



Moreland
City Council

A quick guide to

Pixlr

Pixlr

Pixlr is a photo editing program that can be used in your internet browser.

<https://pixlr.com/>

With similar functions to paid programs such as Adobe Photoshop it can be used to edit photos, create photo collages and make digital art.

This quick guide covers some of the basic functions, tools and the layout of the program. It's recommended that you follow the introduction video tutorial first and use this guide to cement the learning from that video. You can also refer back to it when undertaking your own projects.



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Starting a project

How to begin a project on Pixlr.

Step 1)

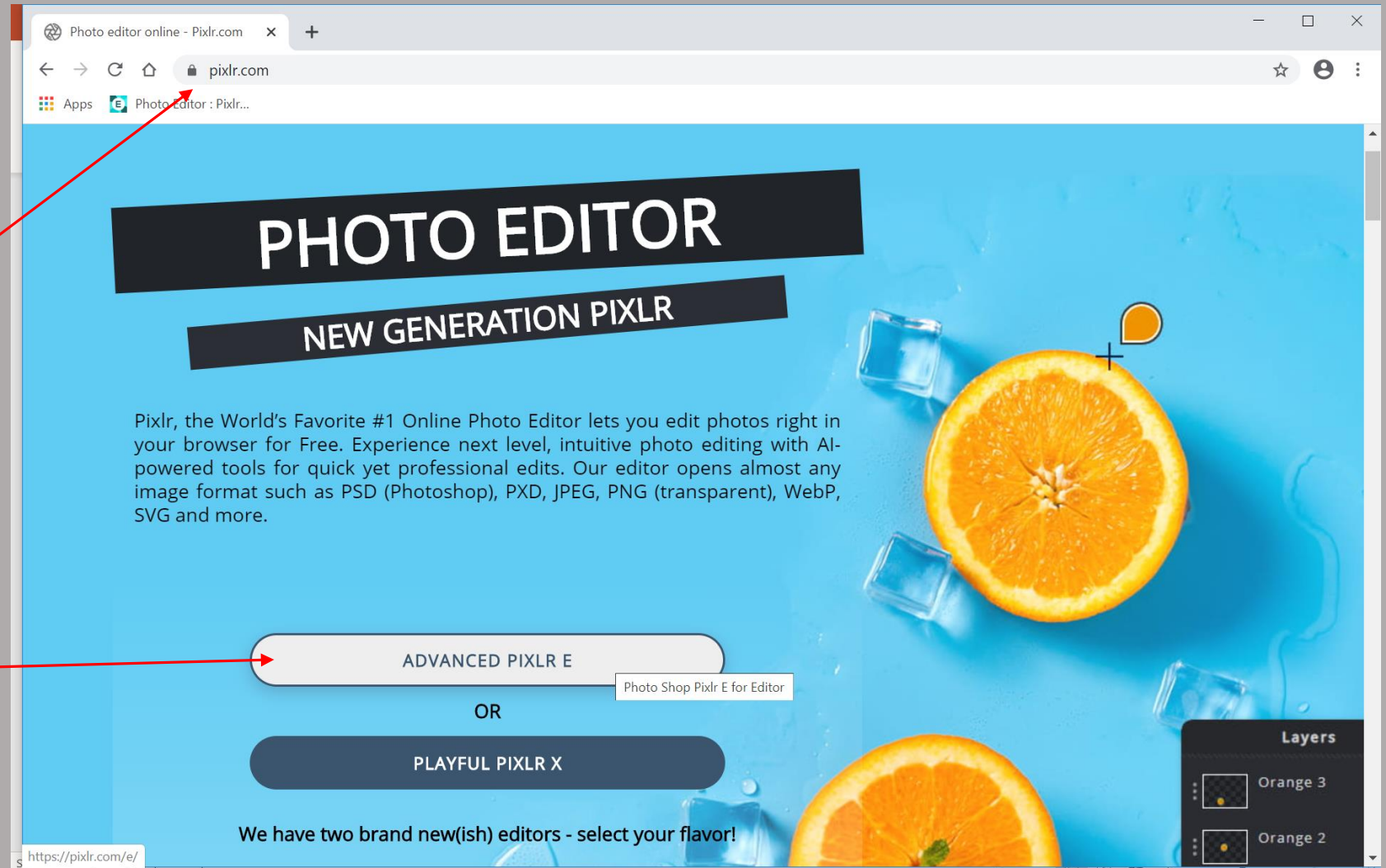
In your preferred internet browser go to:

www.pixlr.com

You should see a page this this appear.

Step 2)

Click "ADVANCED PIXLR E"

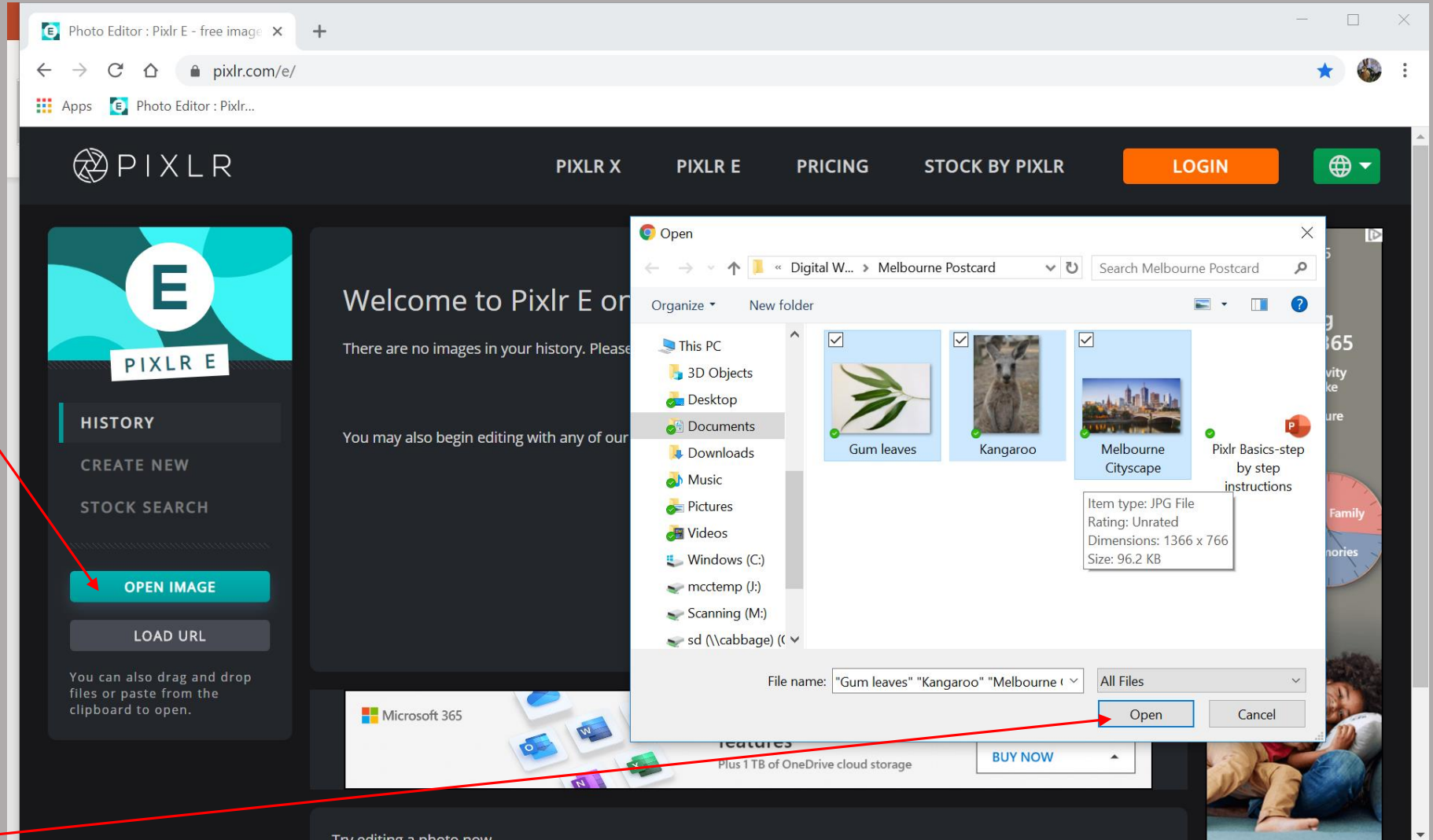


Step 3)

Click "OPEN IMAGE"

Step 4)

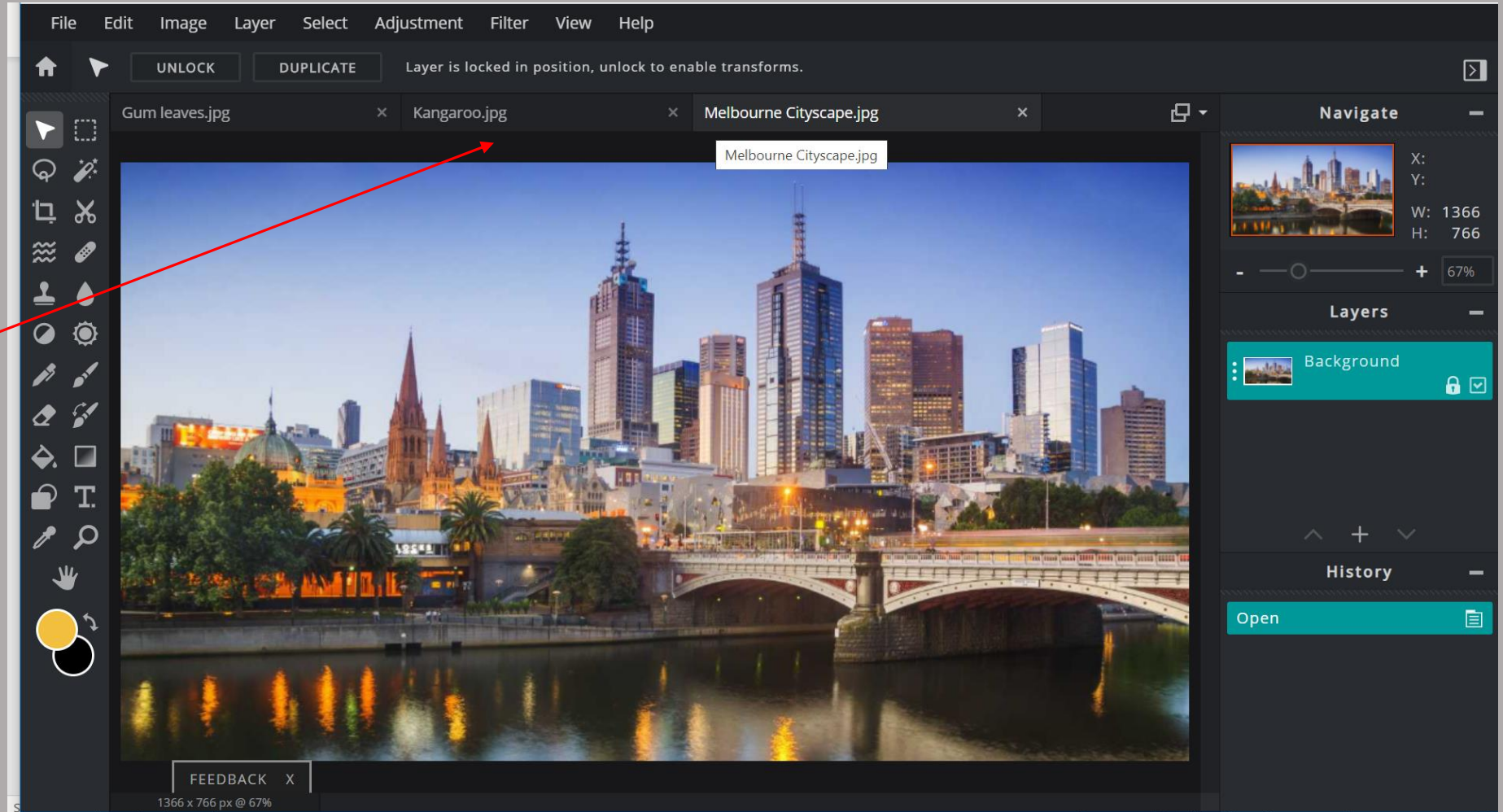
Go to where you have saved the files you wish to work with. If you would like to open multiple at once hold down shift and click on each individually. Once they are selected (indicted by a blue box) click open.



Step 5)

You should now have all three images open in “tabs”. This means they are opened individually within Pixlr.

You can click on a tab to take you to the image which will be editable on its own canvas.



Pixlr Layout

This is a basic guide to the pixlr program layout.

