Dementia-friendly art and cultural spaces
Engaging with art and heritage in and around Sydney

Funded by Family and Community Services, NSW Government via the 2018 Liveable Communities Grant
This guide has been compiled by
Kate Hargraves
Macquarie University Art Gallery
Jane Thogersen
Australian History Museum
Rhonda Davis
Macquarie University Art Gallery

Layout and design
Paper Monkey

Cover image and AOE program images
©Effy Alexakis, Photowrite

Other images
©Emilio Cresciana for Art Space on The Concourse
©Douglas Riley, ©Nicholas Watt, ©Anna Kucera, ©James Horan Photography Pty Ltd for Sydney Living Museums

Acknowledgements
Family and Community Services, NSW Government for providing funding for this project.
Community Dementia Care Specialist Tim England for his guidance and training.
The dementia-friendly art and cultural spaces that have contributed information and images.
The staff, students, volunteers and interns who keep the AOE program running.

Suggestions for a successful visit to all sites:
Ring ahead to check if any large groups are booked, to alert staff to any special needs and to check if the site is open, as they may close when new exhibitions are being installed.

For up-to-date timetables or to find the quickest public transport routes visit the Transport Infoline or call 131500.

Macquarie University, Art Gallery
The Chancellery 19 Eastern Rd
Macquarie University
NSW 2109, Australia
T: +61 (02) 9850 7437
artgallery.mq.edu.au

The Australian History Museum
13 Hadenfeld Ave
Macquarie University
NSW 2109, Australia
T: +61 (02) 9850 8870
austhistmuseum.mq.edu.au
The Macquarie University Art & Object Engagement (AOE) Program, thanks to a Liveable Communities Grant (FACS, NSW Government), has focused on the development of new program sessions, in 2018 and 2019, specifically for people living at home with dementia, and their carers. Previously, the program had only been open to groups visiting from local aged care facilities.

We have loved spending time with this audience, and sharing works of art from the University Art Gallery as well as historical objects from the Australian History Museum, and we encourage the carers to use the same approach at home or when they are visiting other art and cultural spaces.

The Liveable Communities Grant also funded the development of this guide book, with the aim to raise awareness and enable carers to seek out other dementia-friendly art and cultural spaces in their local neighbourhood. It is not a comprehensive list of all the wonderful spaces in and around Sydney, but rather a taste of some fabulous and dementia-friendly galleries, museums and historic sites that would welcome visits from people living with dementia and their carers.
Contents

1 Macquarie University Art Gallery
2 Art Space on The Concourse
3 Elizabeth Bay House
4 Elizabeth Farm
5 Gallery Lane Cove
   + Creative Studios
6 Gosford Regional Gallery
7 Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
8 Incinerator Art Space
9 Justice and Police Museum
10 Manly Art Gallery and Museum
11 Museum of Sydney
12 Rose Seidler House
13 Rouse Hill House and Farm
14 Susannah Place Museum
15 Vaucluse House
All locations within 62km radius of Macquarie University
Macquarie University Art Gallery

Art & Object Engagement (AOE) Program

A Multi-disciplinary Community Collaboration
The AOE Program serves people living with dementia and their carers. We engage with contemporary art and social history objects from Macquarie University’s collections.

The AOE Program is run by the Macquarie University Art Gallery and the Australian History Museum. The program is open to aged care facility groups as well as people with dementia living at home and their carers. Sessions run for groups of 4–8 participants. During the sessions we discuss the works of art on exhibition as well as the historical objects, sharing our thoughts and stories over a cup of tea/coffee, within the lovely gallery space.

19 Eastern Rd, Ground Floor, Macquarie University 2109
t: (02) 9850 7437  e: Rhonda.davis@mq.edu.au or Kate.hargraves@mq.edu.au (Macquarie University Art Gallery) or Jane.thogersen@mq.edu.au (The Australian History Museum)
artgallery.mq.edu.au

Monday–Friday / 10am–5pm

car: paid parking on campus
/ train and bus: Macquarie University train station and bus stops

accessible parking, toilet and access

1 main exhibition space / campus sculpture garden

1.5–2hrs per AOE session (including tea break)

tea, coffee and cake provided / nearby campus cafés and shopping centre

free
Art Space on The Concourse
An art space displaying high-quality art, craft, cultural and design exhibitions, programmed by Willoughby City Council. Its intimate and sophisticated space is located within The Concourse Performing Arts Centre.

