

PRESS RELEASE

WONDERMENT WALK LETS RHINOS LOOSE AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Wonderment Walk Victoria has donated a sculpture known as '*Run for your Life*' to La Trobe University. *Run for your Life* comprises three life-size bronze rhinoceros by Australian artists Gillie & Marc.

Run for your Life was first exhibited in Fed Square in February 2014 as a temporary installation. The artists wanted *Run for your Life* to remain as an installation in the public domain in Victoria. Wonderment Walk acquired the sculptures and undertook the job of exhibiting them and subsequently finding a permanent location.

"*Run for your Life* was created as a public artwork to raise awareness of the plight of Rhinos. 2013 was a devastating year for African Rhinos with over 1000 being killed by poachers. World Rhino Day is 22 September and it is appropriate that the unveiling of *Run for your Life* will occur in the same week, being 24 September, 2015", said Eddie Kutner, Chair of Wonderment Walk.

"The mere mass, being three life-size Rhinos weighing 2200 kilograms: almost 2 ½ tons in total - was a challenge in itself", Mr Kutner said.

After grazing at Fed Square the Rhinos wandered the streets of Southbank at the Summersault Outdoor Arts Festival in February this year. Now they have been put out to roam at La Trobe.

Universities around the world are reaching out to their communities and becoming more engaged with those communities rather than being isolated educational institutions.

La Trobe University is a centre of academic excellence and is also a very significant resource within Victoria, particularly in the northern part of Melbourne. La Trobe is known to be forward looking and innovative.

Wonderment Walk is delighted that the Rhinos will help showcase the University's wildlife sanctuary and sculpture park. These elements complement the architecture, flora and extensive wildlife in Bundoora, forming part of the landscape around the campus. The area is an invitation to families in the community to come and visit the campus.

The sculptures are interactive and when they appeared at Summersault and Fed Square, kids could be seen climbing on them constantly. Families and young couples were always having their photo taken either atop the sculpture or standing nearby. We are sure that this will act as a focal point for the University's population and the general public.

This is the second collaboration that La Trobe University has undertaken with Wonderment Walk, the first being the *30/30 Project* portrait collection in July 2014.

"Wonderment Walk is very proud to have a continuing relationship with La Trobe, who along with the local council and local community are coming together to strive to make a difference".

"It is great working with a team like La Trobe University Chancellor, Adrienne E Clarke AC with her boundless enthusiasm and Community Engagement Director, Susan Davies' passion, energy and dedication in making sure that things happen", Mr Kutner said.