Option Menu

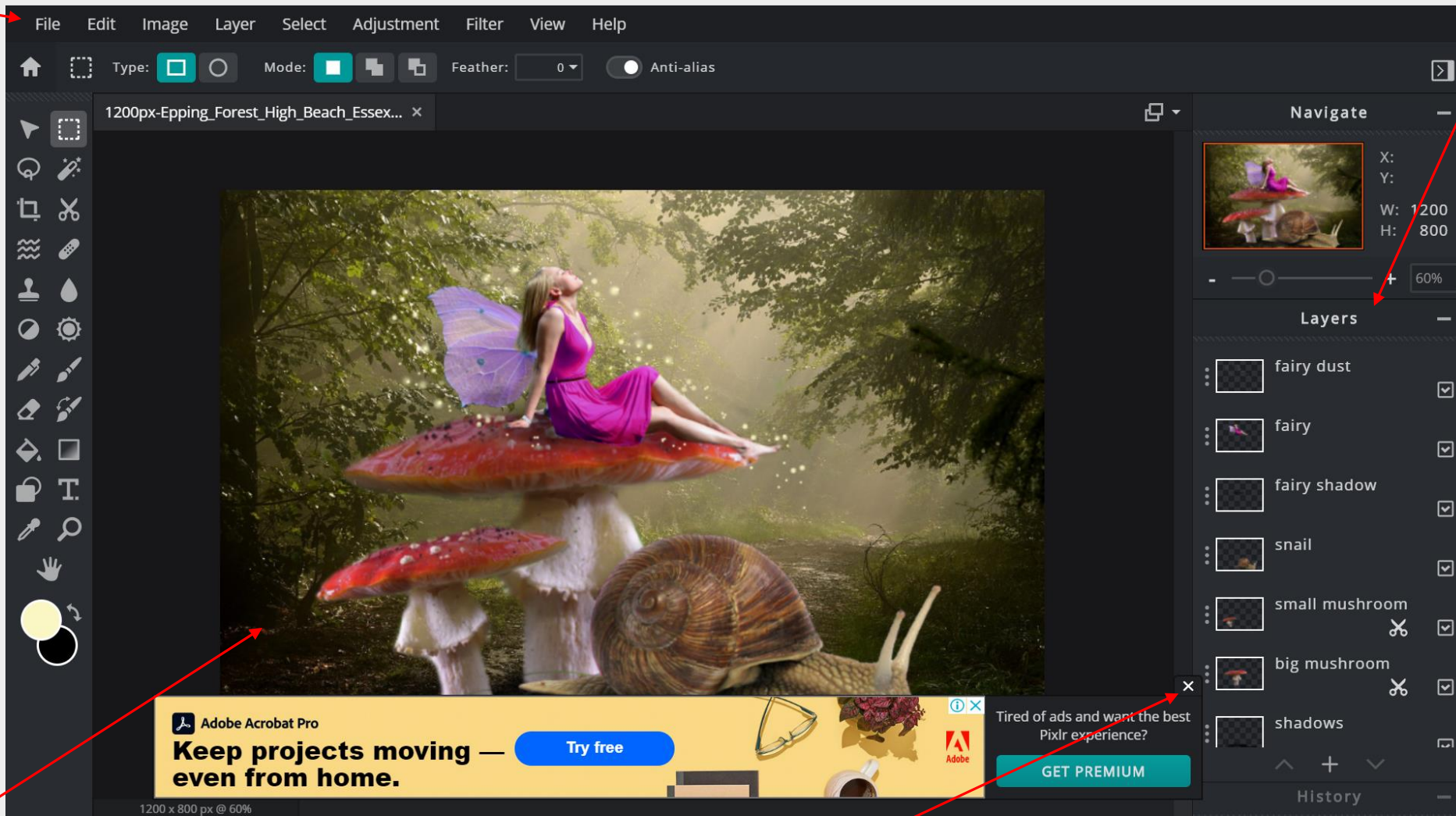
Within this menu are many different functions. From the basics such as saving your image to filters and editing options. As a rule of thumb most of these functions effect the image as a *whole* instead of the individual elements that it's made up from.

Tool Bar

This contains many different tools available to use in Pixlr. Hover over them to find an explanation of what they do.

Canvas

This is where your image sits in a workable area. You can zoom in and out on the canvas to view things closer or further away as a whole



Layers

When you paste multiple images into a canvas generally they will sit in their own "layer". You can see a small preview of what is on each layer.

By Selecting the layer in this window it will select the image/object on the canvas and allow you to edit it.

Generally, you cannot edit a layer if it is not selected.

Ads

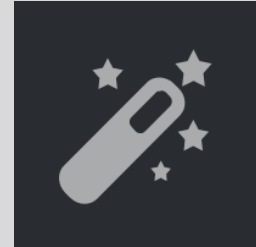
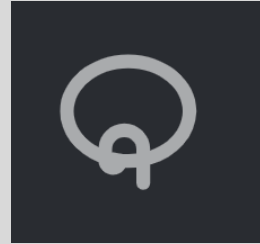
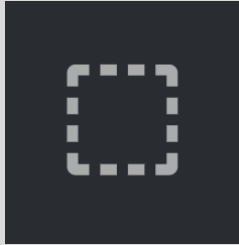
Because Pixlr is a free program, sometimes adds will pop up. Simply click the far right "x" to close them

Pixlr tools

These are the basic tools you will use when photo editing, creating photo montages and in digital art.

Selection tools

These tools are used to select certain parts of an image.



Marquee Select

Create selections with the square and circle selection tool.

Keyboard shortcut (M)



Lasso Select

Use the freehand, polygon, bezier or magnetic lasso to create a selection.

Keyboard shortcut (L)



Wand Select

Use the magic wand to select areas with similar colors.

Keyboard shortcut (W)



Cutout / Mask

Mask areas and/or remove backgrounds, cut out objects or crop/trim individual layers.

Keyboard shortcut (K)

Modification tools

These tools all have unique ways of distorting, enhancing and changing images.



Liquify

Grow, shrink and push parts of the image. Use liquify to make subtle adjustments to portraits and other images.

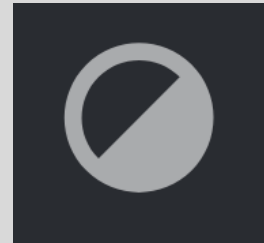
Keyboard shortcut (Q)



Blur / Sharpen / Smudge

Draw over areas in the image to sharpen, blur or smudge details.

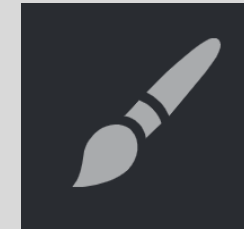
Keyboard shortcut (D)



Dodge / Burn

Lighten or darken areas of the image to bring out dark areas or dim light ones.

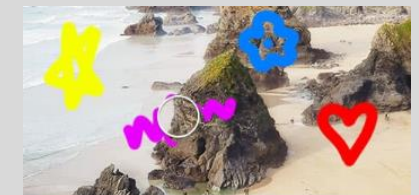
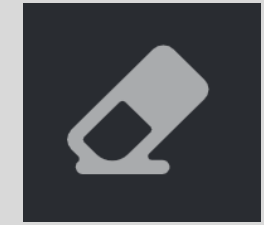
Keyboard shortcut (O)



Draw

Draw and doodle with different brushes and colors.

Keyboard shortcut (B)




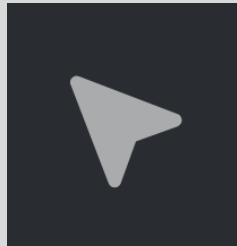
Eraser

Erase parts of an image with a brush, use cutout tool for finer result.

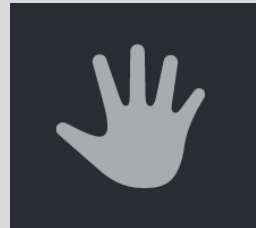
Keyboard shortcut (E)

Navigation tools

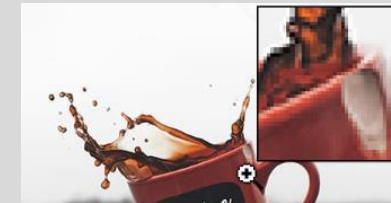
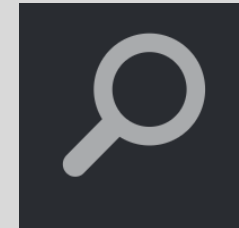
These tools are used to navigate within the Pixlr program.



Arrange
Move, transform and change layer settings.
Keyboard shortcut (V)



Hand / Pan
Move the viewable area when the image is zoomed in. Hold spacebar in any tool.
Keyboard shortcut (SPACEBAR)



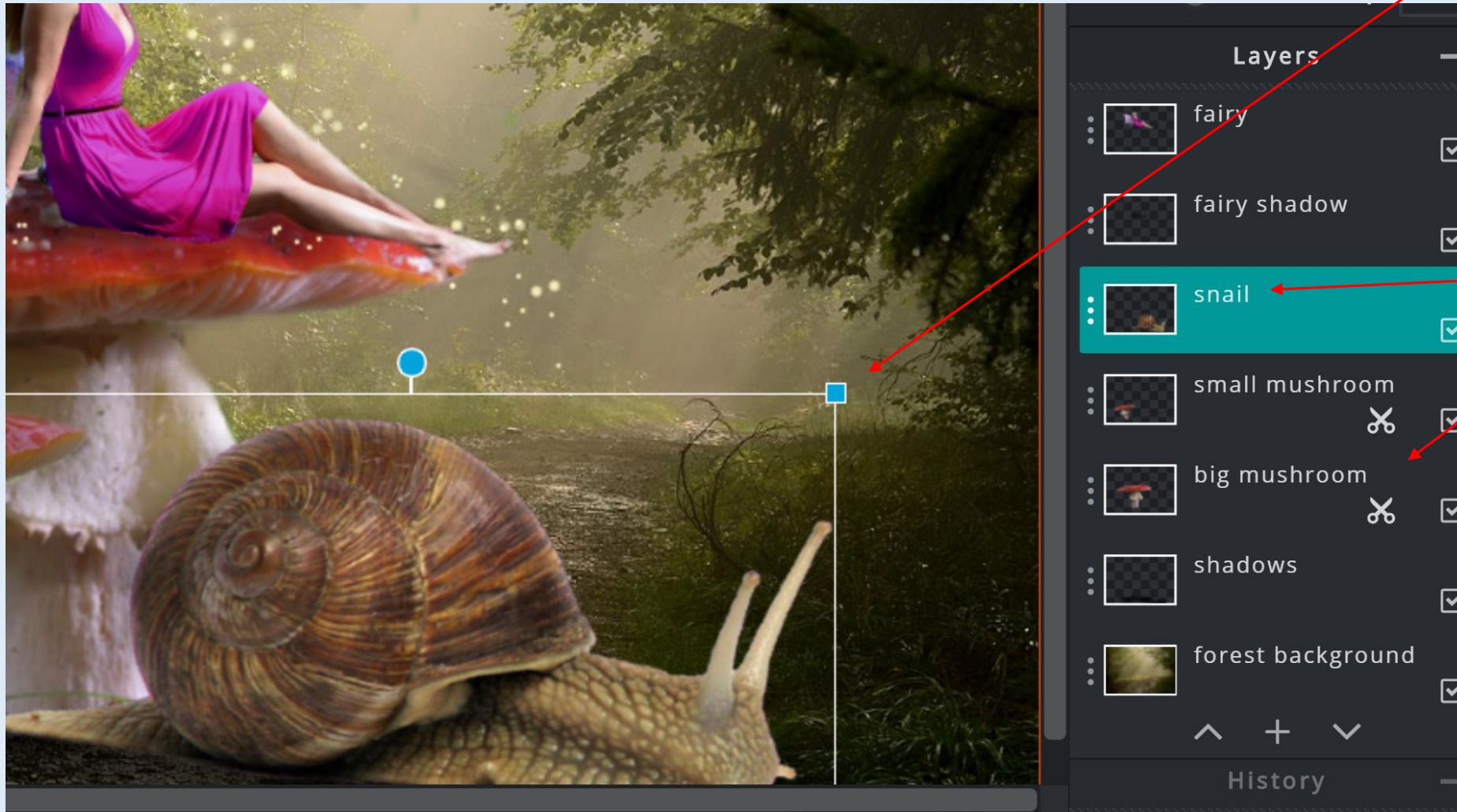
Zoom
Zoom in or out of the photo to focus on different parts.
Keyboard shortcut (Z)

Layers

Layers are used to sort and organise the different components that make up a whole image. This allows you to edit each part of the image separately. Layers also refer to the order that components of the image show, overlapping one another. Learn more in the next few pages.

