

THE CHANNEL

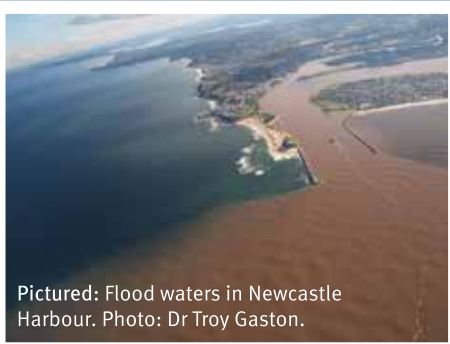
your port newsletter

The Port of Newcastle's hard working maintenance dredger, the *David Allan*, has been playing a vital role in the recovery from the April storm event.

Heavy flooding in the Hunter River, upstream of the Port, saw a significant amount of flood water and siltation flow into the channel and berth areas.

Additional dredging and resources were deployed by Port of Newcastle during the weather event to recover depths and lessen the impact on customers.

Port of Newcastle's trailer suction dredge, the *David Allan*, has removed 500,000 cubic metres of additional sedimentation from the harbour since April caused by the flood. Comparatively, normal maintenance dredging activity over a 12 month period would move approximately 840,000 cubic metres. This is an excellent achievement for the *David Allan* and its crew benefitting all port users.



Pictured: Flood waters in Newcastle Harbour. Photo: Dr Troy Gaston.



Pictured: The *David Allan* dredger is a familiar sight around the Port.

Why does the channel need to be dredged?

The Port of Newcastle is located at the entrance to the Hunter River. The Hunter catchment has many well known river systems feeding into the Hunter River, bringing natural sediments continuously into the harbour bed from upstream areas.

Port of Newcastle is responsible for maintaining the depth of the channel to 15.2metres. Maintenance dredging of the Port is undertaken to prevent the build up of silt and to keep the channel open.

Tasked with this important job is one of the quiet achievers of the Port, the *David Allan*, a trailer suction dredge operating 12 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Maintenance dredging is conducted in accordance with Federal and State regulations. Silt build up is relocated by the *David Allan* to an approved offshore area. Sand is relocated from the harbour entrance to Stockton Beach by the *David Allan* to assist The City of Newcastle and the Office of Environment and Heritage's beach nourishment program.

Working in conjunction with Port of Newcastle's survey team, the *David Allan* ensures safe, deep-water access to the Port for both ships and recreational vessels using the harbour.

2015-16 cruise season: Port of Newcastle rolls out the welcome mat

The Port of Newcastle's 2015-16 cruise season has commenced with the double-header visits by *Pacific Dawn* and *Pacific Jewel* on 23 and 24 November.

Newcastle will welcome 11 cruise ships and nearly 18,000 passengers between November 2015 and the final visit for the season, scheduled for late May 2016.

Highlights of the 2015-16 season include five maiden visits and the return of the high-end luxurious cruise liner, *Silversea*.

Maiden visits to the Port include:

- *Pacific Aria*, a new P&O Cruises ship, and the *Pacific Jewel*, which made its debut in the Port of Newcastle on Tuesday 24 November;
- *Azamara Quest*, the first time the Azamara Club Cruises shipping line has ventured to Australia;
- *Queen Elizabeth*, marking the first time the world-famous Cunard Cruise line has included Newcastle on its itinerary; and
- *Insignia*, of the luxury cruise line, Oceania Cruises.

Visiting cruise ships dock at the Channel Berth at Carrington, which offers deep-water berthing and plenty of parking for vehicles to transport passengers to and from shore excursions and the city, and a panoramic view of the city and beaches.

