

# Doncaster Hill Public Art Fact Sheet



Public art is considered a core part of placemaking, enhancing Doncaster Hill's public open spaces and creating a colourful pedestrian environment. In planning for great civic spaces that all members of the community can enjoy and connect with, no matter what age or social status, public art can play a key role.

Public art forms a key part of delivering the Doncaster Hill Strategy and has been costed into the Doncaster Hill Development Contributions Plan (DCP). There are several art pieces in Doncaster Hill, including:

## **Doncaster Hill Boulevard and Public Art Fence**

The project involved the extension of the Doncaster Hill Boulevard and the creation of a feature art fence along the Doncaster Road frontage of Doncaster Primary School and provision of an urban plaza in front of the Doncaster and Templestowe Arts Centre (Old Shire Hall). The project was funded through the State Government's Creating Better Places program (\$235,000) which was matched by Council. It was completed in June 2007.

A feature art fence, entitled *Running/Walking (Moving Forward)*, by artist Warren Langley, features concertina sections of glass, interspersed with cut-out images of moving figures in copper that are illuminated at night. Warren worked closely with the primary school and used images of staff and students as the basis for the figures on the fence.

Boulevard streetscape works include an attractive widened promenade, avenue tree planting, urban plaza, signage and street furniture to encourage pedestrian focused activity on Doncaster Road. The urban plaza allows for outdoor art exhibitions and an attractive open space with seating that is filtered from traffic impact by suitable landscape treatment.

The project was completed and launched in June 2007 by Brian Tee MP, representing the Minister for Planning, the Hon Justin Madden. The Doncaster Hill Boulevard and Public Art Fence won the Parks and Leisure (PLA) Management Award for Open Space Development in the Victoria/Tasmania region in August 2007 and was a finalist in the 2008 LGPRO Awards for Excellence.

## **Doncaster Hill Pedestrian Underpass**

The Doncaster Hill Boulevard Pedestrian Underpass is located in Precinct 1 between the Civic Offices and Doncaster Primary School and 682 Doncaster Road. The project was funded through the State Government's Local Area Access Program (\$300,000) which was matched by Council. An extensive upgrade of the underpass was undertaken in October 2008 and included innovative wall treatments and lighting to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity and make it a more attractive space.

Renowned artist Warren Langley erected an art piece on the walls and ceiling, titled *Immerse*.

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The creative design features a striking montage of colour and light, and helps to brighten the underground thoroughfare to encourage greater use.

## Column

Westfield representatives and Manningham Council officers worked together on the selection of a piece of public art for installation on the Williamsons Road frontage of Westfield in 2011. The purchase of the piece was funded by Westfield with Council providing in-kind support by project managing the installation, which occurred in mid-2012.

The sculpture is entitled 'Column' and is constructed from corten steel. The 3.2 metre tall sculpture was designed and fabricated by Melbourne artist Rudi Jass. The flowing and dynamic pattern of the sculpture reinterprets basic geometrical shapes (such as triangles, circles and squares) used by many cultures to explore focus, harmony and balance.

## Orchard Earth Totem

One of the first pieces of public art installed in Doncaster Hill, the Orchard Earth Totem was created by Victorian sculptor, Peter Blizzard OAM. The sculpture was installed in front of the Sovereign Point Apartments in Williamsons Road, Doncaster in late 2006.

Orchard Earth Totem is a six metre tall welded steel vertical structure sitting on a stone base. The sculpture features a one metre wide natural stone at the top of this symbolic totem. Peter describes his sculpture as "an ongoing investigation into ideas and responses to nature, the environment, landscape and about the relationship of nature to the human spirit of the land, and how we should venerate and respect what we have".

## Sidle

Sidle, an urban artwork by artist and architect team Cat Macleod and Michael Bellemo, was commissioned by Manningham City Council in 2007 as a placemaking initiative and general park upgrade, funded by Doncaster Hill developer contributions.

First installed at Carawatha Reserve in Doncaster, it was then relocated to the Civic Precinct, adjacent to the Council offices in 2008.

The sculpture is constructed from old steel slides that were being decommissioned in parks across the municipality. Lifted on elongated legs, the slides have been rotated around a central pivot to create a parabolic shelter. Painted a vibrant hot pink, Sidle is rendered in a colour rarely used for standard play equipment, perhaps a play on gender associations.

## Big Cat and Water Creature

The iconic glass mosaic sculptures created by Debra Halpern titled Big Cat and Water Creature were installed on the civic plaza of MC<sup>2</sup> at 687 Doncaster Road in September 2012.

Deborah Halpern's work can be exuberant and whimsical but is also imbued with a deep artistry. Over a long career, Halpern has produced an extraordinary body of work and through her numerous public sculptures, has become well known and respected within the community.

For more information on public art and public realm improvements in Doncaster Hill, visit [www.doncasterhill.com](http://www.doncasterhill.com)