



2 The Lock-Up Cultural Centre
This building was originally opened in 1861 as The Lock-Up for the Newcastle Court House which was located next door, (now the old Post Office building). It continued to perform the role of Newcastle Police Station until closing in 1982.
The centre re-launched in 2014 as a dedicated multidisciplinary contemporary arts centre and inner city hub for creative thinking and doing. It runs a full program of changing exhibitions, events and artist-in-residence programs and plays an important role in showcasing new work of local, national and international artists. Timeless Textiles is also located on the site; a centre of fibre and textile art with exhibitions and workshops featuring the work of Australian and international artisans.

1 Margaret Olley, views from Obelisk Park
Margaret Olley fell in love with Newcastle after being invited to visit by local gallery owner Anne Von Bertouch in the early 1960s; she found the architecture, landscape and the sounds of industry that formed the city's heartbeat inspiring.
Olley set up the basement of her Church Street house as her Newcastle studio. She would come to Obelisk Park to sketch and paint the breathtaking views of the city, its harbour and industries. She owned the Church Street residence for the rest of her life, commenting, "I'd live there but the hills don't suit an old woman on wheels".
Olley continued to paint right up until she passed away in 2011. She was an active supporter of art and culture in Newcastle. She donated many works of art to the Newcastle Art Gallery collection, both her own and those of artists she supported.



3 Renew Newcastle, The Mall
In 2008 many buildings in Hunter Street Mall were empty and the remaining businesses struggled to attract customers.
Festival director, broadcaster and former Novocastrian, Marcus Westbury led an idea of co-opting property owners to offer empty buildings to artists on short-term leases. The idea evolved into Renew Newcastle.
In 2009, its first year of operation, Renew Newcastle found homes for 40 creative enterprises in 25 vacant properties. The program has facilitated a diverse range of initiatives including galleries, artist studios, publishers, film studios and retail shops.
Renew Newcastle continues its work today and you can discover the spaces throughout the Mall and wider city. One of its most ambitious projects is The Emporium which has turned the original David Jones building into a hub of shops and exhibition spaces for local artists.

The Artists' City

Newcastle has nurtured, supported and inspired generations of artists.
Explore the city through their eyes. Visit the galleries that have displayed and celebrated their work. View examples of the extraordinary public art that populates the Newcastle landscape.
This walking tour starts at Obelisk Park, one of the favourite drawing spots of Newcastle's most celebrated adopted artist, Margaret Olley. It concludes at Newcastle Art Gallery, home to a collection of more than 6,100 works of art that belong to the people of Newcastle.



4 Evolution 1
Sandra Minter-Caldwell's sculptures *Evolution 1* reflects on Newcastle's migrant heritage.
Consisting of five 1.8 metre tall figures, four figures represent the people who have come to Newcastle from the four corners of the globe to begin a new life with a single figure standing by itself representing the Aboriginal people who were already here and the traditional owners of the land.
Minter-Caldwell studied at Newcastle University and first exhibited her work to the public at Watt Space, the student gallery of the University of Newcastle, in Auckland Street.

- Newcastle Art Gallery**
Laman Street, Cooks Hill
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm, closed Monday
www.nag.org.au
- Newcastle Museum**
Workshop Way, Honeysuckle
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm,
open Monday during school holidays
www.newcastlemuseum.com.au
- Newcastle Region Library**
Ground Floor, 15 Laman Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 8pm
Saturday 9.30am – 2pm
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library
- Newcastle City Hall**
290 King Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, closed public holidays
www.newcastlecityhall.com.au



WALKING TOUR
The Artists' City
Explore Newcastle's art and artists through a self-guided walking tour of the city.



Captain James Cook Memorial Fountain (detail) Margel Hinder 1961–66, textured copper over steel structure, wall specially quarried porphyry 15.25 x 4.5 x 7.5m

Moderate
2hrs 30mins / 5.1km

Audio and other information
www.visitnewcastle.com.au/attractions/walks-and-rides

NEWCASTLE
SEE CHANGE



The Adaptable Migrant (detail) Suzie Bleach & Andrew Townsend 2012, mild steel with epoxy paint finish 198.0cm x 210.0cm

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The Adaptable Migrant

Located outside Newcastle Museum, *The Adaptable Migrant* by artists Suzie Bleach and Andrew Townsend also explores Newcastle's migrant history.

Inside the camel are sculptures representing the mementos and culture people bring with them when they begin a new life in a new place. Among these items are objects that speak of Newcastle. The thistle is a reference to the city's Scottish heritage, while the hammer and sewing machine speak of industry and the canary of coal mining. The sculpture is affectionately called Constance by Newcastle Museum staff.

6 Foundation Seed

Foundation Seed is the tallest piece of public art in Newcastle, standing 14 metres high. It was created by John Turier - an artist, musician and qualified plumber who has lived in Newcastle since 1975. He studied visual arts at both the Newcastle Art School and Newcastle University between 1988 and 1990.