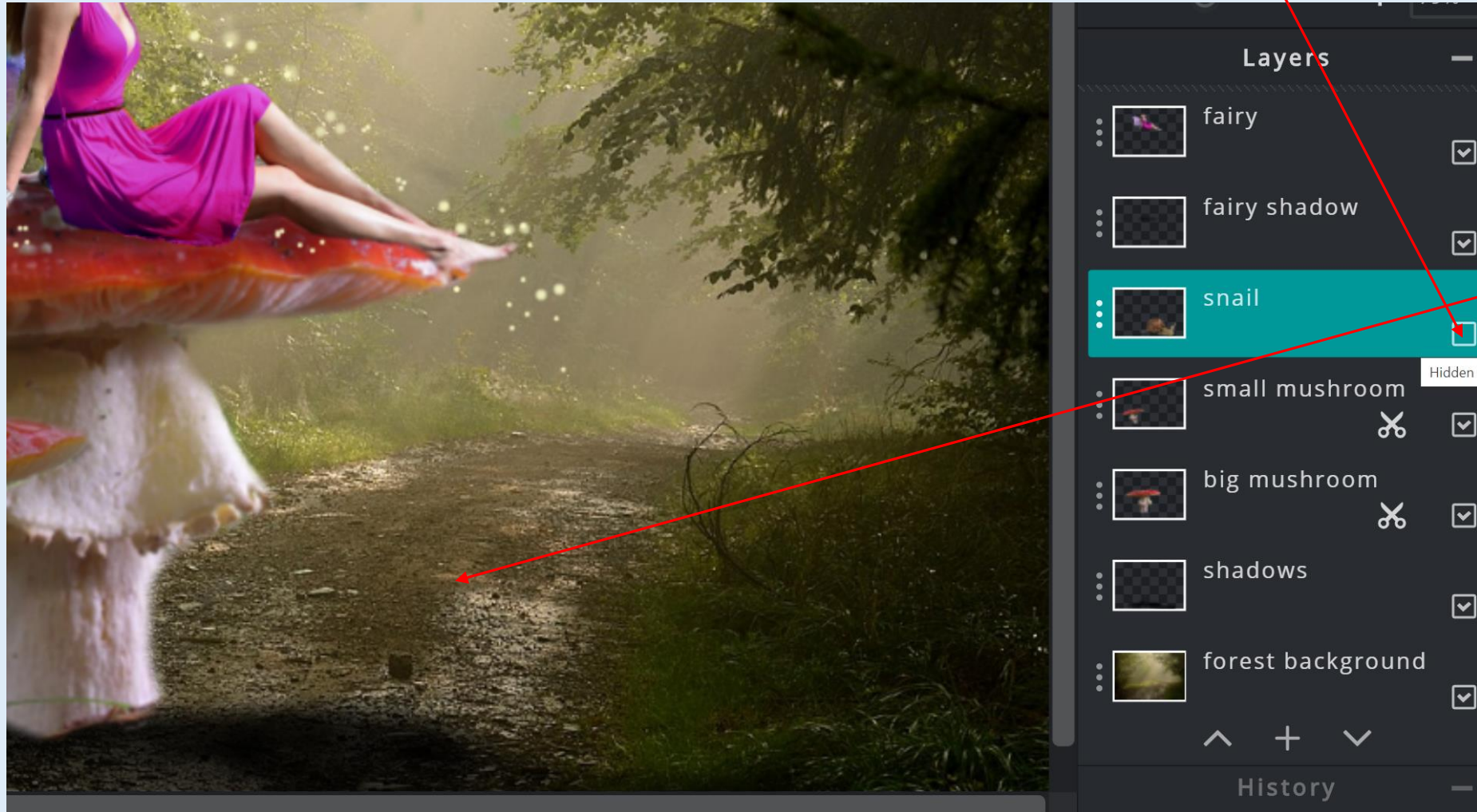
Layers

Layers are one of the most useful features in photo editing. Especially if you are making a composite photograph made from many different images. Imagine it like a pile of cut-out pictures. What ever is on the top of the pile with cover what is beneath it. When you click a layer it will select what is on that layer. You can see this has happened when a selection box appears.



Notice how the snail is in front of the mushroom? That is because the snail layer is above the mushroom layer.

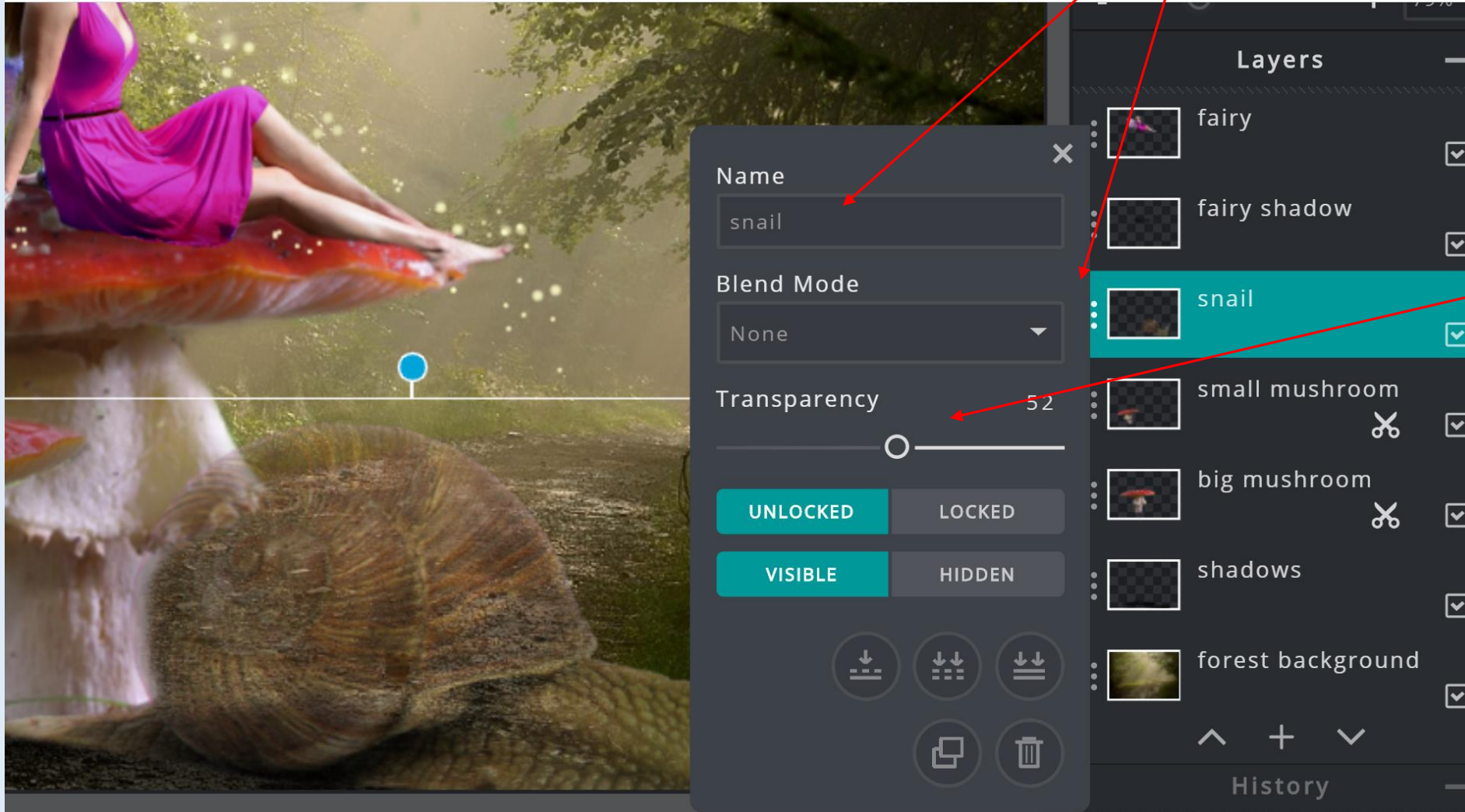
The ticked box in the bottom right hand corner of the layer shows that the layer is currently visible. By clicking on the box and unchecking it, it will “hide” the layer. This means you cant see what is on the layer in your image. But, by re-checking the box it will reappear.



See how the snail layer is unchecked so the snail is not visible?

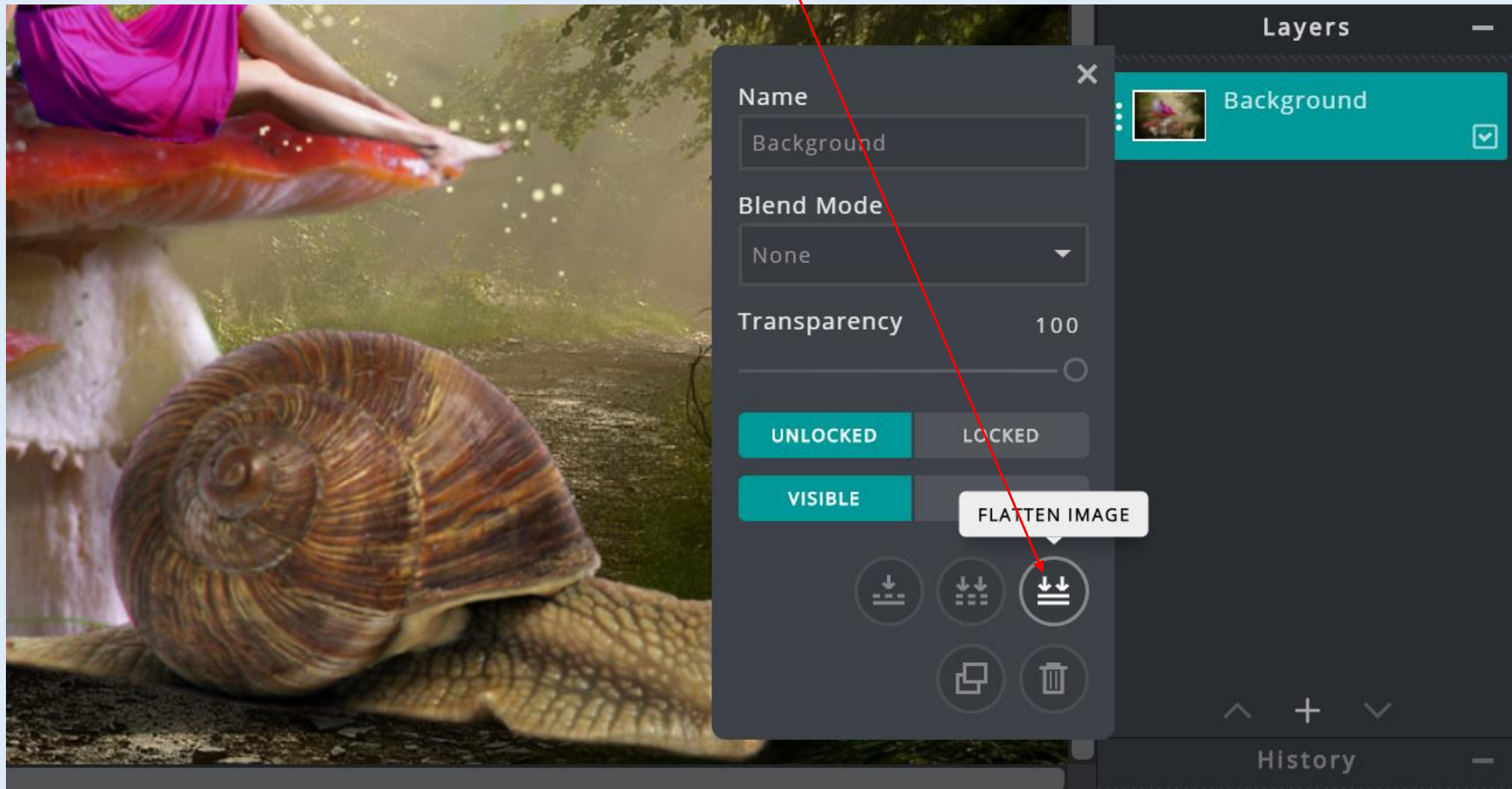
TIP: if you are unsure of what a layer contains. Check and uncheck the box to see what disappears from the image. This will show you what the layer contains.

Within the layers menu there are further options. By clicking the three dots on the left you open a menu that allows you to rename the selected layer. This is handy for keeping track of what is in each layer by giving it an appropriate name.



You can also change the transparency (how see-through something is). 100% transparency is solid. Notice how the snail layer being set to 52% transparency has made the snail semi see-through?

There is also an option in the layers menu to “flatten image” this will combine all your layers into one. It is helpful for if you want to apply a filter to or adjust the colours of a whole image.



Transform, Duplicate and Transparency.

These three handy commands help edit your images in different ways.

