

WALKING TRAIL



Moderate
2hrs 30mins / 5.1km

THE ARTIST'S CITY

EXPLORE NEWCASTLE'S ART AND ARTISTS THROUGH A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF THE CITY.



Newcastle Art Gallery

NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

1 Margaret Olley, views from Obelisk Park

2 The Lock-Up Cultural Centre
Wednesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm,
Sunday 11am – 3pm

3 Evolution 1

4 The Adaptable Migrant

5 Foundation Seed

6 William Dobell's Birth Place,
84 Bull Street

7 Climbing sun over the Hunter,
Newcastle City Hall

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm

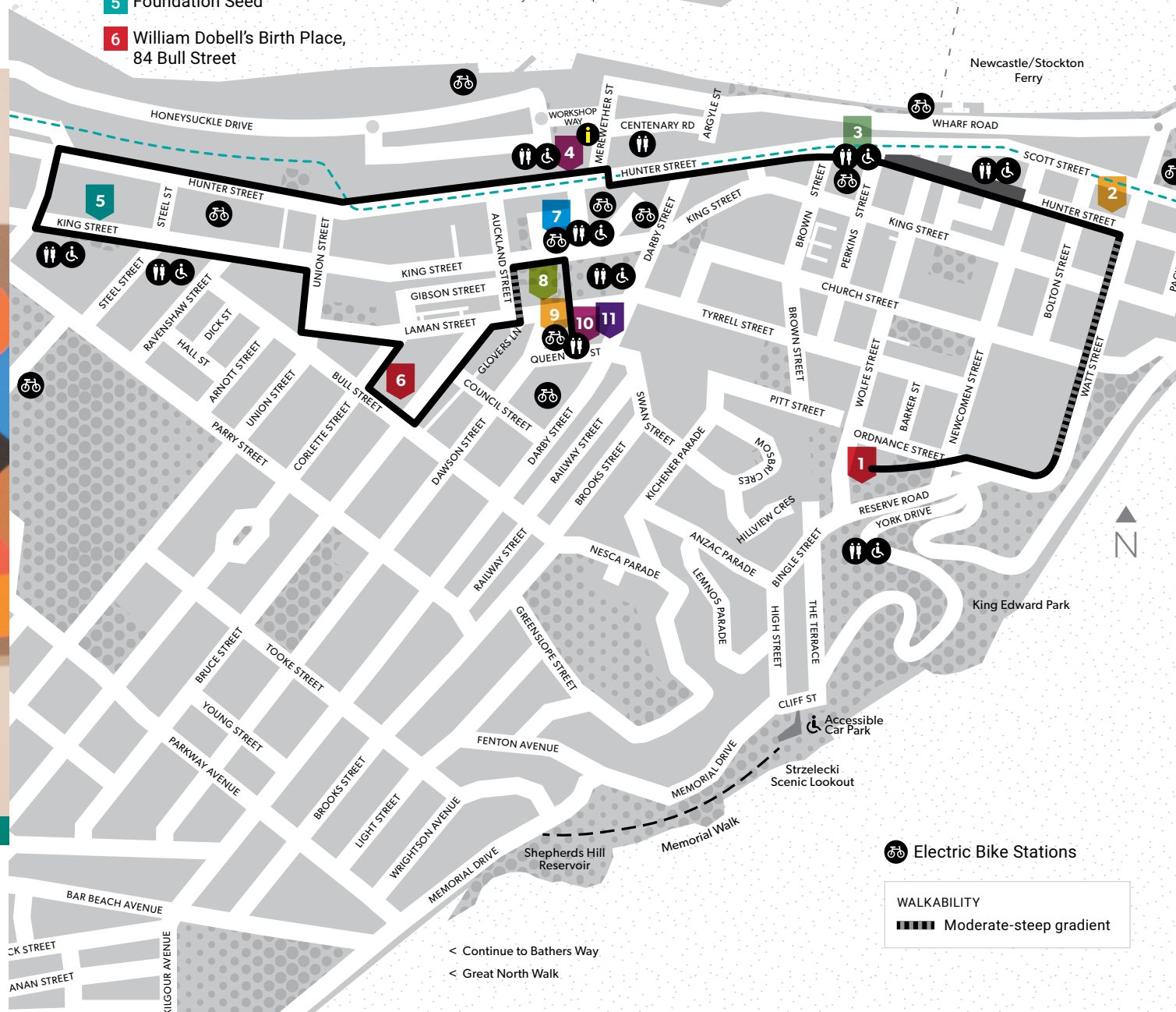
8 James Cook Memorial Fountain

9 Figure Group, Newcastle Region
Library

Monday to Friday 9.30am–8pm,
Saturday 9.30am–2pm

10 Black Totem II

11 Newcastle Art Gallery
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 8pm,
Saturday 9.30am – 2pm



Electric Bike Stations

WALKABILITY

Moderate-steep gradient

< Continue to Bathers Way

< Great North Walk

THE ARTIST'S 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.

