

Annual Report

Public Art Reference Group

2020/2021 – 2021/2022



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City of
Newcastle

Mural by Blak Douglas
corner of Hannell and Dangar St, Wickham

Acknowledgment

City of Newcastle (CN) acknowledges that we operate on the grounds of the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, and that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession.

CN reiterates its commitment to address disadvantages and attain justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.

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Enquiries

For information contact

Public Art c/- RPA

Phone 4974 2000

Published by

City of Newcastle

PO Box 489, Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone 4974 2000 Fax 4974 2222

mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au

newcastle.nsw.gov.au

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Foreword from the Chair



Mural by Jasmine Craciun
Railway St Wickham



Our beautiful City is being transformed in so many ways - exciting developments and revitalisation, improved and renewed public spaces, and increasing recognition of the importance of arts and cultural activities. I suspect one of the few positive things to emerge from over two years of pandemic lockdowns is how much we have each turned to creativity to get us through difficult times.

In our Newcastle 2040 strategy, one of the four key pillars we will continue to strive for is 'creative' - to host vibrant events and inclusive opportunities, to nurture cultural and creative practitioners in their skills and businesses, and to promote Newcastle as a major arts and cultural destination. You can now see this emerging right across our local government area - in our suburbs and local centres, not just the CBD.

One of our aims was for the Public Art Reference Group to grow - to not just assist with public art proposals related to development requirements, but to bring true subject matter experts onto PARG who can help us further develop and enhance public art in Newcastle. Applications in 2021 were via EOI and our five new members will over the coming years bring excellence in areas such as visual art, architecture, cultural leadership and heritage.

Just as our incredible City is a work in progress, so is the Public Art Reference Group and I'm excited to see how our work for our community develops.

My gratitude is extended to all members of PARG for their enthusiasm and contributions to our work, and my deepest thanks for an exceptional level of support from CN staff including David Clarke, Michelle Bisson, Priscilla Emmett, America Pati.

Meanwhile, I encourage you to take a look through the latest annual report and look out for some amazing public art on your next walk.

There is so much more to come!

Councillor Carol Duncan

Chair

Public Art Reference Group

June 2022



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 domain as part of development applications in CN.

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.

Membership

PARG membership and meeting attendance during the period is shown below. PARG met six times in 2021.



Councillor Carol Duncan

Chair

Meetings attended: **5**



Councillor Peta Winney-Baartz

Member

Meetings attended: **5**



Councillor John Mackenzie

Member

Meetings attended: **3**

At the end of 2021 Expressions of Interest were called for five additional members to join PARG for a period of three years. The selection criteria included attracting people with strong ties to Newcastle and:

a reputation of excellence in the fields of visual art, architecture, landscape architecture, culture leadership or design, and/or

cultural knowledge of the Indigenous community, and/or

heritage expertise.

After a successful and competitive selection process, five additional members were selected at the end of 2021. The new members will be attending their first PARG meeting in March 2022. The members are Edwardo Milan, Charlotte Hilder, Nikolas Orr, Bridie Moran, Guraki Representative Andrew Smith, Julieanne Rose – alternate.



Sea ferns (left) and bench seating (above) by Nicole Monks Dangar and Bishopgate St, Wickham

PARG Meetings

The focus of PARG during 2021 has been on public art associated with development applications and community murals and artwork in the private domain. PARG meetings have been scheduled as needed to provide input into these proposals. Meetings in 2021 generally occurred via electronic means due to the COVID pandemic and the inability to hold face to face meetings.

On average, public art proposals were presented to the PARG at three separate meetings prior to the proposals being deemed to have satisfied the PARG's requirements, and approval being granted for the Public Art component of the development. Noting that this varies based on the maturity of the proposal and the level of engagement with relevant external agencies or groups.



Mural by Jasmine Craciun
Railway St Wickham

Public Art considered by PARG

Since 2018, PARG has considered a number of public art proposals for the private domain which are related to development applications in the Newcastle CBD.

The map below shows the locations of these proposals, with examples explained in the following pages.



