

**ATTACHMENTS DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

**CCL 25/07/23 – PUBLIC ART REFERENCE GROUP (PARG)  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**8.3**      **Attachment A:**      Public Art Reference Group Annual Report 2022

**DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER**



---

INTENTIONAL BLANK PAGE

**DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

Public Art Reference Group

# Annual Report

2022



## Acknowledgment of Country

City of Newcastle (CN) acknowledges its Local Government Area (LGA) sits within the Country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge that Country for Aboriginal peoples is an interconnected set of ancient relationships. We acknowledge the custodianship of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples and the care and stewardship they have performed in this place since time immemorial. We recognise the history of truth that acknowledges the impact of invasion and colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how this still resonates today.

## Contents

Foreword from the Chair _____	<b>5</b>
Objectives of the Public Art Reference Group _____	<b>6</b>
Membership _____	<b>7</b>
Public Art considered by PARG _____	<b>10</b>
Hoardings _____	<b>16</b>
Community Art _____	<b>17</b>
Business Industry Associations _____	<b>20</b>
Big Picture Festival 2022 _____	<b>22</b>

## Enquiries

For information contact  
**Planning, Transport & Regulation**  
**Phone 4974 2000**

Published by  
 City of Newcastle  
 PO Box 489, Newcastle NSW 2300  
 Phone 4974 2000 Fax 4974 2222  
[planning@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:planning@ncc.nsw.gov.au)  
[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)

© 2023 City of Newcastle

Cover image: Suspended art installation by Col Henry  
 169-185 Hunter St Newcastle (located in the laneway)



## Foreword from the Chair

As Chair of the City of Newcastle Public Art Reference Group (PARG), I am pleased to share with you the 2022 Annual Report. Over the last few years, the work of PARG has included many different areas including guidance and advice, that public art delivered in the private domain in Newcastle is of a high standard, that public art invigorates the public domain and continues ongoing review of processes and procedures.

I certainly feel that this work now means we are even more capable of supporting developers, artists, curators and our community with a growing collection of wonderful artworks in both public and private domain, but that the ability to contribute to this collection is made more transparent by the work we've done. This has been enhanced by the addition of subject matter experts to PARG, and I want to acknowledge their valuable contributions – individually and collectively.

There is still much to be done, but I know each member of PARG and the CN staff who support the group take seriously our responsibility of caring for, and growing, Newcastle's public art collection.

The creation and protection of public art is a truly collaborative process – between the City, the community, developers and art curators. It is a collaboration between our small business communities and local residents who are also seeing transformation around local town centres. And it is about artists and offering opportunities to be seen, to be included, to be showcased.

I think this is a magical time to be a Novocastrian and, again, I urge you to look up!

**Councillor Carol Duncan**  
Chair  
Public Art Reference Group



Artwork on Cottage Creek by Jasmine Craciun

# Membership

PARG met seven times in 2022 and membership during the period is shown below.



**Councillor Carol Duncan**  
**Chair**  
 Meetings attended: **7**



**Councillor John Mackenzie**  
**Member**  
 Meetings attended: **6**



**Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz**  
**Member**  
 Meetings attended: **7**

The following community members were added to PARG in 2022 and enhanced the skills and experience of the Group. They provided leadership and guidance to the development and enhancement of public art in the City due to their varied experience in this area.

**Charlotte Hilder**

Meetings attended: **6**

**Nik Orr**

Meetings attended: **4**

**Bridie Moran**

Meetings attended: **1**

**Eddie Milan**

Meetings attended: **3**

**Andrew Smith**

Meetings attended: **1**

# Objectives of the Public Art Reference Group

The Public Art Reference Group (PARG) acts as an Advisory Committee to the City of Newcastle on public art. Over the last year the key objectives were to:

- Provide guidance and advice to developers, artists, curators, CN staff and the community regarding public art in the private and public domain.
- Ensure public art reflects the local identity, diversity and community of Newcastle.
- Ensure high standards of public art are delivered in the private domain, by outlining requirements regarding artistic excellence, local character, heritage and culture, invigoration of the public domain, sustainability and materiality, and maintenance.
- Review processes and procedures for public art and make recommendations for improvements and revisions of all documents, procedural or policy based, pertaining to public art.

