



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

RELOCATING TO NEWCASTLE

INFORMATION AND ADVICE





WELCOME TO NEWCASTLE

Newcastle is a modern, vibrant city located in the heart of the Hunter Region and bordered by a stunning coastline with beautiful beaches. With its sheltered harbour and profusion of natural resources, Newcastle has long been a preferred place for settlement.

Only a two hour drive north of Sydney, Newcastle offers a relaxed and welcoming lifestyle with all the benefits and comforts of a large city. Providing excellent cafes, restaurants and night-life, a variety of recreation activities, outstanding education facilities and world-class health care, making the move to Newcastle has never been a better option.

As Australia's second oldest city, Newcastle is a region rich with unique history. The Awabakal and Worimi peoples are recognised and acknowledged as traditional custodians of the land and waters of the Newcastle and following European settlement, Newcastle became a penal station, a coal town and a steel city.

Today, Newcastle is Australia's seventh largest city and boasts a diversified commercial, cultural, trade and industrial economy. This robust economy ensures Newcastle continues to cement its position as one of Australia's key business destinations.

Newcastle and its surrounding suburbs offer many different living options for all lifestyles, we hope that this brochure will introduce you to Newcastle and also recommend that you visit to see what is available to suit you.



ABOUT NEWCASTLE

As the economic hub of the Hunter region, Newcastle is a centre for health, tourism, education, environmental services, manufacturing, retail, mining, information technology, export and finance. Newcastle boasts a robust economy and offers real employment choice.

The region is well serviced by Newcastle Airport, and easily accessible by road and rail. Newcastle has a regional population of about 500,000 people, a thriving commercial sector, and an excellent network of health care and education facilities.

Combined with a comparatively low cost of living and a favourable climate, Newcastle offers a relaxed and welcoming lifestyle that has all the city comforts – restaurants, cafes, art galleries, sporting facilities and shopping centres.

Home to both creative and sporting festivals, Newcastle has a vibrant artistic scene and offers many recreation opportunities. Newcastle's harbour waterfront is a popular leisure area for locals and visitors.

Newcastle was selected as one of the top 10 cities in the world in 2011 by Lonely Planet.

The nearby Hunter Valley vineyards are a short drive away and have been named in

the top five wine destinations in the world and as the number one wine destination in the South Pacific by TripAdvisor.

Port Stephens, Barrington Tops National Park and Lake Macquarie, the largest coastal saltwater lake in Australia, are an easy day trip from the city.

Compared to Sydney, property in the Newcastle region offers excellent value. Housing options are diverse, and include water frontages, rural acreages, suburban living, period homes and contemporary apartments. Harbourside development has revitalised much of the city, resulting in residential developments, alfresco dining and boutique shopping.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.visitnewcastle.com.au

www.winecountry.com.au

www.lonelyplanet.com/australia/new-south-wales/newcastle

CLIMATE

Newcastle generally has warm to hot summers and mild winters. Average daytime temperature:

28° C Summer (December to February)

26° C Autumn (March to May)

18° C Winter (June to August)

25° C Spring (September to November)



WHERE TO LIVE

BEACH AND CITY LIVING

If you want to live near the beach and the city the suburbs to look at are:

- Newcastle
- Newcastle East
- The Hill
- Bar Beach
- Cooks Hill
- The Junction
- Merewether

These suburbs are near the beaches, are close to or in the city of Newcastle and are within walking distance of Darby Street, known for its many cafes and restaurants.

Most of these suburbs are within cycling or walking distance of the University's City Precinct (Graduate School of Business, University of Newcastle Legal Centre and the Conservatorium of Music).

Maryville, Wickham and Carrington are within the new Honeysuckle Development area, which is within cycling or walking distance of the city (approximately 20 to 25 minute walk to centre of the city).

Hamilton is another popular suburb and is halfway between the beaches and the University. Beaumont Street in Hamilton is popular because it is very cosmopolitan and has many restaurants.

Newcastle's beaches and city centre are a 30 minute bus journey from the University and there are train stations with connections to the University close to most of the above suburbs.

