

# NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**TIM CRAKANTHORP MP YOUR STATE MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE**

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## Newcastle show will go on

The Newcastle Regional Show went ahead in 2017 due to a last minute emergency funding injection by the State Government. This followed a month of lobbying by the Show Association and my office. Hopefully the Show will continue in 2018 and beyond.

I met with the Show's President, Brett Gleeson in February, who told me that the Show was in a dire financial position and may not proceed in 2017. He explained that their bank balance had gone from \$3 million to near zero over the last ten years. Car parking fees were going straight to Sydney and showground facilities were incurring huge fees. The loss of our Show holiday and lack of support from local business also contributed to the demise of the Newcastle Show – not to mention the annual, infamous Newcastle Show rain.

I then met with Venues NSW and the Minister's staff, calling on them to assist. I wrote to the Minister, spoke on this issue in Parliament and met with the now resigned Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Catherine Cusack MLC.

In the second week of Parliament I spoke to the Sporting Venues Authorities Amendment Bill saying that Labor would reserve the right to move amendments if the government could not find a long term solution to the ongoing financial viability of the Show.

I was very pleased when Ms Cusack followed up from our meeting and my speech in Parliament with an announcement that the Government would provide a short term grant for the Show. I commended Ms Cusack for taking this bipartisan approach on this issue. This is a great result for the people



Tim talks to Debbie McLucas from the Newcastle Show Association.



of Newcastle and the Hunter. It's disappointing that Ms Cusack has been removed from the role now.

***I will now continue lobbying for the Show to have a long term financial plan and reintroduce the Show Day Holiday so that the Show's financial future is secure for many years to come.***

## Message from Tim Crakanthorp

**Thanks for reading my Autumn Newsletter.**

Since the beginning of the year I have been fighting for better outcomes for the Newcastle community. I have been trying to negotiate the best deal from the Government on the V8 Supercars race that will be in Newcastle East, to adequately protect the heritage and increase the community consultation.

I have been fighting to keep the Newcastle Show going. With its proud tradition over the last 115 years we do not want to see it disappear.

I am holding the Government to account on the costs of the light rail and interchange, making sure that your tax dollars are well spent.

I have been speaking to residents who are concerned about parking in the CBD and the viability of businesses, with over 1000 car parking spaces disappearing. I want to thank everyone who responded to my car parking survey. Your thoughts and concerns are appreciated.

I am continuing to push the government to get a clear focused approach to the Broadmeadow Sporting Precinct and its redevelopment. Despite the Government saying a plan would be considered by the NSW Government at the end of 2016, we have still not seen a plan.

I recently announced the recipients of the Newcastle Local Sports Grants and Community Building Partnerships Grants, two great community based grant programs that provide \$350,000 to local groups. If you know of any groups who may benefit, please tell them to contact my office to get an application this year.

*Tim*



## 'Like' Tim on Facebook

For more photos and updates on local issues from Tim, please visit [www.facebook.com/fightingfornewcastle](http://www.facebook.com/fightingfornewcastle) and hit the 'like' button!

# Newcastle Supercars

Earlier this year, I stood with Shadow Minister for Trade Tourism and Major Events, Penny Sharpe to call on the Berejiklian Government to establish a government coordination unit located in Newcastle to act as an independent liaison and consultation body for local residents and businesses engaging with NSW government agencies, Newcastle City Council, and the event promoter in the lead up to the Supercars 500 event in November.

The Government had introduced a bill into the NSW Parliament, leaving the coordination of the event located at Destination NSW in Sydney and managed via a myriad of committees. The consultation was to be left up to Supercars.

Labor moved amendments to improve consultation, coordination and protect the heritage of Newcastle East – disappointingly, the Liberal/National Government voted against the amendments.

The community consultation to date has not been independent nor adequate – this needs to be addressed immediately. The people and businesses of Newcastle deserve more than this half-hearted approach by this Government. The

Minister for Major Events, Adam Marshall has since come out and offered ONE Newcastle-based liaison officer for the event. This is not what we asked for and it is not fair to the people of Newcastle. When the event was in Homebush they were allocated a team in the area – Newcastle deserves nothing less and should be treated with the same respect by this Government. Only a team based in Newcastle, can do a suitable job. It was required for the Homebush event and Newcastle deserves equal treatment.

As yet the Government hasn't come to Newcastle to address the residents' concerns. I invited the Shadow Minister to come and meet with some affected residents, something the Minister has failed to do.

I am calling on the Government to organise a public information forum to address the alarming findings of this study.

***I have and will continue to raise all resident's concerns with the Government.***

## CONTACT THE MINISTER

**If you would like to let the Minister for Major Events, Adam Marshall, know your thoughts please send your letters to:**

The Hon. Adam Marshall MP  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

**OR call him on (02) 8574 5450**

## Steel city remains

Earlier this year, it was revealed that areas of Newcastle including Carrington, Cooks Hills, Mayfield and Merewether, had been the subject of a Macquarie University study looking into the levels of toxicity in the soil.



