

WALKING TRAIL



Moderate
2hrs 30min / 4.4km

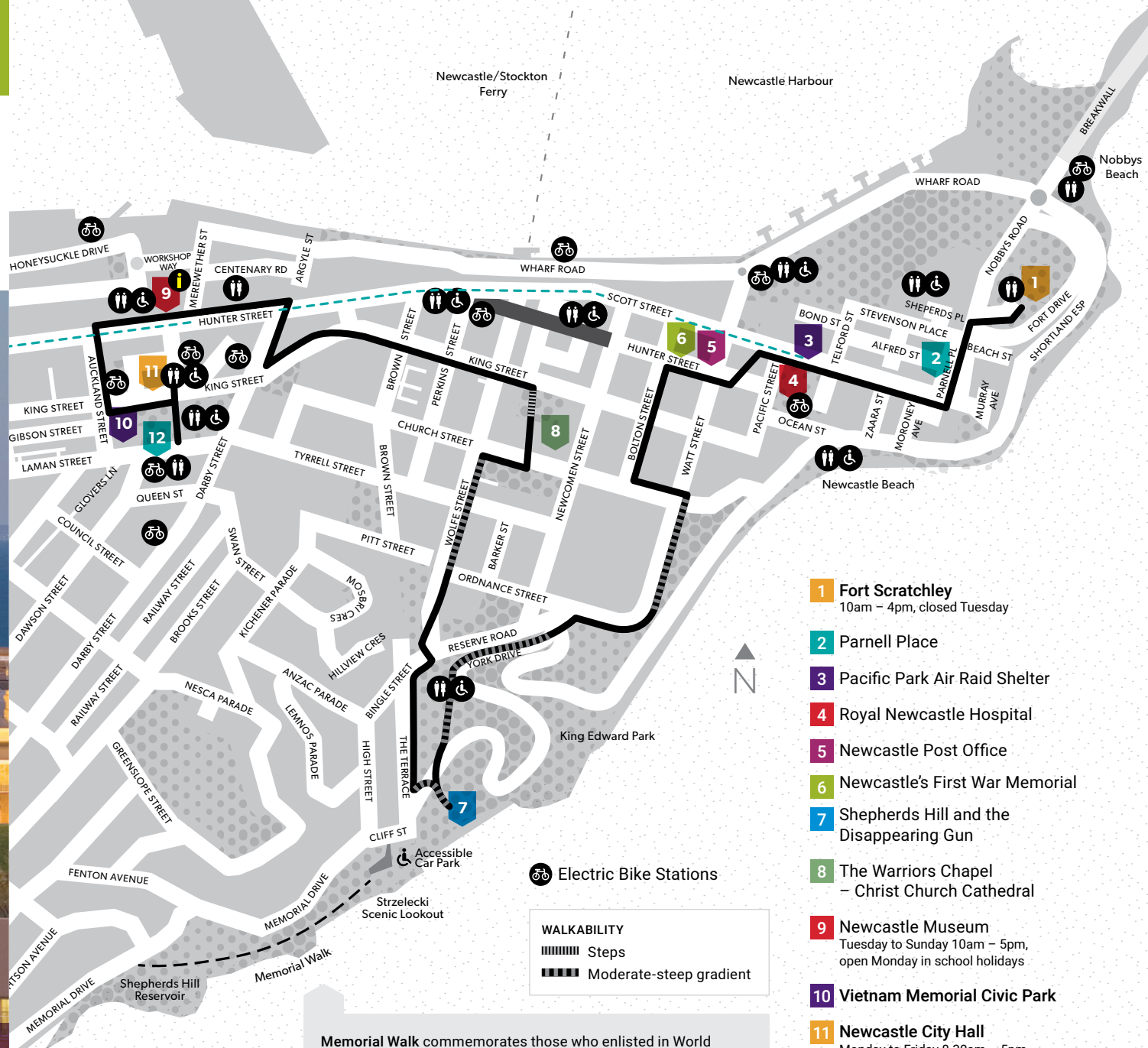
NEWCASTLE AT WAR

EXPLORE NEWCASTLE'S STORIES
OF WAR THROUGH A SELF-GUIDED
WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY.



