

## **Expression of Interest Brief – Side by Side Exhibition 2026**

### **Summary**

Port Macquarie Museum (PMM) is inviting local Birpai artists working in any artform to develop a creative response to one object from our collection. The creative response will be acquired by PMM and will be used initially in the ‘Side by Side’ exhibition, and later in other exhibitions, public programming, education programming and/or promotions/communications, in accordance with applicable ICIP agreements.

### **Overview**

PMM is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from Birpai artists to develop a creative response to one object from the collection. The artist must select an object from the short list prepared by PMM.

This project aims to interpret our collection in new ways, challenge traditional concepts in local history and highlight alternative perspectives on our region. It will inform audiences through the sharing of narratives focused on truth telling, identity, place, culture and knowledge.

Artwork developed from successful EOIs would be acquired into the PMM collection, and may be used in exhibitions, public programming and education programs.

Successful artists will be asked to present their works at the exhibition launch tentatively scheduled for late May 2026.

### **Support**

A shortlist of PMM collection objects is provided with this brief. Artists should select one object and identify a concept in their EOI. A ‘Meet the Objects’, open information session, will be held at Port Macquarie Museum, 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie on **Tuesday 3 March 2026 from 4.30pm to 5.30pm**. This session will allow the Museum curator to show and talk further about the shortlisted objects, cultural consultant, Dr. Aunty Rhonda Radley to talk about possible themes of the project and allow interested artists to view the exhibition space and ask questions.

A further open information session will be held at the Bunya Local Aboriginal Land Council, 208 High Street, Wauchope on **Tuesday 10 March 2026 from 12 noon to 1pm**.

Please register to attend by sending an email to [portmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:portmuseum@gmail.com). Successful artists will be supported with additional information about the object (where available)

and an opportunity to visit PMM to view the object and undertake additional research. We are more than happy to discuss support to ensure accessibility.

### **Budget**

The artist fee for each successful project is \$5,000 +GST (where applicable). This fee covers the development of the artwork, all materials, acquisition and participation in the exhibition launch (tentatively scheduled for late May 2026).

### **ICIP**

A ICIP agreement will be negotiated with each selected artist.

### **Timeline**

Tuesday 3 March 2026, 4.30pm - 'Meet the Objects' information session (Port Macquarie)

Tuesday 10 March 2026, 12 Noon - 'Meet the Objects' information session (Wauchope)

Tuesday 7 April 2026, 5pm – Expressions of Interest close

Friday 17 April 2026 – successful artists announced

Monday 18 May 2026 – final artworks received at PMM

End May 2026 – exhibition launch and public presentation of artworks by artists at PMM (date TBC)

### **Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

Email completed EOIs to [portmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:portmuseum@gmail.com) by **5pm on Tuesday 7 April 2026**.

The blank EOI form is at the end of this brief.

Please also include a PDF (under 10MB) of supporting material. This could include:

- up to 5 images of past and present work, with image captions including basic artwork details (title, date, media, dimensions) and other useful information about the work; and/or
- web links to relevant projects, including a brief summary of useful information about the projects.

### **Selection criteria**

- clear consideration of the challenges and opportunities provided by the selected PMM object, as outlined in the object shortlist document
- capacity for the proposed artwork to provide a new perspective on the selected PMM object and its place in local history

- the proposed artwork's potential for collection and display
- the proposed artwork's potential for use in future exhibitions, and public/education programming
- availability to work within the project timeline, including participation in the proposed launch in late May 2026
- previous relevant experience

### **Selection Panel**

Successful artists and projects will be determined by a group of Birpai Elders supported by the project cultural consultant, and PMM curator.

### **Insurance and risk management**

Port Macquarie Museum recommends that contractors have Public Liability Insurance.

