



Mackay
City Centre

ART WALK

INSPIRING INSTALLATIONS



Image:

Luke MALLIE Ecology (detail) 2018. Completed as part of the Artspace Mackay artist-in-residence project The Wall. *Photography by Jim Cullen.*

Take a stroll through the Mackay City Centre and explore our iconic art installations, designed and created by some of Australia's most talented artists.

Whether you are a creator, artist, or just enjoy the beauty of art, there is plenty to discover in the Mackay City Centre. Start your cultural journey anywhere and stop for a shop, a coffee, a light lunch or dine with a glass of something cold.

Mackay City Centre your Cultural Destination



Image: NICHE ART (Glen MANNING and Kathy DALY) Canefire 2016. *Photography by Ben Dolphin*

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1. THE ELEMENTAL LABYRINTH

The labyrinth is a symbol of self-reflection. As a metaphor for life, it consists of a single, winding path leading through a series of twists and turns into the centre and out again. *The Elemental Labyrinth* also incorporates eight elements: water; wood; fire; metal; earth; mountain; wind; and, sky/space.

The elements represent the natural cycle of nature/the external environment.

2. ENTWINED



Entwined has re-purposed a large, industrial cane crushing roller from the old Pleystowe Sugar Mill. The roller is mounted upright on the exterior of Artspace Mackay, appearing to have functioned as a device for peeling back the exterior layer of copper from the building.

Entwined is an example of integrated public art, where the artist worked closely with the architects. At the time architect Michael Rayner said of the design *"the architecture seeks to question the role of architecture as sculpture in a quirky way – the building's street façade peeling open to encase an old artefact from the sugar industry"*.

Image 1: Jill CHISM The Elemental Labyrinth 2002. Photography by Dean Whitting.

Image 2: Craig WALSH Entwined 2002. Photography by Dean Whitting.

3. LOCAL WILDLIFE



These sculptures of Local Wildlife commemorate Mackay's 150th anniversary of European settlement.

The eight sculptures depict a joey kangaroo, emu chick, sleeping wombat, cockatoo, fruit bat, lorikeets, possums and a scrub fowl and have all been made from a Camphor Laurel tree removed from Greenmount Homestead, Walkerston.

4. TRUE NORTH



True North is a collection of four public art sculptures by Donna Marcus at Caneland Central and along Mackay's Bluewater Trail overlooking the Pioneer River.

Using the nautical term True North, the four sculptures are constructed from marine buoys and exhibit strong colour combinations with industrial and recreational references. Two buoys, strident in their colours of work – red, yellow and black, are hung high off the ground under the canopy of the shopping centre. The other two, located on the other side of Matsuura Avenue, along the river, are playfully red and white.

Image 3: Adriaan VANDERLUGT Local Wildlife 2013 & 2018. Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.

Image 4: Donna MARCUS True North 2012. Image courtesy of the artist and Dianne Tanzer Gallery. Photography by Grant Perigo.

5. CROWS

This work is installed above head height at Mackay's Bluewater Lagoon.

On sunny days, its shadow extends the work onto the ground and water. On one level this work operates in a playful and whimsical fashion.

However, the concepts that underpin the work also cast a shadow. In the 1800s South Sea Islanders were 'blackbirded', a colloquial term used to describe the forcible removal of people from their islands to Mackay where they were forced to work as slaves in the sugar industry.

Fiona Foley

Six art installations by Fiona Foley highlight the Bluewater Trail beside Mackay's beautiful Pioneer River. Her research and discussions with local communities in the Mackay region, the Indigenous Yuibera people and the Mackay Australian South Sea Islander community, inform and infiltrate these works. Her incorporation of local Indigenous narratives, their exploration of some of the difficult histories of Mackay, has brought air and recognition to the dispossessed.

6. YUWI

This two-metre-high text names local Aboriginal people and their lands.

The text is foregrounded with a bronze ring (or wreath) inlaid into the ground as a symbol of a sacred land. Places in and around Australia had names when settlers arrived in colonial times. While some of these were adopted, others were misheard, or romanticised, so as to render them palatable and legible for the incoming Europeans. By rendering the local name for place in large red letters along this thoroughfare in Mackay, Foley gives the first inhabitants of this land visibility and honours their memory. *The wreath laid in front of these letters remembers those lost, killed and dispossessed, and notes the sacred qualities of these lands.*

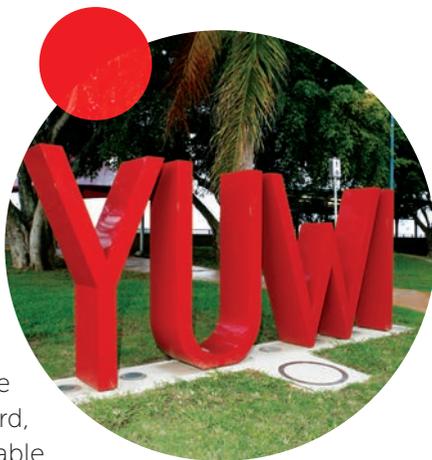


Image 5: Fiona FOLEY Crows 2009. Photography by Alicia Stevenson.

