

# THE CHANNEL

*your port newsletter*

August 2015



**To celebrate Port of Newcastle's first year of operation we're pleased to bring you our new community newsletter, *The Channel*.**

Many of you may not know who Port of Newcastle is, or what our role is, but through *The Channel* we hope you'll get to know us better.

Our company was established in May 2014 following the Port's privatisation and we hold a 98 year lease with the NSW Government.

Our shareholders are The Private Capital Group's Infrastructure Fund (managed by Hastings and representing over 2 million Australian superannuants) and China Merchants Group.

Each of our shareholders owns 50% of the company with the day-to-day management of the Port undertaken in Newcastle by our experienced, local team.

China Merchants and Hastings have significant expertise in the ownership and operation of seaports around the world.

Our staff has decades of experience in the Port with the majority having worked for the previous port manager, Newcastle Port Corporation.

With over 2,169 ship visits each year, our focus is on providing safe and efficient infrastructure and services to the businesses who utilise the Port.

These services include:

- vessel scheduling;
- trade and business development;
- dredging and survey;
- wharf and berth services; and
- maintenance of major port assets.

The Port and the City of Newcastle have grown and prospered together for 216 years and we're looking forward to building on this strong connection and developing opportunities that contribute positively to our region.

We're also working with our local community so we can all share in the benefits that the Port's diverse trade brings to our region.

The future for the Port and our business is exciting and we're looking forward to bringing you highlights from both over coming issues.

# From coal to cruise ships

An abandoned pursuit for escaped convicts in 1797 led Lieutenant John Shortland into the mouth of the yet to be named Hunter River, a discovery that would see the quiet river evolve into one of the most diverse ports in Australia and the largest coal export port in the world.

The Port of Newcastle has come a long way since its first commercial export in 1799 when 50 tonnes of coal left the harbour on board the barque, *Hunter*, bound for Bengal.

Today, the Port facilitates the export of 159 million tonnes of premium coal annually to markets around the world, including China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, India and Mexico.

In 2014, 5.3 million tonnes of non-coal imports and exports were handled by the Port, comprising 25 cargo types including aluminium, ammonia, grain, steel, project cargo, vegetable oils, fuels, orange juice concentrate and containers.

The Port of Newcastle is a significant enterprise, handling over \$17 billion in trade annually. Numerous opportunities exist to expand the Port's capabilities and introduce new trades, industries and markets for the long-term benefit of Newcastle and the Hunter region.

One industry to have recognised Newcastle's potential over recent years is cruise shipping. Our city's beautiful coastline, regional attractions and vibrant foreshore have captured the attention of some of the leading cruise lines and Newcastle is now a regular destination on their itineraries, injecting an estimated \$17 million into the Hunter region's economy each year.

The Port's importance to domestic and international trade is as significant today as it was in the late eighteenth century.

Take a walk along the foreshore soon and enjoy what this historic, dynamic and successful port has to offer.

Rail wagons being loaded onto the berth siding at Carrington which connects with the rail network.

## Looking to the future...

For Peter Francis, Executive Manager Trade & Business Development with Port of Newcastle, helping businesses utilise the Port's infrastructure to create long-term strategies for regional growth is very rewarding.

"The Port is at the heart of a vibrant, working city. It contributes not only to the region's economy, but to the recreational interests of the community, making it unique amongst many ports around Australia," said Peter.

"The Port of Newcastle is also the gateway to the Hunter Valley and New South Wales, so it offers enormous trade potential across a wide range of industries from agriculture to manufacturing."

"Our role is to help our existing customers build on what they have and to assist new businesses and trades to take advantage of the Port's resources to grow their operations.

"Whilst the coal export industry is a major contributor to the local and national economy, the Port has significant capacity to support the development of a broad range of non-coal import and export markets."

"We have 200 hectares of vacant port-side land close to deep water berths and national transport networks in the Port. At Mayfield, there is 75 hectares. This is the largest land offering of its kind on the Eastern Seaboard and we're looking forward to helping businesses maximise the opportunities this site presents."

Peter has a strong background in business development, having overseen several large scale projects including the redevelopment of Charlestown Square.

"Helping to facilitate change and develop projects that capitalise on what we, as a port and community have to offer, will benefit generations to come," Peter said.

Visit [www.portofnewcastle.com.au](http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au) to learn more about what's happening around the Port.



Peter Francis

# Supporting our community



We're pleased to support TAD Disability Services' program to build Freedom Wheels Bikes like the one Arran Keith (pictured) enjoys riding.  
*Photo: Elvis Sinosis Photography.*

The generosity of Newcastle's dedicated volunteer groups is felt in many positive ways throughout our community.

Their passion and commitment makes a real difference across a broad cross-section of people and activities and we're pleased to be able to provide assistance through our Community Partnerships Program.

Since August 2014 we have provided \$163,000 in community grants.

## 2015 Funding Recipients

- Stockton Historical Society
- Mission to Seafarers — Newcastle
- Nobbys Surf Life Saving Club
- Tantrum Youth Arts

- TAD Disability Services — Hunter Region
- University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge
- Kingdomworks — CityServe
- Newcastle Commemorative Services Ltd
- Newcastle East Public School

**Community grants are now available**

**Applications close 7 September 2015**

For information on how to apply please visit our website [www.portofnewcastle.com.au](http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au)

# Introducing our new CEO

Geoff Crowe, Port of Newcastle's new Chief Executive Officer, joined the company on 1 July 2015.

Geoff has been a member of the mining, logistics and port community for many years, most recently as Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary with Port Waratah Coal Services.

"Like many Novocastrians, I've always had an interest in the Port and I'm pleased to have this opportunity to work with the team at Port of Newcastle to create a more efficient, sustainable and successful port," said Geoff.

"It has been great to finally start with Port of Newcastle and begin working with the team. I look forward to engaging with our customers, community and other port stakeholders."

"There's some great development going on in our city and it's tremendous to be part of it."

"We're looking forward to continuing to work with our existing trades, including coal, and to growing opportunities for trades new to the Port."



Geoff Crowe

## CONTACT US

6 Newcomen Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300  
PO Box 790  
Newcastle NSW 2300

**P:** +61 2 4908 8200  
**E:** [community@portofnewcastle.com.au](mailto:community@portofnewcastle.com.au)  
**W:** [www.portofnewcastle.com.au](http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au)