For more self guided walking tours, visit www.visitnewcastle.com.au or visit the Newcastle Visitor Information Centre located at Museum Park, Honeysuckle.

Newcastle Art Gallery

Laman Street, Cooks Hill
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm,
open Monday during school holidays
nag.org.au

Newcastle Museum

Workshop Way, Honeysuckle
Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm,
open Monday during school holidays
newcastlemuseum.com.au

Newcastle City Library

Ground Floor, 15 Laman Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 9.30am – 8pm
Saturday 9.30am – 2pm
newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/newcastle_library

Newcastle City Hall

290 King Street, Newcastle
Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5pm, closed public holidays
newcastlecityhall.com.au



One of Margaret Olley's artworks depicting Newcastle

1 MARGARET OLLEY, VIEWS FROM OBELISK PARK

Sitting high on the hill on the corner of Ordnance and Newcomen streets, Obelisk Park offers a panoramic outlook over the city and coastline that is without parallel.

Climb the 120 steps from street level up to the park's peak and you'll understand why this was one of the favoured drawing spots of revered artist Margaret Olley, with breathtaking 360-degree views and a handy circular direction plate installed in 1967 to give you a sense of what you are looking at.

Olley fell in love with Newcastle after being invited to visit by local gallery owner Anne Von Bertouch in the early 1960s, finding herself inspired by the city's architecture, landscape and industry.

DID YOU KNOW? The obelisk marks the site of Newcastle's first windmill, erected in 1820 and used as a navigation point by ships. It was demolished in 1847 but protests by seafarers saw the obelisk erected in its place in 1850.

2 THE LOCK-UP CULTURAL CENTRE

Make your way down the hill near the corner of Watt and Hunter streets and discover a dedicated multidisciplinary contemporary arts centre located within the once austere and forbidding surroundings of the former Newcastle Courthouse Lock-Up.

This building opened in 1861 for use by the courthouse next door and continued as Newcastle Police Station until its closure in 1982.

The centre was re-launched in 2014, offering exhibitions, events and artist-in-residence programs that showcase the work of local, national and international artists. Don't forget to check out the perforated steel balustrade out the front, which cleverly melds the building's new use with the story of its past.

DID YOU KNOW? Timeless Textiles is also located on the site, with exhibitions and workshops featuring the work of Australian and international fibre and textile artisans.



Street Art in Newcastle Mall

3 EVOLUTION 1

As you make your way through the Hunter Street Mall there are plenty of cultural delights to indulge in, from the artisans, photographers and other creatives who ply their trade in the retail precinct, to the street art adorning various walls including a massive humpback whale painted on the side of one building.

At the end of the mall sits Sandra Minter-Caldwell's evocative Evolution 1 sculpture, consisting of five 1.8m-tall figures depicting Newcastle's migrant heritage.

Four of the figures represent people who have come to Newcastle from the four corners of the globe to begin a new life, while the single figure standing by itself represents the indigenous traditional owners of the land.



Evolution 1 (detail) Sandra Minter-Caldwell 1998; cast bronze



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

4 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 relate to industry, and the canary points to coal mining.

DID YOU KNOW? The sculpture is affectionately called Constance by Newcastle Museum staff.



5 FOUNDATION SEED

As you head back up to Hunter Street and continue westward, watch out for creative additions to some of the buildings, from the famed David Bowie mural to the street art down Union Lane on the opposite side of the road.

Turn left up National Park Street and onto King Street where you'll find Newcastle's tallest piece of public art towering above passers-by on the median strip.

Standing 14m high, Foundation Seed was created by Newcastle artist, musician and qualified plumber John Turier, inspired by the red cedar trees that grew in the area during the 18th and 19th centuries.

DID YOU KNOW? Surfers are known to judge the local surfing conditions based on the wind turning the leaf on the sculpture's upper section.

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



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, Newcastle-born William Dobell won the Archibald Prize three times and was a finalist on many occasions.