Foundation Seed is inspired by the Red Cedar trees that grew in the Newcastle area during the 18th and 19th Centuries. The sculpture's base references the seed of the plant and the moving upper section recalls the foliage. Surfers are known to judge the surfing conditions by the wind turning the leaf.



Foundation Seed John Turier 2005, steel and aluminium 14.0m height

9 James Cook Memorial Fountain

Newcastle's reputation for commissioning bold public art from talented sculptors was formed in part by sculptures like the *James Cook Memorial Fountain*.

In 1961 Newcastle City Council held a competition to find an artist to create an illuminated fountain for Civic Park. Sculptor Margel Hinder produced the winning design to commemorate Captain James Cook's discovery of the East Coast of Australia in 1770. Hinder aimed to develop a fountain in which the water and sculptural elements became one unit. It is considered by many to be her finest work and has become a local icon as well as the basis for The City of Newcastle's logo. See image on front cover.

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Figure Group, Newcastle Region Library

In 1954 five Australian artists were invited to produce concepts for a commemorative sculpture that would adorn the entrance foyer of Newcastle's War Memorial Cultural Centre (Region Library). Lyndon Dadswell was the successful applicant. A combat veteran of WWII, Dadswell had also been an official war artist with the AIF. After initial controversy, with many calling for figures that more closely reflected the normal proportions of the human body, the work was approved and production commenced.

The Newcastle Herald would

go on to describe Dadswell's design as a representation of 'the participation of both sexes in war and peace. Human beings emerging from great suffering with their heads held high... beings tortured and strong with a dignity wrung from victory over suffering.'

Formally titled *Figure Group*, the sculpture was dubbed 'Dave and Mable' by the foundry workers who cast them and is known by many Novocastrians as 'Him and Her'.



Figure Group Lyndon Dadswell 1957, silicone cast bronze

7 William Dobell's Birth Place

William Dobell, one of Australia's most celebrated painters, grew up and first began sketching in Cooks Hill. His skill and fascination with drawing led him to be apprenticed to a local architecture firm after he left school.

Dobell left a physical mark on the Newcastle landscape during his early architectural career, designing several buildings around Newcastle.

He gave up architecture to pursue art after moving to Sydney in the 1920s. He studied in Europe, painted in Papua New Guinea, and produced portraits of many famous and influential people in the decades after the Second World War.

The Newcastle Art Gallery holds several works in its collection including *Portrait of a Strapper* (1941).



Portrait of a Strapper Sir William Dobell 1941, oil on canvas 88.6 x 63.6cm Gift of Captain Neil McEacharn 1959. Newcastle Art Gallery collection

Dobell and the Archibald

One of Australia's finest portrait painters, Dobell won the Archibald Prize three times and was a finalist on many occasions.

The awarding of the Prize to Dobell in 1943 for his portrait of fellow artist Joshua Smith was the catalyst for a controversial chapter in Australian art. The decision was unsuccessfully challenged in the Supreme Court of NSW on the basis the work of art was a caricature and not a portrait. The case was dismissed but the ordeal left Dobell traumatised and in 1945 he moved to his sister's house at Wangi Wangi on Lake Macquarie. In 1948 Dobell's winning entry was a portrait of Margaret Olley

who he met at a party and insisted on painting. She wore for the sitting a costume made from war surplus parachute silk and an old wedding dress.

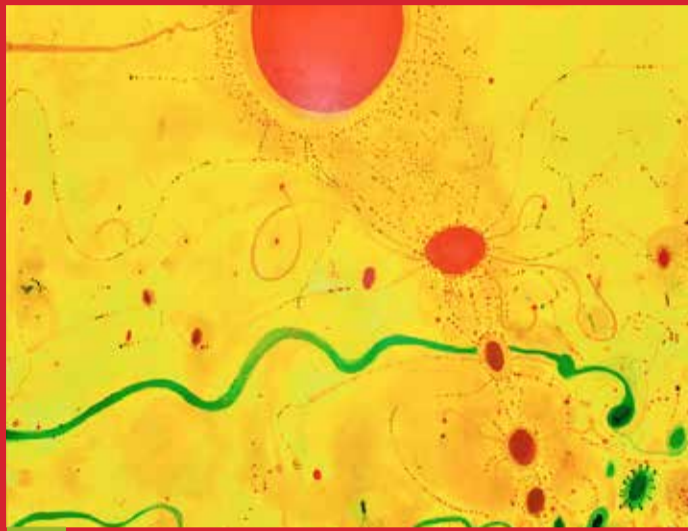
Dobell won the Archibald Prize for a third and final time in 1959 with a portrait of Dr Edward MacMahon. Newcastle Art Gallery holds in its collection *Portrait of a Strapper*, a 1941 Prize finalist. While not a winner, the portrait is one of Dobell's most striking. It is believed the painting was based on a 20 minute sketch of station hand Ronald Leslie Davis who worked on a property near Hinton in the Hunter Valley.