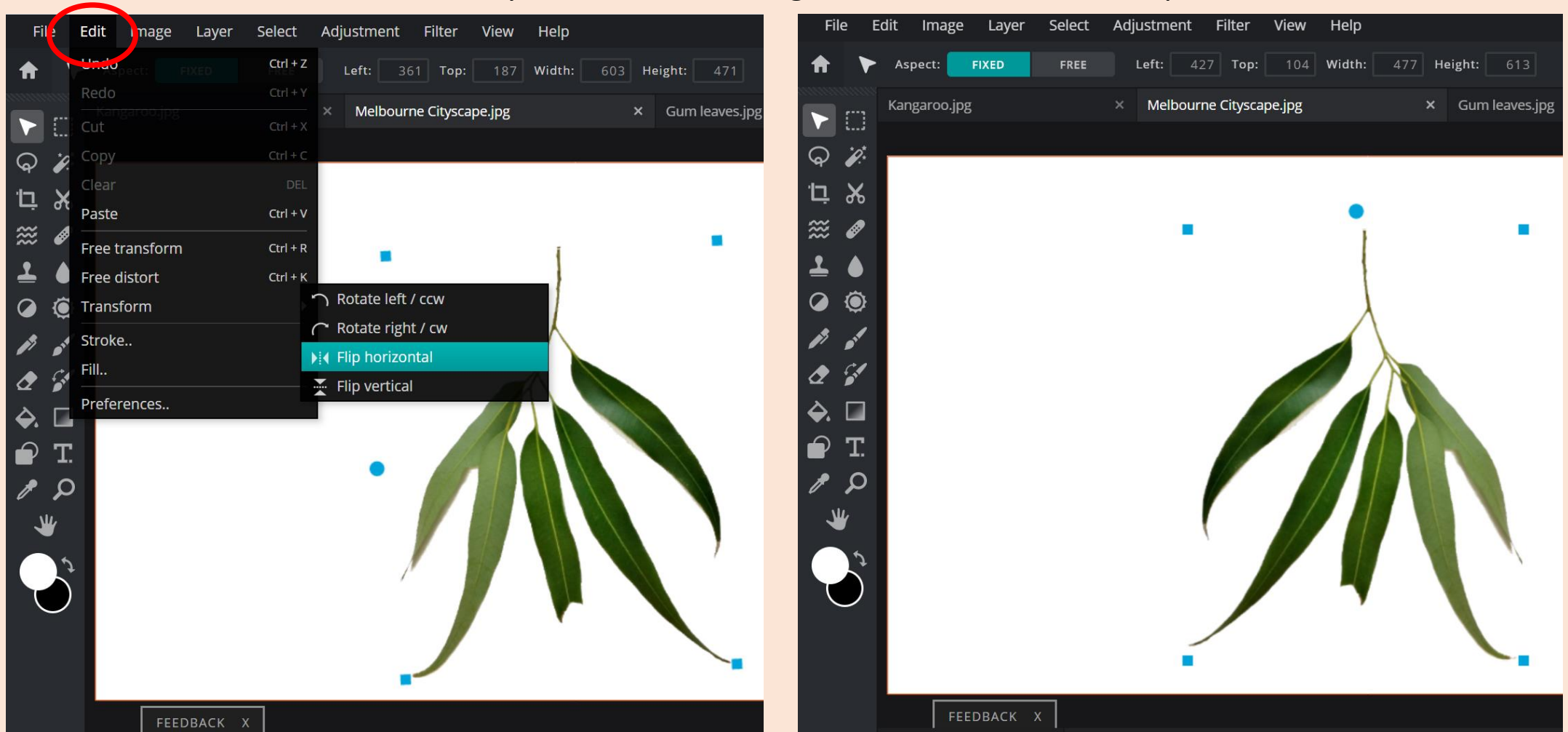
Transform= Change size and orientation of a section

Duplicate= Make a copy of a section

Transparency= Change the transparency of a section

Transform

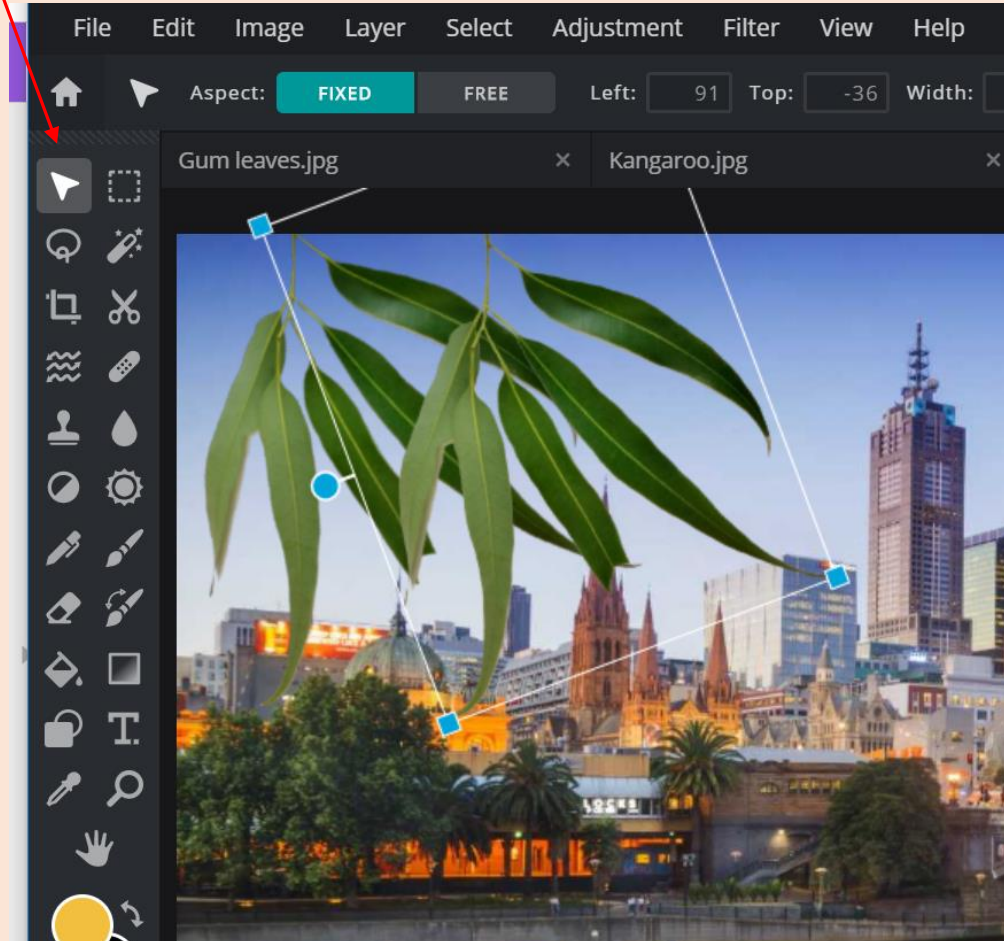
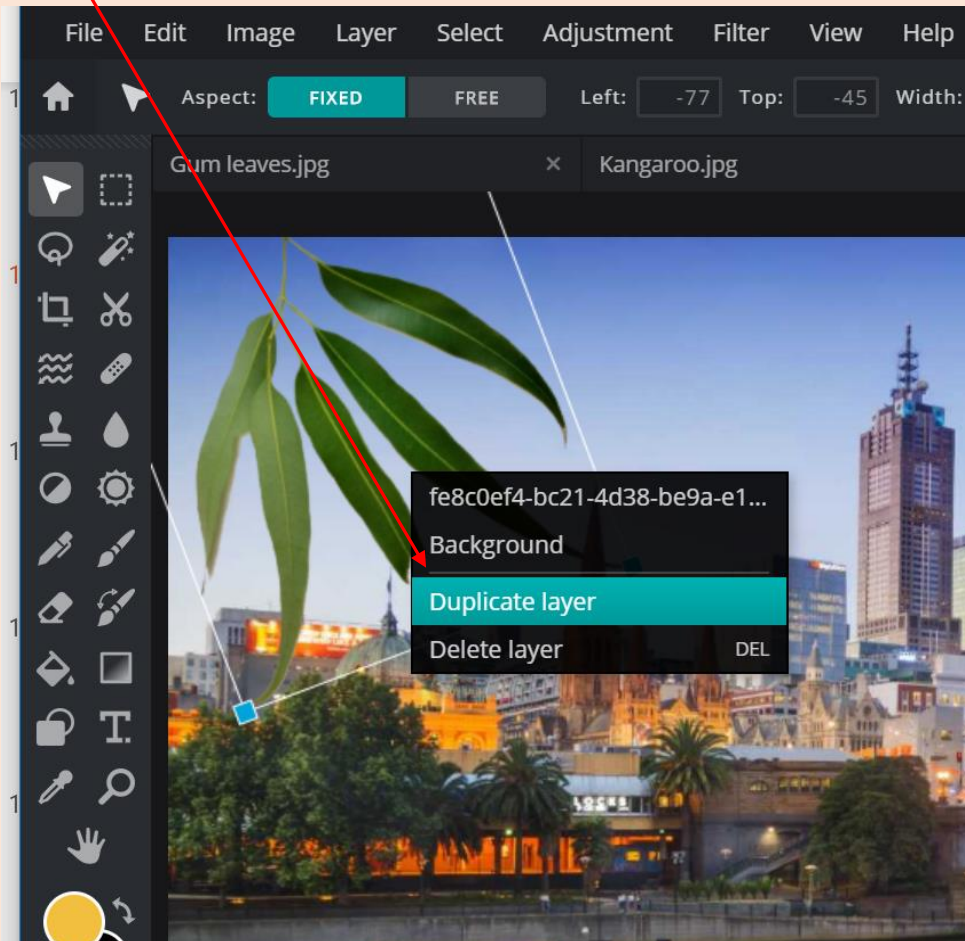
The transform command allows you to resize an image, as well as rotate and flip it's orientation.



To access transform you click Edit-Transform/Free transform. Remember to have the image selected on the correct layer that you wish to transform.