Council programs Art Space on The Concourse with a combination of Council-curated exhibitions and exhibitions by artists, community groups and cultural organisations. Exhibitions change regularly and the exhibition calendar can be found on our website.

Art Space on The Concourse is situated next to the Box Office.

409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067
t: 0401 638 501
willoughby.nsw.gov.au/community/arts--culture/visual-arts

Monday–Friday 11am–5pm
Saturday–Sunday 11am–4pm

**Car:** 1hr free on-site parking (2hr, $5) and Westfield Chatswood and Chatswood Chase Sydney 3hr free
**Bus and Train:** Short walk to gallery from Chatswood bus and train stations
**Accessible Parking and Toilets**

1 main exhibition space / call ahead recommended (to make the most of the visit and ensure no conflicts)

30–45min

Several café options within walking distance

Free
Elizabeth Bay House
With commanding views over Sydney Harbour, Elizabeth Bay House gleams like a Greek temple. Once surrounded by famous landscaped gardens, it is one of the most splendid private houses ever built in Australia.

Join us for a tour of ‘the finest house in the colony’ to learn about the grand vision of Colonial Secretary Alexander Macleay, and the amazing natural history collection developed here. Follow the rise and fall of the Macleay family’s fortunes, and the impact of these on the house we see today. Then delve into the bohemian world of Kings Cross to hear stories of the wild parties, colourful characters and glamorous soirees held in the house during the turbulent 1920s and 1930s.

7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011
t: (02) 9356 3022 e: bookings@slm.com.au
sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/houses-museums/groups

general admission: Friday–Sunday 10am–4pm / booked groups: Monday–Sunday 10am–3pm

car: Kings Cross car park on Ward Ave, 500m walk from the house / bus: 311 to Greenknowe Avenue and 10min walk / train: Kings Cross train station and 7min walk

only one accessible parking space (setheast corner) / back gate can be opened for limited mobility visitors (call to arrange) / only ground floor is low mobility-friendly (ground floor only tours arranged on request)

self-guide tour or join a focus tour with other visitors / groups private tours / experienced guides

45min-1hr for guided house tour currently no café on site

general: $12 ($8 per concession) / group: $16 ($11 per concession)
Elizabeth Farm
Situated on the land of the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation — evokes and illustrates the intriguing family life of the Macarthur family.

Built for the young military couple John and Elizabeth Macarthur and their growing family, the house has witnessed major events in the development of the colony. Elizabeth Farm is a museum without barriers. Visitors can wander freely through the house and garden. The museum encourages visitors to interact with the collection with lovely garden walks, chairs to sit on and items to touch in the house. It is designed to be an immersive and interactive experience.

**70 Alice Street, Rosehill NSW 2142**
**t:** (02) 9635 9488  **e:** bookings@slm.com.au
**sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/houses-museums/groups**

general admission: Wednesday–Sunday 10am–4pm
/booked groups: Monday–Sunday 10am–3pm

---

**Situated on the land of the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation — evokes and illustrates the intriguing family life of the Macarthur family.**

Built for the young military couple John and Elizabeth Macarthur and their growing family, the house has witnessed major events in the development of the colony. Elizabeth Farm is a museum without barriers.

Visitors can wander freely through the house and garden. The museum encourages visitors to interact with the collection with lovely garden walks, chairs to sit on and items to touch in the house. It is designed to be an immersive and interactive experience.

**car:** Alice Street (see parking signs for times)  /  **bus:** 909 Veolia bus from Parramatta to Bankstown via Elizabeth Farm, 100m walk from corner of Alice and Alfred Streets  /  **train:** Harris Park station (7min walk), Rosehill station (8min walk)  /  **ferry:** Circular Quay to Parramatta Wharf and 8min walk

**one-storey building**
/some single steps and uneven surfaces
/wheelchair access to all areas except kitchen and cellar

**self-guide tour**
/or join a focus tour with other visitors / group private tours / experienced guides

**45min-1hr**
for guided house tour

**café onsite**
Saturday and Sunday 10am–3.30pm

**general:** $12 ($8 per concession) / **group:** $16 ($11 per concession)
Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios
The integrated gallery and studios program encourages collaboration across regions and disciplines, fostering creative exchange, and developing visual arts in Lane Cove and the greater North Shore.

It presents up to twenty exhibitions a year and a range of term art classes and workshops.

Gallery Lane Cove + Creative Studios is a not-for-profit art centre funded in part by Lane Cove Council and managed by Centrehouse Inc., which counts Lloyd Rees and Guy Warren as former trustees. It is committed to presenting innovative contemporary practices alongside traditional art with social impact projects being a key focus across its program. The studios offer group art therapy, dementia- and disability-friendly classes, and operates three private art studios with occasional funded residencies.

