

Primary entry #47: Newcastle East Public School



Nick Kaiser at the re-opened Newcastle reservoir.

## Reservoir is reining in the visitors

By **NOAH HANDLEY** and **OLIVER COSSETINI**

RECENTLY Hunter Water opened the old reservoir on the corner of Tyrrell and Brown Street to the public. It's right in the centre of Newcastle's heritage district, and is called "The Res."

The reservoir opened for the first time in 1882, and was last used in the 1960s, so this is the first time in about 50 years it has been open.

Nick Kaiser (public relations manager for Hunter Water) explained that Hunter Water opened the reservoir to the public because "it is a piece of living history that tells the story about the role the reservoir played in supplying water to Newcastle residents".

Before the reservoir opening, stairs and ventilation had to be installed so it would be safe to go inside.

Mr Kaiser explained that the reservoir stopped being used because water was leaking through the grass on top of it, so inside was not clean. As well, there was a much bigger reservoir, in better condition, right next to it.

Hunter Water hosts monthly tour days to the Res. Six groups of 20 people can go on the tour each day, however they say about 1300 people have booked for a tour so you may have to wait a while. The reservoir is an important piece of history in Newcastle so the more we can learn about it the better.

# Mending history's wall

By **SOPHIA SUTERS,**  
**GENEVIEVE JANSE VAN**  
**RENSBURG, EVIE MEE and**  
**ELIOT TAYLOR**

BEING a stonemason is hard work according to 25-year veteran of the trade, Andrew Hanlin.

"You have to be able to read complicated drawings and diagrams, have good mathematics skills and a good back," Mr Hanlin said.

You also have to have four years apprenticeship with three years at TAFE and one year training in the job.

Mr Hanlin has done hundreds of projects including Sydney's Fort Denison, his favourite work.

He worked in England for nearly two years and has now come to Newcastle East Public School to repair and rejuvenate the old fence.

He has to lay about 70 huge stones altogether, including roughly 35 coping stones, 35 indent stones and a pillar, but it is taking a while to do as they had to get permission to move the tree roots in order to place the stones which need a crane to place them.

This is all part of a busy preparation for Newcastle East's upcoming bicentenary in 2016.

The oldest school in Australia, Newcastle East, was founded in 1816 by convict Henry Wrensford,



Senior mason Andrew Hanlin shapes stone.

with just 16 pupils – the children of free settlers and convicts.

Newcastle East Public School has been on five different sites, starting on the site of the Christ Church Cathedral. The school's foundation stone is still there, under the cathedral floor, and can still be seen through a glass panel.

The school is working to raise

\$80,000 for the building of a bicentennial sculpture installation.

The designer of the sculpture was Heather B Swann, who designed it to represent the first 16 students at the school. The sculpture is of 16 bronze bench seats with a bird here and there.

The school is also making a 300-page book called *To Climb The*

book. The book will be published at the bicentenary celebration in February next year.

John Beach, the school principal, said, "Our history is told through the eyes of our children, not our teachers or parents. We have our school archives that go back for 200 years, so we know lots of true kids' stories."

Ben Ewald wants more cycleways across Newcastle.



## Railway corridor to get makeover

By **LACHLAN BAKER** and **JUDE JENNINGS**

NEWCASTLE'S trains no longer run into the city, but there are many views on what should happen next with the rail corridor.

In June, the state government announced that it would allow some development on the Newcastle railway corridor, even though earlier it wanted to use the

corridor for green space.

In March, the Save Our Rail group was given a ruling by the Supreme Court of NSW preventing Railcorp from getting rid of any part of the railway. They want the trains to come back.

Former mayor of Newcastle, Jeff McCloy, thinks that if the railway corridor ran down Hunter Street would be a good idea because that's where all the

business people need to go.

Cyclist Dr Ben Ewald said "A cycleway could go down the rail corridor, but that is a better place for a tram. The cycleway would be better running down both sides of Hunter Street, bringing more people to the shops, and the railway corridor should be used for trains".

For 40 years, Newcastle people have discussed what should happen.



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