# PARG Meetings

In 2022 PARG provided guidance on a wide variety of art forms in the local government area. This included public art proposed as part of development applications, infrastructure upgrades and activation works, community murals, art festivals and work proposed by local Business Industry Associations. The variety of proposals included miniature street art, small walls, murals, sculptures, mosaics, concrete etchings, substations and hoardings.

PARG meetings have generally occurred on a as needs basis, with several proposals being reviewed via electronic means outside of formal meetings. The Group also considered many donations of public art and reviewed procedures and worked with applicants and artists to ensure proposed artworks are inclusive, culturally appropriate and add value and interest to the city.



# Public Art considered by PARG

PARG considered several public art proposals in the private domain which related to development applications in the Newcastle CBD. In 2022, four proposals were reviewed which related to the following development applications:

- DA2018/01197 – 10 Dangar St, Wickham
- DA2018/00510 – 723 Hunter St, Newcastle West
- DA2019/00711 – 1 National Park St, Newcastle West
- DA2018/01107 – 854 Hunter St, Newcastle West

Public art proposals for these sites are well advanced, with several of these sites currently under construction.

The map below shows the locations of these proposals.

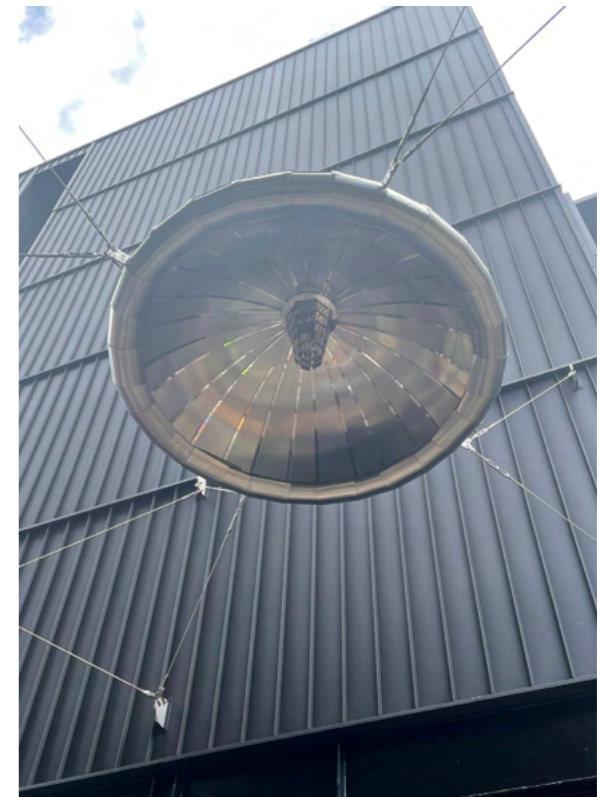




# 169-185 Hunter Street Newcastle

## Stage 2

The construction of Stage 1 of the East End Iris development and the QT Hotel has been completed. The remaining piece of art for Stage 1 of the development has been installed in Lyrique Lane, close to the Perkins St entrance. The artwork is catenary lighting and the piece is called 'Flowers' by artist Col Henry.



Suspended art installation by Col Henry  
169-185 Hunter St Newcastle (located in the laneway)

# Honeysuckle Foreshore development

The Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation delivered an inspiring piece of artwork in the public domain located alongside Cottage Creek, in Honeysuckle.

The artwork 'Layers of Us' was designed by local Aboriginal artist Jasmine Craciun and acknowledges the Awabakal and Worimi people and offers a glimpse of life alongside the Hunter River. A plaque is located near the artwork and provides an explanation of the artwork and the meaning behind it, *'I designed it to give you a glimpse into how our footsteps today follow those of the First People – who first live on, cared for and loved this land and sea long before us, and who continue to do so today'*.