Fort Scratchley

NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



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

< Continue to Bathers Way
< Great North Walk

NEWCASTLE AT WAR

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

This walk lets you 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 and walk in their footsteps, visiting 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 in April 2015, the 100-year anniversary of the ANZAC landing on the Gallipoli peninsular. This walk commemorates those from Newcastle and the Hunter Region who enlisted for service in World War One.

For more self guided walking tours, visit www.visitnewcastle.com.au or visit the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre located at Museum Park, Honeysuckle.

Newcastle Region Library

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

Fort Scratchley

Nobbys Road, Newcastle East
Wednesday to Monday 10am – 4pm
fortscratchley.com.au

Newcastle City Hall

290 King Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm, closed public holidays
newcastlecityhall.com.au

Newcastle Museum

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



1 FORT SCRATCHLEY

Fort Scratchley has been standing sentry over Newcastle since 1882 and was originally built to defend the city against a feared attack by Russian naval forces.

Today, the best way to experience Fort Scratchley is by joining a guided tour led by knowledgeable Fort Scratchley Historical Society volunteers. The 360 harbour, city and ocean views from the Fort are not to be missed.

DID YOU KNOW? Fort Scratchley remains the only coastal fortification in Australia to have fired its guns on an enemy vessel during the Second World War, after Newcastle was shelled by the Japanese submarine I-21 on 8 June 1942.



2 PARNELL PLACE

Only three of the 34 shells fired on Newcastle by the Japanese submarine actually exploded, including one in Parnell Place, located just south of Fort Scratchley.

Bombardier Stan Newton was running along Parnell Place towards his post at the Fort when an exploding shell threw him through the air. He completed his run unaware he had a piece of shrapnel lodged in his forehead.

The houses on Parnell Place were damaged by the blast and many of its residents were lucky to have escaped uninjured.

3 PACIFIC PARK AIR RAID SHELTER

Head west 250m along Scott Street and you'll encounter a large open reserve on the edge of the city centre known as Pacific Park.

With its shady trees, park benches and the circular water fountains, Pacific Park is a haven for local families and picnickers, but once upon a time it was home to something far more unnerving – an air raid 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. As a result, air raid shelters were built at key centres of population across Newcastle during the Second World War.



4 ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL

Gaze across towards the south west corner of Pacific Park and you'll see an iconic octagonal-shaped tower, which once represented one of the corner wings of the former Royal Newcastle Hospital.

More than 70 nurses from Newcastle and the Hunter served with medical units during the First World War, caring for wounded and dying soldiers in makeshift hospitals across the battlefields.

To be eligible to serve, nurses must have completed three years of approved hospital training, with the majority of local women completing it at the Royal Newcastle Hospital.



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 before working 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, awarded to her in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in 1915 by King George V. Ida stepped off the Brisbane Mail train at Newcastle Station on 25 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

Cross onto Hunter Street and walk a block-and-a half west until you reach the majestic sandstone façade of the former Newcastle Post Office.

Originally used as Newcastle Court House, and later as military offices, it was rebuilt as the post office in 1903. Three years earlier a civic reception was held at the building, with part of the first contingent of Australian soldiers to embark for the Boer War attending as the guests of honour.

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

Located out the front of the Newcastle Post Office, Newcastle's first war memorial is a sombre and permanent reminder of Newcastle's role in the First World War.

The memorial was donated to the city by Commander Frank Gardner, with the foundation stone laid on 4 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.

💬 DID YOU KNOW? When the memorial was first unveiled it was inscribed with 15 names - by the war's end, 73 names were remembered on its surface.