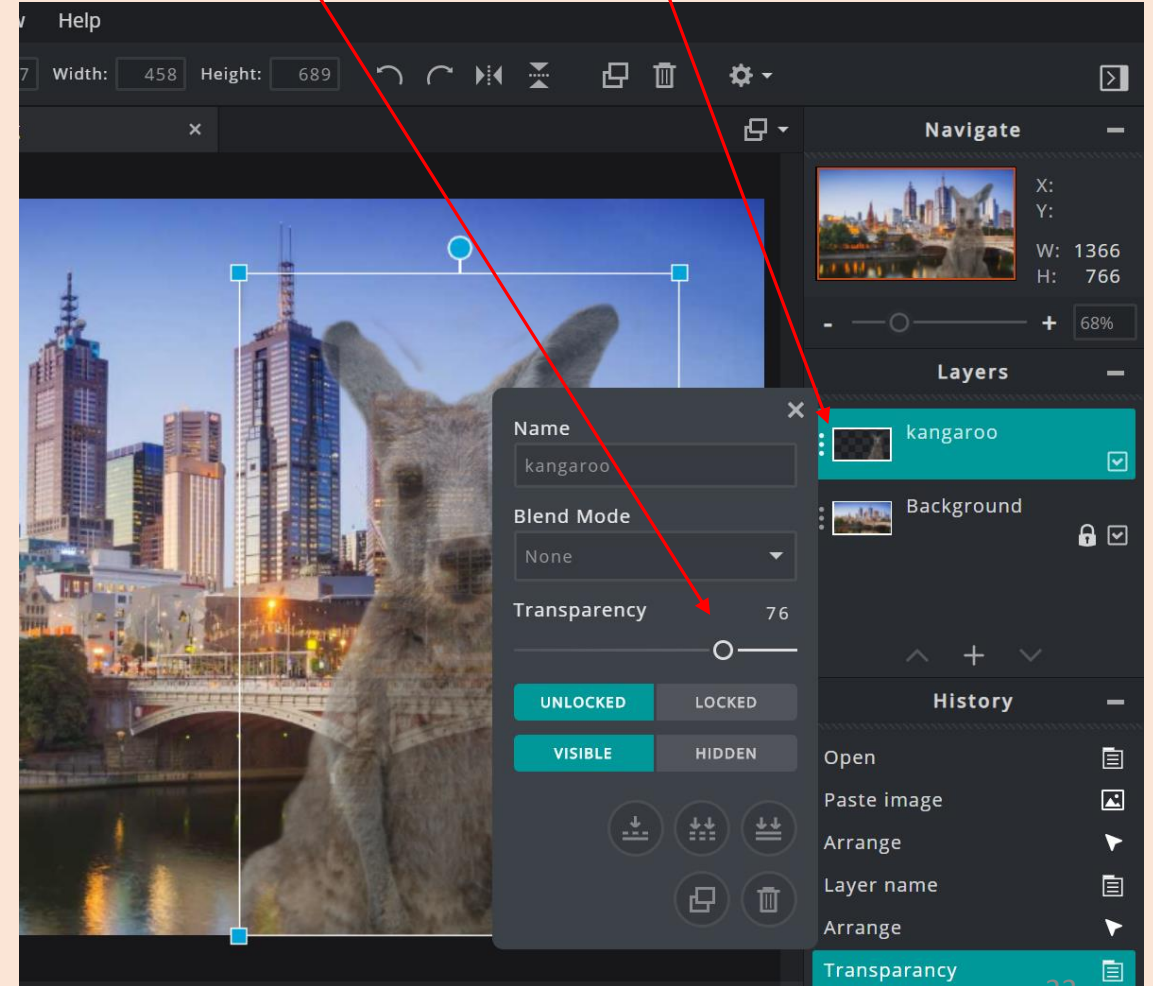
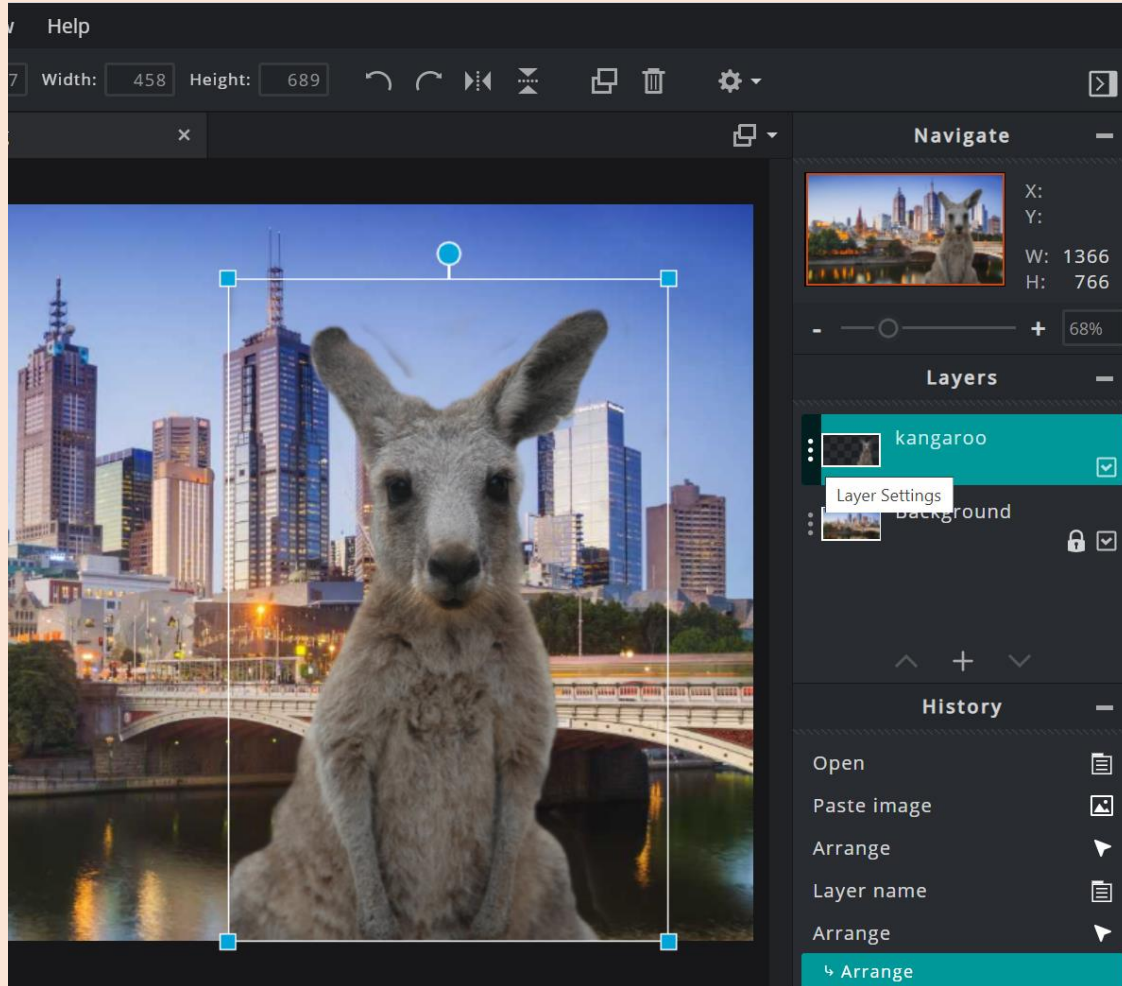
Duplicate

The **duplicate tool** allows you create an exact copy of a layer. Select the layer (image) you want to duplicate with the **Arrange** tool. Once selected (indicated by surrounding box) right click and click duplicate layer. You may need to click and drag to see the new duplicated image as it will be automatically pasted directly on top of the original.



Transparency

Transparency is how solid or how see-through something is. When something is more transparent it will often allow what is behind it to subtly show through. This is a useful effect, and can be used quite artistically. To change the transparency of a image select it's layer in the layer menu. Then, click the three vertical dots to the right side of the layer. There is a sliding bar here which allows you to change the transparency of the image.

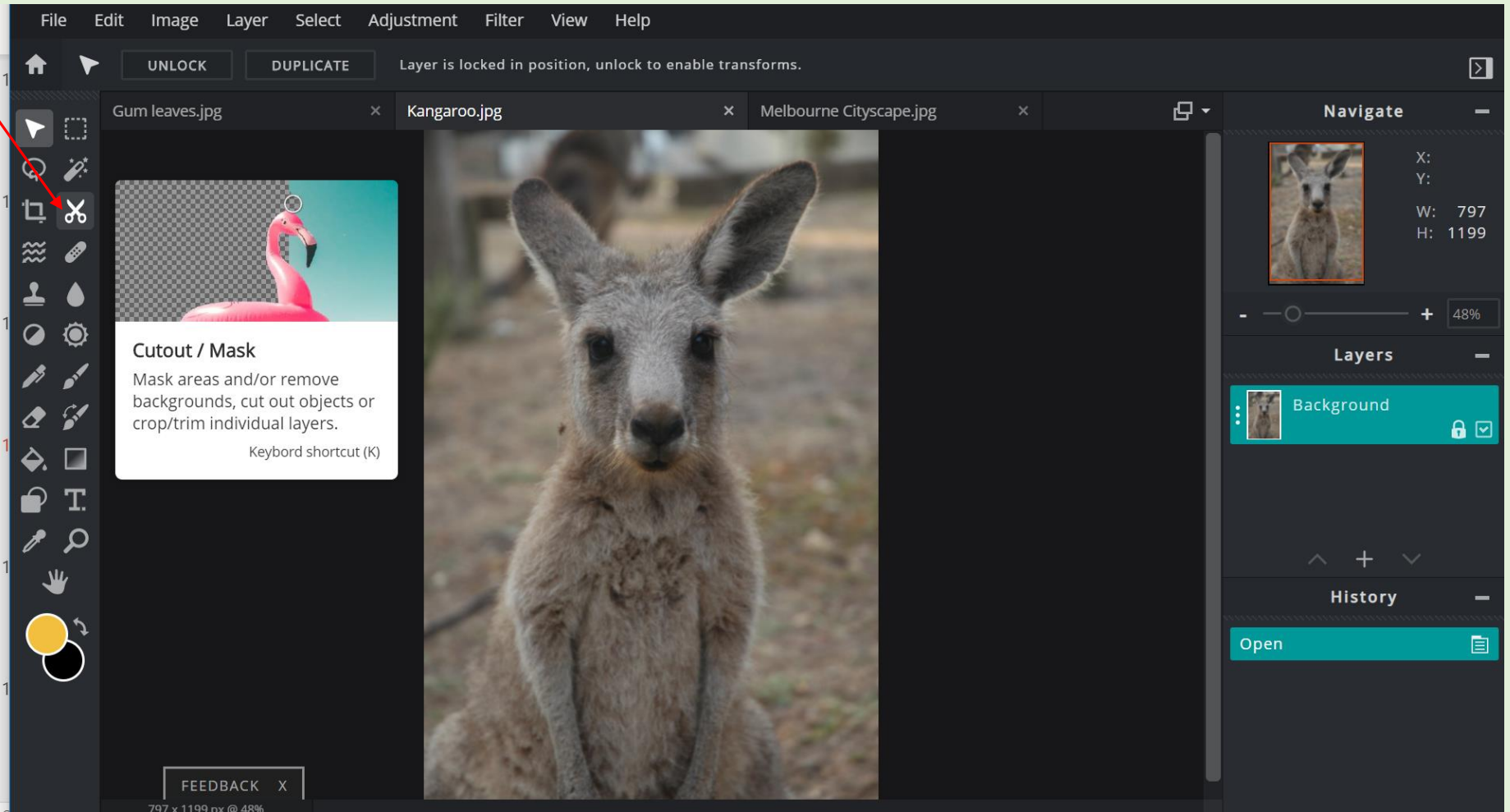


Cut out / Mask tool

The cut out and mask tool is useful when you wish to select a section of an image from a complex background. It allows for much more precise cutting out of complex shapes as you can go slowly, and carefully and cut out sections at a time.

The **Cutout/Mask** tool is very handy for removing backgrounds that aren't solid colours. However, it is more manual than other tools. It requires you to trace and "cut out" the object.

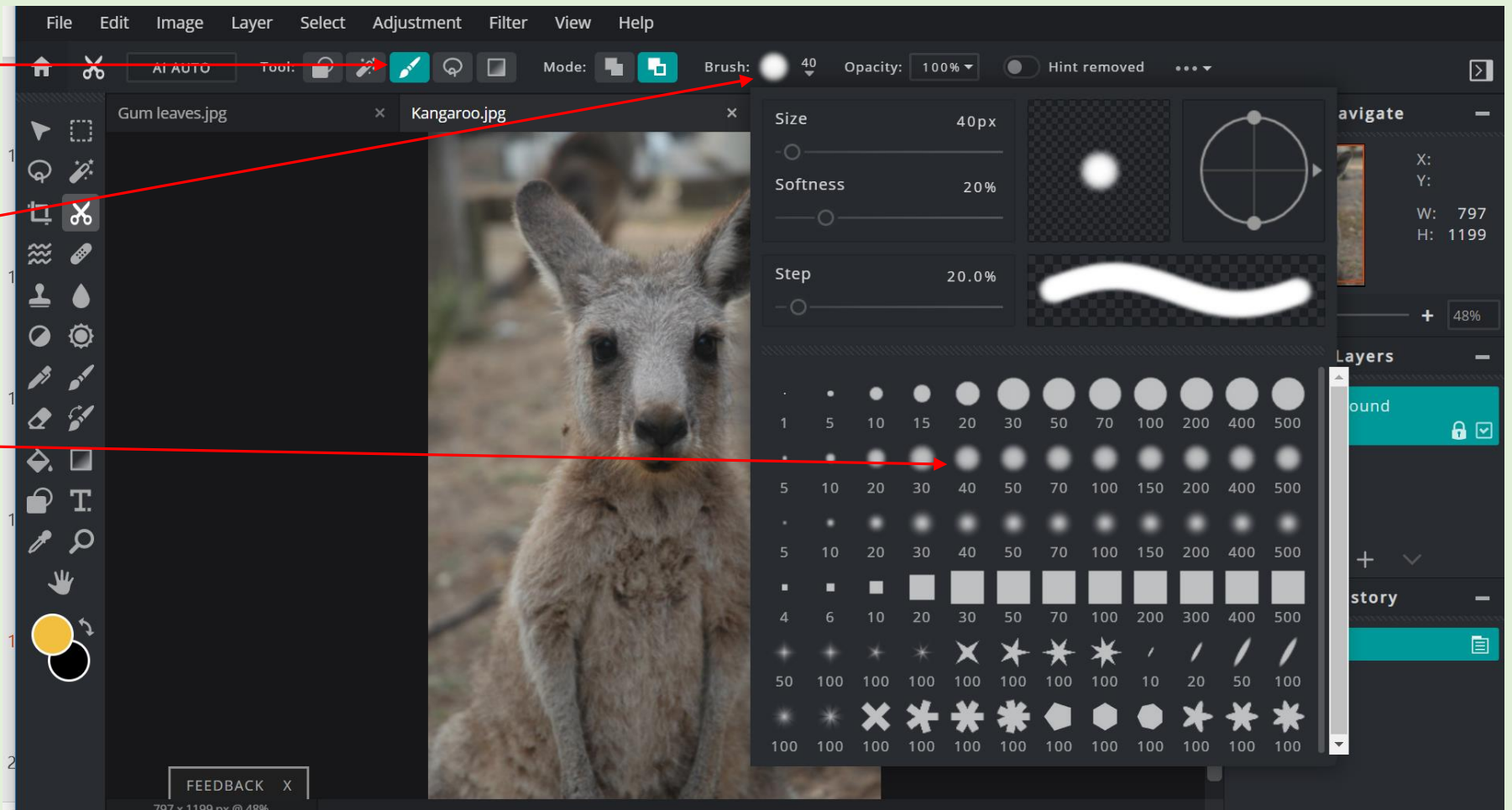
Take this kangaroo for example. The colour of it's fur is very similar to the background. Other tools like the **wand select** wouldn't be able to tell the difference between the background and kangaroo.