Image 6: Fiona FOLEY Yuwi 2009. Photography by Alicia Stevenson.

7. FISHBONES

Fiona Foley's *Fishbones* are like wings, lined up, evoking the fish spine. These artworks honour and evoke memories of Mackay's maritime history and act as a marker to the wharf precinct. Inspiration for these works was drawn from history – the Yuibera people were noted by early settlers for their fishing prowess.

However, bones necessarily evoke death – those who have passed on, or were 'dispersed'. Mackay's history includes incidents in which local Aboriginals were killed.



Image 7: Fiona FOLEY Fishbones 2009. Photography by Alicia Stevenson.

Image 8: Fiona FOLEY Shields 2009. Photography by Alicia Stevenson.

8. SHIELDS

In this work, historic shield designs that belong to the Yuibera People were sourced at the Queensland Museum and brought back to the area, inlaid into the pavement.

Their installation in the fabric of the stone adds a cultural layer to the Bluewater Quay development zone. In this busy area, they are a gentle reminder of the original owners and the traditions that have been enacted on these lands in times past.



9. SUGAR CUBES

This circular installation beside the Pioneer River represents the complexity of history involving the sugar industry. Sugar cubes are stacked like pillars.

This industry has been one of Mackay's most significant successes, yet these works also acknowledge the historical importance of South Sea Islanders to both this industry and to Mackay. This city is home to Australia's largest population of Australian South Sea Islanders. Detailed on the surface of the sugar cubes are thumb prints of their South Sea Islander ancestors and the names of transporting ships in recognition of the history of their human cargo.



10. MANGROVE CAP

The monumental Mangrove Cap (some nine metres tall) that Foley designed sits beside the Pioneer River in an open grassy landscape.

The health of our rivers, fish and environment is nurtured by the quality of our mangrove stocks, and their importance is reinforced through the creation of this giant statement in steel designed to visibly age in the salty environment. The work is given an other-worldly, starry ambience by using solar-powered lights which glow through and beneath the cap in pricks of light.



Image 9: Fiona FOLEY Sugar Cubes 2009. *Photography by Alicia Stevenson.*

Image 10: Fiona FOLEY Mangrove Cap 2009. *Photography by Alicia Stevenson.*

11. UPON THE LEVEE WALL: COMMUNITY MURAL

UPon the Levee Wall tells the story of Mackay's river port settlement, from the original Indigenous inhabitants to early European settlement, the arrival of South Sea Islander indentured labourers, other waves of migration, early industry through to modern-day Mackay.

The 300 metre mural began its life as a community arts project as part of Animating Spaces Mackay UPI, designed to revitalise and celebrate significant or unusual spaces within regional communities.



12. CANEFIRE

Mackay's most central public art installation, Canefire was inspired by the city's natural landscape and predominant natural resource, sugar cane.

It seeks to capture the light and movement in an explosively burning and fragmented mass of sugar cane in its shiny chrome formation. Its position, on a roundabout that is the fulcrum within the Mackay City Centre, allows for its visibility and vistas to four streets.

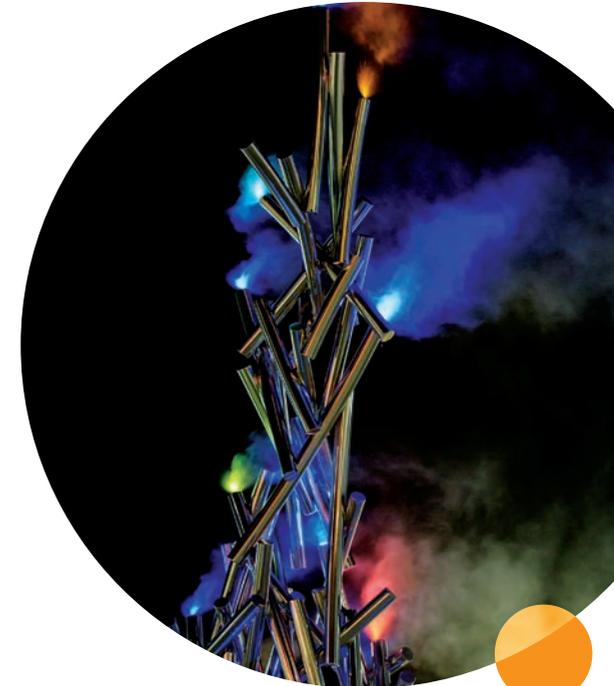


Image 11: Margaret BURGESS, Susan GEE, May-Britt MOSSHAMMER, Tracey ROBB, Andrea WRIGHT UPon the Levee Wall: Community Mural 2009. *Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.*