**Sue Walmsley, Penny Sharpe and Tim Crakanthorp discuss the soil contamination.**

**Many of the metals, including lead, copper, chromium and zinc, were found in parks and gardens at levels considered dangerous to human health.**

The majority of the contaminants are thought to have been drawn from the former steel making industry.

The three-year study, which was published in the journal, 'Science of the Total Environment', had 150 soil samples taken from five areas including Carrington, Mayfield, Newcastle and Cooks Hill and Merewether.

I have written to the Premier Gladys Berejiklian to emphasise this as a priority and am also seeking a meeting with Environment Minister, Gabrielle Upton. The EPA must work with the authors of the report to ensure it is fully understood before it takes action.

***Recently Shadow Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe came to Newcastle to visit the areas affected and meet with residents.***

***I hope the Environment Minister doesn't follow in her predecessor's footsteps and we have another Williamstown on our hands.***

# Out and About



Sharon Claydon MP and I at the 2017 Surfest Presentation Ceremony.



Tim, volunteer Alf and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Guy Zangari MP.



As a father of four young children, I understand the importance of a quality education. I stood with the NSW Teachers Federation to say "I give a Gonski."



Met with the YWAM Mayfield team.



I have a dream Newcastle... NRL Telstra Premiership Newcastle Knights 2017!



Wing Commander Andrew Jackson and I with one of the new F-35 Strike Fighters due to hit Williamtown RAAF Base soon.



Speaking at the first 2017 Politics in the Pub Newcastle on the topic of the future of employment in the Hunter, with Peoplefusion's Serena Rodgers at the Wickham Park Hotel.



Welcomed Steve and Stan, owners of new store Local Crop, to Hunter Street.



Member for the Blue Mountains Trish Doyle, PSA member Miriam Williamson and I at the PSA Rally, fighting for the rights of public service workers.

# 2017 Newcastle Local Woman of the Year

## Melissa Histon

In the lead up to International Women's Day I announced that founder of *The Sista Code* website and *Got Your Back Sista* charity, **Melissa Histon** was the **2017 Newcastle Woman of the Year**.

Melissa is dedicated to sharing stories and images of inspiring women and organisations that are actively doing what they can to improve the plight of oppressed, disadvantaged and mistreated people around the world. She aims to uplift, inspire and share the love.

As the founder of the Got Your Back Sista charity, she held an event, 'I say NO to domestic violence', which saw over 500 people in the Hunter community come together on 3rd September 2016 at Hunter Stadium to make a

stand against domestic violence.

Melissa and her team made a collection of still images and videos, to be used in a social media campaign, television commercial and print advertisements encouraging our community to take a stand.

Melissa is an inspirational women who fights to empower and celebrate women.

***Newcastle is lucky to have her in our community.***



**Melissa Histon,**  
**2017 Newcastle Woman of the Year.**

## South Korean employment boost

**In the last Parliament sitting, I called the Government out on their decision to award the \$2.3 billion new Intercity train fleet contract to South Korea.**

This was a kick in the guts for locals especially when the Newcastle unemployment rate is currently sitting at 6.1 per cent and youth unemployment in the Newcastle is currently 12.1 per cent, higher than under the previous Labor Government.

The contract could have generated up to 1,200 jobs. I asked the Government to reverse its decision and build the new Intercity fleet in the Hunter.

It boggles the mind how this decision came to be especially when it is widely known that the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, managed to get a cheaper deal from a Victorian manufacturer and has kept 1,100 people off the unemployment queue.

It's disappointing that the new NSW Premier has previously been Minister for Transport and Minister for the Hunter does not support local workers. The Premier knows that Newcastle has a large manufacturing industry that is in the midst of a downturn. The industry is screaming out for work – crying out for contracts – but, sadly, she is happy to watch local industry leaders like Forgacs and UGL cut staff rather than employ more workers for new projects.

## Fighting for palliative care 24/7

**Earlier this year, it was brought to my attention that the 24/7 Palliative Care Outreach Service at the Mater Hospital was under threat of being cut back to a 9am to 5pm service or even worse, a 9am to a 2pm service. It was proposed that the after-hours visits would be replaced with a telephone hotline.**

Given that this Government recently released a document titled, *The NSW Government plan to increase access to palliative care*, I was shocked by this revelation.

Currently the service sends out palliative care doctors and nurses to the homes of patients that access the service after leaving the hospital, deciding to end their lives in the comfort and familiarity of their own home.

Having been approached by people deeply concerned about the welfare of their patients, and noting that death is not limited to the hours of 9am - 5pm, I acted on this threat by:

1. Arranging to meet with the Minister for Health;
2. Putting a Notice of Motion to Parliament for debate;
3. Submitting 11 specific Questions on Notice in Parliament on this issue; and
4. Arranging a press conference with Palliative Care Ambassador Bryce Gaudry.

The meeting with the Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard and my subsequent discussions with the Hunter New England Health Service were positive. It would appear that any such plan to cut palliative care services is now not going to occur.

