

Hunter Venues Report



1 July 2011 – 1 March 2012

Hunter Venues has responsibility for Hunter Stadium, the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and a number of smaller venues in Newcastle including:

- Newcastle Showground
- Newcastle Harness Racing Club
- Newcastle International Hockey Centre
- District Park in Newcastle

AEG Ogden manages the Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground on behalf of Venues NSW.

In the reporting period (1 July 2011–1 March 2012), Hunter Venues focused on reducing costs, increasing use of the venues and improving planning.

Kangaroos V New Zealand set
a new ground record with
32,890
people attending the game

Key achievements

In October 2011 Hunter Stadium partnered with the National Rugby League to deliver the Australian Kangaroos V New Zealand Kiwis match which set a new ground record with 32,890 people attending the event.

Newcastle Entertainment Centre (NEC) and Showground celebrated its 20th anniversary and had a total attendance for the period of 135,000 across 38 events.

Venue developments

Hunter Stadium's \$81 million Western Grandstand was completed in June 2011 and since that time work has continued to improve facilities, systems and management.

Hunter Stadium made plumbing and drainage improvements and work has been conducted on the north west access ramp to repair cracking and prevent shifting.

Marking spaces within the car park improved the game day experience while the development of traffic, emergency, and work, health and safety plans is providing a safer venue for the public and workplace for staff.



Major hirers

Hunter Stadium has two major sporting teams as tenants, the Newcastle Knights competing in the National Rugby League and the Newcastle Jets competing in the A-League. Both teams are owned by Hunter Sports Group.

Hunter Venues also has leases with a range of tenants including Go Karts Go, Planet Fitness, Putt-Putt Golf, Newcastle Harness Racing Club and Newcastle International Hockey Centre.

Events

The Newcastle Entertainment Centre's major concerts included Cold Chisel, Def Leppard and Stevie Nicks. Family events were Cirque du Soleil, Disney on Ice and the Wiggles. In addition several major exhibitions were hosted including the Herald Home Show, Craft and Sewing Expo and the Caravan and Camping Show.



*Above: Newcastle Entertainment Centre Home Show July 2010
Right: Weekly farmers market at the Showground*

Hunter Venues

The Newcastle Entertainment Centre supported local charities by offering the venue at reduced hire rates. These events included the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Ball and the Special Children's Christmas Party. The venue also provided tickets to many community organisations for raffles and auctions to support fundraising.

Sporting events at Newcastle Entertainment Centre included the Australia V England netball test, PBR Bullriding and an Anthony Mundine boxing night.

Newcastle Showground hosted the annual Newcastle Show, a speedway event and weekly Farmers' Markets. The Farmers' Market continued to attract around 5,000 people each week. The funds generated from venue hire and car parking fees will be invested in future showground development.

Hunter Stadium Events

1 July 2011 to 1 March 2012

Month	Event name	Attendees
July 2011	Knights Clinic & BBQ	450
	ARTC Workshop	70
	Herald Business Lunch	160
	Coaches Seminar	130
	Knights v Cowboys	17,212
	Knights v Sea Eagles	17,428
	Knights v Titans	17,327
August 2011	Close The Gap Function	170
	Globe Trade Show	80
	HCC Awards for Tourism	290
	Schneider Electrical Function	50
	Knights v Raiders	14,109
	Knights v Broncos	19,412
	Diageo BBQ	80
September 2011	Jets Member Launch	100
	Test Match Coaching Clinic	200
	NSWRL Academy Meeting	20
	Knights v Rabbitohs	30,729
October 2011	JSA Seminar	150
	NPBS Math Competition Presentation	190
	Jets v Melbourne Heart	12,467
	Australia v New Zealand NRL Test Match	32,890
	Jets v CC Mariners	14,421

Hunter Stadium hosted 19 major events including one international fixture and several private, corporate and community events. The stadium has hosted functions and events for the Australian Rugby Union, National Rugby League, Newcastle Jets, Newcastle Knights, Newcastle City Council, Port Hunter Conveyors and Newcastle Tourism Industry Group.

Hunter Stadium also hosted a number of development days with the Newcastle Knights and Newcastle Jets including coaching clinics and lectures.

Hunter Stadium supported the local community by providing complimentary or at-cost services to a number of charities including Hunter Life Education's Car Boot Sale, the Smith Family's Hamper Day and local radio station KOFM's fundraiser Barbeque for Molly-Jane.