PARG reviewed the design and provided endorsement of the installation of the artwork.

## LAYERS OF US

— 2023 —

**Layers of Us** is a celebration of the Awabakal and Worimi people who shared the resources of the lower Hunter River.

*I designed it to give you a glimpse into how our footsteps today follow those of the First People – who first lived on, cared for and loved this land and sea long before us, and who continue to do so today.*

The artwork draws on the story of Honeysuckle. It is inspired by the artefacts that have been found on this site, which are depicted in the etchings beneath your feet.

As you journey over the pedestrian bridge, consider the journey of these artefacts. Sourced from small chert and tuff boulders found below Whibayganba (Nobbys Head), they were bought to this place to fashion tools such as stone chisels, scrapers, axe heads and hammers. In turn, these were used to craft spear points, shields, food vessels, spear shafts and canoes – each so much a part of everyday life.

The silhouettes on the bridge mark the memory of a flourishing way of life. And their traditions are celebrated by their children who remain part of these lands to this day.

It's easy to forget what lies just beneath us – where important histories and stories can enrich our understanding of past and present lives and landscapes.

They are the layers of us.

My name is **Jasmine Craciun**, of the Barkindji, Malyangapa people. I was honoured to consult with local knowledge holders to create this interpretive artwork. I hope you enjoy it.

This artwork was commissioned by  
Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation

