

WHITFIELD

CONCEPT - ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND & RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

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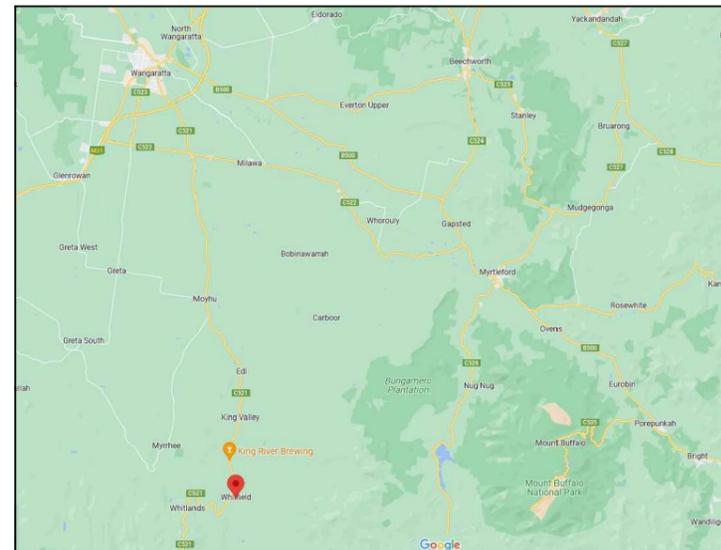