Step 1)
select the “draw mask”
option.

Step 2)
select the “brush” you
would like to use.
Notice how there are
hard and softer looking
brush options?
Choosing a “soft” brush
for something furry like
a kangaroo allows for a
more natural looking
edge as it will mimic fur.

Step 3)
Select a brush of a
reasonable size. This
will depend on how
large your image is. Test
and try if you’re unsure.

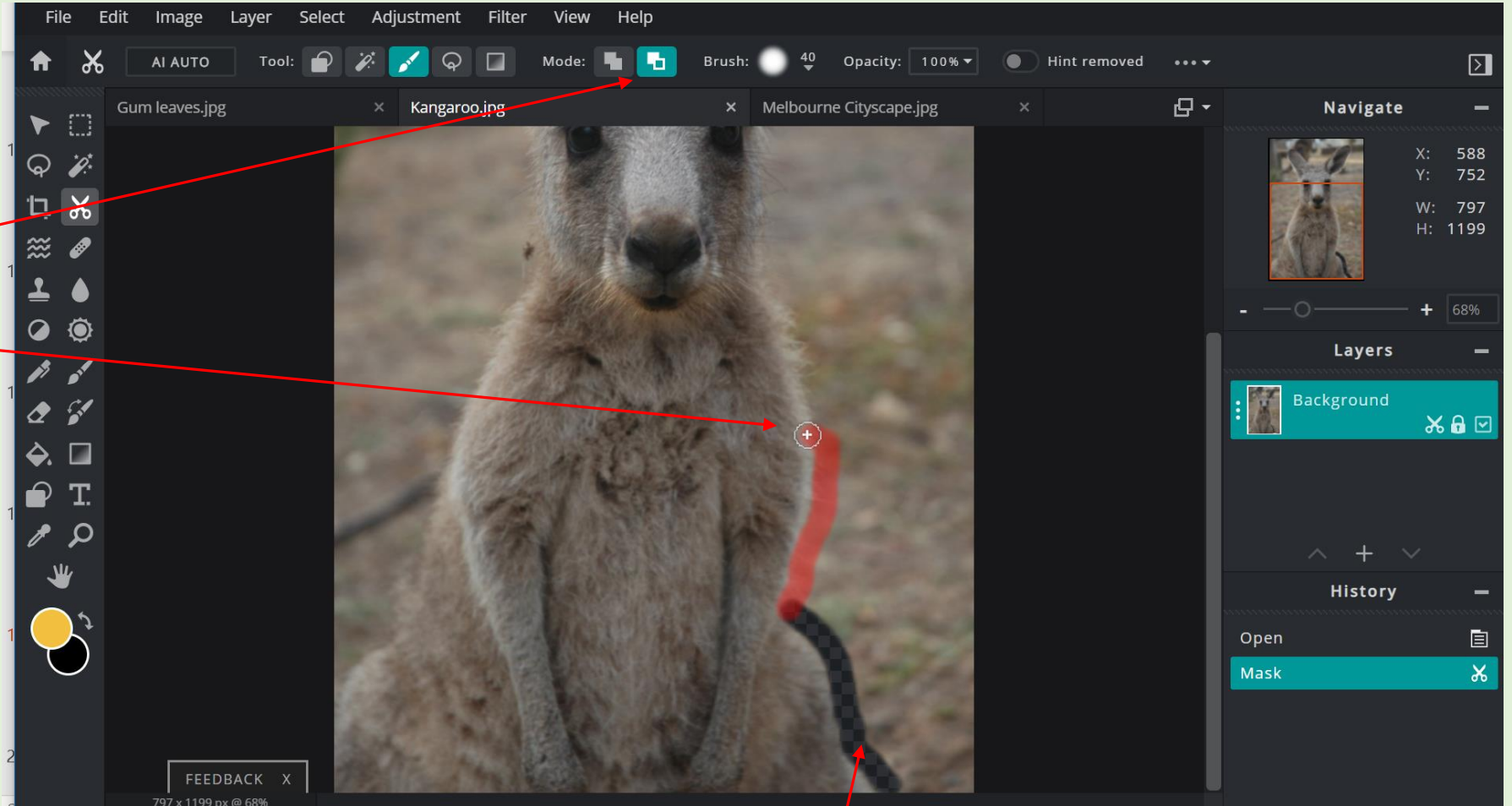


Click and drag your cursor. You should see a red transparent line appear. If it is green make sure it's in the correct mode.

Carefully "trace" around the object you want to cut out. You can do this in sections.

If you make a mistake remember ctrl+Z on your keyboard will undo.

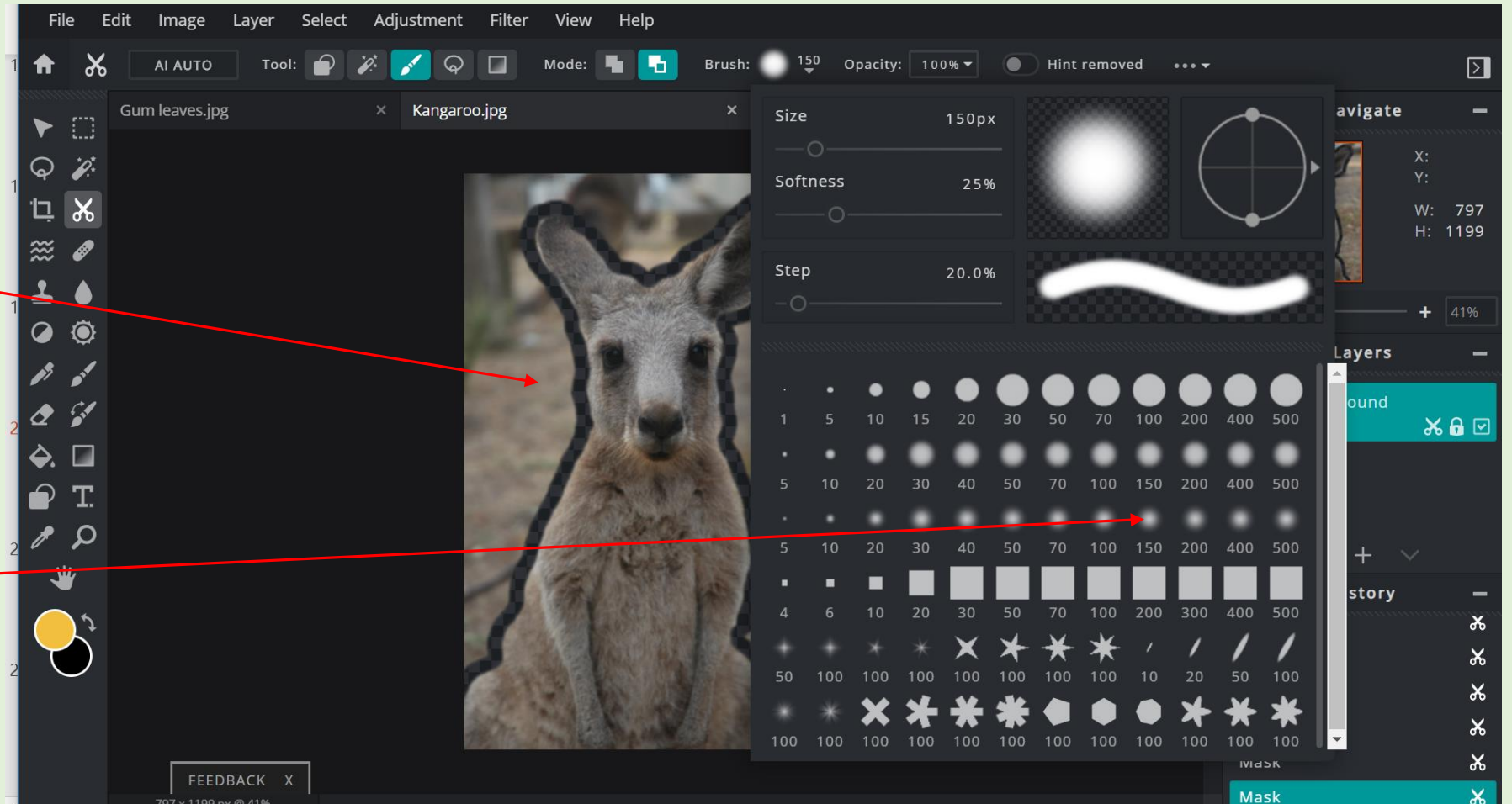
note: you may need to re select "draw mask" after using undo.



Notice that where you traced has now become transparent? This is what you want to appear.

Once you have traced around the entirety of the object you wish to cut out its time to get rid of the remaining background.

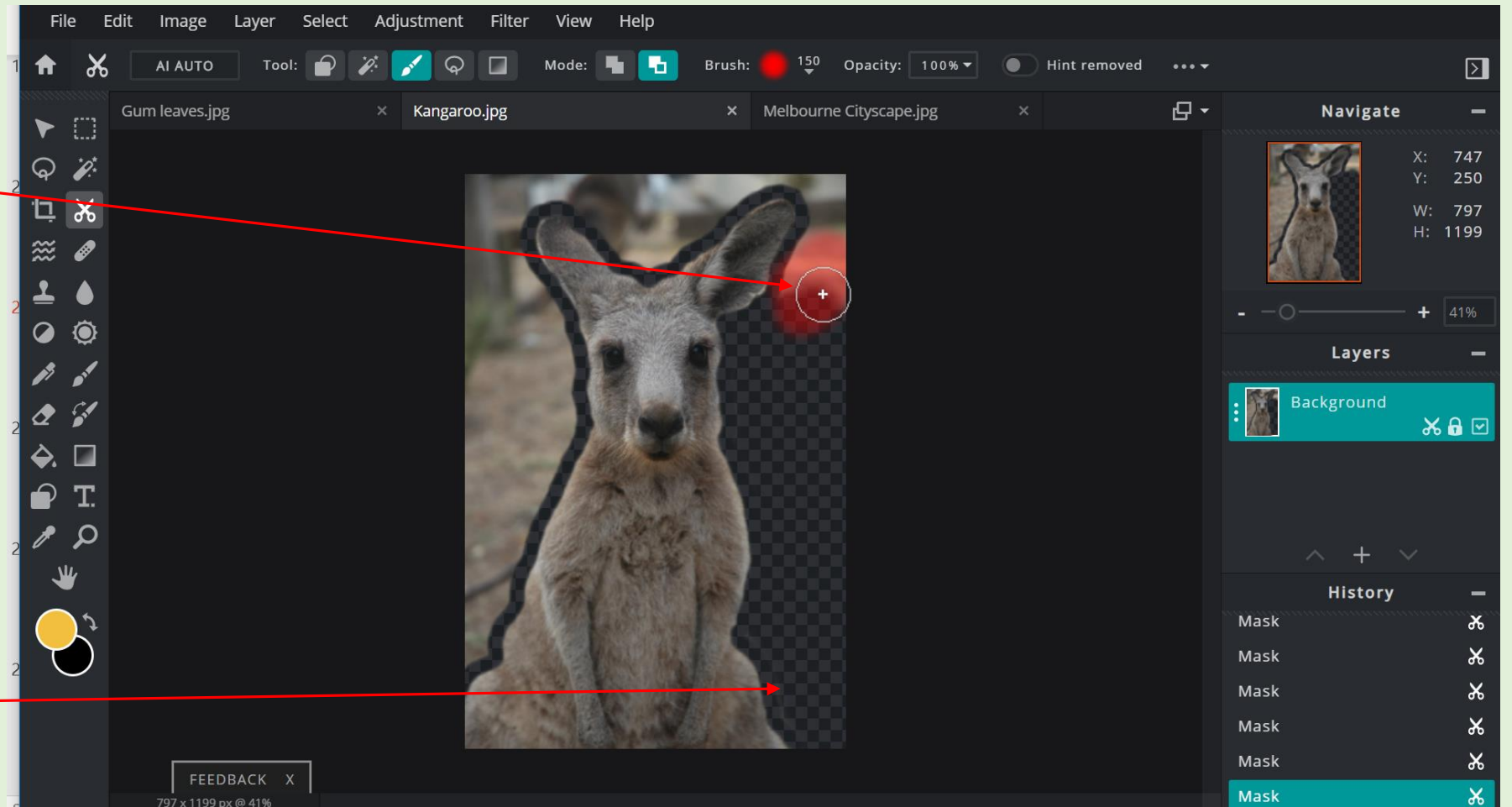
Go back to the brush selection of the mask tool. Select a brush approx. 3x larger than your original brush you used to trace.