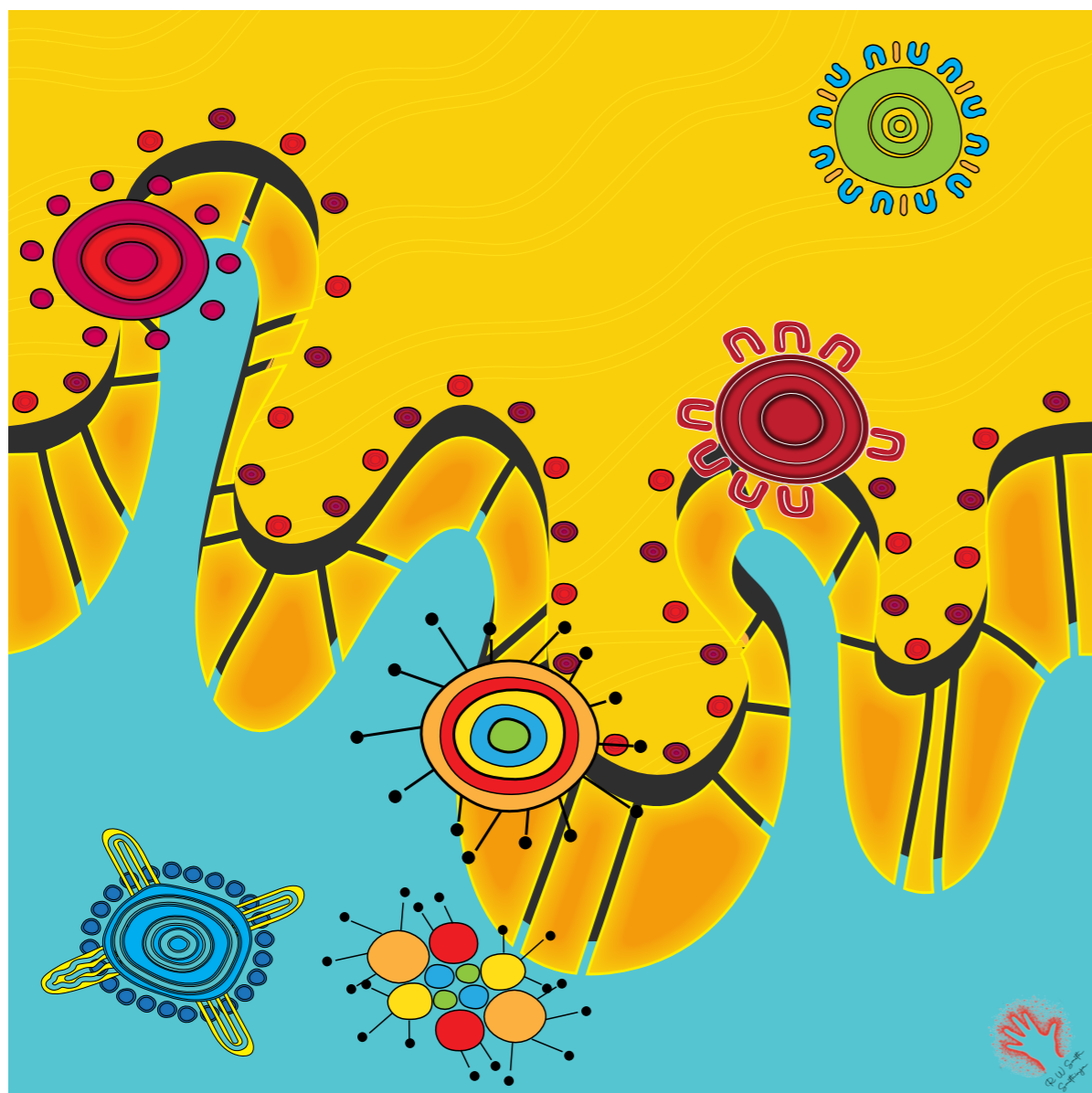


Artwork on Cottage Creek by Jasmine Craciun

# Hoardings

PARG were presented with a proposal to include art on a hoarding that was being erected at King St, Newcastle. The site was the former CN carpark which was undergoing demolition at the time. The design for the hoarding was by artist Rod Smith, who was inspired by the beach. The design reflects the major communities that have grown and come together and is a colourful piece which represents Newcastle.

Displaying art on hoardings is highly encouraged by PARG and is a wonderful way to celebrate art on places that are being transformed and sites that are under construction.



Hoarding design on former King St carpark site– artist Rod Smith

# Community Art

City of Newcastle have provided funding to a variety of programs and art initiatives over the last year. All of the programs have added a layer of depth and interest to the art in the city, with street art making spaces more inviting. Examples of the artwork that have been produced are shown below.

## Shortland Local Centre

A mural was installed at 310 Sandgate Rd, Shortland as part of a Local Centre Project by Up & Up Inspirations. The project involved consultation and collaboration with the local community and included three schools (Our Lady of Victories Primary School, Shortland Public School and Margaret Jurd College), John Jones from My Community Pharmacy, Wendy Hays and the Wetland Centre. The theme and wording for the artwork was devised through the consultation process with the local school children and the local community.