Photo of Existing Site taken from Whitfield /Wangaratta Rd Frontage - April 2022

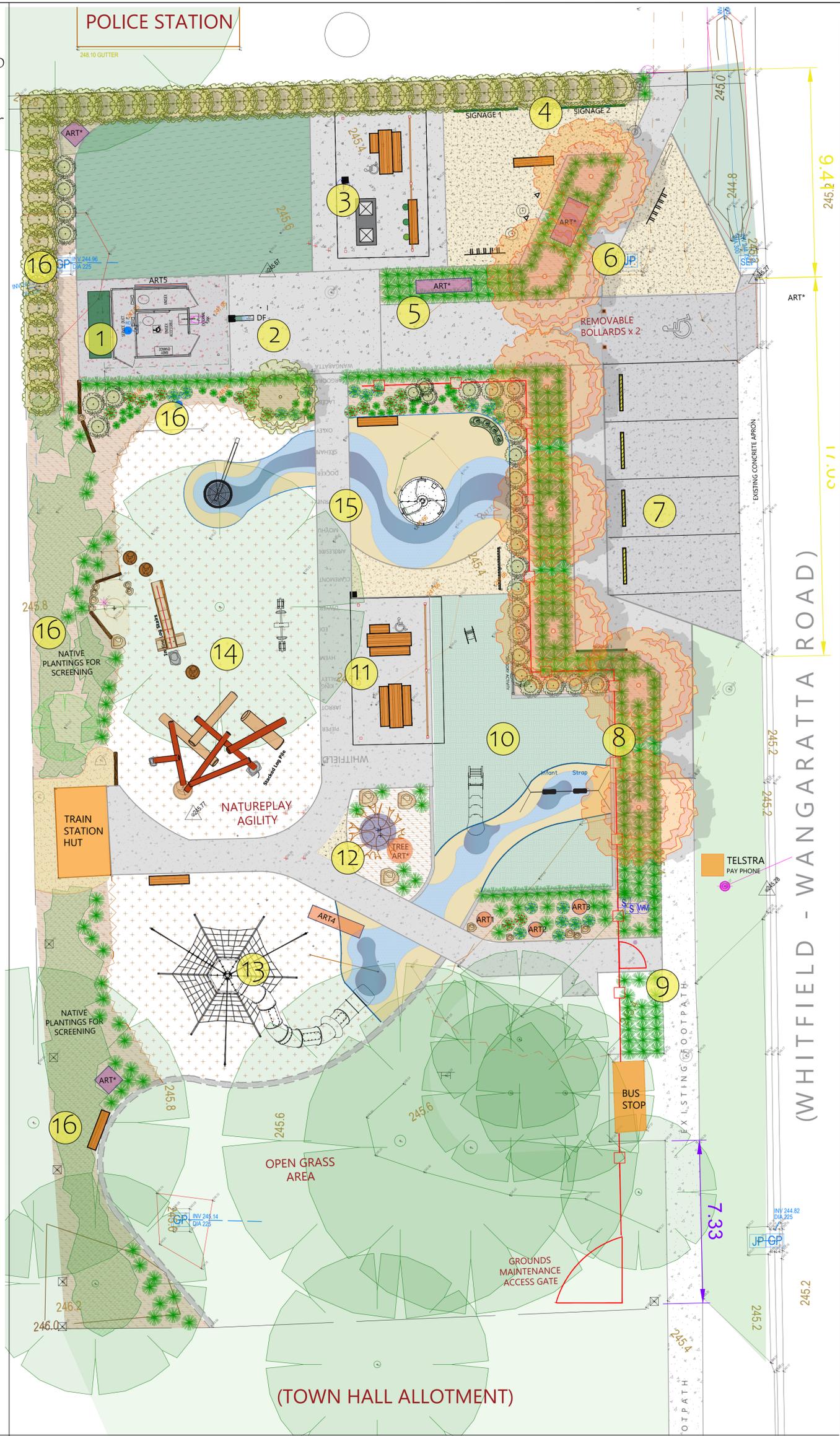
KEY DESIGN FEATURES

The northern end of Whitfield Reserve is dedicated to use as an information hub & comfortable rest stop for people visiting Whitfield and the surrounding attractions. New accessible features allow for a wider range of people to stop and make use of the facilities.

- 1 All new colorbond steel amenities building, with one unisex cubicle, & one unisex disabled cubicle with a baby change table. External basin allows for easy access to handwashing facilities without having to enter the building. Lighting for the amenities building will be controlled by motion sensor to limit energy use to only when required.
- 2 Accessible drinking fountain with bottle refill station
- 3 New steel skillion shelter with inclusive picnic facilities is easily accessed from the street as a rest stop for cyclists, or day trippers exploring the Whitfield surrounds. Lighting is managed by a push button timer to limit energy consumption to only as required.
- 4 Tourist information signage as a series of interpretive panels is relocated predominately along the north boundary walkway, with an additional map at front of the reserve convenient to the carpark.
- 5 There is opportunity to integrate sculptural art pieces into high profile garden areas to add further interest and identity to the reserve. Some art pieces will be included as part of the initial redevelopment works, with scope to add new pieces in the future.
- 6 The existing Rail Trail Blade signage & cycle repair station is relocated to the front of the park, together with new dedicated bicycle parking where it is easily identified from the street as a rest stop for Rail Trail cyclists. A change to exposed aggregate pavement highlights the cycle service areas from the main pedestrian paths, and complements the rocked feature pavement in the Main Street landscape upgrades.
- 7 Parking is clearly defined with godegree spaces providing offstreet parking for up to 5 vehicles. The disabled parking space is positioned directly in front of a generously wide concrete access park leading to the amenities building and rest areas.
- 8 The landscaping treatment for the rest zone area is a combination of simple hedging to boundaries with native shrubs, low mass plantings, and shade trees in a limited plant palette for a calm & restful space. The avenue of deciduous trees set back from the powerlines will be valuable shade in summer, provide a splash of colorful autumn foliage, and allow sun to shine thru in the colder winter months.

An all new playspace forms the heart of Whitfield Reserve with a blend of manufactured equipment, and bespoke natureplay items to provide play items to appeal to wide range of ages and abilities.

- 9 While the playspace is not fully enclosed, the main playspace frontage features a barrier fence & gate along junior play area to deter small children from running out into the carpark and road reserves.
- 10 Junior play areas are located within a synthetic grass safety surfaced area that is a soft for babies & toddlers to crawl over and explore. Placement of the junior play items close to the shelter allows carers to engage with others sitting at the picnic area while giving a "push" to children.
- 11 The playspace has a separate shelter and inclusive picnic facilities within the zone to allow for comfortable supervision and extended visits. Seating is also included in open sunny positions as well as shade to provide comfortable seasonal rest points.
- 12 The landmark "tree trunk shelter" will be demolished to allow for the new layout, however the existing large tree trunk will be retained with the intent to be repurposed as a mounting point for a unique sculpture. Expressions of interest from local artisans to produce an iconic feature of the reserve will be soon sought, for fabrication & inclusion as part of the redevelopment works.
- 13 Placement of the tall Adventure Net & Slide integrated into soft landscape areas to the southern side of reserve allows features such as the preserved existing Train Hut, and the focal tree trunk stump to retain prominence.
- 14 Bespoke natureplay agility trails are constructed to suit the site using natural timber logs and boulders, and arranged to integrate the manufactured play items with existing mature native trees, and new landscape plantings.
- 15 All ability play items are spread throughout the playspace to encourage inclusive play and interaction, with concrete pavements and wetpour rubber surfacing utilised carefully to allow access for all to a range of pieces. The rubber surfacing will be installed with weaving patterns to evoke the flow of the King River and its swimming pools, shallows & rocky sandbars.
- 16 The landscaping treatment for the play zone area integrates most of the existing mature trees on site, with the addition of some new shrub and ground cover species to encourage exploration around the reserve and the examination of sensory properties such as taste, texture, scent, and color. Plant selections are low water use when established, with an emphasis on Australian natives (including local endemic species).