Month	Event name	Attendees
November 2011	Lord Taverners Dinner	178
	EJE Architecture	250
	Newcastle University Function	111
	Port Hunter Conveyors	240
	Newcastle Herald School Newspaper	320
	Jets v Perth Glory	12,383
	Jets v Brisbane Roar	13,174
December 2011	Luis Palau Breakfast & Seminar	220
	Advance Careers College	123
	Newcastle City Council	300
	Jets v Melbourne Victory	17,245
	Jets v Sydney FC	13,658
	Jets v Perth Glory	10,439
	Newcastle Entertainment Centre	70
January 2012	Jets v Gold Coast United	9,311
	Jets v Wellington Phoenix	11,649
February 2012	HCCF Breakfast	50
	CUB Seminar	120
	Coca-Cola Seminar	45
	CigWeld Product Launch	50
	Coca-Cola Seminar	65
	Compass Housing	200
	Jets v Melbourne Heart	10,619
	Jets v Adelaide United	10,383
	Knights v St George Dragons	29,183
Total		318,521

Newcastle Entertainment Centre and Showground

1 July 2011 – 1 March 2012

Month	Event Name	Total Attendees
July 2011	PBR Bullriding	4,553
	Cirque Du Soleil Saltimbanco	25,005
	Newcastle Home Show	6,926
August 2011	Craft Show 2011	11,000
September 2011	Westpac Rescue Helicopter Ball	1,374
	Roller Derby	1,413
October 2011	Netball Test Match Australia v England	4,481
	Activate Expo	849
	Mundine Fight Night	2,682
	Def Leppard	3,390
	HSC Marking	1,000
November 2011	St Francis Xavier College Dinner	1,453
	St Mary's College Dinner	901
	Variety Christmas Party	2,000
	Cesar Millan	2,390
	Spicks and Speck-tacular	4,431
	Stevie Nicks	3,016
December 2011	Cold Chisel	7,487
	The Wiggles	9,607
January 2012	Disney Live	6,807
	Quiksilver Sale	5,000
February 2012	Ronan Keating	2,641
	Celtic Thunder	2,407
	Caravan & Camping Show	23,872
	Speedway	699
	Total	135,384
ALL	Computer Fair	3,000
ALL	Farmers Markets	230,000
	Total other event	233,000
	Total	368,384



318,521

attended events at
Hunter Stadium

368,384

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Newcastle Entertainment
Centre and Showground



Parramatta Stadium Report

1 January – 1 March 2012

Parramatta Stadium celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2012 and marked the event with a range of celebrations that included a ceremony prior to the start of the traditional NRL clash between the St George-Illawarra Dragons and the Parramatta Eels.

Major hirers

During the period the Parramatta Eels were the stadium's major hirer using the venue for training and ten home games per year as well as using the gymnasium, change rooms and Parramatta Pool.

Events

Parramatta Stadium hosted the Parramatta Council's Celebrating Girls in Sport event, the NSW Rugby League's Skills Day, the Parramatta Eels Fan Day as well as four home games for the Parramatta Eels in the period.



Parramatta Stadium

1 January 2012 – 1 March 2012

Month	Event name	Attendance
January 2012	Parramatta Council: Celebrating Girls In Sport	150
	NSWRL – Ultimate Experience/Skills Day	300
March 2012	Parramatta Eels v Brisbane Broncos	11,399
	Parramatta Eels v New Zealand Warriors	12,120
	Parramatta Eels v Penrith Panthers	13,788
	Parramatta Eels v Manly Sea Eagles	13,158
Total		50,915



Parramatta Stadium celebrated its 25th anniversary

Above: The Parramatta Eels taking on one of their opponents at the stadium

Left: The players of the future providing the halftime entertainment during an NRL fixture at Parramatta Stadium

WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres Report

1 July 2011 – 1 March 2012

WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres hosted a total of 71 event days. These included 52 at the WIN Entertainment Centre and 19 at WIN Stadium, attracting a total of 200,983 people across both venues.

The highlight of the year for WIN Entertainment Centre was the first appearance in Wollongong of Cirque du Soleil. The five shows attracted 22,000 people and box office sales of over \$2.1 million breaking all WIN Entertainment Centre records.

Venue developments

Construction of the Western Grandstand at WIN Stadium was underway during the period. The \$31 million project started with a refurbishment of parts of the Southern Grandstand including new player change rooms and catering facilities. This was followed by the demolition of the old Western Grandstand.

On 20 September 2011 high winds caused major damage to the new grandstand's roof while it was under construction. This caused a delay on the project while the damaged roofing was removed and new trusses installed. By the beginning of March 2012 work on the project was progressing with new trusses and roofing being installed. The Northern Grandstand also received funding for repainting and other repairs.