Use this brush to “erase” the remaining background. Continue until all the original background is gone.

It should be much easier to do now with the traced line already around the object.

Note: this grey check pattern shows that the area is transparent.

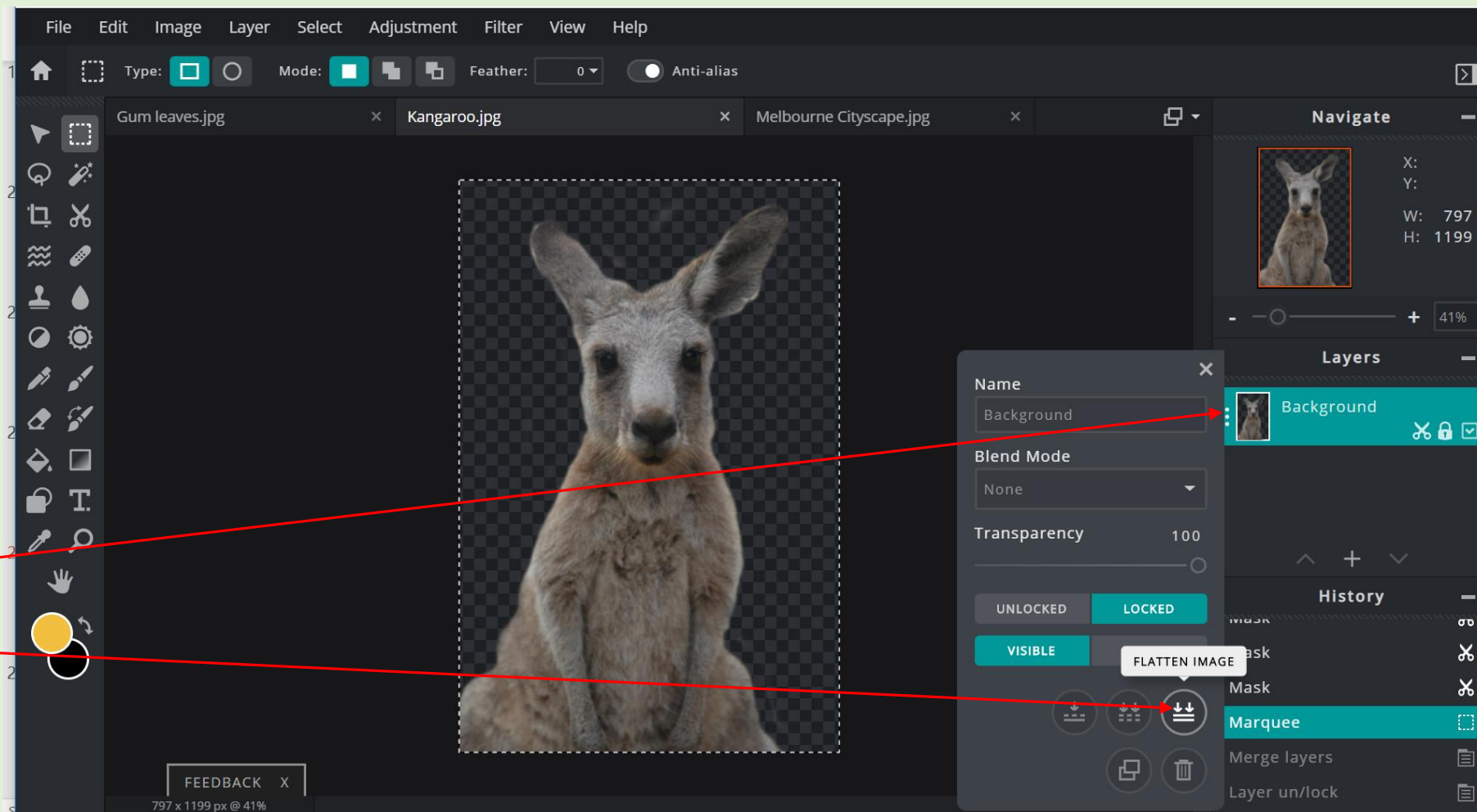


And now the background should be gone and replaced by grey checks. This means its transparent.

If you are wanting to copy this image and paste it onto another you will need to do this next step:

Open layer options by clicking the three dots to the left of the layer. Select flatten image.

Note: if you do not do this step your image will still appear to have a background when pasted.

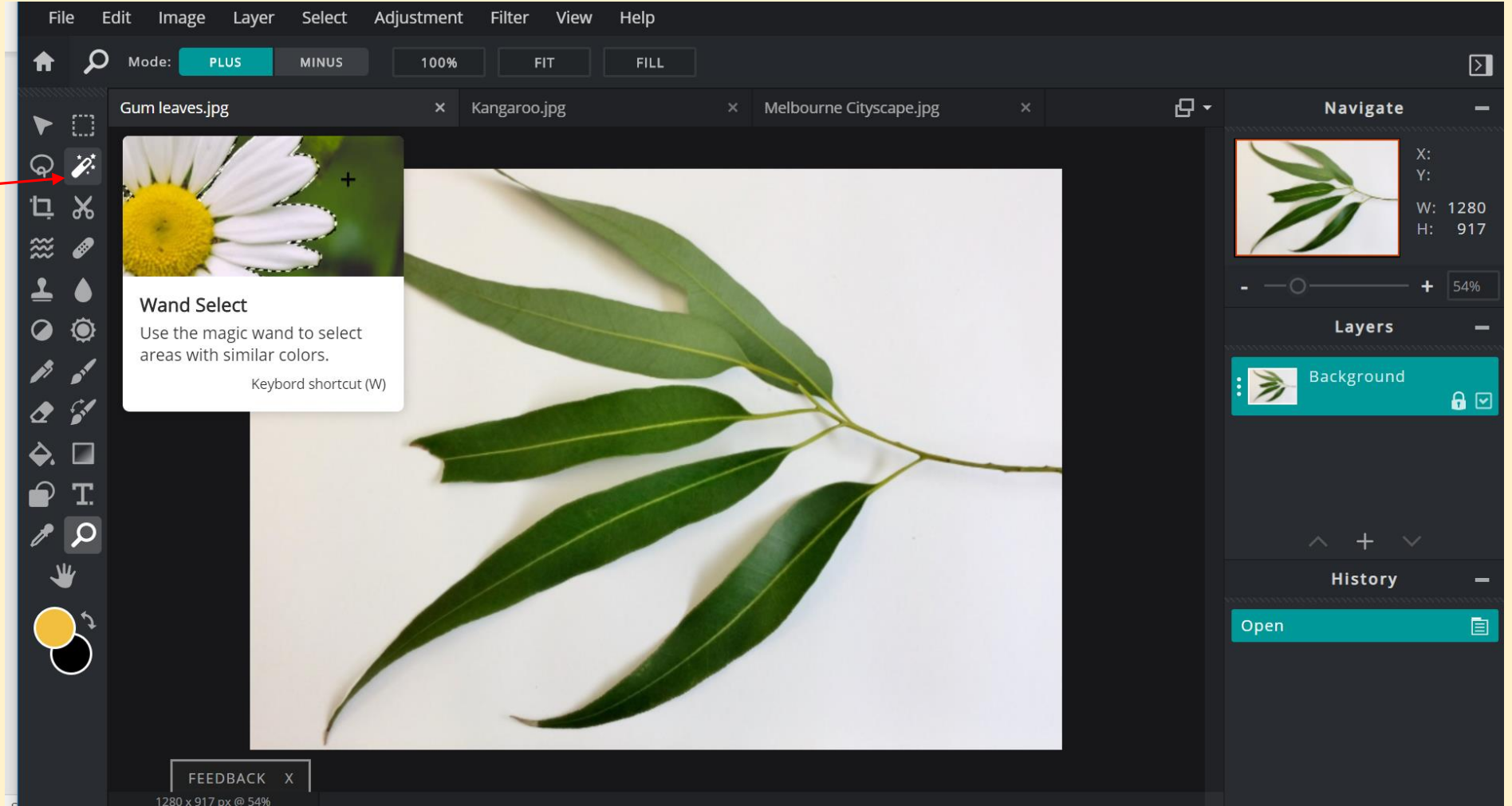


Wand Select Tool

This tool is used to select similar colours in an image. It's most used when you want to isolate an object from a background.

The **Wand Select** tool is used to select similar colours. What we are hoping to do is “cut out” the gumleaf from its background.

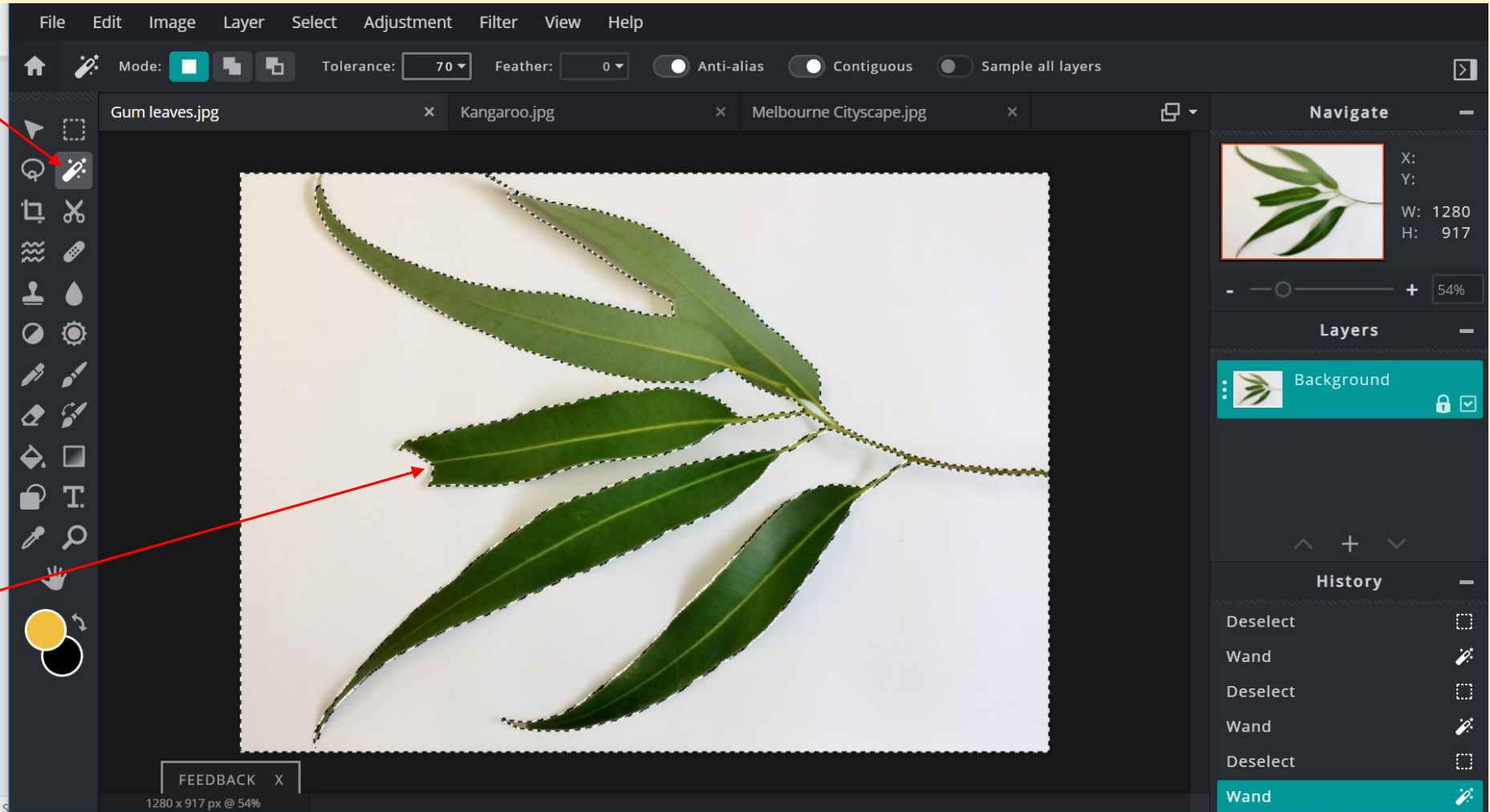
Because the background is mostly white it should be easy to use the **Wand Select** tool to select the background.



Click on the **Wand Select** tool. Make sure the “Tolerance” is set to 70. Because the white background is varying shades of white this tells the program to pick up nearly all the white. You may need to change the tolerance for different images and backgrounds.