LEGEND (Not to Scale)

SURFACES / EDGING

- Standard Grey Concrete Pedestrian Path
- Trafficable Standard Grey Concrete Pavement
- Exposed Aggregate Concrete Pavement
- Decomposed Granite Pavement
- Wetpour Rubber Playground Surfacing (Laid over concrete base)
- Accredited Bark Mulch Playground Surfacing
- Synthetic Grass Playground Surfacing
- Natural Turf (Instant Rolls)
- Natural Bark Mulched Garden Beds
- Seeded/reinstated existing grass surface
- 150x150 Concrete Edge
- Rock/Log Nature Edge
- Steel Edge

FENCING

- Fence Type A: Street Frontage
- Timber post with 1200H panel

TREES/PLANTING

- Existing Tree (retained)
- New Deciduous Shade Tree
- New Evergreen Shade Tree
- Mass Planting - Ornamental grass
- Bedding Planting - Various Species

PUBLIC ART LOCATION

- ART* Art Item installed as part of redevelopment works.
- ART* Suggested positions for Future Art Item (not installed with these works)

FURNITURE/OTHER

- Cafe Style Table & Stool Setting
- DDA Picnic Table Setting
- Standard Picnic Table Setting
- Dual Plate BBQ
- Bench Seat
- Litter Bins
- Bike Rack
- Skillion Shelter with Shade Screen

FURNITURE & SHELTERS

The new furniture palette is both neutral, natural, and fresh; layers of greens combine with durable galvanised steel, neutral greys, and the warm tones from natural and low maintenance timber look materials to give a modern twist to a traditional base.



ALL STEEL ON SLAB SKILLION REST ROOM (UNISEX CUBICLE + UNISEX DISABLED CUBICLE)

The deep Caulfield green external corrugated iron cladding to the new rest room complements the existing Bus Shelter, and is modernised with fresh bright green accents to doors and posts. Positioned towards the back of the rest stop area, the deep green external color plays up the warm tones of the low maintenance composite timber shade battens. A baby change facility within the disabled cubicle, and an extra shrouded handwash basin external to unisex cubicle adds to user comfort.



7.2m x 4.1m SKILLION SHELTER

With a skillion roofline to complement the new Rest Room facilities, hard wearing galvanised steel provides a neutral framework to let other items in the the park take prominence. The shelter in the playspace will shade a picnic table and cafe setting overlooking the play area, while the shelter in the visitor area houses the new cooking facilities, with auto timer lighting for extended use.



ALL NEW FURNITURE UPGRADES

The new furniture items include some DDA features to cater for a wider range of visitors with BBQs, drinking fountains and picnic facilities being wheelchair accessible. Short benches to one side of picnic tables also allow strollers to be pulled up close to carers making these more family friendly as well. Cafe style seating overlooking the main street, and the play areas give an alternate option for small groups other than the larger picnic settings. Dual bin units at either end of the reserve are located convenient to gates & cooking areas to encourage patrons to dispose of rubbish as they enter/leave, while new bike parking complements the bicycle repair and rest stop. Seating (to match the picnic settings) are also included within the playspace for a comfortable place to supervise play. The simple bench seats have no back, which allows the person to choose the outlook they would like. Furniture finishes are easy to clean galvanised steel, timber look aluminium, with pops of powdercoated deep and bright green to bring in a fresh modern look.



BARRIER FENCE TO PLAYSACE STREET FRONTAGE

Timber uprights between simple powdercoated panels allows views into the reserve to attract attention from passing travellers, while reducing the risk of children easily running out into the road reserve or off street parking area.

