

# Building the best for new Newcastle

## EDITORIAL

By **LULU SUTERS** and  
**MIA CABALZAR-LAMPERT**

WITH big government spending coming into Newcastle, there is a chance to create a beautiful modern city. Planners need to balance old and new to keep significant heritage buildings and to develop sustainable modern buildings beside them.

The best heritage buildings need creative re-use with a modern purpose. The derelict post office, probably Newcastle's most beautiful but most neglected building, could be turned into public housing or luxury apartments.

Instead of building the cheapest option, build the more energy-efficient option as it will pay off in the long term.

Newcastle is leading Australia, with CSIRO's Alternate Energy Research Centre and Smart Grid Smart City program. As a new Newcastle is built, the city should be as green as can be and use that technology.

The most liveable cities are definitely not the ones ruled by cars. Cities like London charge a very heavy tax to drive your car in

the city centre. Newcastle should be bringing bikes into the city, also becoming safer for pedestrians.

There are other alternatives like the new light rail system, better buses, electric cars and shared cars. The new light rail will be a great way to travel through the inner city.

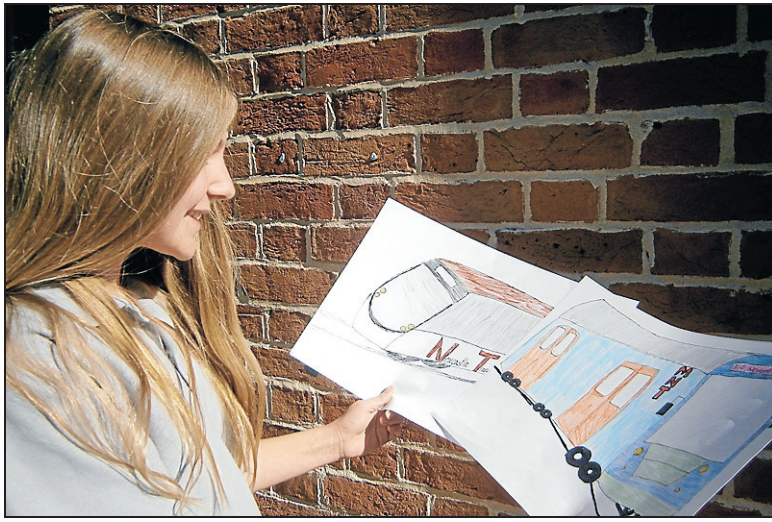
Perhaps the rail should travel down the centre of Hunter Street, because then it would bring more people into the shopping and entertainment parts of the city.

Part of the plan for Newcastle must involve caring for the disadvantaged. There are many homeless people sleeping out in the cold, but there are many empty buildings. These buildings should be put to good use by bringing the disadvantaged off the streets.

Government funds left over from the sale of Newcastle Harbour should be used to help the homeless, by repopulating the buildings with people who have nowhere else to go.

Newcastle has looked run down and neglected for many years. Now planners, in consultation with community groups, should use this money to create the highest level of lifestyle for the future without compromise.

If we manage to fix the city, everyone will be happier and Newcastle will be a much better-looking place.



**IDEAS:** Nevenya Cameron studies some students' concept plans for the light rail.  
*Picture: Mia Cabalzar-Lampert*

# Newcastle is back on track

By **NEVENYA CAMERON** and  
**SAMIRA BAGGA**

TOWN planners say that to become a more modern city, Newcastle needs better public transport.

The plan for Newcastle's future is to replace the heavy rail with a new light rail running from Wickham Station to the top of Hunter Street.

This plan was originally introduced in 2010, but at the time, the state government had no money to put it into action.

After announcing the proposal to lease Newcastle's coal port for the length of 99 years, the state government will rake in enough money to

finally make the plan for a new light rail system a reality.

The estimated cost for this project, which includes the rejuvenation of the CBD, is \$340 million.

The tracks are planned to start at Wickham Station and end at the top of Hunter Street, leaving the current railway line as park land.

The benefits of this plan include more greenery, making Newcastle a more environmentally friendly city, better transport, bringing more tourists and better business for local shops, and lastly there will be room to create more modernised buildings to replace the old train station and railway tracks.

## Celebrating 200 years of teaching

By **ALEXANDRA PLOTNIKOFF**

IN 2016, Newcastle East Public School will be the first Australian school still in operation to be celebrating its 200th anniversary.

The school began in 1816 to give education to the children of the young town of Newcastle.

This historic and significant commemoration represents not only the history of the school but Newcastle and Australia.

Many convicts in the 1800s were sent to Newcastle prison. A large percentage of them were uneducated children.

One convict, who could read and write, came forward with the idea of building a school. His name was Henry Wrensford, and the idea became reality when Governor Lachlan Macquarie funded it.

Newcastle East Public School was founded in May 1816 and continued to thrive ever since, although it has been on several sites and has been both a government and, for a few years, a church school.

The anniversary is much anticipated and will be an interesting and factual look at the community and school.

Ex-students from NEPS are planning to speak at the celebration, and the school's architectural heritage is to be fully restored. A complete history of the school, including documents and pictures dating back 200 years, will be on show.



*Cartoon: Wil Knott*

## A stitch in time shows another side to life

By **ALICE XIE**

KIDS at school now study computers, but 150 years ago their subjects were very different. Learning to sew was important in a time when all clothes had to be hand-made.

Recently, ex-student Pat Wilson donated a beautiful needlepoint tester made 140 years ago by her great-great-grandmother, Mary Royles, to Newcastle East Public School.

Because she learnt to sew, she then became a dressmaker in adult life.

It shows that skills like embroidery, monogramming and buttonholing were essential for young girls in the 1880s.

The precious tester had been in Mrs Wilson's possession her whole life until she donated it.

Mrs Wilson was asked why she thinks it's important to preserve old things. She said: "as you get older, it's great to hold memories".

She's reminded of the 19th century, when all clothes had to be hand-made and sewing was important.



**GENEROUS:** Pat Wilson presents the needlework to Newcastle East Public School. *Picture: Wil Knott*

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE COMPETITION SPONSORS



Advertisement created by Susanna Kwok, of Newcastle East Public School.

Here for a good  
education, here  
for the community

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au

Here for good.