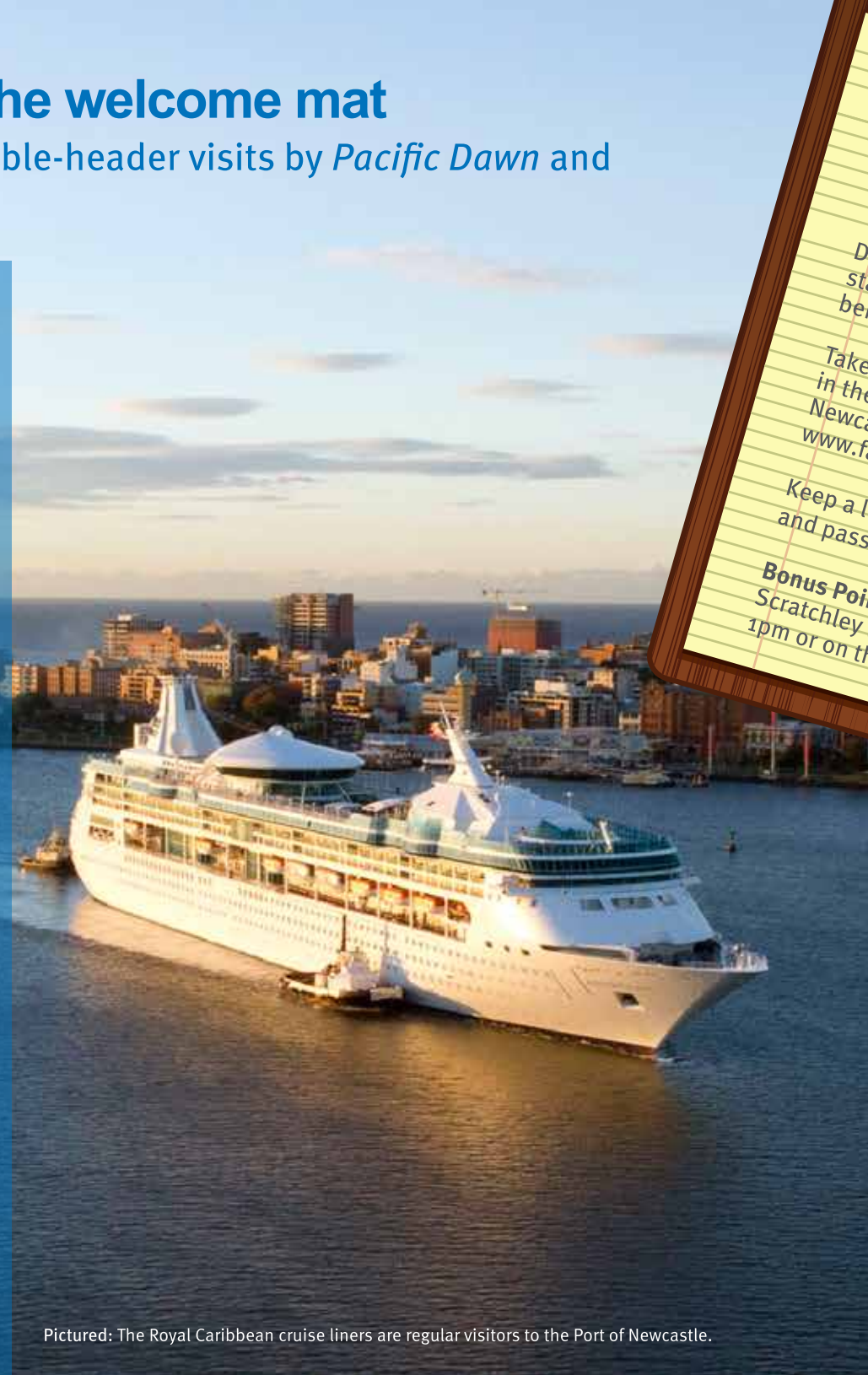
An array of tourism experiences showcasing our stunning region are available for passengers, including food and wine tours of the Hunter Valley, dolphin cruises at Port Stephens, Newcastle city highlights and many more niche experiences that the Hunter Region offers.

Port of Newcastle has arranged for each ship to receive a traditional three gun salute from Fort Scratchley on departure. The best place to view the cruise ships arriving and departing the Port is the Newcastle or Stockton foreshore.

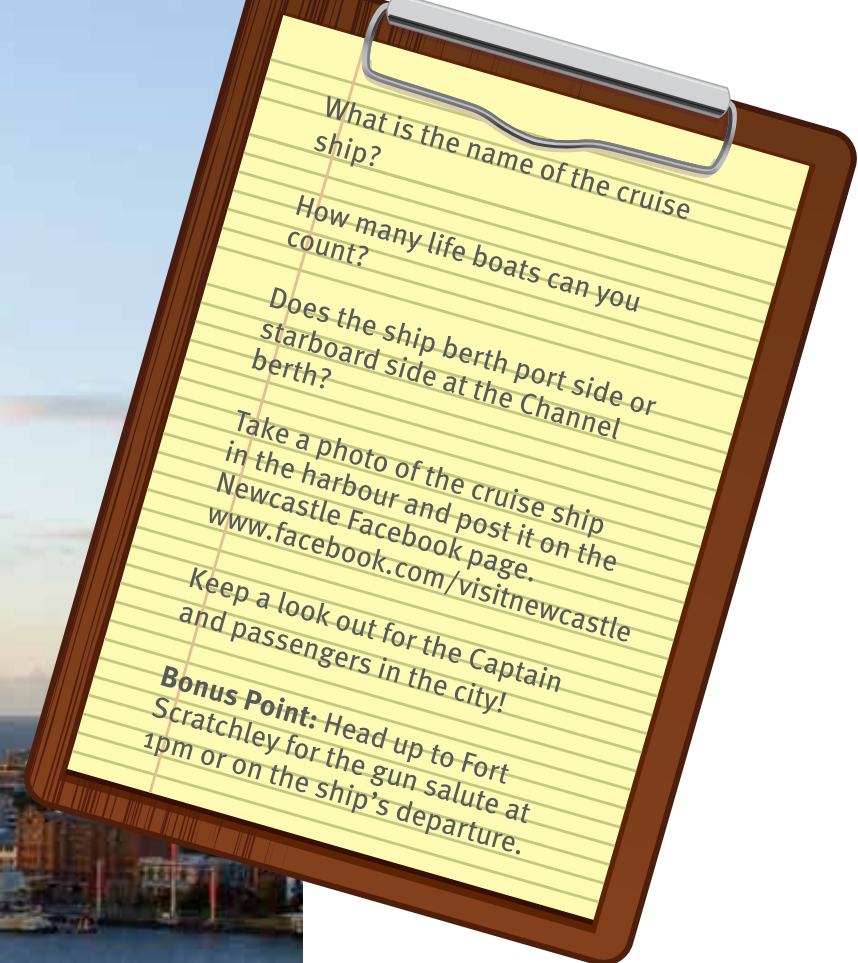
Port of Newcastle's CEO, Geoff Crowe, welcomed the start of the cruise season.

