



Merewether Historical Society

"A society aimed at recording memories of the past for the benefit of the next generation."

Telephone: 0412 925 918

Email: secretary@merewetherhistorical.com

Website: www.merewetherhistorical.com

The Chronicle

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Meetings: Next meeting is **Tuesday 9 August at 10.30** for morning tea. Meeting begins at **10.45**, venue is Merewether Bowling Club Caldwell St. **Please note the later start time.**

Membership for 2022-2023: was due on July 1st; \$20 single or \$30 for a couple. Thank you to those members who have already renewed.

Birthday Wishes to Alison Chapman and Bernadette Maher, Wishing you both, and all other members born in August, a wonderful day and a healthy year ahead.

Guest Speaker: John Cater and Jim Raine will give a talk on Fort Scratchley



Bus Trips: Tuesday 19 July saw 36 members and friends travel to Alison Homestead for morning tea then onto The Entrance Diggers for a Christmas in July lunch. In spite of wet weather an enjoyable day was had.

On Tuesday 18 October a visit to Maitland's Grossman House, originally Entcliffe built in 1870 – 71, for morning tea and a tour followed by lunch at the Windsor Castle Hotel then a garden or nursery visit is being planned.



Seats are \$70 for morning tea, lunch and lucky seat prizes. Please advise one of the Committee if you have any dietary requirements.

Young Bus Trip there has been high interest in this 4 – 7 December tour and already a large number of seats have been booked. If you are interested, please let Monica or Denise know as soon as possible so you don't miss out. At only **\$850 per person** on a twin/double/triple share basis and a single supplement of \$195 this is exceptional value given all the inclusions – shout yourself an early Christmas present!

Many thanks to Foggs for their exceptional customer service – they found a lost earring on the bus and home delivered it to Pam!

Key to the City of Newcastle



Six alumni of the New Colombo Plan Scholarship Program, who completed their studies at the University of Newcastle, have received keys to the city in recognition of their work to promote Newcastle internationally. What **IS** a Key to the City?

[*The Tradition Behind Being Given the Key to the City - Lateet*](#)

History Of the Key to The City

In medieval times, most cities were surrounded by walls, as unprotected cities were at risk of invaders and the walls were not only a way to enforce who could come but also who could go.

“They kept out the dangerous, the contagious, and those who weren’t good enough to enter

the city. The walls kept people safe, as guards could remove any weapons that came into the city.”

Holders of the key to the medieval city could come and go as they pleased. They could open the city gates whenever they needed to and not have to wait for a guard to do so. At the time, this was a great honour.

“Officials gave the key to visiting officials, military personnel, and Freemen. The key ensured the “freeman” would be free from serfdom (a form of slavery.) Freeman no longer holds any meaning in today’s society.

The key to the city allowed the military to enter the city, fully armed with flags flying and drums beating. This was a huge sign of trust. It was also an understanding that the military would not use the privilege against the city later on.”

Does The Key To The City Do Anything?

Historically, the key to the city was a powerful resource, as it allowed free access through the city gate. Since then, society has become more civil and safer, and now very few cities have walls.

The key to the city is now merely a civil honour. The recipient may receive a symbolic key or a certificate to symbolize the occasion but it doesn’t have any real influence. It doesn’t allow the holder any special privileges.

“Receiving the key does make the recipient an honorary citizen of the city. It says the holder is welcome to come and go as they please. But thanks to modern society, most people can come and go through any city as they please anyway.” Especially in democratic societies.

Why Do People Get the Key To The City?

“Most people who receive the key to the city are typically celebrities in their hometowns. Sometimes special dignitaries or people who have done something honourable receive the key.”

THE KEY TO THE CITY



On 27 July 2017, a Lord Mayoral Minute was presented to City of Newcastle Councillors regarding the establishment of a Newcastle Ambassador Program.

The purpose of the Ambassador Program is to highlight the efforts of Novocastrians, across all sectors, both residing in Newcastle and other parts of Australia and the world, in promoting our city, as well as to give promotion to those in our community who work without recognition or acknowledgement.

Each of these Ambassadors receive a Key to the City and inductees include Jackie Gillies, Youth with a Mission, the Honourable Michael Kirby, Newcastle Eye Hospital, Breast Cancer Trials, Caroline McMillen, Anita Sellick Nick Mitzevich, the Honourable Patricia Forysthe and now Professor Cheong Koon Hean, Dr Khaw Boon Wan, Dr Peter Tay Buan Huat, Dr Tan Chin Nam, Mr Bill Chua, and Mr Jaspal Singh.

Point to Ponder: You can fool all the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all of the time BUT you can never fool yourself at any time!

2022 Committee:

President:	Geoff Wright
Vice President:	Dennis Hinchliffe
Secretary:	Sue Kenny
Asst Secretary:	Denise Wright
Treasurer:	Greg Struck
Asst Treasurer:	Monica Jordan
Committee	Alison Chapman Iain Kelso Jan Welsman Judy Henry

Hon. Solicitor: Nicholas Dan

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is proudly sponsored by:**

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