Campus Half-Loop Walks

The Macquarie University Arboretum features beautiful trees that connect us to the history of the campus and its recent landscape plantings, the area’s former use as a market garden, and to the landscape that existed prior to European settlement. This walk through the Arboretum will highlight individual trees and introduce features of the Arboretum. You can choose to spend a couple of hours walking the entire loop, or just pick a couple of features to look at. The Arboretum provides a valuable resource for teaching and research, a habitat for native birds and other animals and a relaxing and enjoyable environment for students, staff and visitors to the university.

(Grid refs are from the March 2019 campus map)

During 2019/2020, construction in the central precinct will make it difficult to complete the campus tour as a loop. It has therefore been broken into two half loops, both starting from the eastern end of campus.

Half-loop Walk Part 1

Access: The loop is wheelchair accessible from Stations 1 to 8.

1. Welcome to the University (Grid ref R25)

Here you are at the junction of Research Park Drive and the pedestrian access to the train station. College Creek is a small creek that runs through the south and east of the campus and eventually joins the Lane Cove River. Upstream from here is an extensive riparian corridor of Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus grandis*), planted in the 1970s under the direction of Walter Abraham and Richard Clough; architect planner, and landscape consultant, respectively. This place has a mixed planting of mature Eucalypts and River She-oaks, and more recent mixed native plantings as part of the riparian restoration work undertaken by the University. To the north, next to the road is a beautiful big old Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*). Species here include Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*) and Straight Wattle (*Acacia stricta*). On the opposite side of the road from the Sydney Red Gum is a fine specimen of White Mahogany (*Eucalyptus acmenoides*), which is also home to some native Mistletoe.
2. 6 Eastern Road courtyard (Q22)
This is a tiny courtyard with a couple of special plant and sculptural features. At the back of the courtyard, towards the East 3 carpark is the native Lemon Myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*). The leaves of the lemon-myrtle give off a beautiful fragrance when crushed, and can be used to flavour seafood and desserts.

![Image of Lemon Myrtle](image)

3. Wally’s Walk and Science Square (corner of Wally’s Walk and Eastern Road, N22)
Wally’s Walk is the name of the pathway running east to west through the centre of the campus. The walk is named after Walter Abraham and is lined with London Plane Trees (*Platanus X hispanica*) planted in the early days of the campus. These trees provide welcome shade in summer, but let light and warmth through in winter. On the north-east corner of this intersection is a garden containing interesting sculptures, and rocks (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) from various locations in New South Wales. The rocks are used in undergraduate teaching of Geology. The rocks and sculptures are nestled amongst Broad-leafed Paperbarks (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Ribberries (*Syzygium luehmannii*), Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) and Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*).

4. Jim Rose Earth Sciences Garden (O20)
This garden was created in the 1980s to complement the Earth Sciences Museum’s indoor collection. All the trees and shrubs in the main garden have a well recognised fossil history, providing more than a sanctuary for people to relax. The garden includes a series of rock specimens from around Australia, including petrified conifers. The plants in the Jim Rose garden represent the evolution and distribution of present day plant groups. The garden and the pants are divided into species that evolved on Gondwana (east and south), and those that evolved on Laurasia (north and west). For more information on the garden and the significance of the plantings please visit the gardens section of the Arboretum website.

5. 17 Wally’s Walk courtyard (O17)
Take a short walk off the path and find the CSC courtyard, home to four mature Chinese Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and several sculptures.
6. Old Library courtyard (O16)

Opposite the entrance the MUSE student centre is an open courtyard with two flag poles carrying the Australian flag and the Aboriginal flag. The courtyard features two mature Tallowwoods (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) and a group of China Pears (*Pyrus calleryana*).