**I will continue to stay vigilant and will always fight for the continuation of the 24/7 palliative care outreach service in Newcastle.**

## Penalty rates



Family budgets will face an even greater squeeze after the Fair Work Commission

decision to undertake a drastic attack on weekend and public holiday pay rates.



**Congratulated The Family Hotel's owner Steven Forbes, who supports his workers with penalty rates on weekends and public holidays.**

I fully support penalty rates and support businesses that share that belief. I visited Steven Forbes from The Family Hotel recently to discuss the issue with him. I was impressed with his decision to pay his workers what they are worth on weekends and public holidays.

He also had an impressive display of promotional gear to support his belief!

With families set to have less take home income, NSW Labor is demanding the Berejiklian Government urgently acts to arrest the sky rocketing cost of living in NSW.

The Government has played a leading role in the rise of living costs in NSW through its move to increase public transport fares and engage in a lengthy court battle to increase energy prices.

***I am deeply disappointed with the Fair Work Commission's decision and urge employers to do the right thing by their workers!***

## Local Hero

**Astrid Gearin**  
YOUTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



**Astrid Gearin is a 35 year old youth community development officer who works in Newcastle. She is also involved in refugee advocacy, hosting The Welcome Ride with other NGOs in the area.**

### **What you do?**

I'm a youth community development officer and am also involved in The Welcome Ride.

The Welcome Ride is a two day bus ride around Newcastle for newly arrived young refugees that stops at places of significance for fun and activities. It promotes inclusiveness, unity and diversity within the Newcastle community and to highlight places that host free and safe activities. It is for people in high school and up to 25 years from other countries, religious backgrounds and cultures.

The Welcome Ride also links newly arrived young people from other countries with friends/supporters/mentors that may have been in Newcastle for a period and have already started to establish their life in a new community.

### **Who is your inspiration?**

I am inspired by people that do purposeful volunteer work and hobbies that make for a better place to live.

### **What do you do in your spare time for fun?**

I like to entertain, cook, laugh, and spend time with friends and family.

### **Any favourite haunts in Newcastle?**

Home with my dog and my partner. I also do love a long breakfast at many of Newcastle's sensational cafés.

### **Do you have any goals for 2017?**

Keep saving for the home I would love to buy that appears to be forever out of reach!

**If you would like to sponsor a Welcome Ride activity OR can assist with transport i.e. buses, please contact Astrid on (02) 4922 1508.**

**ALSO SEE Facebook:** Newcastle.ydo

**Instagram:** newcastleydo.astrid

# Local community organisations receive grants



The Community Building Partnership grants are awarded to not-for-profit community organisations for projects that will benefit their local community through the building or improvement of facilities.

## THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 ROUND ARE:

- **Hunter Region Working Women's Group**  
Toilet refurbishment and storage  
**\$15,000**
- **Prostate Survival Alliance**  
Security gate for car park entry  
**\$5,000**
- **Newcastle Rowing Club**  
Solar panel installation Newcastle Rowing Club  
**\$6,100**
- **Croatian Wickham Sports Club**  
Disabled toilet and disabled access upgrade  
**\$15,000**
- **Stockton Surf Lifesaving Club**  
Refurbishment of lifesaving room  
**\$11,724**
- **Stockton Historical Society**  
Hall renovation  
**\$10,270**
- **Variety The Children's Charity (NSW)**  
Variety coffee cart  
**\$24,207**
- **Newcastle City and Eastern Districts Cricket Club**  
Practice wickets at Learmonth Park  
**\$23,886**
- **Young People's Theatre Newcastle**  
Auditorium stage area fire sprinkler protection project  
**\$20,000**
- **University of Newcastle**  
Outdoor play space for Jenny's Place  
**\$16,400**
- **Newcastle & District Softball Association**  
Covered shelters at Stevenson Park  
**\$15,000**
- **Merewether District Cricket Club**  
Refurbishment of Townson Oval synthetic cricket nets  
**\$15,000**
- **Mayfield East Public School P & C Association**  
Mayfield East Public School Playground  
**\$13,115**
- **The Newcastle Hebrew Congregation**  
Refurbishment of Community Hall under the Newcastle Synagogue  
**\$11,000**
- **Newy Paddlers Incorporated**  
Purchase of Capital Equipment - mobility beach mat equipment  
**\$18,315**
- **Cooks Hill Preschool**  
Climbing structure and soft fall area installed  
**\$10,000**
- **The Greek Orthodox Church & Community of the Holy Apostles**  
Critical repairs & maintenance for the Holy Apostles Community Centre  
**\$20,000**
- **Easts Rugby Club**  
Easts Rugby Clubhouse Project  
**\$20,000**
- **Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW**  
Sunflower Centre disabled access  
**\$14,983**
- **Hillcrest Tennis Club**  
Resurfacing of courts  
**\$15,000**



Met Miss Porter's House volunteers when looking at the results from their Community Building Partnership Grant.

## CONTACT TIM

Keep in touch with Tim and find out what's happening across Newcastle.

-  Like Tim's page on facebook [FightingForNewcastle](#) **A:** 414 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
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