Image 12: NICHE ART (Glen MANNING and Kathy DALY) Canefire 2016. *Photography by Jim Cullen.*

13. 14. 15. 16. BUILDING BLOOMS

Building Blooms are triffids on a large scale, gigantic organic shapes that demand attention. Artist Brian Robinson, a north Queenslander by virtue of his Torres Strait Islander heritage, is known for his ability to combine elements organic and manmade into a unique fusion that speaks to both popular culture and art history, to his own heritage and to broad contemporary interests.

Robinson describes the Deco Blooms as being designed to fuse with the Art Deco features of Mackay's built heritage, while his Urban Blooms speak to the flowering plants from the botanic gardens, not only in Mackay but spread across the Eastern seaboard. They use the two elements together to celebrate growth and life.



Images 13, 14, 15, 16: Brian ROBINSON Building Blooms 2016. Photography by Jim Cullen.

17. MEETING PLACE

Meeting Place celebrates geographic areas of the Mackay region: fresh water; sea, mountains and lowlands and the gathering of the community.

165 residents of all ages and abilities explored local themes in a series of printmaking workshops across the region, creating prints which have been etched onto the artwork. The mangrove forms symbolise the meeting of freshwater and sea, and the interconnectedness of ecosystems. The curved composition represents the Pioneer River.



18. YELLOW BRICK ROAD - ELTON JOHN MURAL

Mackay City Centre's *Yellow Brick Road - Elton John Mural* was officially opened by Mayor Greg Williamson on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. The Elton John-inspired mural was commissioned by local business, Sun City Signs, to commemorate the Elton John visit as it was such a rare event for our region. The mural is located on the external Westpac building wall in the City Centre.

This colourful and quirky legacy art piece is a fantastic and unique addition to the Mackay City Centre and can be found in 4th Lane, off Wood Street.

Image 17: Wanda BENNETT and Tracey JOHNSON Meeting Place 2016. Photography by Jim Cullen.

Image 18: Sun City Signs Yellow Brick Road - Elton John Mural 2017. Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.



19. 7TH LANE STREET ART

Created as part of Mackay's Easter Laneway Festival; *7th Lane Street Art* was an artwork project that turned a blank wall in the City Centre into a bright and engaging space.



21. TESSELLATION

From a graffitied laneway to a burst of geometric colours this artwork has transformed a Mackay City Centre laneway into a legacy mural for Facebook.

The triangular shapes are based around the flow of technology in our modern day society and how it has globalized our contemporary world.

20. IMAG_NE

IMAG_NE – giant Scrabble set, in 2015 the artwork was installed at Bluewater Quay to encourage residents to imagine what the City Centre would look like once the revitalisation project was finished later that year.

The artist Emma Anna lives in Melbourne and Barranquilla in Columbia and works internationally. *IMAG_NE* was originally exhibited as part of Sculpture by the Sea in Bondi in 2008.



22. THE MACKAY HORIZONS

This community art project was originally a series of pieces representing the horizons of the region from the mountains to the coast, and formed part of the 1993 Mackay City Centre Redevelopment that involved over 100 community volunteers, arts workers and artists. An arts studio and bronze foundry was established in the Paxton's building on River Street as part of the project, and all artworks were produced locally, including the sand-cast and flat plaques and a number of three dimensional bronze sculptures.

In 2015 The Mackay Horizons pieces were relocated as an artwork trail within the Showgrounds as part of the City Centre Revitalisation Project.