CLOSE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Suburbs within reasonable walking or cycling distance of the Callaghan campus:

- Birmingham Gardens
- Jesmond
- Lambton
- North Lambton
- Shortland
- Wallsend
- Warabrook
- Waratah
- Waratah West

Adamstown, Mayfield, Kotara, Georgetown and Broadmeadow are also suburbs which have good public transport and are not far from either the City or Callaghan campuses.

LIVING ON THE LAKE

Another option to consider is living in the suburbs around Lake Macquarie. This area provides a good bus service from such areas as Charlestown (11 km from Callaghan) and Warners Bay (13 km from Callaghan), and if you have a car it is only ten minutes to the beaches and the lake. These areas are quieter than those closer to Newcastle.

FIND OUT MORE

You can find out more information about Newcastle's suburbs here www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/about_newcastle/city_and_suburbs/suburbs

For location information including maps and directions visit www.whereis.com or www.google.com.au/maps.



FINDING ACCOMMODATION

ONLINE

There are two major property websites you can use to look for properties.

www.domain.com.au

www.realestate.com.au

The search facility on both of these websites is easy to use and you can set and save your search terms.

You can also set up an alert system so that you are sent emails either as properties arise, or daily or weekly.

If you have an iPad or iPhone there are also useful Apps available for both of these websites through the Australian App Store.

There is also a University of Newcastle based website which provides details of properties listed directly with the University, <http://offcampusaccommodation.newcastle.edu.au>. Please bear in mind that generally these are aimed at students.

Creer Property

www.creer.com.au

02 4904 8400

Dalton Partners

www.daltonpartners.com.au

New Lambton 02 4956 3033

The Junction 02 4969 3500

Dotcom Property Sales

www.dotcompropertysales.com

02 4969 2001

LJ Hooker Hamilton

www.hamilton.ljhooker.com.au

02 4961 5181

McGrath Newcastle City

www.mcgrath.com.au

02 4989 4000

PRDnationwide Newcastle

www.prdnewcastle.com.au

02 4926 0600

Raine & Horne Newcastle

www.rhnewcastle.com

02 4915 3000

Ray White Hamilton

raywhitehamilton.com.au

02 4032 5000

Ray White Newcastle City

raywhitenewcastle.com.au

02 4908 5900

Robinson Property

www.robinsonproperty.com.au

02 4902 7255

Walkom Real Estate

www.walkom.com.au

02 4974 8999

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Each real estate agent will list its own properties, it can be useful to register with the relevant agents as well as looking through the online listings. Contact details for the major real estate agents are below.

Century 21 Carkeet Johns Smith

www.century21.com.au/charlestown

02 4943 9239

Century 21 Five Star Properties

www.century21.com.au/newcastlecbd

02 4928 7400

Chapman Property

www.chapmanproperty.com.au

02 4926 1400



LOCAL FACILITIES

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Newcastle offers excellent schools at secondary, primary and pre-school level as well as a good number of quality child care options in most suburbs. Please see our separate brochure on Schools and Child Care for further information.

Higher Education is delivered through both the University of Newcastle and Hunter TAFE who provide vocational education and training in campuses throughout the Hunter region. Visit www.hunter.tafensw.edu.au for further information.

LIBRARIES

There are nine library branches in Newcastle, and ten in the Lake Macquarie area. All libraries in Australia are free to join and you may borrow a range of items including books, magazines, CDs and DVDs. There are also computers with internet access available at all libraries as well as printing, fax and photocopying facilities.

Some libraries run events including book clubs, children's activity sessions, exhibitions and author visits. Visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library and <http://library.lakemac.com.au/> for branch information and events.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Australia does not have an official or state religion and there are people practicing many different faiths in Newcastle. There are places of worship for many religions including for those who are Anglican, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Greek Orthodox, Islamic, Jewish, Jehovah's Witnesses, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Quakers, Russian Orthodox, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist and the Uniting Church.

