

LOCAL GUIDE AND MAPS

ABOUT NEWCASTLE

Newcastle is Australia's second oldest city and has served as a harsh penal outpost, 'steel city' and industrial centre, and (now) the largest coal-exporting port in the world. It reaches out to the sea, creating Australia's only city centre bounded by pristine beaches and an active working harbour. From our intriguing 200 year story has arisen a dynamic city of contrasts. Discover a port city in transition and delight in a mixture of the raw and refined. Working wharves are becoming places of play; the city hums with a vibrant arts culture and an emerging food scene is evident. Some things need never change - the surf is still world class, the pace remains relaxed and the friendly locals are proud of their city.

THINGS TO DO IN NEWCASTLE

There are a number of activities you can do that are a short walk in or around Newcastle, including:

- **Head to the Beach and Ocean baths:** Newcastle's city centre is surrounded by six major beaches, with popular swimming, surfing and fishing locations. This includes:
 - Newcastle Beach: Spot whales and dolphins during migration season.
 - Nobbys Beach: Popular surfing and family beach. This is where the Pasha Bulker ran ashore during the 2007 storms.
 - Mereweather Beach: Home to the annual International Surfest competition and has amazing views.
 - Dixon Park Beach: A quiet beach perfect for children and family picnics.
 - Bar beach: Excellent swimming beach.
 - Mereweather Ocean baths: Redevelopment work has just finished on these baths
- **Learn to Surf:** Ever wanted to try surfing? Newcastle is the perfect place to learn. Newcastle Surf School operates all year round and is the most experienced surf school in Newcastle.
<http://www.newcastlesurfschool.com>
- **Visit the Bogey Hole:** Constructed for Major James Morisset personal use sometime around 1823, it has become a popular swimming spot that provides a spectacular vantage point to view the Newcastle Coastline.
- **The Bathers Way Walk:** An excellent walk or jog for your morning or evening exercise is to walk Bathers way. Stretching from the lighthouse at Nobbys Headland to Merewether Ocean Baths, this wide walkway engages you in Newcastle's indigenous and convict heritage surrounded by amazing views.
- **Shipwreck Walk:** A ferry trip from Queens Wharf to Stockton, followed by a short walk from the ferry terminal and you will arrive at the break wall. Numerous ships were lost during the 19th and early 20th centuries and the hulk of these ships have been incorporated into the break wall.
- **Wander the streets:** Urban Walkabout has compiled a number of walks around Newcastle, which can be found at <http://www.urbanwalkabout.com/newcastle/walks>
- **Newcastle Museum:** Located within the Honeysuckle Precinct, Newcastle Museum brings to life significant moments of past, present and future in three major exhibitions – A nNewcastel Story, Fire and Earth and Supernova.
- **Maritime Centre:** Located within the Honeysuckle precinct, explore the rich maritime history of Newcastle and the Hunter River, and learn about the Port's importance to the development of Australia.
- **Fort Scratchley:** Built in the 1800's, this is the only Australian coastal fortification to fire on an enemy vessel. Take a self-guided tour around the barracks and above ground defence structures, or a paid tour of the full site including the tunnels.

- **Newcastle Art Gallery:** This is one of the best regional galleries in Australia, in a city known for its artistic activities and talent. Special exhibitions at the time of the conference include Baden Pailthorpe and Photography meets Feminism.
- **Watt Space** – The University of Newcastle's student art gallery hosts exhibitions that support emerging student artists and is open to the public from 11-5pm Wednesday to Sunday. It's in Auckland St, in the University Law and Commerce building just before you get to the City Hall.
- **Christ Church Cathedral:** Located in Church Street, this Cathedral is a place of beauty and grandeur making it one of Newcastle's most iconic landmarks.
- **The Obelisk:** This is a popular park and lookout with expansive 360 degree views of Newcastle.
- **Visit the local shops:** Head to either Darby Street or the Hunter Street Mall to explore local boutiques and meet the homegrown designers. The city has tried to renew the central area in recent months by allowing art and craft startups to occupy vacant shops cheaply. For everyday things **Marketown** is a fairly comprehensive shopping centre.