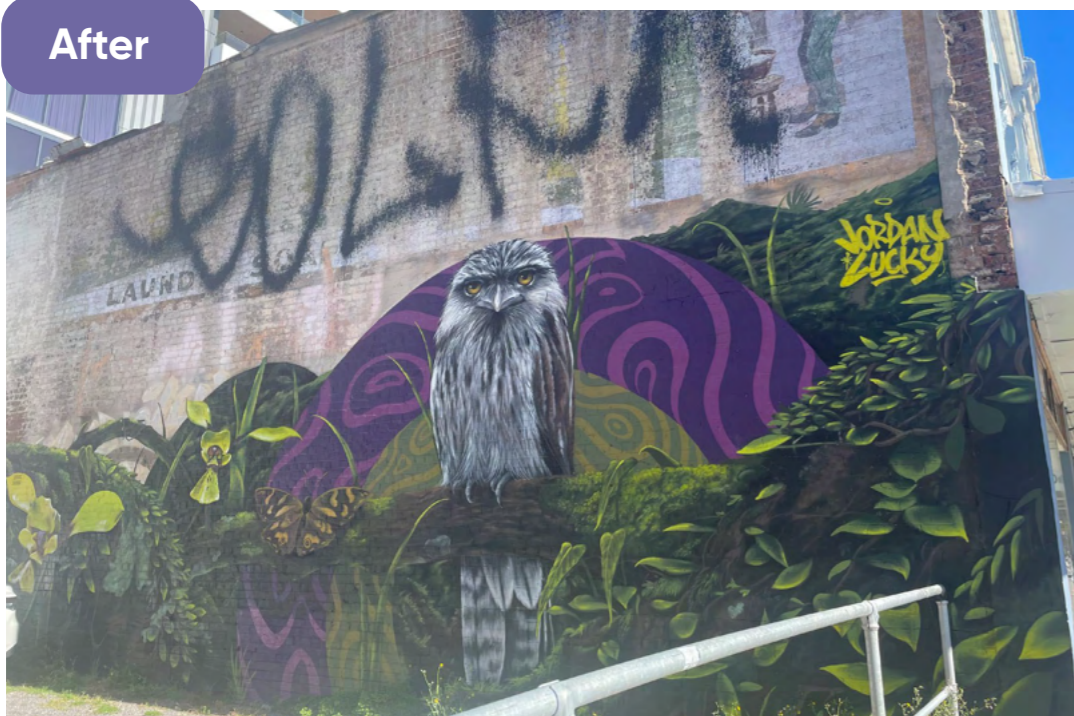
310 Sandgate Rd, Shortland – Artwork by UP & UP Inspirations with collaboration with students from Shortland Public School and Our Lady of Victories Primary School

## 505 Hunter Street, Newcastle

Before



After



The site has been subject to the recent graffiti removal program which resulted in the heritage brickwork being painted over in black paint. Temporary artwork has been installed until the adjacent site is developed at 495 Hunter St, which is subject to a recent development consent.

The mural is painted by Jordan Lucky and the design is intended to reintroduce some nature to an empty lot in the city, with the Australian tawny frog mouth owl. The artwork was approved by PARG to be installed on the site, as well as a Heritage Notification Application, on the basis that the mural is limited in height to retain the existing fresco of the building (original mural painting on the plaster wall).

## Small Wall Initiatives

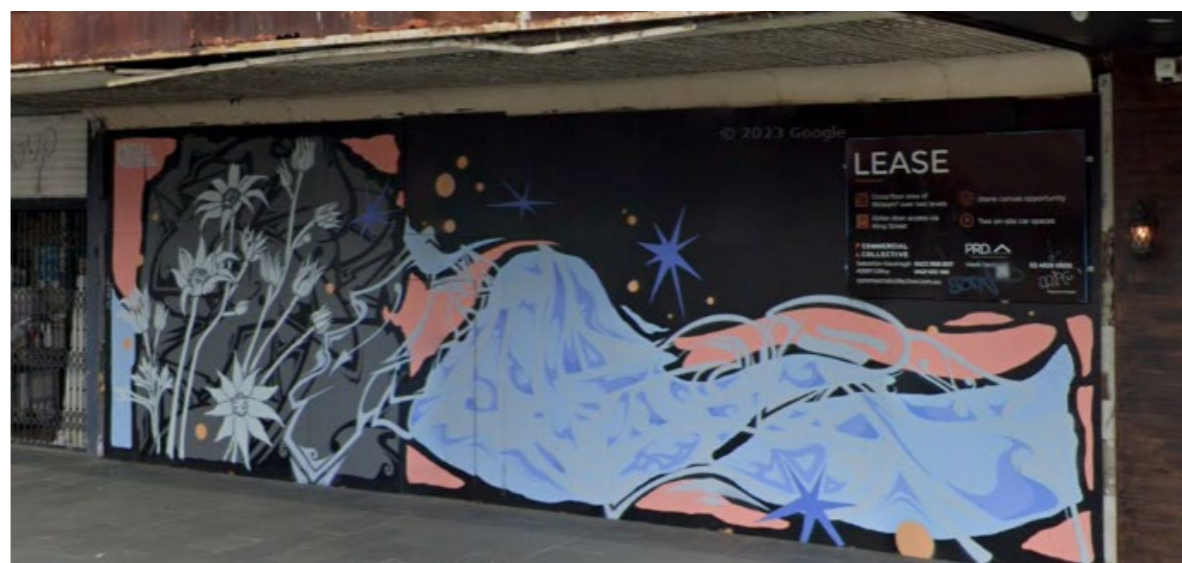
The Small Walls Initiative is a public art program that assists local businesses with managing graffiti on their street fronts. A total of ten murals were delivered in the Newcastle CBD between May and October 2022, which supported local artists and made improvements to the visual appearance of the CBD. City of Newcastle provided funding to this program.