Dobell was controversially awarded the prize in 1943 for his portrait of fellow artist Joshua Smith, with the decision 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. For the sitting she wore 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's collection includes *Portrait of a Strapper*, a 1941 Archibald Prize finalist. Seen as one of Dobell's most striking portraits, it is believed to be based on a 20-minute sketch of station hand Ronald Leslie Davis, who worked on a property near Hinton in the Hunter Valley.

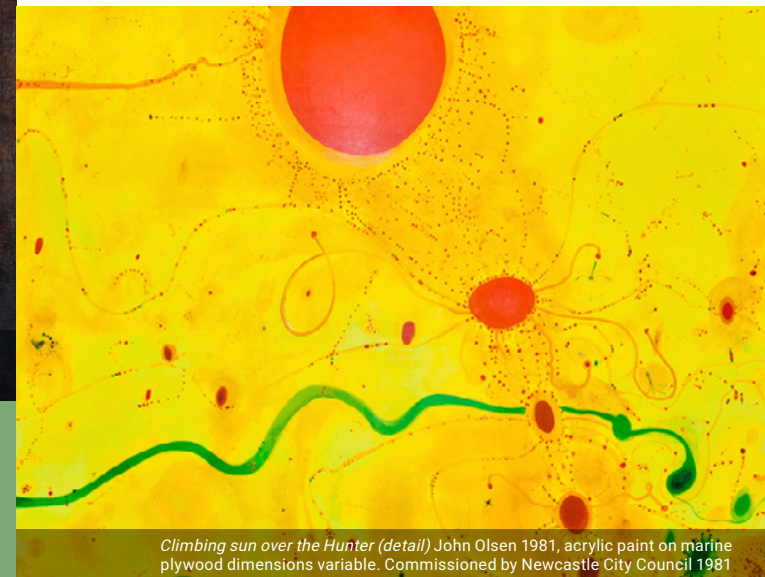
6 WILLIAM DOBELL'S BIRTHPLACE

Zig zag your way through Newcastle's back streets to find the birthplace of one of Australia's most celebrated painters.

William Dobell grew up and began sketching in his family home on the corner of Bull and Corlette streets in Cooks Hill. After leaving school and becoming apprenticed to a local architecture firm, Dobell made his mark on the Newcastle landscape through the design of several buildings.

His architectural career was sort-lived however, after choosing to pursue art following a move to Sydney in the 1920s. He later studied in Europe, painted in Papua New Guinea and produced portraits of many famous and influential people.

DID YOU KNOW? The Newcastle Art Gallery holds several of Dobell's works in its collection.



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

7 CLIMBING SUN OVER THE HUNTER, NEWCASTLE CITY HALL

Head back down to one of the city's architectural icons to view a stunning creation by another renowned Australian artist born in Cooks Hill.

Having travelled widely across Australia, painter John Olsen interprets its unique landscape in vibrant detail through artworks that showcase his energetic and distinctive style, defined by experimentation with line, colour and figuration.

The image of the sun is a reoccurring motif in Olsen's work. In 1980, Olsen was commissioned to paint a mural for the foyer of the newly refurbished Newcastle City Hall, with *Climbing sun over the Hunter* still lighting up the entry at the top of the stairs on level two.

8 JAMES COOK MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Newcastle's reputation for commissioning bold public art was formed in part by sculptures like the James Cook Memorial Fountain, prominently located on the southern side of Civic Park.

City of Newcastle held a competition in 1961 to create an illuminated fountain for the park, with sculptor Margel Hinder's winning design commemorating 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.

DID YOU KNOW? The James Cook Memorial Fountain formed the basis for the City of Newcastle's corporate logo, used for more than 25 years from 1993. It was replaced in 2019 with a stylised 'N' with a ripple effect that represents water.



