

Campus Loop Walk

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.

Access: The loop is wheelchair accessible from Stations 2 to 8.

1. Welcome to the University (Grid ref U27)

Here you are at the junction of University Ave and Research Park Drive. 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*).

2. E4B/E6A Courtyard, Eastern Road (S24)

This is a tiny courtyard with a couple of special features. At the back of the courtyard, towards the E4 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. Continuing into the carpark there is a lovely collection of the winter flowering Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) along the back wall of E6A. The bark of these trees is hard and dark brown, almost black in colour, and the flowers are a beautiful pink.



3. Wally's Walk and Science Square (corner of Wally's Walk and Eastern Road, P23)

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-west corner of this intersection is Science Square, a teaching garden for geologists. It features igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks from various locations in New South Wales.

The garden on the north-east corner of the intersection features Broad-leaved Paperbarks (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Ribberries (*Syzygium luehmannii*), Gynea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) and Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*).

4. Jim Rose Earth Sciences Garden (Q22)

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 plants are divided into species that evolved in Gondwana (east and south), and those that evolved in Laurasia (north and west). For more information on the garden and the significance of the plantings please see www.mq.edu.au/arboretum/gardens.html.

5. University courtyard (O21)

Further along Wally's Walk at the top of the stairs to the central courtyard, is a view to the north towards the Campus Hub and beyond to the lake. The central courtyard is home to many Lemon Scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*). The gums are very popular with native birds, particularly, Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus*), that feed on the nectar. The trees flower in winter and their lemon scent (from the leaves) fills the air on hot humid days and after rain.

6. C5C courtyard (Q19)

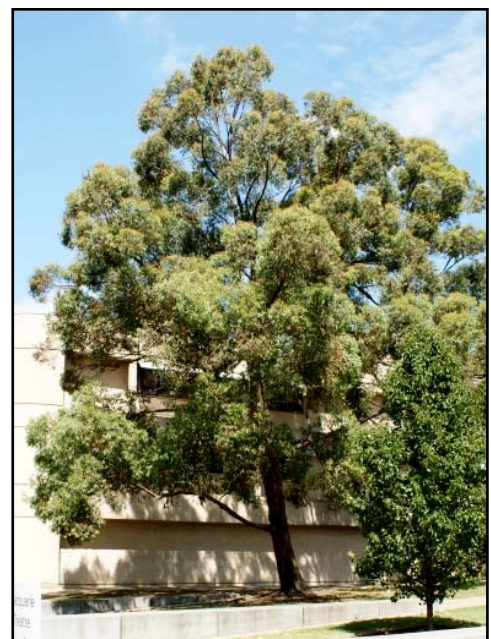
Take a short walk off the path and find the C5C courtyard, home to four mature Chinese Elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and several sculptures.

7. Old Library courtyard (Q18)

Opposite the entrance the old library 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*).

8. W6B Courtyard (Q15)

This is the last courtyard before the western end of Wally's walk. Here you'll find a mix of trees including Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), Broad-leaved Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Chinese Tallowwood (*Triadica sebifera*), and American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). This courtyard is fully enclosed by buildings and is a quiet place to enjoy the trees and the art of the sculpture park.



9. Mars Creek – Bushcare (M16)

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. The Macquarie University Bushcare group, which was formed in 2008, is working to restore the creek. Planting of native trees and shrubs is restoring the riparian corridors, and work will take place upstream to improve the water quality and flow.

10. Peace Grove and Market Gardens (L17)

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 augustifolia* 'Raywood'), Golden Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* 'aurea') and Liquidambar were planted to commemorate the project. Willows (*Salix babylonica*) have also been planted in the area.



11. Remnant Vegetation (H20)

The native vegetation here, on the western side of the lake, is a remnant of the native vegetation that could be 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 www.mq.edu.au/arboretum/floraandfauna.html for more information.



12. Lakeside of E11A (K22)

Building E11A 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 Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), towards the site of the Arboretum launch, a cluster of Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*) plus a single Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*).

13. E7B mixed grove (M23)

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*).

14. Corner Science Road and Eastern Road (N24)

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 south-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.