7 SHEPHERDS HILL

A long and at times steep journey south from Hunter Street will bring you to the historic remains of the State Heritage-listed military installation on Shepherd's Hill.

Built and extended between 1890 and 1940, Shepherd's Hill features a former military gun battery emplacement, observation post and gunner's cottage.

💬 DID YOU KNOW? Shepherd's Hill was the site of a disappearing gun, which was loaded below ground before being lifted by a hydro pneumatic system, fired, and returned underground to remain hidden from the enemy.



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 1 May 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 7 July 1917.

One of the Battalion's biggest challenges was to come during an assault near Passchendaele on 12 October 1917 – only 90 of the 508 men from the 35th that embarked on an assault on the enemy remained unwounded at the end of the day's 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 until the end of the war.

The Battalion was disbanded in March 1919.

8 THE WARRIOR'S CHAPEL – CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Head back down towards the centre of town and you'll find yet another sacred place of remembrance for those who fell during the Great War.

Located halfway along Church Street, the beautifully crafted Warrior's Chapel at Christ Church Cathedral was built using funds donated by members of the Anglican Diocese in 1923.

Still in use today, don't forget to pay your respects to our fallen soldiers before checking out the war-based artefacts donated by locals, including the flag flown by the 13th Battalion of the AIF at Gallipoli.

9 NEWCASTLE MUSEUM

Head around the rear of the Cathedral and make your way down the tranquil terraced steps to King Street before zig-zagging west for around one kilometre until you reach the historic Honeysuckle Railway workshops that now house the Newcastle Museum.

Here you will discover a vast array of objects relating to Newcastle's involvement in wars and conflicts throughout Australia's history, including medals, uniforms, postcards, weapons and souvenirs.

DID YOU KNOW? Newcastle Museum is also home to Walter Barton's bugle, which travelled with its owner across the battlefields of the Great War and was played at Gallipoli.



Vietnam War Memorial

10 VIETNAM MEMORIAL, CIVIC PARK

The quiet, leafy surrounds of Newcastle's Civic Park provide a fittingly peaceful place to remember those who fought and died in Australia's longest war of the 20th century, the Vietnam War.

Australians served in Vietnam from 1962 until 1975, with 521 Australians killed and more than 3,000 wounded as a result of the conflict.

Newcastle's Vietnam Memorial was commissioned and erected by local Vietnam veterans. Unveiled in 1987, it features the names of 19 local men killed in action during this controversial conflict.



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. According to his son Reg, Barton '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 6 June and spent many months recovering in hospitals in France and England.

Walter was transferred to the Royal Australian Flying Corps as a carpenter and fitter before returning home to Australia, where he lived on Union Street in Newcastle. Walter joined the Newcastle Orchestra and kept the bugle for the rest of his life, using it to call his sons Reg and Ian home for tea.

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

11 NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

Sitting prominently opposite Civic Park, Newcastle City Hall plays host to everything from weddings to a writer's festival, but during World War II it was the nerve centre for Newcastle's civilian response to an attack on the city.

The National Emergency Services used the site as their headquarters, with information relayed from a bunker underneath Birdwood Park to the Chief Warden and other officials based inside City Hall.

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

12 NEWCASTLE WAR MEMORIAL CULTURAL CENTRE



Figure Group Lyndon Dadswell 1957, silicone cast bronze

Retrace your steps across Civic Park and ascend the stairs onto Laman Street to take in one of the city's most prominent tributes to the men and women who served Australia during World War II – the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre.

As part of the development of the building, which 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 to create his sculpture, Figure Group, which features 3.3m-tall bronze statues of a man and a woman with their heads upturned and a broken sword at their feet

DID YOU KNOW? Another competition was held to find an appropriate inscription to accompany the sculpture, with the winning words of Cessnock's Jessie Sheridan-McLoughlin later emblazoned across the interior wall of the entrance: 'In minds ennobled here, the noble dead shall live'