



WHAT' S HAPPENI NG

ISSUE 2 - 2010

City Centre Meetings

Last month's meeting heard from Steve Edmonds, Director City Assets. Steve outlined the facts behind the challenge of derelict buildings in our city centre. He has offered to present to a broader forum if there is interest in the topic.

The Committee also agreed in principle to support projects for new tourism signage, community art projects at city railway stations and innovative public art to improve night time lighting and safety.

The May meeting will hear from Tony Brown on the concerns of residents about night-time high jinks and from Daniel Ballantyne on parking issues and the June meeting will hear more on the Hunter St master Plan.

If you would like to join us please RSVP to help with catering - details on back page

Business Clusters

The City Centre Committee recently began working with traders from three city areas. The clusters focus on the area east of the Mall, the zone between Perkins and Darby and the area of Hunter Street where there are a number of bridal shops.

The clusters are developing project plans to help improve their business zone. The reports of meetings and the outcomes of workshops can be found at www.newcastlecitycentre.com.au. If you have a business in one of these areas you are invited to join your neighbours at the next meeting and get involved in the projects.

Street Cleaning

Street and shop front cleaning and how best to do it is a constant theme at trader meetings. People recognise the difficulties and are also confused about the rules. In short, EPA rules mean that nobody can flush filth down the drains and Council is required to ensure that the beaches stay clean. Hence the \$1500 fine if we cause that to happen.

Shop fronts and pavements can however be hosed if solids and other nasties are kept out of the drainage system.

To try and help find a solution we would appreciate it if you would answer the survey questions attached. We will discuss the results with Council and see if some solutions can be found.

***“Nothing great
was ever
achieved without
enthusiasm”***

Unknown

HERITAGE TOURS

*To all interested in our region's
heritage,*

Newcastle Industrial Heritage

Association is pleased to offer personalised guided tours of the iconic sculpture “The Muster Point”. This house-size industrial artwork was constructed as a collaboration by famous Newcastle sculptor Julie Squires and steelworkers in 1999, to mark the closure of the steelworks. The whole structure, inside and out, has many stories to tell about the history of steelmaking at Newcastle. Well-known retired steelworker Aubrey Brooks conducts intimate, heartfelt journeys around and within the walls of this unique place. Tours are free, donations accepted.

Email: obisan@hunterlink.net.au or call 49845264 for more details

SURVEY

**Two issues have been hot topics this month—
parking and cleaning.**

Parking

Saturday on-street parking fees:

Council's 6-month trial of free parking for Saturday morning showed no significant positive impact.

Mall Car Park – opening hours:

For a number of years, the Mall Parking Station has remained open to late on Thursday nights and Saturday afternoons. There is an ongoing surplus in off street parking available in the city and usage of the Mall Station has been falling for some time with costs now outweighing income. Council is asking how critical late closing of the Mall on Thursdays and Saturdays is to city centre businesses and residents. We appreciate

NEW CBD CENTRE

A new Centre for Wellbeing is to be established in Newcastle.

Focused on helping people make positive life changes, the Centre will provide a way for small businesses to work with individuals and groups in a cost-effective way.

Through the Centre they can explore opportunities in Newcastle's CBD without taking the risk of a long-term lease.

The project has been developed in response to requests to the Newcastle City Centre Committee and GPT has offered its support for a trial of the concept.

People joining the project will be encouraged to build their business, to participate in joint marketing and to work together to create new ways of connecting with their clients.

Relaxation classes have already begun and discussions are under way with reiki and kinesthesiology practitioners.

Other opportunities may present for life coaches, weight loss experts, hypnotists or nutritionists - or for options not yet thought about.

A meeting and training room is also available along with an office and consulting space. Casual and part-time bookings are very welcome.

**For more information call Evelyn on 0416263412 or
Email: switchpoint1@gmail.com**

Doc's pharmacy is keen to develop joint promotions with other businesses in the area. If you would like to talk about how to grow your business together with fellow novocastrians, call

JOHN PASTOR on

49294999

Or

0414 983091

NEXT MEETING

The Committee welcomes visitors .

The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday 15th June, 7.30am

Switchpoint Centre

**Suite 122, Level 2, 152-160 Hunter Street,
Newcastle, NSW 2300**

If you'd like to come along please give us a call. If you have an issue you would like to raise, call Cheryl on **49294644** or e-mail newsletter@infinitus.com.au so we can make some time on the agenda.

Core office hours are

Monday to Thursday, 9am –3pm.

For more information contact Newcastle City Centre Committee

Shop 1/ 137 King Street, Newcastle NSW 2300 Phone 49294644 Fax: 49294035 or e-mail newsletter@infinitus.com.au