HEALTH SERVICES

There are a number of private and public health facilities in Newcastle, including hospitals, medical centres, and mental health, rehabilitation and palliative care services. The John Hunter Hospital is the major public hospital in the Hunter region and includes the John Hunter Children's Hospital. For more information please see the Hunter New England Health website www.hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.

There are GP practices or medical centres in most suburbs in and around Newcastle. You are free to choose where you register for GP services, however you will need a Medicare number to do so.



LOCAL FACILITIES

RECREATION FACILITIES

There are 345 parks in the Newcastle region including 146 which are playing fields for sporting activities. The council also provides 60 tennis courts, 87 netball courts, 103 children's playgrounds, 5 public swimming pools and a wide range of other facilities.

The many beaches in Newcastle offer patrolled swimming between the red and yellow flags and most beaches have changing facilities, showers and toilets, shade shelters, parking, disabled access and picnic and BBQ areas. The Ocean Baths at Newcastle and Merewether offer ocean swimming in a safe, pool environment.

Blackbutt Reserve is an area of bushland with wildlife exhibits, walking trails, picnic areas and children's playgrounds located 15 minutes drive away from the centre of Newcastle.

Newcastle also has facilities for the cinema, bowling, ice-skating and rock-climbing.

ARTS AND CULTURE

There is a strong and growing arts scene in Newcastle and many small and independent galleries are opening up in the city centre. Newcastle is also home to the Newcastle Art Gallery, housing one of Australia's most substantial public art collections outside of a major capital city.

The Civic Theatre, a heritage-listed theatre in the heart of the city, shows a wide range of performances from musicals and plays to comedy and music concerts and there are cinemas located both in the city centre and in the suburbs.

SHOPPING

Most of Newcastle's suburbs have a local shopping area, usually including a supermarket and other useful shops. There are two main large shopping centres, Westfield Kotara and Charlestown Square, situated in Newcastle which provide a wide variety of individual and chain stores.

For more individual and boutique shopping Hunter Street, Darby Street and The Junction are home to a mix of local, national and international designers and other giftware shops. Newcastle is also well known for its thriving antique shops located in the city centre, Islington and Mayfield

Newcastle and its surrounding areas have a diverse range of markets including arts and crafts markets, vintage markets, bric-a-brac and a weekly farmer's market selling local produce at the Newcastle Showground.

EATING OUT AND ENTERTAINMENT

Newcastle has a thriving restaurant and nightlife scene with many excellent places to eat and drink. Newcastle East, Darby Street, Beaumont Street, The Junction and the harbour-side Honeysuckle Wharf area all feature top-class venues including restaurants and cafes of different cuisines as well as a variety of bars and nightclubs.

The Hunter Stadium is host to Newcastle's major sporting events and home ground to the Newcastle Knights (NRL) and the Newcastle Jets (A-League Football).

Newcastle also has its own racecourse at Broadmeadow Racecourse, home to the Newcastle Jockey Club, where races are held throughout the year.



TRANSPORT

GETTING TO NEWCASTLE

By road

If you are coming from Sydney, or south of Newcastle, take the F3 and follow the signs for Newcastle. Alternatively, if you are entering the city from the north, follow the Pacific Highway.

The Golden and New England Highways are also routes into Newcastle from the west and north-west.

www.whereis.com or maps.google.com.au can provide you with maps and directions.

By air

Newcastle Airport (Williamtown) is the major regional airport and is located 30 minutes from Newcastle's city centre. Many direct flights are available on a daily basis from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Ballina.

For further information visit the Airport's website www.newcastleairport.com.au.

By rail

Newcastle is part of the CityRail network and there are frequent return services to Sydney. Visit www.cityrail.com.au for timetable and fare information.

CountryLink trains also connect Newcastle to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and other country centres. For information and bookings go to www.countrylink.info.

AROUND NEWCASTLE

Bus

There are regular bus services in most suburbs in Newcastle and a free bus service is also operated in the city centre. Visit www.newcastlebuses.info for timetables and fare information.

