

Project brief

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary

BioShack Mural

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Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Site map2. Site photos

Wildlife Sanctuary Overview

The Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary is a 30 hectare area dedicated to the conservation and restoration of native Australian flora and fauna.

Located on the Bundoora Campus of La Trobe University, the Sanctuary was set up in 1967 and has been regenerated from a degraded farming landscape into a river red gum grassy woodland reminiscent of what this area was like when the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri, still resided in this place. Over time, the Sanctuary has transformed into a leading educational facility – La Trobe’s Outdoor Laboratory. We now offer a range of experiences including school-based education activities, day and twilight tours, supporting of current learning and teaching for a range of La Trobe University courses, volunteer opportunities, self-guided walks, facility hire and an indigenous plant nursery.

Nangak Tamboree means respecting, sharing and looking after the waterway in the Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people. The name highlights our connection to the eco corridor and waterway that runs through the heart of La Trobe University from bushland reserves in the north to Darebin Creek in the south.

Within the Sanctuary itself, there are a series of wetlands (permanent and ephemeral) that are home to the threatened fish Dwarf Galaxias (*Galaxiella pusillai*) and a range of frogs and macro-invertebrates. In the surrounding grassy woodland, the River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), some dating back 500 years, stand out in the landscape; they are home to a range of bird species, possums and microbats. The understorey is comprised of a diverse range of indigenous flora including the endangered Matted Flax Lily (*Dianella amoena*) and in the cooler months, many species of fungi.

The BioShack

The BioShack is a fenced area within the Wildlife Sanctuary. It is the site of the original ranger station which was built in the 1970s. The site has been gradually upgraded over the years; most recently in 2020, when a garden design and landscaping project was undertaken to develop this area into a showcase garden to demonstrate how indigenous plants can be used to enhance backyard biodiversity at home. The plant establishment phase of this project is now underway. The BioShack is used by school groups and is also available for hire for events by the community.

BioShack Mural Commission

Site

We are seeking submissions from artists and designers to create a mural on three sides of the toilet block that sits at the entrance to the BioShack. The building is brick and painted off-white.

- North-west wall 4200mmx2500mm
- Northern wall 5750mmx2500mm (less two doors)
- South-east wall 4200mmx2500mm (inside the fenced BioShack)

The mural site currently contrasts with the softness of the rest of the area. The south-east wall is on the boundary to the BioShack garden; there is a project to further enhance this garden so the mural on this wall will be a backdrop to the garden.

A high proportion of visitors to the Wildlife Sanctuary walk past the building on their way to visit Main Lake, so the north-west and northern wall are highly visible to visitors. The mural commission supports our plans to enhance the BioShack and accessibility of the walking track in this area, increasing numbers of visitors to the area.

Brief

Our objective is to create an artwork that tells a story relevant to the history or ecology of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

The exact story or message will be negotiated with the successful artist, but some ideas include:

- Relationship between local species, e.g.
 - o The buzz pollination of *Dianella amoena* by the Blue Banded Bee
 - o The protection of Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly caterpillars by ants
- Waterways and the hidden life within
- Seasonal changes that occur in the environment
- Landscape of the Wildlife Sanctuary and changes over time
- Backyard biodiversity – creating habitat in urban areas; nesting boxes, lizard lounge etc

The colour palette used in the mural should reflect on and/or complement the surrounding environment.

The mural will be viewed by visitors both internal and external to the university. These may include academics and university students undertaking research, school groups, casual visitors such as parents with young children, bird watchers, retirees exploring a new area with their walking group or university staff going for a walk on their lunch break. Visitors include those with a background or interest in ecology and the environment, as well as people with no specific knowledge or interest.

Application process

Timeline

1. Submission close: 21 January 2022, 5.00pm
2. Shortlisted artists interviewed: early February
3. Concept design finalised: March 2022
4. Artwork completed: first quarter 2022

Application requirements

1. Responses on the attached Request for Quote, including examples of past work and initial concept design
2. Itemised quote detailing labour and materials.