164 Longueville Road, Lane Cove NSW 2066
t: (02) 9428 4898  e: info@gallerylanecove.com.au

gallerylanecove.com.au

general admission: Monday–Friday 10am–4.30pm / Saturday 10am–2.30pm / closed Public Holidays

car: on-site parking and Woolworths car park

bus: Longueville Road stop then a 5min walk

accessible parking, access and accessible toilets

1–2 main exhibition spaces / gift shop / creative studios

45min–1hr for gallery

short walk to nearby cafés

general gallery free / fee for studio programs
Gosford Regional Gallery
The gallery curators develop the majority of exhibitions, including the annual Gosford Art Prize competition. Each year, the gallery hosts between four to six major national touring exhibitions, showcasing a diverse range of content, style and form.

The Foyer Gallery displays work by a range of emerging and established artists, with a focus on representing artists from the region. The Gosford Community Gallery is located adjacent to the Gosford Regional Gallery. It supports the practice of local artists with art classes and a meeting space. A full program is available online.
Grace Cossington Smith Gallery
The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is a not-for-profit program inspiring Abbotsleigh students and our community to engage, create and appreciate the culture and richness of art.

Exhibitions enable dynamic learning experiences in a wide range of subjects and topics. There are up to 10 exhibitions a year which change every 5–6 weeks. A full program is available online.

Abbotsleigh, Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga NSW 2076

t: (02) 9473 7878  e: gcsgallery@abbotsleigh.nsw.edu.au
www.gcsgallery.com.au

Monday–Friday 10am–5pm  
/ Saturday 10am–4pm

**Car:** limited (only access from northbound side of Pacific Highway) / **Train:** Wahroonga Station, bus to Abbotsleigh or 15min walk

**Accessible access and toilets**

**Main gallery** / gallery assistant available to answer questions and give short tours (ring ahead to book)

**40min**

**No café on site** (Wahroonga shops 10–15min walk)

**Free**
Incinerator Art Space
Located in the iconic Walter Burley Griffin designed Willoughby Incinerator, this exhibition space is a unique environment for showcasing exceptional, innovative and timely contemporary visual art exhibitions.

Willoughby City Council programs Incinerator Art Space with a combination of Council-curated exhibitions and exhibitions by artists, community groups and cultural organisations. Exhibitions change regularly and the exhibition calendar can be found on our website.

**Car:** on-site parking

**Bus:** short walk to gallery from Willoughby Road

**Accessible:**
- parking
- ramp and lift access
- accessible toilets

**30–45min / gallery is considerably less busy on weekdays**

**Incinerator café**
- (top level)
- 7am–4pm

**Free**
Justice and Police Museum
Step into the dark side of Sydney’s past with a visit to the Water Police station and courts that once made up one of the city’s busiest legal hubs.

Crooks and cops, thugs and judges, locals and drifters, the guilty and the innocent have all left their stories here. With its 1890s holding cells, offices, charge room and courts, the museum draws you into a world of crime, punishment and policing, from bushrangers, sly grog and razor gangs to forensics. A vast archive of crime scene photography and mug shots reveal more than a century of underworld Sydney.

car: No on-site parking, limited street parking (coach drop-off/pick-up on Macquarie Street) / parking at Sir Stamford Hotel, Albert Street; Intercontinental Hotel, Phillip Street; Sydney Opera House (check parking rates) / bus, train and ferry: located one street back from Circular Quay

45min–1hr for guided house tour

low mobility entry via ramp in Albert Street (ring doorbell on arrival) / access to most areas including main exhibition gallery and toilets / some areas very narrow and have steps

self-guide tour or join a focus tour with other visitors / interactive activities / check website for daily activities

no café on site

general: $12 ($8 per concession) / group: $16 ($11 per concession)
Manly Art Gallery and Museum
MAG&M is an exciting hub of cultural activity on the Northern Beaches, with changing art and museum exhibitions in addition to stimulating public and creative learning programs to enjoy.

Be surprised and delighted by Manly Art Gallery and Museum’s diverse range of exhibitions featuring established local, national and Indigenous artists across all media.

