



Honeysuckle's latest public art creates a striking silhouette on the Cottage Creek promenade bridge

## Honeysuckle update

Autumn 2023

Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation

# New Public Art: 'Layers of Us'

Accompanying her grandmother on an archaeological dig in Tibooburra that unearthed the artefacts of her Indigenous ancestors had such a profound effect on Aboriginal artist Jasmine Craciun, that she wanted to show what's below the surface of other footpaths we walk on today.

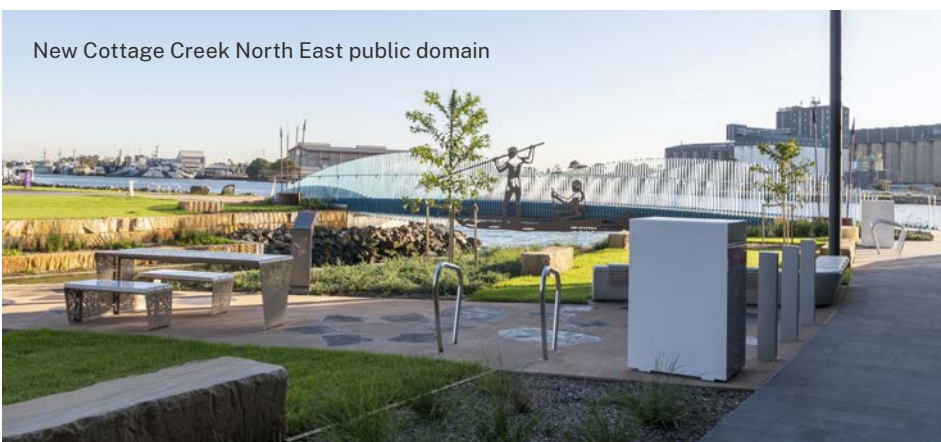
"When you peel back a layer of earth, under the cities that now stand, you'll find the same evidence as we have seen here of the First People's connection to the land" she said.

Her inspiring artwork, 'Layers of Us', is the centrepiece of Honeysuckle's newest section of public domain alongside Cottage Creek. It pays homage to the Awabakal and Worimi people and offers a glimpse of their flourishing ways of life alongside and on the bountiful Hunter River.

Life-sized steel silhouettes adorn the promenade bridge, flanked by sculptural spears; and decorative inlays are embedded in the nearby pavement to represent the Aboriginal artefacts uncovered during earlier heritage investigations.

The artwork calls for observers to consider the journey of these artefacts, which were used to fashion tools that helped craft everyday objects such as the spear points and canoes you see on the bridge balustrade.

New Cottage Creek North East public domain



The latest public domain ties in seamlessly with the waterfront promenade, delivering more mature trees and native plantings, granite paving, a picnic table, seating and green space for the community to enjoy.



## Artist spotlight: Jasmine Miikika Craciun

### Who is Jasmine?

I am a First Nations artist and collaborator, and a proud Barkindji, Malyangapa woman.

### What inspires you?

My biggest inspiration is my family, my people, and my connection to Country - it provides my identity and sense of place.

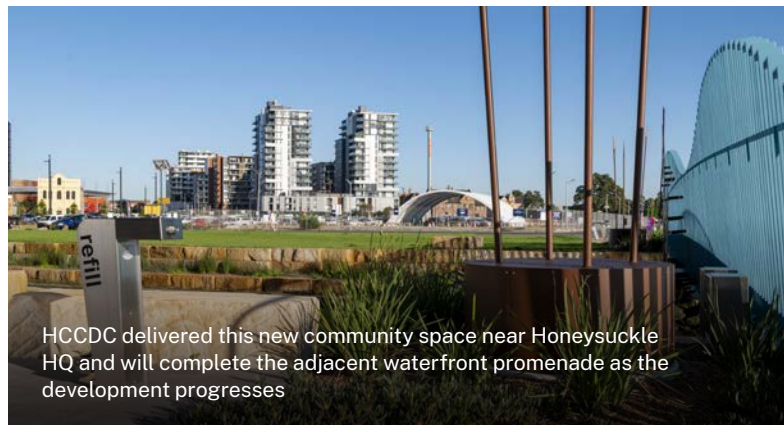
### What is your proudest career achievement?

I am lucky to be working as a professional artist. I enjoy such freedom to align my heritage with my art and to create public works of significance that drives awareness for First Nations people.

### What does your artwork 'Layers of Us' mean to you?

This artwork was an opportunity for me to peel back the layers and show how the land and water was used – I didn't want to share cultural stories or knowledge that is not mine to share. I hope the artwork engages with people and prompts them to consider what lies beneath our feet, and how the First People lived on and with this land and sea long before us.

# Progress continues for Honeysuckle HQ



HCCDC delivered this new community space near Honeysuckle HQ and will complete the adjacent waterfront promenade as the development progresses

HCCDC is working on selecting an experienced development partner to transform the final Honeysuckle lands into a vibrant destination where the new CBD meets the waterfront.

Last year, we launched an Expression of Interest phase where potential development partners put forward their best and most innovative concepts to create Honeysuckle's pinnacle offering.

The shortlisted developers are now participating in a final detailed proposals stage, and we expect to announce the successful partner in late 2023.



## Honeysuckle Park amenities now open

We're pleased to announce the completion of the new permanent amenities at Honeysuckle Park which opened in March. The building was designed to complement the park's existing barbeque shelters and houses two wheelchair accessible unisex toilets and baby change facilities. The toilets are now owned and managed by City of Newcastle.