635 Hunter St Newcastle, Family Hotel – artist Jade Buton and Sam Absurd



Door in Beaumont St Hamilton – artist Clare O'Hara



525 Hunter St Newcastle – artist Olas One

# Business Industry Association

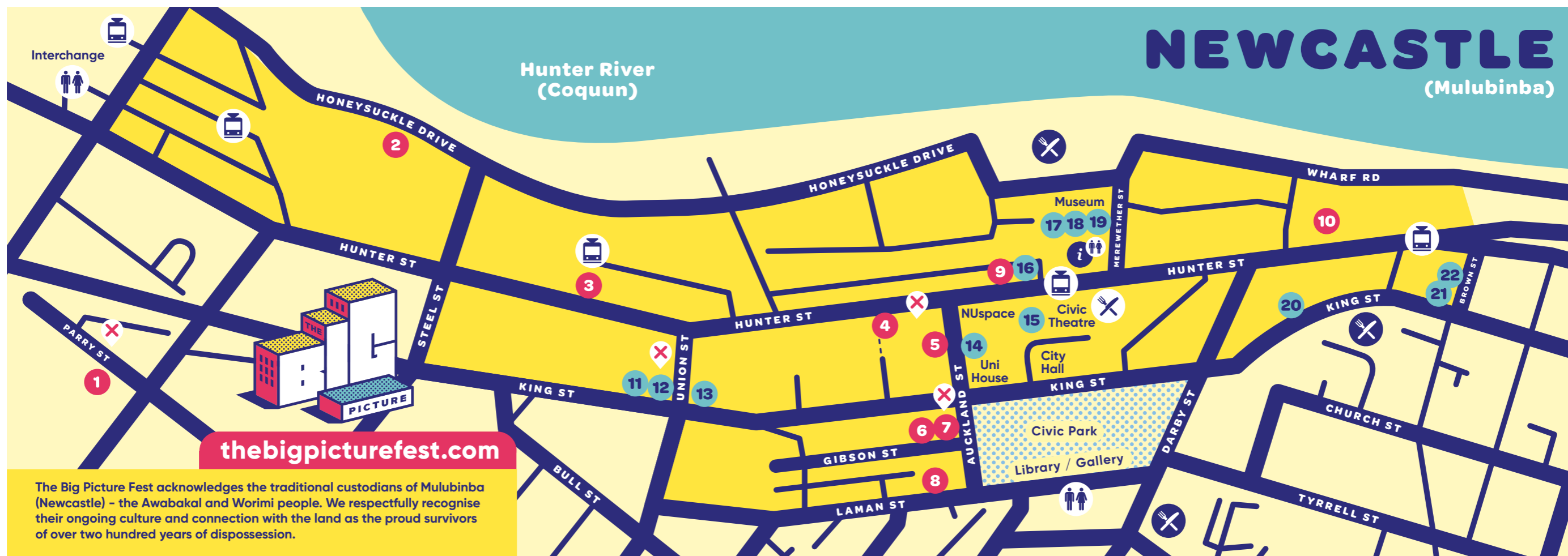
Local Business Industry Associations have been very active in encouraging art in the public domain. A wide variety of art installations occurred in 2022 and have added interest and colour to the local streetscapes. These artworks have been informed by local history, connections, culture and the environment. The artworks have included murals on electricity and telecommunication substations, mosaic tiles on the footpaths and buildings and temporary artworks which have been used to encourage activation and create interesting spaces in many local centres in the local government area.