Assessment process

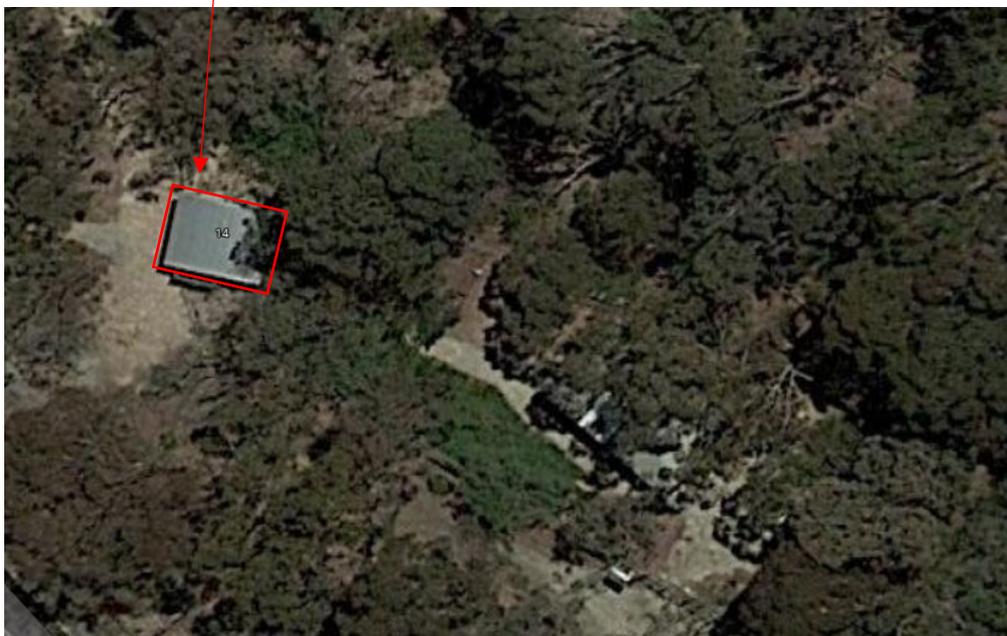
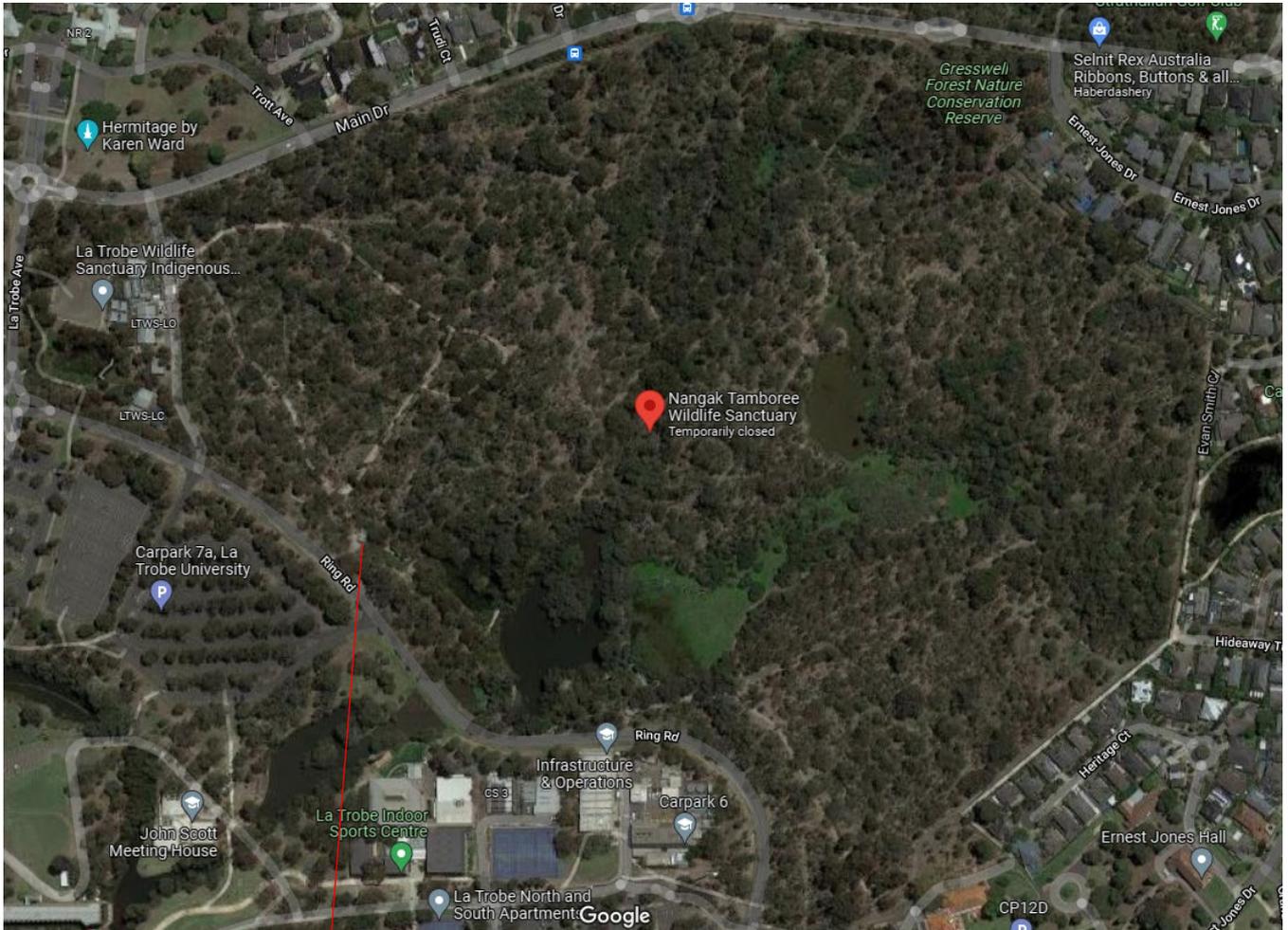
Submissions will be reviewed by:

- Ally Borgelt, Visitor Experiences Coordinator
- Vern Steele, Wildlife Sanctuary Operations Manager
- Jodie Harris, Senior Manager, Campus Planning and Sustainability
- Bala Starr, Director, La Trobe Art Institute

Budget

Fees will be based on [National Association for the Visual Arts](#) (NAVA) hourly rates for public art commissions (mid-career artists, short-term contract). We anticipate that each wall will require up to five days' work. Materials costs (paint etc.) up to \$500 per wall are additional.

Attachment 1 – Site map



Attachment 2 – Site photos