With the “Wand Select” tool selected click on a white part of the image. Notice the dotted lines. This outlines your selected area.

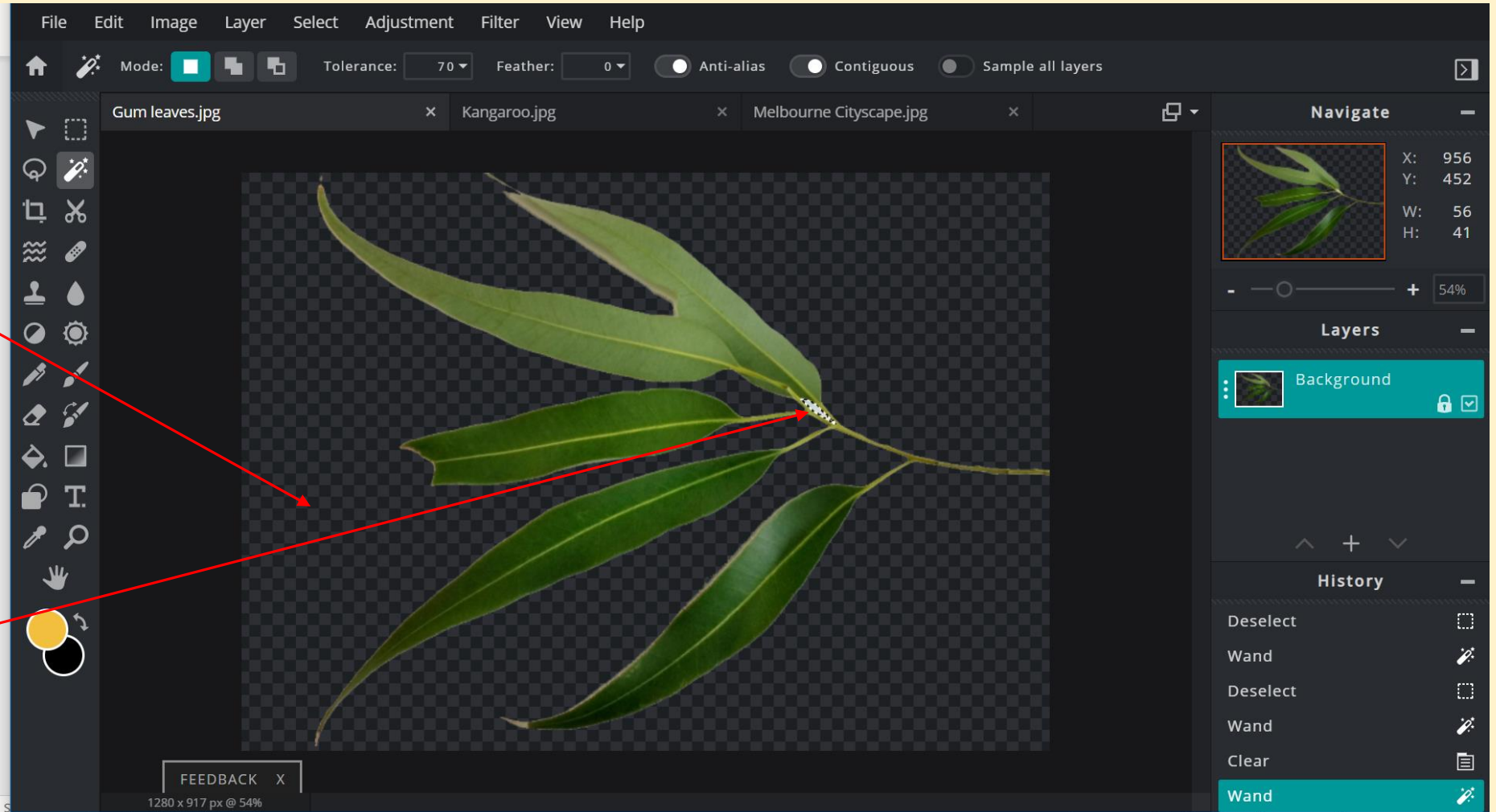
(if you make a mistake simply press ctrl+Z on your keyboard to undo)



Click “delete” or “backspace” on your keyboard.

NOTE: Notice the black and grey check. This shows that the background is now “transparent”.

If there is any remaining white areas repeat the last two steps. Select and delete until all areas of white are gone.



Now the background is completely transparent!

OPTIONAL:

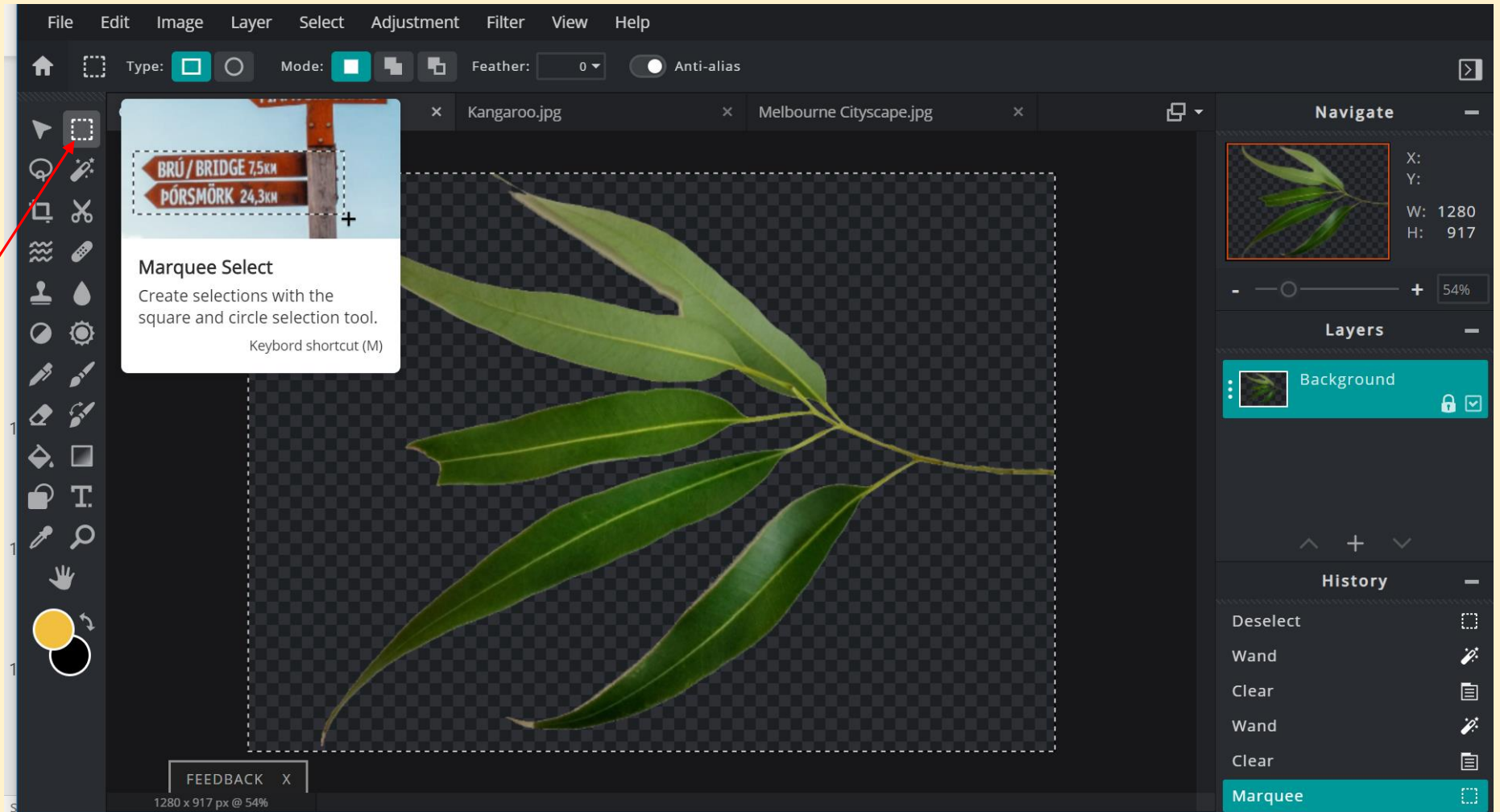
If you want you can copy and paste this image into another.

Here is how:

Select the “Marquee Select” tool.

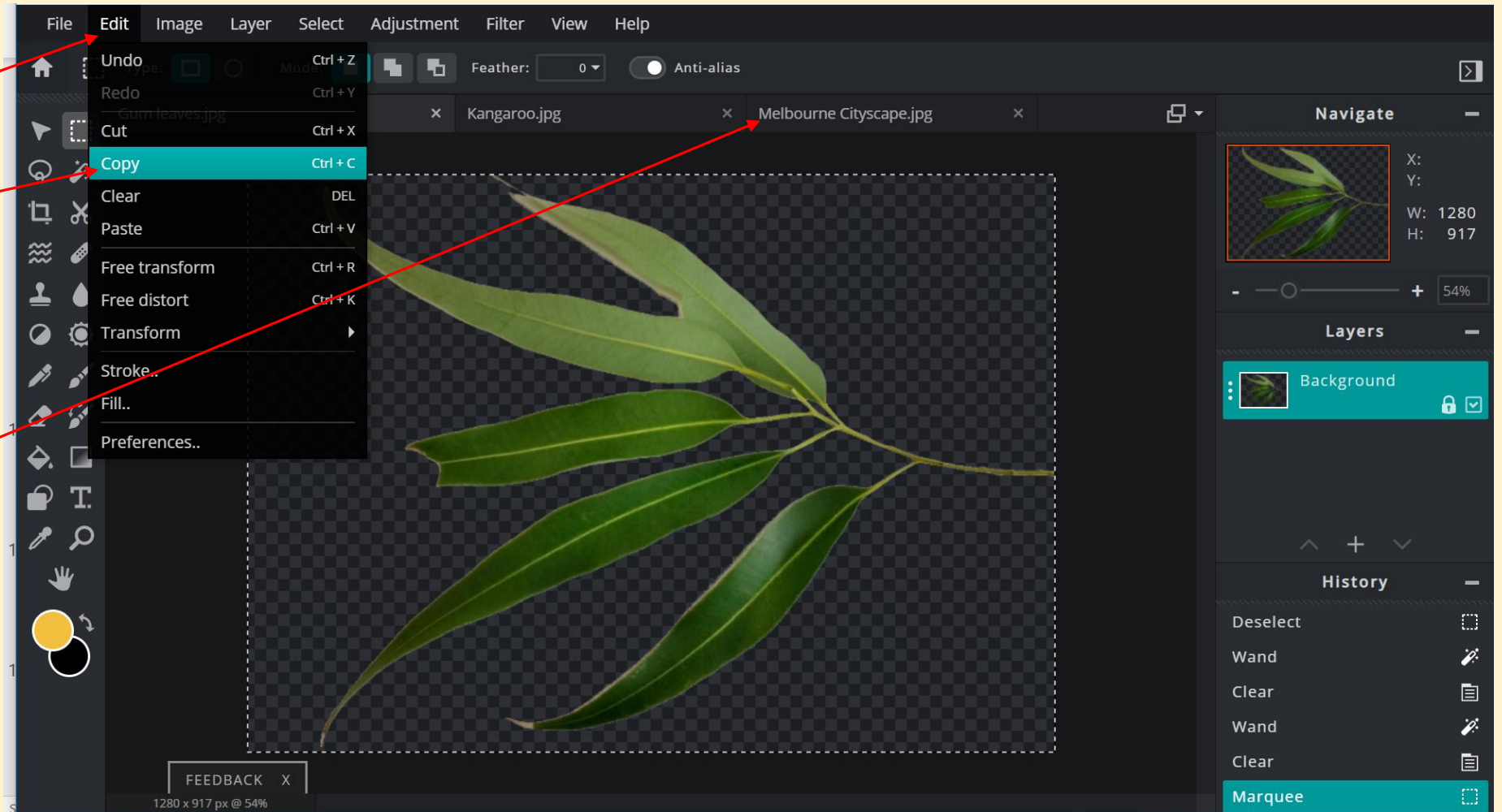
NOTE: The “Marquee Select” tool allows you to select large square areas of an image.

Click and drag from the top left corner to the bottom right to select the entire gum leaf.



Select
"Edit"
then
"Copy"

Click on the image tab you
wish to paste your gum
leaves into.



Select
"Edit"
then
"Paste"

The gum leaves should
appear on top of the
image tab you have
chosen.

NOTE: Notice how you can
see the cityscape image
behind the gum leaves?
This is because in the last
steps we deleted the white
background-making it
transparent!

If you wish to change the
size and orientation of
your pasted gum leaves-
Select the "Arrange"
tool. This will create a box
around the gum leaves.
You may need to zoom out
to see the edges of the
box.