Private buses connect the remaining suburbs, as well as towns and regional centres throughout the Lower Hunter, to Newcastle.

Stockton Ferry

The Stockton Ferry connects Queens Wharf, Newcastle with Stockton Wharf. Visit www.newcastlebuses.info for more details.

Train

Cityrail trains operate local services in Newcastle and beyond. For further information go to www.cityrail.com.au.

Newcastle Taxis

Newcastle Taxis are available throughout Newcastle, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit www.newcastletaxis.com.au or phone 131 000 for information and bookings.



ABOUT AUSTRALIA

THE COUNTRY

Australia is a country of natural beauty, bound by more than 7,000 gorgeous beaches that boast crystal clear blue waters. It is also home to some of the world's most amazing ancient rock formations and unspoiled rainforests. It really is unparalleled. Australia is the sixth largest country in the world but in contrast has one of the lowest population densities, with an average of just three people per square kilometre.

CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

Australian culture and customs have evolved as a result of a rich combination of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander peoples and many nationalities who have brought with them their traditions, legends, myths and folklore. Since 1945, more than six million people have migrated to Australia from across the globe. Today, more than 20 per cent of Australians are foreign-born, and more than 40 per cent are of mixed cultural origin. The rich cultural diversity is also reflected in Australian food, where a great deal of the world's cuisines have been happily embraced and in some places, skillfully fused.

CLIMATE

Australian climate for the most part is considered temperate in that it is generally quite mild and free from extreme weather conditions and temperatures. Parts of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania receive snow falls across some of their mountain ranges, making skiing a popular recreational activity in these regions throughout winter.

LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Australian residents enjoy a high quality of life. Low cost of living, room to move, active lifestyle, picturesque landscapes and a rich culture make Australia one of the most desirable countries to live in. Australian people are famous for their friendly and easygoing outlook on life. It's all about a 'fair go', the great outdoors, innovative ideas, active living and a thriving arts scene. Australians are moving towards greener sustainable living, reducing their impact on the environment and providing for their future generations.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

People who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents must obtain the legal entitlement to work in Australia as granted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship prior to commencing employment.



SETTLING IN AUSTRALIA

You should do the following as soon as possible after arriving in Australia. Please visit the following websites for further information about settling in Australia.

www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia
www.australia.gov.au

APPLY FOR A TAX FILE NUMBER (TFN)

To receive an income in Australia, you need a Tax File Number (TFN). Income includes wages or salary from a job, payments from the government, and money earned from investments including interest on savings accounts.

Once in Australia, you can telephone the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and have a TFN application form sent to you. Alternatively, you can apply for a TFN through the ATO website.

Australian Tax Office
Phone: 132 861
www.ato.gov.au

REGISTER WITH MEDICARE

The Australian Government provides help with basic medical expenses through Medicare.

You may be eligible to join Medicare and gain immediate access to health care services including free public hospital care, help with the cost of out-of-hospital care, and subsidised medicines.

To enrol in Medicare, you should go into a Medicare office 7 to 10 days after your arrival in Australia and bring your passport or travel documents.

You should also consider private health insurance as Medicare does not cover all services, for example Medicare does not cover dental care, most optical care or ambulance services.

Medicare Australia
Telephone: 132 011
www.humanservices.gov.au

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT

In Australia, most income including salary or wages and government benefits are paid directly into a bank account. You should open a bank account within six weeks of your arrival, as you usually need only your passport as identification. After six weeks you will need extra identification to open an account. Alternatively, most major banks in Australia allow you to open an account from overseas up to 12 months prior to arrival in Australia.

ENROL YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Under Australian law, all children under 17 must be in approved education or training, undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship, in full-time employment, or in a combination of training and employment until they turn 17.

APPLY FOR A DRIVER'S LICENCE

If you want to drive in Australia, you will need to have the appropriate driver's licence. In Australia, drivers' licences are issued by state and territory governments. You may be required to pass a knowledge test, a practical driving test, and an eyesight test.

NSW Roads and Traffic Authority
www.rta.nsw.gov.au