If you have a car (or have hired one) there are several day trips from Newcastle including:

- **Hunter Valley Vineyards:** A drive down the Hunter expressway will take to the Hunter Valley Vineyards where you can try world class wine from numerous vineyards and gardens – perfect for a day out.
- **Port Stephens:** Port Stephens/Nelson Bay is a major holiday playground that offers the chance to swim with dolphins, whale watching, world class diving and beautiful beaches.
- **Stockton Sand Dunes:** The largest sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere, it is a popular spot for sand board riding and 4WD tours.
- **Blackbutt Reserve:** Blackbutt Reserve gives visitors the chance to enjoy nature trails, wildlife exhibitions, children's playgrounds and picnic areas. Perfect place to unwind and explore the wonders of nature, whilst interacting with the animals.
- **Hunter Wetland Centre:** Internationally recognised wetland centre where you can see birds, animals, reptiles and plants. Plenty of walking/riding tracks to choose from and canoeing for a different experience.
- **Tree Top Adventure Park:** A family day out where you can swing in the trees and climb like Tarzan.
- **Barrington Tops National Park:** Carved out of ancient volcanic flows, this is one of the largest temperate rainforests in mainland Australia.
- **Bushwalking in Glenrock** – Only a ten minute drive from Newcastle City Centre, Glenrock State Conservation Area is a beautiful coastal rainforest. A number of scenic trails can be found at <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/glenrock-state-conservation-area/map>.
- **Ride the Fernleigh Track** – A historic rail that is now a cycleway linking Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. The 15km track passes through beautiful bushland, wetland forests, and coastal heaths. Bikes can be hired from \$20 for 1 hour or \$40 for 1 day through www.boomerangbikehire.com.au.

EATING & DRINKING IN NEWCASTLE

There are two hubs for eating, drinking and entertainment in Newcastle. A walk through these two hubs will offer plenty of choices where you can grab a meal, drink and relax.

1. Darby Street (approximately 20 minute walk from the conference hotel).

Darby Street is a unique entertainment precinct within the Newcastle CBD. It is overflowing with Artisan products, giftware, food, coffee, bars and fashion-the perfect place to grab a bite, relax or shop. This street is full of café, restaurants and bars with some local favourites including:

- **5 Sawyers:** 115 Darby St – A local favourite for craft beer and cocktails.

- **Chat Chai Thai Cuisine:** 2/88 Darby Street – Authentic Thai cuisine with street views and not too pricey.
- **Coco Monde:** 80 Darby Street – Award winning restaurant, café with delicious chocolate. This is normally busy and can be pricey.
- **Delucas Pizza:** 159b Darby Street – Authentic Italian style pizzas.
- **Frankies Place:** 133 Darby Street – Quirky café with great coffee, breakfast and burgers.
- **Goldbergs:** 137 Darby Street – Some of the best coffee you will find on Darby Street.
- **Hotel Delany:** 134 Darby Street – Casual eats to Mediterranean cuisine with Hunters finest musicians.
- **Longbench:** 161 Darby Street– Café by day, restaurant by night.
- **Serambi:** 113-125 Darby Street – Authentic Malaysian cuisine.
- **Soho on Darby:** 171 Darby Street – Ever changing restaurant downstairs, cocktail bar upstairs.
- **The Hop Factory:** 102 Darby Street – Craft beer and burgers. A great place to relax and have a drink, with food prices ranging from average to high.
- **The Depot:** 141-143 Darby Street – Bar with Australian cuisine, mixed with Spanish Tapas, range of drinks and live music.
- **Three Monkeys Café:** 131 Darby Street – Quality food and coffee.
- **VietKing:** 1&4/116 Darby Street –Vietnamese restaurant.

2. Honeysuckle (approximately 20 minute walk from the conference venue)

Honeysuckle is a vibrant waterfront playground where the harbour meets the city. Honeysuckle has inviting cafes, world-class restaurants and hotels, extensive public spaces and a spectacular marina and yacht club. The 50-hectare site hugs five kilometres of harbour front with a promenade stretching along the waterfront, where people can walk, run, ride or skate its entire length. The promenade runs from the stunning mangrove boardwalks near the Carrington Precinct past the Crowne Plaza and Breakwater Apartments, linking up with the remaining foreshore to the historic break wall guarded by Nobbys Lighthouse; in all over seven kilometres long. Local favourites to visit include:

