

# Sculpture inspired by stories from coastal folk

By SOPHIE RUDDELL

A NEW sculpture has been installed at Wickham's Fig Tree Park as part of the City of Newcastle's Public Art Partnership program.

Artist Kelly-Ann Lees created the five-metre high steel sculpture, called *Caught*, which is a reference to the Newcastle harbour.

The sculpture features a fishing net filled with fish, modelled from three regional fish species - yellowfin bream, tarwhine and sea mullet.

Lees said she drew inspiration from past and present fishermen to create the sculpture.

"*Caught* is inspired by woven indigenous and metal commercial traps used to catch fish by coastal and riverine environment peoples of the Hunter," she said.

Newcastle Art Gallery director Ron Ramsay said the sculpture "marks an important initiative to further the reach of public art in Newcastle".

The sculpture was made possible through a generous personal donation from lord mayor and lady mayor-ess, Jeff and Tracey McCloy, who are strong supporters of Newcastle's growing public art.

An official unveiling ceremony for the sculpture is due to take place next month.



HARBOUR CATCEN: Kelly-Ann Lees with her sculpture *Caught* in Fig Tree Park. It will be officially unveiled next month.

Picture: Simone de Peak