### **Further information**

Please contact Debbie Sommers, Curator at Port Macquarie Museum, on 0438 195 776 or [portmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:portmuseum@gmail.com)

## Expression of Interest Form – Side by Side Exhibition Project

### Personal details:

Artist name	
Address	
Email	
Phone number	
Website/social media	
ABN	
GST registered (yes/no)	

### Selected object:

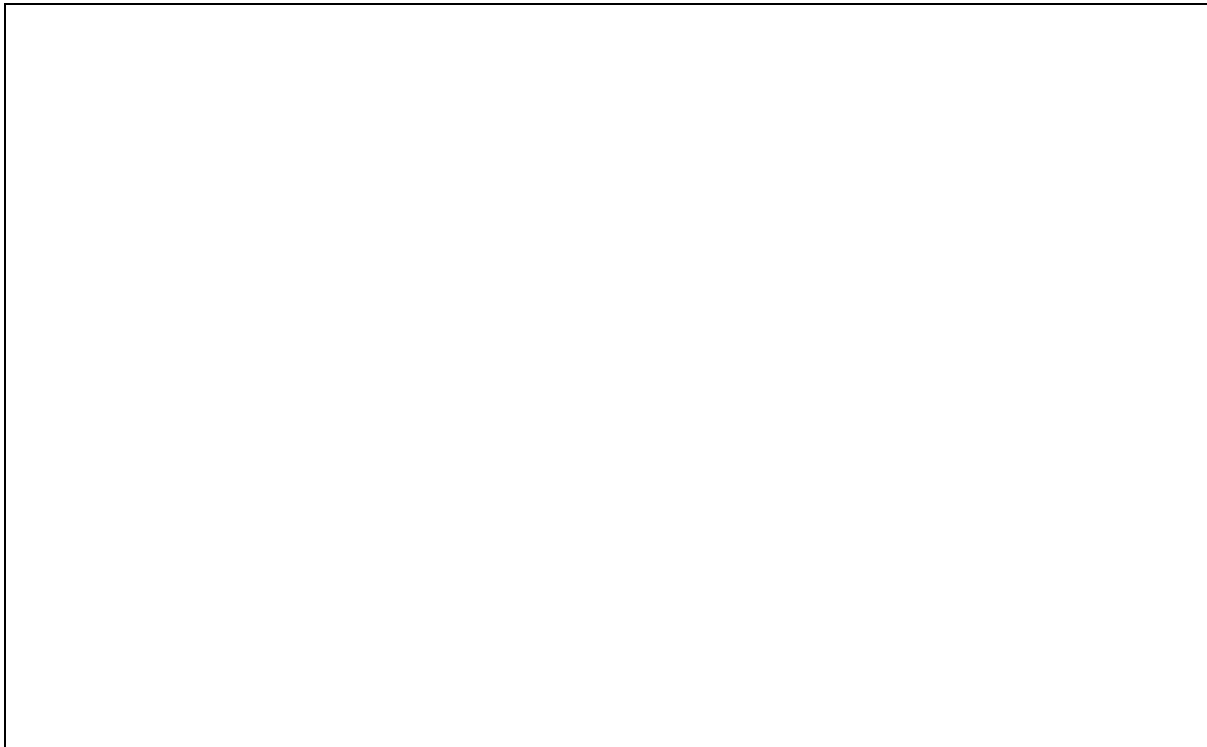
Object name	
PMM Object number	

### Briefly describe your proposed creative response (up to 250 words):

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### Artist statement (up to 250 words)

Introduce your art practice and relevant professional experience:

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the applicant to write their art practice and professional experience.

### **Submission**

Email your completed EOI, including supporting documentation, to [portmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:portmuseum@gmail.com) by **5pm Tuesday 7 April 2026**.

Please ensure you include:

- this completed EOI form (if you need more space than provided on this form, you may send your responses to the questions on this form in the body of an email),
- supporting documentation in PDF format (up to 10MB), including:
  - up to 5 images of past and present work, with image captions including basic artwork details (title, date, media, dimensions) and other useful information about the work and/or
  - web links to relevant projects, including a brief summary of useful information about the projects.

A confirmation of EOI receipt will be emailed to all applicants. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application on Friday 17 April 2026.