James Cook Memorial Fountain, Civic Park

9 FIGURE GROUP, NEWCASTLE REGION LIBRARY

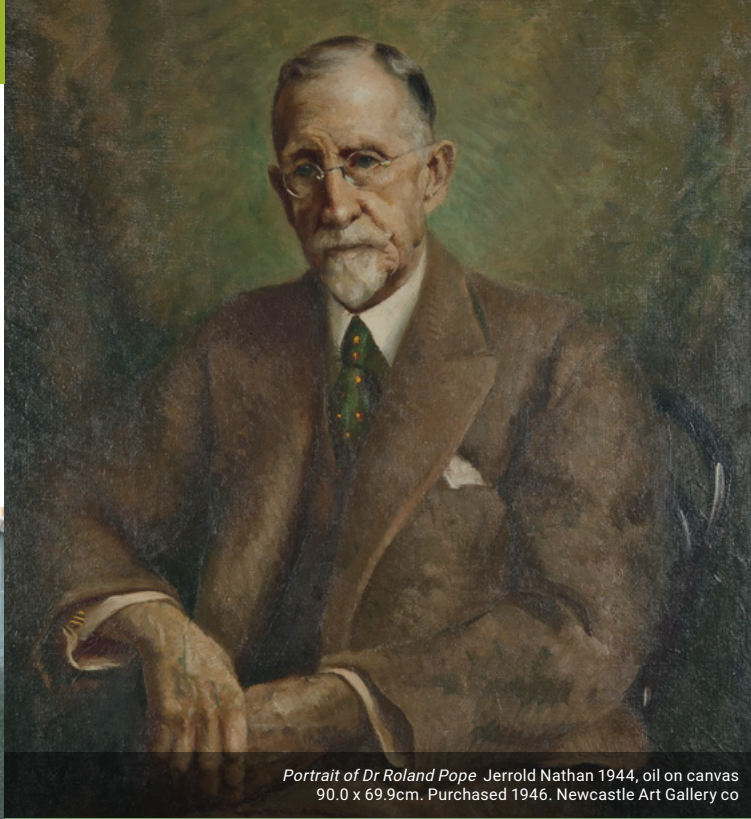
Climb the stairs on either side of the fountain and make your way to the entrance foyer of the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre (Regional Library) to take in the powerful beauty of this towering commemorative sculpture.

Featuring 3.3m-tall bronze statues of a man and a woman depicted with heads upturned and a broken sword at their feet, the sculpture was created by official AIF war artist Lyndon Dadswell.

The WWII combat veteran was one of five Australian artists invited in 1954 to produce concepts that would represent "youth emerging from the conflict of war and looking with hope and courage to the future".

Dadswell's design attracted some initial controversy, with calls for the figures to reflect the normal proportions of the human body.

DID YOU KNOW? Officially 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'.



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

THE POPE COLLECTION

Have you ever wondered how an art gallery or library's collection actually begins? In Newcastle, the foundation of these two fine cultural institutions can be traced back to generous donation of one man's private collection.

Dr Roland Pope was a Sydney-based ophthalmologist and former Australian cricketer, having played three games for the Australian VI in 1890.

He was also a passionate art collector and philanthropist, and in 1945 he decided to gift his notable Australian art and literature collection to Newcastle.

The donation, which included 137 Australian paintings and thousands of books and journals, was made on the condition that the city construct a gallery to house them.

Pope's gift was held in storage for 12 years before the gallery and library were opened on the second floor of the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre in 1957, however the benefactor of their collections did not live to see them on display, having died five years earlier.

Pope's donation not only provided the foundation for two of Newcastle's most prominent cultural institutions, it also helped redefine the city beyond the grimy industrial image of its coal mining and steelmaking heritage.



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

10 BLACK TOTEM II

Head east from the Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre and you'll see another towering artistic triumph, Black Totem II.

Impossible to miss in the Newcastle Art Gallery forecourt, the 11m-tall, five tonne steel and fibreglass sculpture was created by celebrated Australia artist Brett Whiteley.

Previously on display at Walsh Bay in Sydney, it was relocated to Newcastle in 2013 after being gifted to the city by Whiteley's wife Wendy.

Newcastle Art Gallery has a long association with Whiteley, beginning in 1959 when it was the first public gallery to purchase a work by the then 20-year-old artist. His iconic landscape painting Summer at Carcoar was also one of the first artworks hung in the gallery when it opened in 1977.

DID YOU KNOW? Black Totem II was posthumously completed by Wendy Whiteley, Matthew Dillon and Franco Belgiorno-Nettis in 1993. It is one of only two large outdoor sculptures created by Brett Whiteley.

11 NEWCASTLE ART GALLERY

Newcastle Art Gallery was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Friday 11 March 1977.

Designed by architect Brian Pile, the first purpose-built regional Art Gallery in Australia was applauded as a model for medium-sized galleries, with an innovative floor plan and hanging system.

Its collection represents a comprehensive overview of Australian art from colonial times to the present day, including everything from paintings of early Newcastle by convict artist Joseph Lycett, to the works of prominent contemporary artists such as Patricia Piccinini.

If you're completing this walk on the weekend, make sure you time your route to take advantage of the free guided tours available on Saturdays and Sundays at 11am.

DID YOU KNOW? Newcastle Art Gallery holds one of the most significant public art collections in the country, with more than 6,700 works valued at over \$95 million.