# Big Picture Festival

The Big Picture Festival is a major international street art activation that celebrates Newcastle's history and creative culture by bringing together world-class artists as they paint large scale murals in the city. The first event was held in October 2020 and 12 locations were selected as shown on the map and was funded by CN's Special Business Rates program.

In 2022 the event resulted in 10 new murals being installed in the city. The event was supported by PARG and are very proud of the fantastic murals that are now located in the city and how they have added some richness and interest to the public domain and attracted people into the city.



Map – sourced from thebigpicturefest.com. The locations marked in red are the murals from 2022 and in green are the murals from 2020.



1

Mural by Deams  
61 Parry St, Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



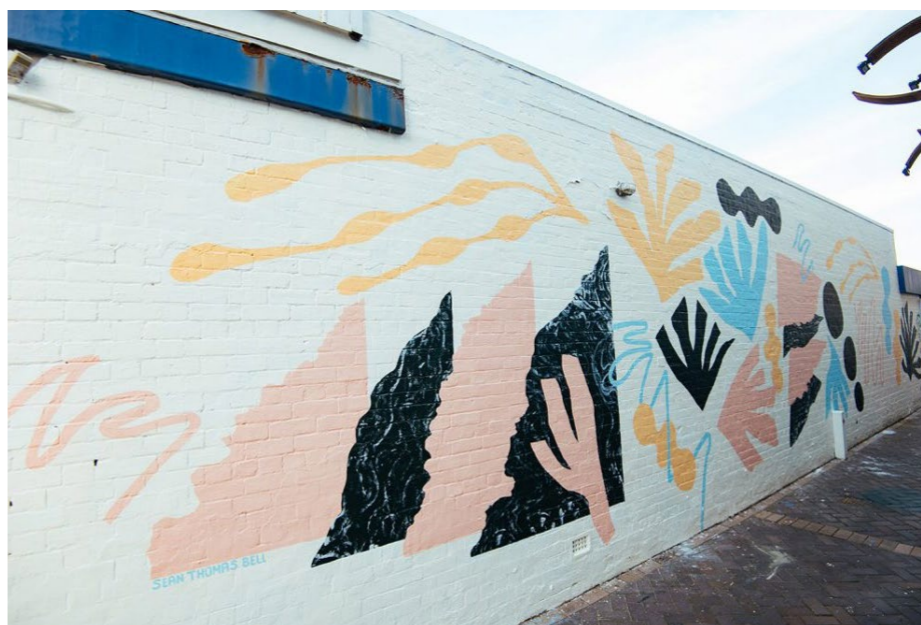
3

Mural by Damien Mitchell  
TAFE Newcastle Art School,  
608 Hunter St Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



2

Mural by Rosie Woods,  
Hunter Water,  
36 Honeysuckle Dr, Newcastle.  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



4

Mural by Sean Bell  
Walkom Real Estate,  
Union Lane Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



5

Mural by Claire Foxton  
427 Hunter St via Auckland St,  
Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



6 Mural by Michael Black  
15 Gibson St, Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



9 Mural by Spray Alley  
Civic Lane facing  
Museum Park.  
Photo CN. BPF 2022



7 Mural by Goya Torres  
Rear of 239 King St, Newcastle  
facing Gibson St  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



8 Mural by Georgia Hill  
Conservatorium of Music,  
Laman St, Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



10 Mural by James R Ellis  
First Parking Carpark,  
11 Argyle St, Newcastle  
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2022



[newcastle.nsw.gov.au](http://newcastle.nsw.gov.au)