"The cruise season brings a positive vibe to our harbour city. I look forward to joining the onlookers lining the harbour as we welcome these impressive vessels and the thousands of passengers they bring to the region," said Geoff.

"We particularly look forward to welcoming our new cruise customers to the Port, adding a truly international mix of visitors from all corners of the globe to the Hunter."



Pictured: The Royal Caribbean cruise liners are regular visitors to the Port of Newcastle.



As the cruise season gets underway, why not grab a picnic blanket and find a sunny spot with the family to watch the cruise vessels sail majestically in or out of the harbour?

With 10 kilometres of foreshore along the harbour and numerous viewing areas, including Fort Scratchley, local residents are spoilt for choice when it comes to finding a vantage point to view vessels entering and leaving the Port.

The cruise schedule, including arrival and departure times, can be found at www.portofnewcastle.com.au.

While you're packing the picnic blanket, grab a pen and see how many questions you can answer from the quiz above.



Pictured: Volunteers provide a friendly welcome for cruise ship passengers.

Passionate local ambassadors welcome cruise visitors

Cruise passengers will receive a warm Novocastrian welcome during their visit, thanks to the help of a dedicated group of local volunteers.

Port of Newcastle coordinates a team of more than 40 volunteers to meet and greet cruise passengers at the berth and the city centre. Sharing their knowledge and local tips, the volunteers play an important role in ensuring cruise passengers leave with a positive impression of their visit to the Port and the region.

To register your interest in playing an ambassadorial role in welcoming cruise passengers as a Port of Newcastle volunteer, please contact David Brown via email: david.brown@portofnewcastle.com.au

Supporting our community

The Port has contributed to the prosperity of the region for 216 years. The tradition continues through Port of Newcastle's Community Partnerships Program, which provides a helping hand to local community groups and organisations.

TAD Disability Services received funding from Port of Newcastle in 2015 for three Freedom Wheels bikes for local children who have a disability.

The bikes are assembled and customised by volunteers to suit each child's individual needs. The Campbell family from Cessnock and Geoff Winsley, a retired school principal and TAD volunteer, visited in September for morning tea with Port of Newcastle staff.

Kylie was thrilled to receive her new bike and gave it a quick spin around the boardroom, guided by her mum, Kristy Lee. Kylie was looking forward to a bike ride with her siblings that afternoon.

Port of Newcastle is proud to partner with local organisations in supporting a wide range of initiatives, in areas such as the environment, education, recreation, art and culture. Since the Port lease commenced in May 2014, Port of Newcastle has awarded \$181,000 to projects making a measurable difference to the lives of people within our local community. For more information on the program visit www.portofnewcastle.com.au



Pictured:
Community
Partnerships review
panel members
with bike recipient
Kylie, her mum
Kristy Lee and a
friend, Abbey.

CONTACT US

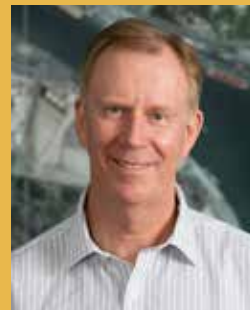
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CEO Message

Welcome to the second edition of *The Channel*. A lot has happened in the last few months.



The siltation deposited by the Hunter River flood has been recovered by the *David Allan*, restoring the depth of the entire shipping channel to 15.2 metres, which is a great result by the dredging and survey teams.

We have marked the second anniversary of the Port of Newcastle Community Liaison Group, which provides a forum for communication with our community, business and industry about port operations and development. It has been satisfying to work with the group as a member and now as Port of Newcastle CEO. Minutes of the bi-monthly meetings are available at www.portofnewcastle.com.au

We look forward to welcoming new cruise lines to the Port over the next six months. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who provide a warm welcome to passengers on arrival. The strength of our coal and non coal trade supports world class port operations 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. This infrastructure and expertise underpins the growth of cruise shipping.

All the best for a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Geoff Crowe
Chief Executive Officer