5 proposals currently under review



6 Stewart Avenue Newcastle West

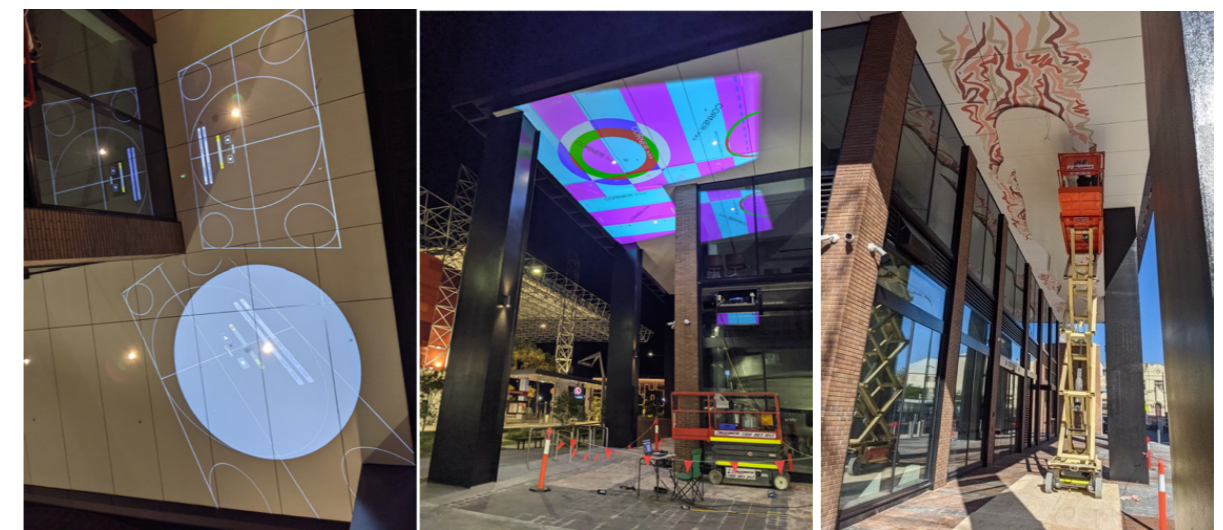
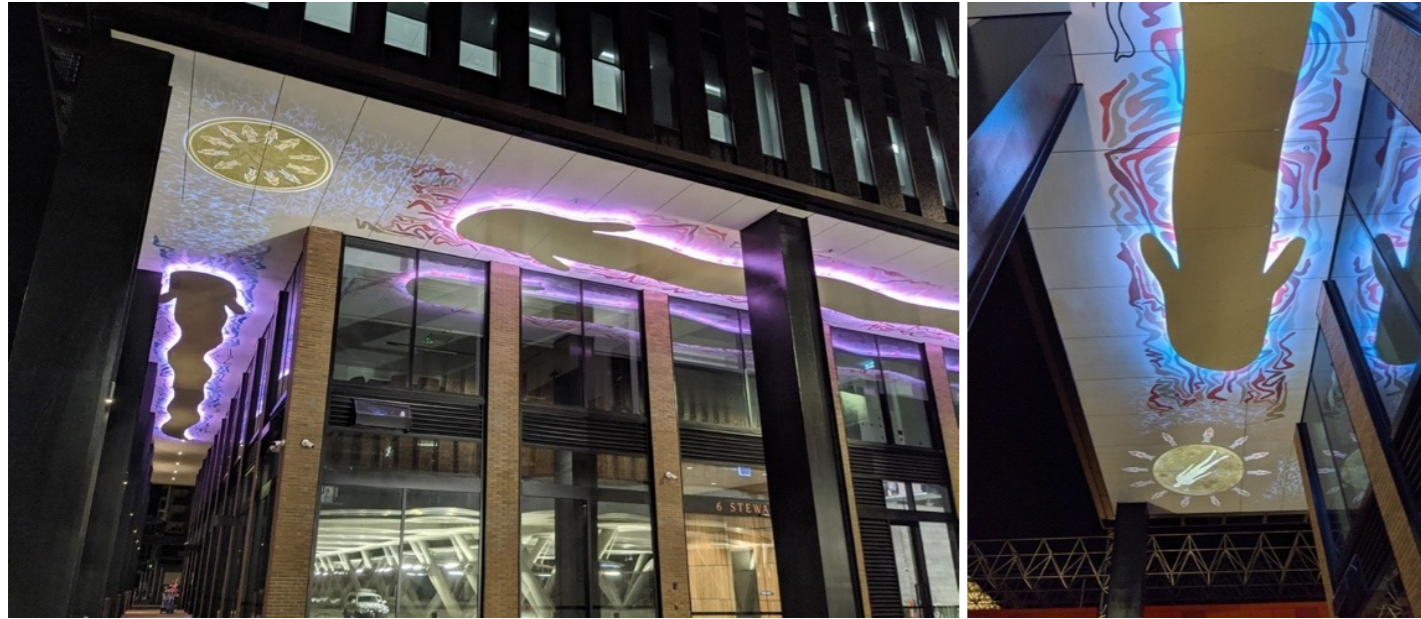
Illuminart