7. Mars Creek – vegetation restoration – western end of Wally’s Walk (N10)

Mars Creek is one of two creeks that meander through the Macquarie campus, before joining the Lane Cove River further downstream. Mars Creek is a typical urban stream, with modified stream banks and poor water quality. Three have been three separate projects to restore riparian vegetation to Mars Creek and improve water quality and flow. The first project, by the Macquarie University Bushcare group, which was formed in 2008, worked on the section near Gymnasium Road. Later work was done here at the end of Wally’s Walk, and further upstream, our final stop for this part of the campus tour.

8. Mars Creek Wetland (P7)

After crossing Mars Creek, turn left and follow the pedestrian pathway to Link Road. On the other side of the road is the Mars Creek Wetland. This wetland complex was constructed in 2012 to improve water quality and flow of Mars Creek. Mars Creek initially flows through a pollutant trap, which slows down the flow and filters out large debris such as twigs and litter. From here the water flows through a sinuous course through 200m of wetland. Adjacent to the main stream are two reed-bed basins that will trap sediment and filter nutrients. These basins fill during peak rain events then slowly release the water as the creek subsides. The riparian zones are planted with locally native plant species to form three distinct vegetation communities that provide habitat to local birds, insects and other animals. Local frog species have started to colonise the wetland area.

Half-loop Part 2

9. Peace Grove and Market Gardens (H15)

Adjacent to the Lighthouse Theatre are reminders of the campus’ previous use as home to market gardens and poultry farms. Here you can find Olive trees (*Olea europaea subsp. europaea*) and Japanese Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*). More recently a number of deciduous trees have been planted. In the 1980s the University was awarded a Peace Prize. Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia ‘Raywood’*), Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior ‘aurea’*) and Liquidambar were planted to commemorate the project.
10. Indigenous Learning Circle (G17)

Follow a pathway running behind the Lighthouse Theatre to come to the Indigenous Learning Circle. This space, created in consultation with Darug elders, overlooks the lake and is surrounded by native trees, including majestic Maidens Gum (*Eucalyptus maidenii*).

11. Remnant Vegetation (F18)

The native vegetation here, on the western side of the lake, is a remnant of the native vegetation that would have been found in the area prior to European settlement, when the Darug people occupied the land. This vegetation belongs to a specific ecological community that is protected by state and federal legislation. The community, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF), has been reduced by clearing and development to less than 0.5% of its original extent. In our area of STIF you can find Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*), Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), White Stringybark (*Eucalyptus globoidea*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) and Parramatta Green Wattle (*Acacia parramattensis*). See the flora and fauna section of the Arboretum website for more information.

12. Lakeside of the Chancellery (H20)

The Chancellery occupies prime position on campus with a fantastic outlook over the lake and the park-like campus landscape. Between the building and the lake a range of Eucalypts have been planted, including a magnificent Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*). A short walk up towards the central part of campus is a grove of Liquidambers (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and towards the site of the Arboretum launch, a Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*) plus a Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*).

13. Eastern Grove (K21)

This open grove of trees is a mixture of native and non-native species. The trees are widely spaced and reminiscent of open woodland. Key trees include Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla subsp macrophylla*), Hill’s Weeping Fig (*Ficus microcarpa*), Brushbox (*Lophostemon confertus*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Argyle Apple (*Eucalyptus cinerea*), Spotted Gum (*Corymbia maculata*), Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), and Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolium*). In 2015 a selection of deciduous and
coniferous trees were planted to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of the Arboretum. These include Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) and Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*).

14. Corner Science Road and Eastern Road (L21)

There are many trees in view of this spot. The path south along Eastern Road will take you back to the start of the loop. To the east, along Science Road, is the beginning of the Plant Evolution walk. On the north-western side of the road is a Chinese Tallowwood (*Triadica sebifera*), and on the eastern side you can find a Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), a stately tree whose leaves provide flavour to soups and stews. Also on this corner is a stand of mature Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus grandis*).

The text for this walk was prepared by Samantha Newton, Arboretum Project Coordinator, with information provided by Alison Downing, Senior Research Fellow with the Department of Biological Sciences and Lachlan Morgan, Manager of University Records and Archives. All photos by Iain Brew.