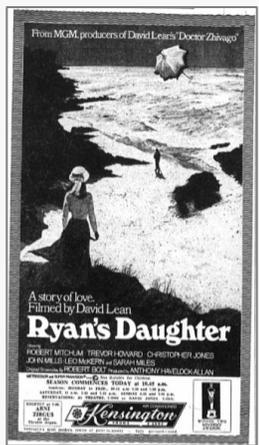




The Kensington theatre was located at 299 Hunter Street in the CBD of Newcastle. The **Kensington** was an independently operated cinema, run by Margaret and Theo Goumas. Established in 1970, the cinema was converted out of a HG Palmers electrical store. A single level auditorium with a depth of 95 feet and seating 418 patrons, the Kensington was designed by architect, Russell Skinner. The cinema was installed with dual 35/70 Victoria 8 projectors. Surviving projectionists recall difficulties in negotiating the access stairs leading up to the projection room. 70mm film trunks were left in the lower foyer storage facilities and spools had to be carried individually to the projection room. The official opening took place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1970 with *My Fair Lady* screening in 70mm.



Margaret and Theo Goumas were wonderful ambassadors for the key city theatres in Newcastle. They possessed a passion for cinema. Their stylish, entrepreneurial drive contributed greatly to their success as independent exhibitors. The list of Newcastle cinemas operated by both included the **Roma**, (formerly called the **Tatler**), which opened on the 31 March 1966. Then came the Kensington, with the 70mm opening of *My Fair Lady* in 1970. The **Lyrique** (previously known as the Lyric) followed - opening on the 12th August 1971. After Hoyts vacated the Civic in 1973, the Goumas became exhibitors at the grand lady of Newcastle. Then when Greater Union closed the **Strand** in 1976, and after a short-term lease by Entertainment Services, Margaret and Theo leased the Strand. Finally, two screens were added to the Lyrique in 1997 [built within the adjoining Coles site] renamed **Showcase City Cinemas**. Sadly, both Margaret and Theo have passed away, with the final curtain for Margaret on the 3rd May 2012 and Theo on the 31 March 2019.



During the period of the Roadshow Engagement [1958 to 1974], the Kensington presented five, first-time 70mm film titles, including *My Fair Lady*, *Marooned*, *The Wild Bunch* and *The Boyfriend* and *Lost Horizon*. The Kensington also presented *Ryan's Daughter* in 35mm mag/optical for a house record season of twenty-four-weeks in 1971.

After the Kensington's closure in 2003 with *Terminator 3*, the building was eventually converted into a nightclub – also called the Kensington. It is currently occupied by a bar restaurant called, Ginger Meg's. Entrance to Ginger Meg's is from 212 King Street.

**Please Note** - It has not been possible to confirm whether *Kelly's Heroes* and *Wild Rovers* screened in 70mm at the Kensington. Our research for *Australia in 70mm* has not found any tabloid advertising or sessions directory promoting these films in 70mm. Accordingly, the film title and season details will remain highlighted in BLUE cells until confirmed either way.

70MM OPENINGS	OPENED	CLOSED	WKS
My Fair Lady	21/05/70	28/10/70	23
Marooned	25/02/71	17/03/71	3
The Wild Bunch	18/03/71	19/05/71	9
My Fair Lady - <i>reissue</i>	20/05/71	02/06/71	2
Ryan's Daughter – presented in 35mm 4 Track Mag	03/06/71	17/11/71	24
The Great Race - <i>reissue</i>	16/12/71	26/01/71	6
Kelly's Heroes	27/01/72	23/02/72	4
The Boy Friend	27/04/72	31/05/72	5
Doctor Zhivago - <i>reissue</i>	08/06/72	02/08/72	8
Wild Rovers	19/10/72	01/11/72	2
West Side Story - <i>reissue</i>	29/11/73	05/12/73	1
The Bridge on the River Kwai - <i>reissue</i>	06/12/73	19/12/72	2
Lost Horizon	20/12/73	13/02/74	8

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** – Tabloid advertisements for *My Fair Lady* and *Ryan's Daughter* sourced from the Newcastle Morning Herald microfiche held at the New South Wales state library.



## NEWCASTLE KENSINGTON

**PREMIERED 70MM  
MY FAIR LADY  
21<sup>st</sup> May 1970**



**MY FAIR LADY REISSUE  
20<sup>th</sup> May 1971**



KENSINGTON NEWCASTLE  
299 Hunter Street, Newcastle

OPENED  
21<sup>st</sup> May 1970