## People profile: Aaron Cook, HCCDC

Aaron Cook joined HCCDC in late 2022 as our Senior Development Manager in the Newcastle Projects Team.

Get to know Aaron as he helps deliver great outcomes for the community.

### Q: Can you explain your role at HCCDC?

**A:** I get to work on a range of interesting development projects in Newcastle, managing the work our project teams do on site and behind the scenes. This involves collaborating with our project managers, consultants, and contractors to oversee every stage of a development, from inception through to completion.

### Q: Where were you before HCCDC and how are you finding it so far?

**A:** Before joining HCCDC, I managed a major projects team at the City of Maitland. I previously worked in private practice and spent 10 years developing projects in local government. I'm enjoying working in the development space to deliver new public domain for the community and delving into some exciting future projects.

### Q: Are you involved in any specific key projects this year?

**A:** I'm managing the delivery of the new community spaces in Honeysuckle, including the latest section of public domain alongside Cottage Creek. I'm looking forward to work kicking off later this year on the next stage, alongside Little National Hotel.

### Q: How does it make you feel to play such a pivotal role in transforming a high-profile community asset like Newcastle's foreshore?

**A:** I grew up and studied in Maitland and Newcastle and have lived in Newcastle for the past 15 years, so have a real affinity and attachment to the area. I enjoy public work, which is what drew me away from private practice 10 years ago, and I'm motivated to be part of the ongoing development of the city.

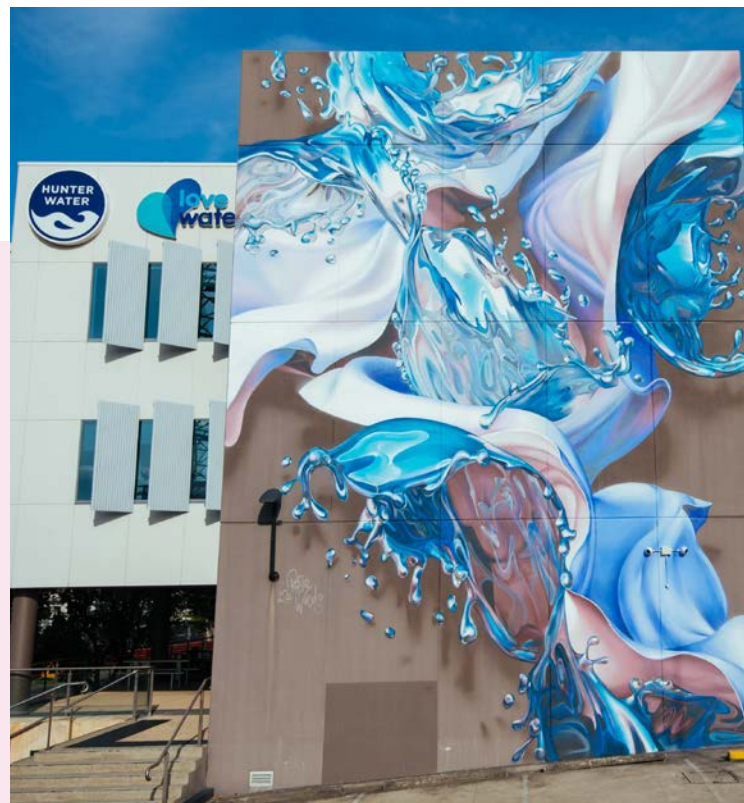
### Q: Tell us something interesting about yourself

**A:** I've loved music for as long as I can remember. I've always played instruments (mostly bass guitar), played in bands and have collected quality hi-fi equipment. Many years ago, I was playing at a local concert and some school kids politely asked to use our instruments to play an old Rolling Stones song – it turned out to be Silverchair!

## More street art for Newy

The Big Picture Fest returned to Newcastle late last year, delivering 10 new colourful murals across the city.

We were proud to sponsor the dream wall at Hunter Water, created by talented artist Rosie Woods. Other nearby works can be found in Kumami Place on Hunter Street and Civic Lane near Newcastle Museum.





## Hope at Honeysuckle

'Hope at Honeysuckle' will be a new venue positioned to bring the best of the Hunter to Newcastle. After the initial development was approved by City of Newcastle in late 2021, some changes have been made to enhance the venue. Once approved, Hope anticipate construction will commence in Autumn 2023. We're looking forward to seeing the iconic Wharf building transform into a tourist destination for all to enjoy.

# Private developments

Residential, commercial and office spaces continue to rise along Honeysuckle Drive

## Huntington

Doma's recently completed Huntington development features 86 apartments and 1500m<sup>2</sup> of ground-floor retail space. Honeysuckle's newest residents began moving in late last year and commercial tenants are expected to follow over the coming months.



## Horizon on the Harbour

Miller Property Corporation's Horizon on the Harbour is rising steadily along Honeysuckle's waterfront. The ground-level concrete slabs are complete, and all three towers are under construction. When complete, the development will have 101 residential offerings and 970m<sup>2</sup> of ground floor retail space. The existing traffic alterations at Steel Street remain in place until completion of works, which are expected to wrap up in September this year.

## Little National Hotel

Doma Group's Little National Hotel and office building at 42 Honeysuckle Drive is making great progress, with the concrete structure to the hotel nearing completion. Work will soon start on the office building which is being constructed from timber – a more sustainable material that reduces embodied carbon in the building by around 50%, when compared to conventional concrete buildings.



**Honeysuckle is experiencing its next stage of transformation.**

To keep informed of what's changing in Honeysuckle, register your email at [honeysuckle@hccdc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:honeysuckle@hccdc.nsw.gov.au)

[www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hccdc.nsw.gov.au)

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