**Additional information from Mary Gissing, Newcastle**

**Contact details for Elsa Licumba**

Presenter of ‘Everyone has a story to tell’ CALD memoir writing workshops and interactive zoom

<https://www.elsalicumba.com/about/>

**Regarding Acknowledgement of Country**

The acknowledgement I used on the day was:

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I am working today, the Awabakal and Worimi peoples, and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside in this area.

I extend my respect to Elders, past, present and those to come, for they hold the culture, knowledge, truth, and memories.

I acknowledge and respect the continuing relationship with the land, waters and skies together with the  spiritual and cultural protocols that have been practiced for thousands of years.

I recognize that they are the proud survivors of more than two hundred years of dispossession. Council reiterates its commitment to addressing disadvantages and attaining justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this community.

Today, the City of Newcastle is still home to Awabakal and Worimi peoples and we are grateful to have the opportunity to meet and work on these territories.

I acknowledge that to date these lands have not been ceded, and these lands always were and always will be Aboriginal Lands.

My usual acknowledgement is:

I stand on this land Onebygambah, Mulumbimba- Carrington, Newcastle.

I acknowledge with deep respect the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. The Awabakal and Worimi peoples belong to the oldest continuing culture in the world. They have cared for and protected Country for thousands of years. They knew these lands waters and skies, they lived on this land, and they died on these lands, and I honour them. I acknowledge these lands have never been ceded. I am grateful to those who came before us and have nurtured and protected Country and its ecosystems for future generations.

As an information services worker I recognise the history of truth that acknowledges the impact of invasion and colonisation on Aboriginal people resulting in genocide and their forcible removal from their lands here in The Hunter and around Australia. As an arts and culture worker, I recognise the rich, diverse, living cultures of the First Nations peoples of these lands now known as Australia.

I pay my respects to Elders past, present, to the many Aboriginal people that did not make elder status. I also pay my respect to the Aboriginal people who continue to care for country today and to any first nations people present and listening.

I stand for a future that profoundly respects and acknowledges Aboriginal perspectives, cultures, languages and histories, and  for the continued effort for Aboriginal justice and rights, paving the way for a strong future.

Always was and always will be Aboriginal Lands.