



**Newcastle™
Airport**

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Media release

New gourmet airport dining putting Hunter first

Monday, 15 October 2018

Newcastle Airport has unveiled a new dining outlet, Valley & Vine, committed to supporting local produce and suppliers of the Hunter region.

Valley & Vine (formerly Epicure Kitchen Café) strengthens the Airport's commitment to showcasing and supporting the incredible food, beverages and tourism experiences from across the local region.

The revitalised restaurant uses a large range of locally sourced products with an extensive menu of gourmet meals made-to-order in the open-plan kitchen by experienced head chef Shaun O'Connor.

To complement the new dining experience at Valley & Vine, diners can now enjoy a handpicked selection of craft beers on tap from local brewery IronBark Hill Brewhouse.

The Valley & Vine IronBark Hill Brewhouse range joins the extensive array of local beers and wines available at Newcastle Airport. All licensed retailers serve 100% Hunter Valley wines from award-winning wineries including Audrey Wilkinson, Tyrrell's Wines, Margan Wines, and Peter Drayton Wines.

"Valley & Vine will be an industry leader in serving ethically-sourced, high-quality local products direct to domestic and international travellers through the Airport," says Rob Rutter of the Airport's food retailer management company Cater Care.

"At Newcastle Airport, we are proud of our passionate and ongoing support of Hunter providers. By expanding our already fantastic range of local food and beverages, we are bringing premium Hunter brands the global attention they deserve," added Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock.

The launch of Valley & Vine will also celebrate another much-loved local produce brand joining the list of local product stocked at the Airport – Hunter Belle Cheese.

Amongst Australia's best for cheese, Hunter Belle Cheese produces unique, artisan cheese hand made using traditional methods. Premium Hunter cheese and condiment boards are now available from Broughton & Bay bar. Each board uses gourmet produce from local suppliers Hunter Belle Cheeses and Pukara Estate.

Other Hunter artisan brands available across Newcastle Airport retail outlets include Hunter Valley Cookies, Snows Artisan Bakery, Pukara Estate, Trevor Dickinson, Murray's Craft Brewing Co, and more.

Valley & Vine is open now in the departures lounge at Newcastle Airport.

Cater Care is the leading contract catering, accommodation and facility management service provider across Australia. Learn about Cater Care at catercare.com.au.

Ends.

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Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/>

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/>

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

Newcastle Airport Master Plan: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

Astra Aerolab <https://astraerolab.com.au/>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Newcastle Airport is the second international gateway into New South Wales and the second busiest airport in the state.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to nine direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.
- > Direct international flights to Auckland New Zealand will operate 22 November 2018 - 17 February 2019. Operated by Virgin Australia, the 13-week seasonal service is the first international route in 16 years.
- > In March 2018, a direct service to Adelaide commenced operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold coast in 2004.
- > In 2017, Newcastle Airport had a record number of passengers pass through the terminal - 1,276,463 passengers.
- > The record throughput is a result of 25-month consecutive year-on-year monthly passenger growth recorded up until December 2017.
- > A record-breaking 4,823 passengers travelled through Newcastle Airport on Thursday 24 November (the day before Newcastle Supercars). The same weekend (Thurs-Mon), saw more than 21,000 through the Airport.
- > In February 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 17 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995. 2018 will see the 18 millionth passenger.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > A significant economic driver, Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy each year. Of this, \$300 million is direct to the visitor economy, supporting 3,300 jobs.
- > Newcastle Airport is internationally ready, the international arrivals and departures fit-out completed in August 2017.
- > In its 70th anniversary year, Newcastle Airport continues to work with its airline partners to increase the number of flights to our current destinations, to add direct flights to even more destinations, and to work tirelessly to secure more international destinations.
- > The more people that choose to fly from Newcastle Airport will provide evidence to the airlines that the demand truly exists and that our region deserves more.
- > On 22 March 2018, Newcastle Airport released its 60-year Master Plan, which includes a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development of the Airport.
- > 30 minutes north of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport is located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamtown on land leased from Department of Defence.
- > Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd is jointly owned by Newcastle City Council and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.