8 Climbing sun over the Hunter, Newcastle City Hall

John Olsen, born in 1928, is another renowned Australian Artist from Cooks Hill.

He has travelled widely across Australia interpreting the unique landscape in vibrant detail through his artworks. In 1964 he painted *Life Burst*, a ceiling painting for the home of Sydney artist Thelma Clune which has since been donated to the Newcastle Art Gallery.

In 1980, Olsen was commissioned to paint a mural for the foyer of the newly refurbished Newcastle City Hall. *Climbing sun over the Hunter* still lights up the entry at the top of the stairs on level two.



Climbing sun over the Hunter (detail) John Olsen 1981, acrylic paint on marine plywood dimensions variable. Commissioned by Newcastle City Council 1981

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Black Totem II

Black Totem II stands in the forecourt of Newcastle Art Gallery as a symbol of renewal, rebirth and new life. It is one of only two large outdoor sculptures in existence by celebrated Australian artist Brett Whiteley. *Black Totem II* was created by Brett Whiteley and posthumously completed by Wendy Whiteley, Matthew Dillon and Transfield in 1993.

Whiteley's association with Newcastle Art Gallery began in 1959 when it became the first public gallery to purchase a work by the artist who was then just 20 years old. His iconic landscape painting *Summer at Carcoar*



Black Totem II Brett Whiteley 1993, cast steel, steel rods and fibreglass. Donated by Wendy Whiteley in memory of Arkie Whiteley through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program 2013. Assisted by James & Judy Hart and John & Valerie Ryan. Newcastle Art Gallery collection

became one of the first works of art to be hung in the gallery in 1977 and today it is one of the most significant works of art in the Newcastle Art Gallery collection.

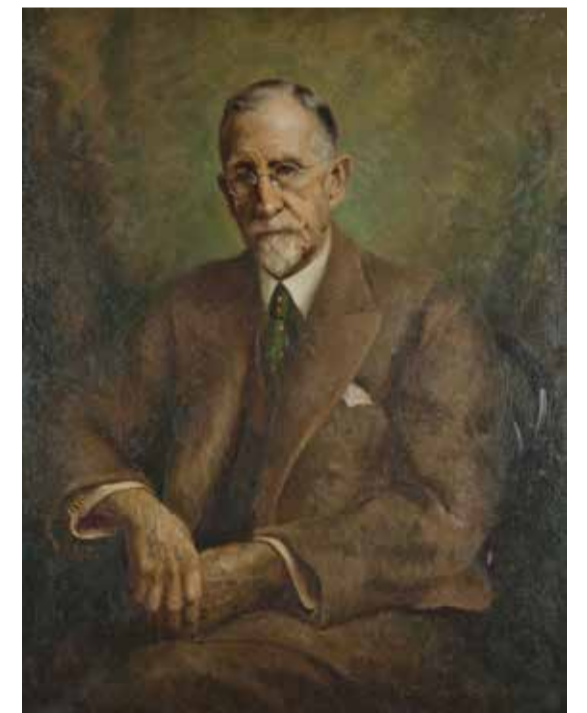
Black Totem II was previously on display at Walsh Bay in Sydney and was relocated to Newcastle Art Gallery in 2013.

12 Newcastle Art Gallery

Newcastle Art Gallery was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 11 March 1977. It was the culmination of decades of work to realise the belief that Newcastle could be known for art as well as industry.

Newcastle Art Gallery is a pioneer. It is the first purpose-built regional Art Gallery in Australia. Since its inception, it has collected over 6,100 works and is considered one of the most significant public collections in the country.

Today the gallery hosts a variety of shows drawn both from its own collection and travelling exhibitions. Its expansive collection hosts a diverse range of art, from the paintings of early Newcastle by Joseph Lycett, to the works of prominent contemporary artists like Patricia Piccinini.



Portrait of Dr Roland Pope Jerrold Nathan 1944, oil on canvas 90.0 x 69.9cm Purchased 1946. Newcastle Art Gallery collection

The Pope Collection

The germination of both the city's Art Gallery and Library's collection emerged from the generous donation of one man's collection to the city.

Dr Roland Pope was a Sydney based ophthalmologist and one-time cricketer for Australia having played three games for the Australian Eleven in 1890. He had a notable Australian art and literature collection which he generously gifted to the city in 1945. The bequest of 137 Australian paintings was made on the condition that the city construct a gallery to house them.

At an exhibition in Sydney to recognise the donation, John Metcalfe, Principle Librarian

with the Public Library of NSW, mused on Pope's motivations. Metcalf remarked that Newcastle hosted the largest population of people without access to the cultural facilities enjoyed in capital cities. He also commented that the people of Newcastle, living in a city defined by mining and industry, were beginning to question what would happen to their town when the coal ran out and the industries moved on.

Pope's collection not only provided a foundation for Newcastle's most prominent cultural institutions, it also helped redefine the city beyond its grimy industrial identity.