West Esplanade Reserve, Manly NSW 2095

t: (02) 9976 1421 e: artgallery@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Tuesday–Sunday 10am–5pm
/ for group visits, please contact the gallery to book

car: street parking
bus and ferry: 5min walk
accessible parking, access and toilets
5 exhibition spaces, design shop
several café options within walking distance
free
Museum of Sydney
As Australia’s first Government House for 57 years, this building was the centre of the social, ceremonial and political life of the colony of New South Wales.

Located on this deeply significant and symbolic site, the Museum of Sydney protects the fragile archaeology of the building’s foundations and tells the ongoing stories of Sydney and its people. The museum’s galleries host a changing program of exhibitions exploring our diverse city.

car: No on-site parking, limited street parking (drop-off/pick-up on Bridge Street and Young Street) / parking at Governor Phillip and Macquarie Tower (check parking rates) / bus, train and ferry: located one street back from Circular Quay

level entry from the street and forecourt, lift access to all floors

self-guide tour or join a focus tour with other visitors / groups: private tours available every day

45min–1hr for guided tour

espresso cart on forecourt 10am–4pm every day

general: $12 ($8 per concession) / group: $16 ($11 per concession)
Rose Seidler House
On its completion in 1950, Rose Seidler House was ‘the most talked about house in Sydney’. Designed by the young Harry Seidler for his parents Rose and Max, the house overturned almost every convention of suburban home design.

It was in fact the promise of designing a house for his mother that brought Harry to Australia, and its success helped launch his Australian and soon after international career. Today, still surrounded by bushland and with panoramic views of Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, the house is one of the finest examples of mid-20th-century domestic architecture in Australia.
Rouse Hill House and Farm
Rouse Hill House and Farm was built for Richard Rouse and his young family.

With its grand stables for prize horses, orchards and an elegant summerhouse, the property contains an assortment of belongings and treasures and chronicles the changing fortunes of six generations of one family. Today Rouse Hill House and Farm features a restored 1888 schoolhouse, a section of the original Windsor Road turnpike proclaimed by Governor Macquarie in 1813, and the site of the doomed 1804 ‘Vinegar Hill’ convict rebellion, as well as a rich Darug connection through social enterprise organisation Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Education Centre.
Susannah Place Museum
Visit the authentically re-created houses and discover the stories of the people who belonged to this once tight-knit working-class neighbourhood.

Meet the family who struggled through the Great Depression, the Irish and Greek immigrants who made a new home in The Rocks and the family who operated the ‘cheap cash’ grocer shop.

58–64 Gloucester Street, The Rocks, Sydney NSW 2000
t: (02) 9241 1893 e: bookings@slm.com.au
sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/houses-museums/groups
general admission: Monday–Sunday (by tour only, 8 people max.) 2pm, 3pm or 4pm
booked groups: Tuesday–Thursday 10am–12.30pm

car: limited street parking / drop-off and pick-up on Gloucester and Harrington Streets / bus, train and ferry: Circular Quay, 7min walk

no wheelchair access / iPads with images showing other floors available

old terrace houses with narrow spaces and steep, narrow stairs (79) / dementia friendly by private group booking only

45min–1hr guided house tour

no café on site

general: $12 ($8 per concession) / group: $16 ($11 per concession, min. costs apply)
Vaucluse House
Vaucluse House is one of Sydney’s few 19th-century mansions still surrounded by its original gardens and wooded grounds.

Purchased in 1827 by colonial explorer, barrister and politician William Charles Wentworth, the original single-storey cottage was developed over the next four decades into a large, though unfinished, family home. In 1915 Vaucluse House was opened to the public as a house museum, and today visitors are still drawn to its lush and secluded grounds and the intriguing stories of the people who lived here.

Wentworth Road, Vaucluse NSW 2030

t: (02) 9388 7922 e: bookings@slm.com.au
sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/houses-museums/groups

general admission: Wednesday–Sunday 10am–4pm
/ booked groups: Monday–Sunday 10am–3pm

- **car:** free parking 7am–5pm
- **bus:** 325 from Sydney CBD
- **train:** to Edgecliff Station
- **ferry:** Watsons Bay terminal then 7min on 325 bus

- accessible parking, toilets behind stables
- ramps provided over some raised entrances / stairs to other floors / folders with captioned images available / garden uneven

- self-guide or join a focus tour with other visitors
- group private tours

- **1920s garden tearooms**
  / bookings: 02 9388 8188
  or visit vauclusehouse
  tearooms.com.au

- **general:** $12 ($8 per concession) / **group:**
  $16 ($11 per concession)

45min–1hr
guided house tour / min. 30mins for gardens (self-guided)
Dementia-friendly art and cultural spaces