Park was the location of one such shelter.

As a centre for industry and shipping, Newcastle represented a significant contribution to Australia's war effort and therefore a potential target for attack from enemy aircraft.

At least three anti-aircraft guns in the Newcastle area were operated by the Australian Women's Army Service.



Overlooking Pacific Park, the only original building of Royal Newcastle Hospital still standing

4 Royal Newcastle Hospital

More than 70 Nurses from Newcastle and the Hunter served with medical units during the First World War. Waging a war on death and suffering, they impacted on the lives of thousands of soldiers in makeshift hospitals across the battlefields of the Great War.

To be eligible to serve, nurses must have completed three years of approved hospital training. For the majority of those local women, that training would have taken place at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. See feature on Matron Ida Greaves.



Matron Ida Greaves, 1914

Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Museum collection

Matron Ida Greaves

Matron Ida Greaves was one of the nurses whose journey to the Great War started here at the Royal Newcastle Hospital.

Ida was born in 1875. Growing up in Newcastle, she completed her certificate in nursing at the Hospital in 1904. Ida worked in private nursing in Australia and Britain until 1914. She was in London the day Britain declared war on Germany.

Ida volunteered for the Australian Voluntary Hospital and was appointed Matron of the unit. Embarking for France in late August 1914, she was among the first Australians to serve on the battlefields of the Western Front.

Spending almost five years in uniform, Ida was one of the longest serving Australians of the Great War. She was also the first Australian to receive the Royal Red Cross for distinguished service in 1915, awarded to her in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace by King George V.

Ida stepped off the Brisbane Mail train at Newcastle Station on the 25th of September 1919. Greeted by a crowd of family and friends, her journey through the most devastating conflict in history finished only a short walk from where she had completed her training in 1904.

5 Newcastle Post Office

This building was originally the Newcastle Court House and once used as military offices. It was rebuilt as the Newcastle Post Office in 1903. On the 13th November 1899, a civic reception was held. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor and other local officials with guests of honour being the remaining troops of the first contingent of Australian soldiers to embark for the Boer War. Around 16,000 Australians are estimated to have fought in the Boer War, the first war Australia participated in as a federated nation. More than 50,000 people gathered along Hunter Street to see the contingent leave.



The Hunter Street Memorial

6 Newcastle's First War Memorial

The foundation stone for Newcastle's first war memorial was laid in early April 1916. On the first anniversary of the ANZAC landing, marchers led by men wounded at Gallipoli saluted the incomplete pedestal on their way to church services. The memorial was donated to the city by Lt. Gardner. When first unveiled it was inscribed with 15 names and by the war's end, 73 names were remembered on its surface.

The Great War changed the way people grieved. With loved ones lost so far from home, memorials like this one became a focal point for community remembrance and personal grief.

7 Shepherds Hill and the Disappearing Gun

Shepherds Hill was occupied by military forces in the 1890s and was the site of a disappearing gun.

Loaded and made ready to fire below ground, it was lifted by a hydro pneumatic system, fired, and returned below ground to be reloaded and hidden from the enemy.

During the Second World War, Shepherds Hill performed a variety of vital roles and was the only installation that was occupied by all three branches of the armed forces in Australia.



Detail of 35th Battalion group photograph, 1915

Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Museum collection

The 35th Battalion

Also remembered on the Hunter Street Memorial are the men of the 35th Battalion, dubbed *Newcastle's Own*. The Battalion was raised in December 1915 and drew its recruits from Newcastle and surrounding areas, resulting in strong representation from the local mining communities.

The Newcastle community rallied around the Battalion, with an enormous crowd of friends, family and well-wishers farewelling their train from Broadmeadow Railway Station on May 1st, 1916.

The Battalion arrived in England during June 1916 and embarked for France that November. The Battalion's first stint in the trenches of the Western Front occurred during the harsh

winter of 1916/17 and their first major action was the Battle of Messines on July 7th 1917.

One of the Battalion's biggest challenges was to come during an assault near Passchendaele on October 12th 1917, of the 508 men from the 35th that crossed the start line that day only 90 remained un wounded at the end of the battle.