PLAY ITEMS -

The play equipment proposed for the new playspace ranges from units that provide the joy of movement from slides, swings, & carousels, to interactive games & soundplay, as well as climbing and agility challenges to offer something for everyone.

SENSORY ACTIVITIES

Accessible music play items are located near concrete paths or within wetpour rubber zones to allow users with limited mobility to interact with able-bodied users to access and share music play.

A freestanding panel in the junior play zone features a rainmaker sound wheel, and a more complex mini ball maze game for fine motor skills practice - both of these activities will also be enjoyed by toddlers and baby who can crawl over the synthetic grass surfacing for the simple pleasure of moving the wheels to hear the noises.



PENDULUM SWING

The compact 2.1m high nest swing multidirectional swing is great for co-operative play, where a number of users can play at the same time. With a wetpour access link from the main concrete pavement for users with limited mobility, there is the option for gentler swaying movements, and a wide nest seat accommodating those who may prefer laying in the basket.



ALL ACCESS CAROUSEL

The open design for this unit means all children (including those in wheelchairs) can use this piece safely and have equal access to the stimulation from spinning. Taking turns to push is a great way to burn off lots of energy for more able-bodied users, and encourages co-operative play with others to ride.

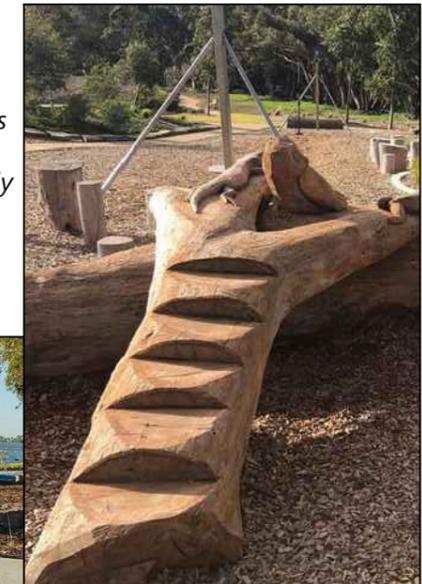
ADVENTURE ROPE TOWER WITH SLIDE

At almost 7m tall to the top of the mast, this large rope climbing net allows enough room for multiple users that can climb to the height they are comfortable - those confident enough to scale all the way up to the lookout tower can then ride down the tube slide to do it all again! When the new screening plantings to be installed along the boundary fill out, the lookout pod will almost look to be like a floating tree house, with the rope netting discreetly blending with the foliage.



NATURE PLAY AGILITY ITEMS

With a number of existing significant trees on the reserve to be retained, play items and areas weave around these to integrate the new recreation spaces and make use of the existing shade canopies. Our team uses reclaimed native timbers, sustainably harvested cypress pine, and local quarry rocks to create agility trails and timber features. Items with natural timber accents will also be included in the natureplay zone.



JUNIOR PLAY

Play items suited to younger children are grouped in a synthetic grassed area close to the playspace picnic shelter. These items include an echidna spring rocker, an A frame swing with toddler seat and single strap seat, and a freestanding junior slide (for those who are not quite ready to attempt the Adventure Rope Tower Slide).