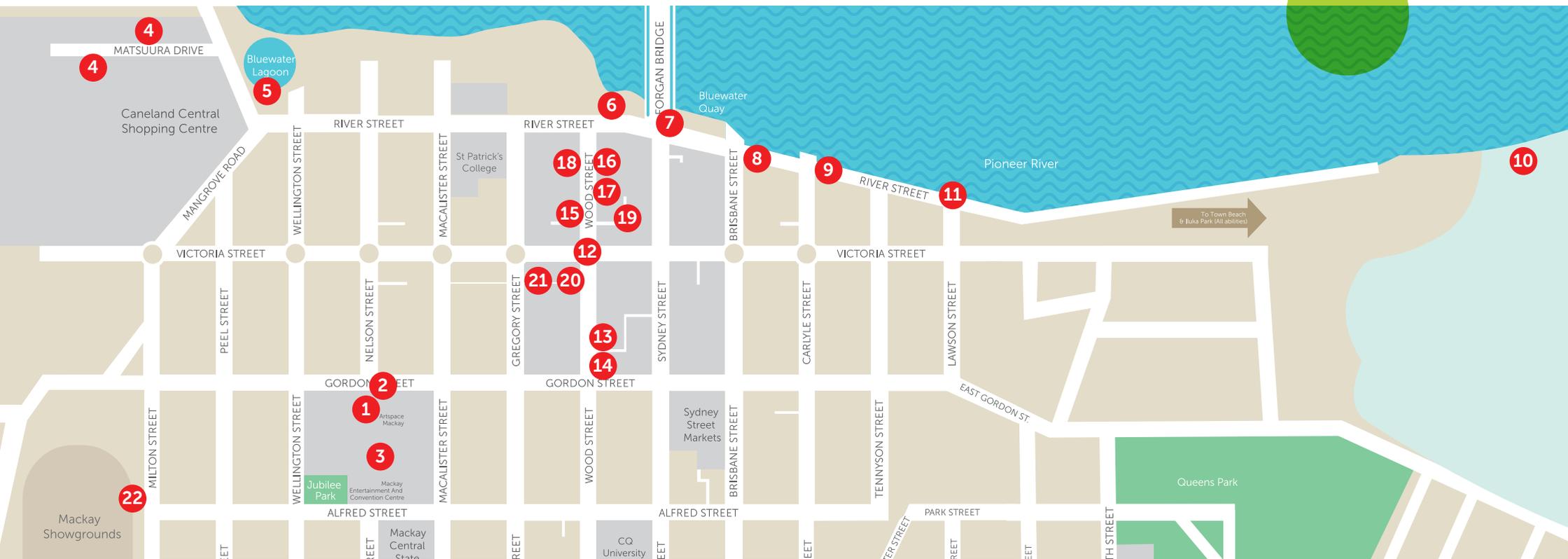
Image 19: 7th Lane Street Art. *Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.*

Image 20: Emma Anna IMAG_NE – Giant Scrabble Set 2008: 2015. *Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.*

Image 21: Jodie CONNOLLY, Marissa MOORE, Donna Maree ROBINSON Tesselation 2018. Commissioned by Facebook. *Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.*

Image 22: The Mackay Horizons 1992: 2015. *Photography by Donna Maree Robinson.*

MAP OF LOCATIONS



1. **Jill Chism The Elemental Labyrinth**, located in the grounds of Artspace Mackay (i.e. front entrance).
2. **Craig Walsh Entwined**, built into the front/Gordon Street-facing external wall of Artspace Mackay.
3. **Adriaan Vanderlugt Local Wildlife** - 8 wooden sculptures outside the MECC.
4. **Donna Marcus 4 x public art works True North**, Caneland Central entrance and Matsuura Drive.

5. **Fiona Foley Crows**, located in the Bluewater Lagoon facility, Bluewater Trail.
6. **Fiona Foley Yuwi**, located on River Street, Bluewater Trail.
7. **Fiona Foley Fishbones**, Bluewater Quay, Bluewater Trail.
8. **Fiona Foley Shields**, Bluewater Quay, Bluewater Trail.
9. **Fiona Foley Sugar Cubes**, Bluewater Quay, Bluewater Trail.
10. **Fiona Foley Mangrove Cap**, Sandfly Creek Reserve, Bluewater Trail.

11. **Upon the Levee Wall: Community Mural**, River Street, Bluewater Quay, Bluewater Trail.

12. **Niche Art Canefire**, intersection of Wood and Victoria Streets, Mackay City Centre.

13.14.15.16. **Brian Robinson Building Blooms**, Wood Street, Mackay City Centre.

17. **Wanda Bennett and Tracey Johnson Meeting Place**, Wood Street Park, Mackay City Centre.

18. **Yellow Brick Road - Elton John Mural** - 4th Lane (off Wood Street).

19. **Community Artists 7th Lane Street Art**. 7th Lane (next to McGuire's Hotel).

20. **Emma Anna IMAG_NE** - Giant Scrabble Set - Cnr of Wood and Victoria Street.

21. **Tessellation**.

22. **The Mackay Horizons**. Horizons Art Walk - Showgrounds (near admin building and behind, along the Milton Street fence line towards pavillions).

Artspace Mackay

Artspace Mackay is a regional art gallery owned and operated by Mackay Regional Council and is an ideal entry point to the unique culture and creativity of this region. Ideally located in the Civic Precinct, alongside the Mackay Entertainment Convention Centre (MECC) and Jubilee Community Centre.

Gallery Opening hours

10am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday
10am to 3pm Saturday & Sunday
Closed Monday

FREE ENTRY

www.artspacemackay.com.au