Major hirers

The major hirers of the WIN Entertainment Centre for concerts were the Frontier Touring Company, McManus Entertainment, Michael Chugg and Michael Coppel Presents. Major family event hirers included Feld Entertainment (Disney on Ice), the Wiggles, the Department of Education and Communities (Southern Stars), Rock Eisteddfod Challenge and Ad-Lib Productions (Wakakirri). The centre's key sporting client continued to be the National Basketball League's Wollongong Hawks.

The major hirer of WIN Stadium in the period was the St George-Illawarra Dragons. Other sport hirers included the Illawarra District Rugby League Football Club, the Illawarra District Rugby Union and the Illawarra Soccer Association. Motor cycle and extreme sports action were brought to WIN Stadium by Super-X Touring, Crusty Demons and Nitro Circus.



Events

WIN Stadium hosted a total of six Dragons games and 12 other days of rugby league action. The level of utilisation at the venue was impressive given that construction of the Western Grandstand was underway during the period.

The entertainment centre hosted a wide range of national and international artists including Meat Loaf, Cold Chisel, Stevie Nicks, Ronan Keating and Celtic Thunder. Families enjoyed the Rock Eisteddfod, Wakakirri, Southern Stars and the Wiggles.

Community events included the KidzWish Xmas Party and fundraising dinner, Check-It Men's Health Expo and local dance school concerts.



Cirque du Soleil's
\$2.1m box office sales
broke all WIN
Entertainment
Centre records



*Above: WIN Stadium main field
Right: The Wollongong Hawks in action at the 'Sandpit' (WEC)*

WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres

WIN Entertainment Centre

Month	Event name	Attendance
July 2011	2011 Bridal Expo	2,152
	Centenary of Illawarra RL Dinner	796
	Dendrobium Mine Recognition Dinner	621
	J Rock & Rock Eisteddfod	3,548
August 2011	Wakakirri 2011	1,351
	Cirque du Soleil, Saltimbanco (5 Shows)	21,995
	Southern Stars 2011 (4 shows)	11,047
September 2011	AWU Union Meeting	1,000
	Check-It Mens Health Expo	844
	St Mary's College Graduation Mass	1,000
October 2011	Meat Loaf	4,181
	AWU Meeting	1,000
	Hawks Season Launch	150
	Hawks v NZ Breakers	2,646
	Looking thru a Glass Onion	846
	Hawks v Adelaide	2,275
	Hawks v Gold Coast	2,522
	Queen – It's a Kinda Magic	710
	Hawks v Melbourne	2,568
November 2011	IBC Business Awards Dinner	908
	Miss Saigon	1,272
	Cold Chisel	4,395
	Hawks v Perth	2,171
	KidzWish Xmas Party for Special Kids	3,000
	KidzWish Fundraising Dinner	750
November 2011	Commotion PA – Dance School Concert (2 Shows)	1,591
	House of PA Dance School	308
	Theatrix Dance School	1,274

Month	Event name	Attendance
December 2011	Breanna's Dance School	906
	Stevie Nicks	3,190
	The Wiggles Big Birthday (2 Shows)	6,815
	Spicks & Specks	2,974
	NRE Staff Xmas Dinner	846
	Hawks v Perth	2,138
	Hawks v Sydney	2,754
January 2012	Hawks v Sydney	1,842
	Hawks v Cairns	1,882
	Disney Live!	5,691
	Hawks v Melb Tigers	2,452
February 2012	Morning of the Earth	908
	Ronan Keating	2,194
	Hawks v NZ Breakers	2,551
	Celtic Thunder	1,693
	Hawks v Gold Coast	1,947
	BMW New Vehicle Launch	163
Totals		117,867

WIN STADIUM

1 July 2011 – 1 March 2012

Month	Event Name	Attendance
July 2011	Red V Members BBQ	350
	Dragons v Knights	12,282
	Dragons School Clinic	270
	Dragons v Rabbitohs	13,373
August 2011	Dragons Family Fun Day	500
	Dragons v Roosters	11,416
	Carlton RL – Elimination Finals	1,004
	Carlton RL – Qualifying Finals	1,410
	Carlton RL – Minor Semi Finals	1,424
	Carlton RL – Major Semi Finals	1,272
	Dragons v Warriors	12,058
September 2011	Dragons v Penrith Panthers	11,322
	IDRL Junior Grand Finals	2,300
	Carlton League Finals	1,538
	Carlton League Grand Finals	3,170
October 2011	Super X – Aust. Supercross Championship	5,128
February 2012	Dragons v Bulldogs Trial Game	2,405
	Steelers Juniors RL	1,046
	Steelers Juniors RL	848
Totals		83,116



The WIN Stadium hosted six Dragons' games and 12 other days of rugby league action



Above: Disney Live on stage at the WIN Entertainment Centre January 2012

Left: The new Victory Room in the WIN Stadium Western Grandstand