The German Spring offensive of 1918 also proved a harrowing time for the unit, suffering nearly 70 per cent casualties during operations to hold back the German advance. In spite of these heavy losses the 35th continued fighting right up until the end of the war.

The Battalion was disbanded in March 1919.

8 The Warriors Chapel – Christ Church Cathedral

The Warrior's Chapel at Christ Church Cathedral represents another place of remembrance for those who fell during the Great War. The foundation stone was laid in 1923. Built using funds donated by members of the Diocese, and the result of the exquisite work by talented craftsman and artisans, the chapel remains in use to this day. Contained in the chapel are artefacts donated by local citizens relating to the War, including the flag flown by the 13th Battalion of the AIF at Gallipoli.

9 Newcastle Museum

Newcastle Museum holds an extensive collection of objects relating to local people's involvement in wars and conflicts throughout Australia's history.

On display you will find medals, uniforms, postcards, weapons and souvenirs brought home by people who experienced some of the most pivotal conflicts in human history.

Newcastle Museum is also home to Walter Barton's bugle. A bugle that travelled with its owner across the battle fields of the Great War and played at Gallipoli.



Vietnam War Memorial

10 Vietnam Memorial, Civic Park

Newcastle's memorial to those who fought and died in Australia's longest war of the 20th Century, the Vietnam War, was unveiled in 1987. Australians served in Vietnam from 1962 until 1975, with 521 Australians killed and over 3,000 wounded as a result of the conflict.

The Vietnam War became one of the most contentious issues in Australian history. Many returned servicemen experienced hostility from those who objected to Australia's participation in the conflict.

The names of 19 local men killed in action are remembered here. The memorial was commissioned and erected by Newcastle Vietnam Veterans.



Walter Barton, circa 1915

Photograph courtesy of Newcastle Museum collection

Walter Barton

Born in London in 1896, Walter Barton immigrated to Australia just prior to the Great War. He enlisted with the 6th reinforcements of the Second Battalion AIF in May 1915 and became the Company Bugler. His son Reg says that "He didn't want to be a fellow with a rifle, he didn't want to kill anybody... he ended (up) with a bugle".

Walter embarked with his unit and arrived at Gallipoli in August 1915. Walter had begun etching the names of the places he travelled onto his bugle. Starting with the Liverpool Camp, the inscriptions document Walter's tour of duty.

Walter and his unit were transferred to France in 1916.

He suffered a shrapnel wound to his right leg on June 6th and spent many months in hospitals in France and England recovering.

Walter was transferred to the Royal Australian Flying Corps as a carpenter and fitter. He came home to Australia and lived on Union Street in Newcastle. Walter joined the Newcastle Orchestra and kept the bugle for the rest of his life. His son Reg recalls that his father used the bugle to call him and his brother Ian home for tea.

He died in 1983 and his bugle was donated to Newcastle Museum by his son Ian.

11 Newcastle City Hall

City Hall formed the nerve centre for Newcastle's civilian response to an attack on the city during World War Two. The National Emergency Services used the site as their headquarters and from within a bunker underneath Birdwood Park, information was relayed to the Chief Warden and other officials based inside City Hall.

City Hall also played an important role in the social life of Newcastle during the war. From March 1942 the Hall hosted free concerts on Sundays for local and visiting troops, as well as the civilian population.



Figure Group Lyndon Dadswell 1957, silicone cast bronze

12 Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre

Newcastle's Cultural Centre (Region Library) stands today as a tribute to the men and women who served Australia during the Second World War. In contrast to the more sombre memorials of Newcastle, the cultural centre is a place of optimism and hope.

Development began in July 1945. Five Australian artists were invited to produce concepts for a commemorative sculpture that would adorn the entrance foyer. Lyndon Dadswell, a WWII combat veteran and official war artist with the AIF, was selected.

Formally titled 'Figure Group', the sculpture was dubbed 'Dave and Mable' by the foundry workers who cast them and is known by many Novocastrians as 'Him and Her'.

A competition was held to find an appropriate inscription to accompany Dadswell's sculpture. From hundreds of entries, the words of Jessie Sheridan-McLaughlin were chosen. Him and Her look up to those words to this day, emblazoned across the interior wall of the centre's entrance:

'In minds ennobled here, the noble dead shall live'