DOMA engaged Illuminart - specialists in digital and light based public art projects to review the site at 6 Stewart Ave and provide the framework for the local Aboriginal community to represent their culture and ideas through this public artwork.

The project was designed through a process of consultation with the Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the engagement of a cultural director Luke Russell and Aboriginal artist Jasmine Craciun to represent the traditional owners.

The project is unique to Newcastle, bringing together projected images representing ancient dreamtime knowledge and rituals, illumination, symbolic sculptures and mural art. These media form two huge eels (Tunaang) which wrap around the building facing the north east 'meeting corner'. The eels have an integrated LED light system which synchronises with two projectors concealed in architectural panels.

The installation plays animation which starts up automatically every night around sunset for a few hours. The remainder of the time it has a lighting pattern which highlights the shapes of the two eels.



Collaboration between Illuminart, Jasmine Craciun and Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee
6 Stewart Ave Newcastle West

38 Hannell Street Wickham

Murals, seating and sculptures

Stella on Hannell is a mixed use development on the corner of Dangar and Bishopgate St, Wickham developed by the Thirdi group. The key objective of this project was to highlight the historical significance and defining characteristics of Wickham and depict Wickham's evolution, as well as informing and engaging pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The project was created through extensive consultation with the Guraki Committee which provided many local cultural insights. There are five separate elements of artwork that have been installed on the site, as well as a mural on a nearby site.



Stella Development at 38 Hannell St Wickham

- 1** The mural facing Dangar St was painted by Blak Douglas and depicts a local corroboree scene, as there was a corroboree ground in Wickham quite close to the Stella on Hannell development. The mural provides a great opportunity to showcase the significance of the location to the wider community.
- 2** **3** The public artwork facing Bishopsgate and Dangar Street was designed by local fabrication artist Nicole Monks consisting of bench seating and sea fern sculptures.
- 4** Interpretative facade.
- 5** The mural facing Railway Street was completed by local artist Jasmine Craciun.



Mural by Jasmine Craciun
Railway St Wickham

169–185 Hunter Street Newcastle

The construction of Stage 1 of the East End Iris development has now been completed and the majority of the artwork has been installed.

The public art strategy for the site incorporates:

Two suspended art installations, consisting of a sculptural element and light artworks designed by Col Henry

Interactive water and light art installation

Historic foyer treatment of the three residential buildings

The remaining piece of art to be installed is the catenary lighting, which is to be located in the laneway at the entrance closest to Perkins St. This lighting will be installed upon completion of construction works for the hotel at the former David Jones building, which is due for completion in 2022.