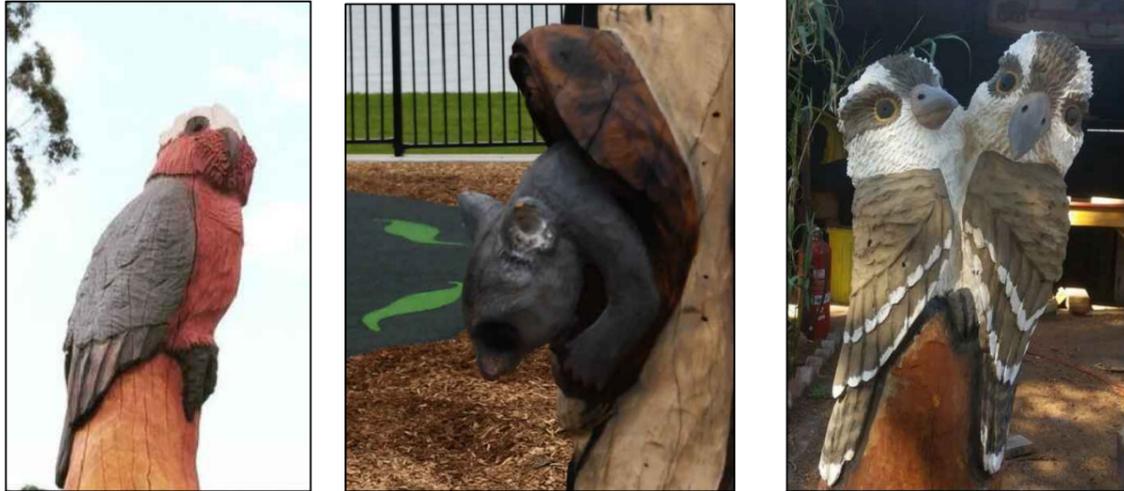


ART & PLACEMAKING

The redevelopment of the Whitfield Reserve has potential to include a number of distinct placemaking elements. Not all art locations marked on the concept will have pieces installed as part of the redevelopment works, however a number of items will be included as part of the new constructions to begin the process of creating a destination to encourage visits to the area.

TIMBER PLAYSPACE SCULPTURES

Tactile timber sculptures of local birds and animals, will be a striking feature within the playspace area.



A group of tall timber posts rising from garden beds with carvings of Native Australian birds and animals will greet visitors entering from the southern pedestrian gate, while a giant blue tongue lizard log seat will be positioned to evoke taking a drink from the "river pool" near the base of the slide

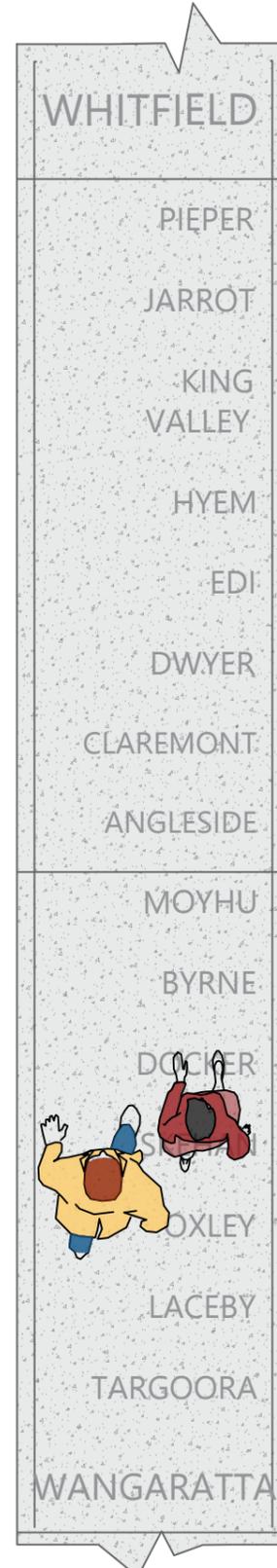
Above - examples of fauna themed works - final products subject to artists interpretation.

"THE WHITFIELD LINE" STENCILLED ETCHING

As visitors move into the playspace from the Information Hub entry point they journey along the historic rail route stops of the towns stencil sandblasted into the concrete path.

Echoing the geography of the valley, "Wangaratta" is the starting point to the north (at the rest area entry gate), then progressing along the path to arrive at "Whitfield" stencil at the end of the line just past the new playspace shelter.

The texture difference between the standard grey concrete pavement and the roughened sandbasted lettering feature is a subtle treatment that reminds of the historical significance of the site and links to the Memorial Hut without overpowering.



WHITFIELD SHELTER TREE STUMP SCULPTURE

Reinterpretation of the existing tall tree stump from shelter structure.

The central tree stump support from the current shelter will be retained in place while the rest of the structure will be demolished.

Enviro Culture Services will be soon seeking to engage a local creator to fabricate a unique sculptural item to be fixed to the tree.

This will be a key art piece to begin the development of the reserve as a public Art Exhibition Space that ultimately attracts tourists to visit as a destination in its own right, and complement other tourism developments to activate the King Valley.



Images example only - subject/artist yet to be decided.

2D GRAPHIC ARTWORK PANEL

Acknowledgment of an affinity /connection to Whitfield and its surrounds.

Enviro Culture Services will be soon be seeking interest by a local creator to produce an original artwork to be transferred onto a large weatherproof panel (1400mm x2000mm) to be hung overlooking the visitor grassed area.

This image is to reflect a connection to the Whitfield area, and may be based on a drawing/painting, linoprint, photograph or similar medium that lends to a 2D piece. The application process will accept submissions for consideration from any interested persons of any age, - further information to be forthcoming.



Above - examples only- not to be replicated