- **Bellini's Restaurant and Bar:** 3/1 Honeysuckle Drive – Italian and Mediterranean cuisine catering for coffee, breakfast, lunch and tea.
- **Cold Rock Ice creamery:** 1A 5 Honeysuckle Drive – Perfect spot to grab ice cream.
- **Hogs Breath Café:** 7 Honeysuckle Drive – Twice the size of the average Hogg's breath.
- **Honeysuckle Hotel:** Honeysuckle Drive – Premier pub overlooking the harbour with extensive range of drinks (including a rum bar) and quality pub style food. Honeysuckle Hotel becomes busy in peak time periods and has average prices.
- **James Squire: The Squires Maiden** – 11 Honeysuckle Drive – Contemporary and classic dishes complemented by the James Squire beer range.
- **Nagisa:** 1 Honeysuckle Drive –Traditional and Modern Japanese cuisine.
- **Silo:** 18/1 Honeysuckle Drive – Happy mix of bar, lounge and restaurant.
- **Sprout dining:** 1/2 Honeysuckle Drive- Quality fresh food at reasonable prices.
- **Sushi Castle:** 15/17 Honeysuckle Drive – Japanese restaurant that not only serves sushi but other Asian favourites.
- **The Dockyards:** 13/1 Honeysuckle Drive – Newcastle Pub overlooking the harbour.
- **The Landing Bar & Kitchen:** 1 Honeysuckle Drive – Relaxed meals and drinks on the harbour.
- **The Wharf Restaurant and Bar:** 2/5 Honeysuckle Drive – Modern Australian, Italian inspired restaurant.

Apart from these two hubs Newcastle has an extensive array of places situated throughout the city where you can eat, drink and shop, including:

The East End which is close to the conference venue

- **Bocados Spanish Kitchen:** 25 King Street – A tasty selection of seasonal tapas.
- **Casa de Loco:** 10 Pacific Street – Authentic modern Mexican food and cocktails.
- **Das Hund Haus Little Cousin:** 14 Pacific Street – This little tavern serves traditional Bavarian food and 1L steins. This is a great place for an evening drink with friends.
- **Estabar:** 61 Shortland Esplanade Newcastle Beach – Perfect spot for breakfast with an ocean view.
- **Jeremiah Jones Boutique Fish and Chips:** 122-130 Hunter Street – Fresh Fish and chips.
- **Kaffe Zeytoon:** 43 Bolton Street – Persian restaurant teamed with local wine and craft beer.
- **McGourty's Café Deli:** 373 Hunter Street – Café and Deli by day, restaurant by night.
- **Oma's Kitchen:** 16 Watt Street – Authentic and traditional German food.
- **Restaurant Mason:** 3/35 Hunter Street – Smart food in a relaxed venue.
- **Rustica:** 2/1 King Street – Mediterranean dining with the spice of North African cuisine.
- **Scotties:** 36 Scott Street– Simple, fresh seafood and good coffee.
- **The Grain Store:** 64-66 Scott Street – Specialised restaurant with one of the largest craft beer menus. A great place to relax and have a drink.

Hunter Street Mall

Having undergone revitalisation over the past few years, Hunter Street Mall is fast becoming a vibrant, culture enthused hub of café and restaurants. Apart from the café and restaurants along this stretch, there are plenty of specialised shops to visit.

Beaumont Street

Situated a short drive from the centre of Newcastle, Beaumont street has a strong international focus in its restaurant's, café's and pubs and is an area known for its fantastic antique and bric-a-brac shopping.

NIGHTCLUBS/PUBS IN NEWCASTLE

Newcastle has a thriving live music and clubbing scene that is bound to give you a good night out. There are quite a few Pubs and Clubs for all occasions, such as grabbing a quite drink by the harbour or dancing the night away. Local favourites include:

- **Argyle House:** 311 Wharf Road – Formally known as “Fannys” before its makeover, it is a late night club popular with students.
- **Cambridge Hotel:** 789 Hunter Street – Newcastle premier live band venue
- **Customs House:** 1 Bond Street – Perfect place to start your night with fantastic views and a relaxed atmosphere.
- **Finnegan's Hotel:** 21-23 Darby Street – Another popular late night trading venue with live bands downstairs and DJ's upstairs
- **King Street Hotel:** 15 Steel Street – Multi-level nightclub popular with students for its grunge feel and mixture of music.
- **The Brewery:** 150 Wharf Road – fantastic location overlooking the harbour with live music
- **The Beach Hotel:** Corner of Fredrick and Ridge Street – Relaxing atmosphere overlooking Merewether beach.
- **TURNT:** 189 Hunter Street – Newcastle's newest nightclub open Saturday nights has the perfect blend of music, people and entertainment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.visitnewcastle.com.au/> – comprehensive guide to Newcastle

<http://www.hunterhunter.com.au/> – local favourites and hidden gems

[we thank Dr Miles Bore, from the University of Newcastle, who kindly provided some of this information]