Suspended art installation by Col Henry
169 – 185 Hunter St Newcastle (located in Lyrique Lane)

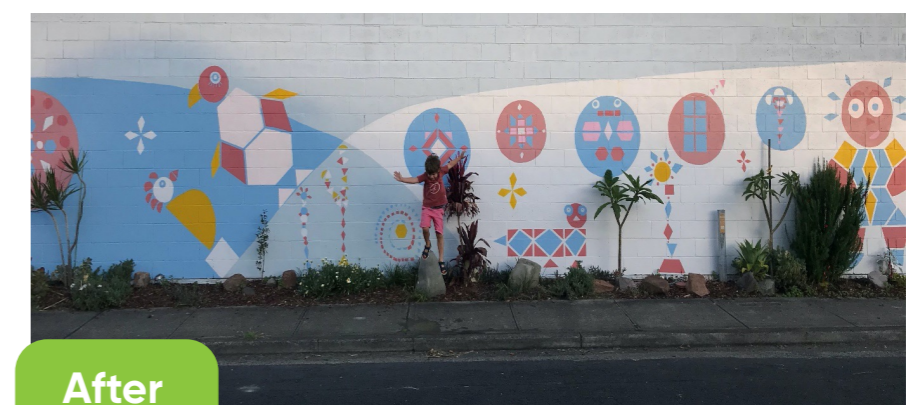
Community Murals - supported by CN Grant Funding

The Boost Your Place and Boost Arts and Culture grants facilitated the installation of several murals in various locations in the local government area. The murals were all painted by various artists, students, and community members, with different themes depending on the location or history of the area. They have added vitality and interest to the area and have increased the sense of pride for the local community.

Dulling Street Waratah

A local owner of a site in Dulling St gave permission for a mural to be painted on the side of the building. The work was a collaborative approach between the owner, Lorraine Jackson the Community Garden Coordinator, Megan Hill, Principal of Creative Ingredient and artist Nina Katzmarski and the local children and staff at Tillys Waratah 1 and 2 and The Hub Preschool.

The design was created by using coloured geometric shapes from local childcare centres (Tilly's and the Hub) and the children of Dulling Street. The aim was for playfulness, child likeness and providing an integrated feeling in the neighbourhood.



63 Railway Street, Merewether



Professional local artist, Nick Fintan, collaborated with the business on site, CN and worked with students in creating a mural representing the character of Merewether. It has transformed the site at 63 Railway St Merewether and can be clearly seen as you drive along Glebe Road. During the mural painting session with students, Nick shared skills and tips about the technicalities of installing murals and the day to day life of a mural artist.

"Using a colourful coastal palette, the mural depicts the lines of the local headlands around Merewether, a sun bather, Merewether Ocean baths and the local pigface native ground cover" Nick Fintan.

279 King Street, Newcastle



A mural project led by young emerging artists from Cooks Hill Campus were mentored by professional mural artists and community collaborators, UP&UP. Together they planned, designed and painted the mural. The students also met on-site with CN Heritage officer who explained elements of heritage planning. This community art project promotes wellness and connecting through creativity and collaborative placemaking. It has added vibrancy to a tired space.

Coal Street Islington

Before



After



A wall mural symbolising and celebrating the creative talents of people with a disability. The artwork was co-designed and co-created by a group of artists from the Community Disability Alliance Hunter reflecting social and support connections and an expectation of inclusion and equity. The creation of this mural was incorporated into CN's Count Us In festival.

20 Hannell Street Maryville

Before



After



Creation of a mural by professional Newcastle artist Brett Piva in collaboration with Newcastle-based international training organisation, Coassemble, celebrating creativity and the local community.

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. This 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. This event was supported by PARG and we 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.



1
Mural by Fintan Magee.
Photo Wiltliving
Photography, BPF 2020.



2
Mural by Brontë Naylor.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



3
Mural by Inari.
Photo Wiltliving Photography,
BPF 2020.



4

Mural by Vans The Omega.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



6

Mural by Mitch Revs.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



5

Mural by Ellie Hannon.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



7

Mural by Olan One.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



8

Mural by Jordan Lucky.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



9
Mural by Sophia Flegg.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



11
Mural by Tom Henderson.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



10
Mural by Jasmine Craciun.
Photo Lee Illfield, BPF 2020.



12
Mural by Patricia Van Lubeck. Photo Wiltliving Photography, BPF 2020.

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