

Trees and shrubs on the ANU Campus





Ever since its foundation the University has planted trees and paid great attention to the design of the campus. As the University has developed, so its landscape has grown to form a beautiful park-like setting for teaching and research.

When development of the campus began about 1950, the site was largely cleared grassland with, here and there, groups of splendid eucalypts; deciduous trees had been planted on University Avenue and in the vicinity of the Old Hospital Buildings and the houses on the Acton Ridge.

The form of the landscape that has evolved since then under the guidance of Professor Lindsay Pryor, former Professor of Botany, and the former University Landscape Architect, John Stevens, is basically simple. Against the wooded backdrop of Black Mountain, Sullivans Creek flows through a chain of open spaces which is intersected by the more densely developed University Avenue, which has a more formal treatment to reflect its part in the City plan. There

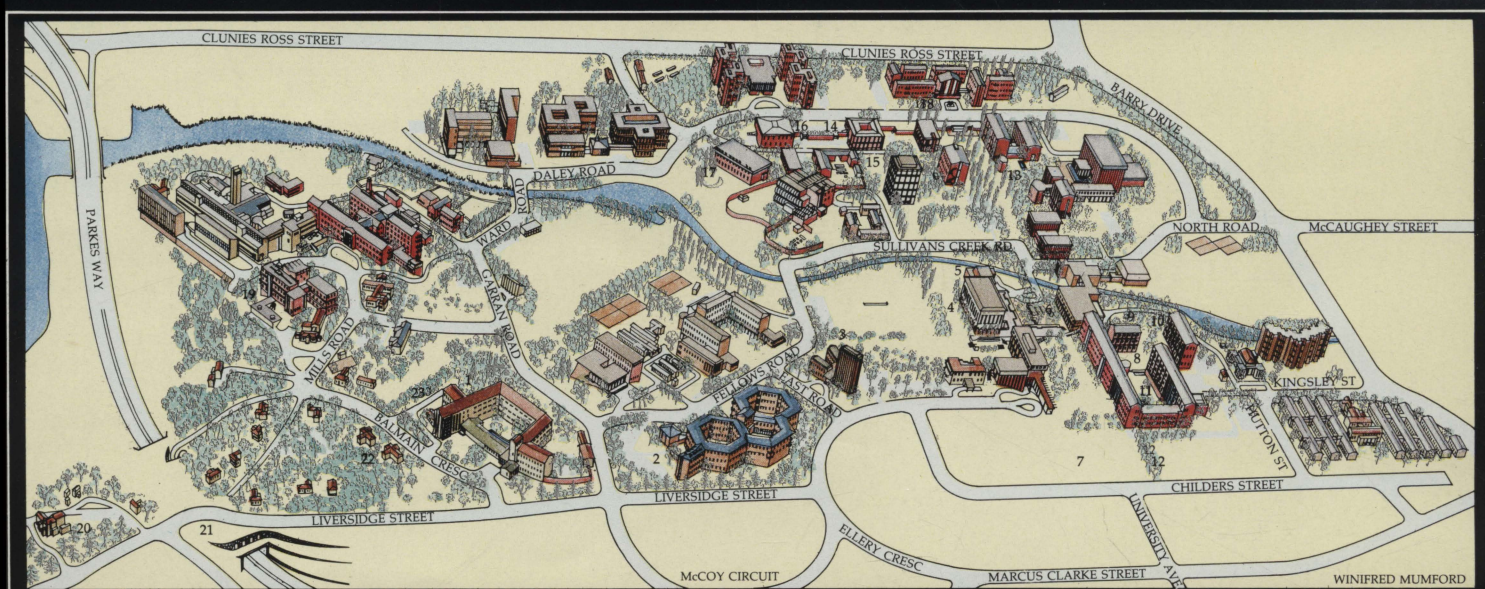


has never been a policy of using only native species in planting; rather, areas of distinct character have been created as part of the design. Thus the University Avenue/Arts/Chifley Library area remains largely planted with deciduous trees, valuable for winter sun in this heavily used part of campus, and contrasts with other areas predominantly Australian in character such as the Coombs precinct. This contrast can be seen particularly well looking north and south from the Chancelry.

On the west side of the campus extensive plantings of eucalypts, some still young, provide visual continuity with the Black Mountain forests.

Although the main purpose of the plantings has been the creation of an attractive landscape, their usefulness in teaching and research has also been taken into account so that the range of species is quite wide; at last count there were some 500 kinds of trees and shrubs.

New plants are constantly being tried out, but only those which have proved reliable



site map

Legend

- 1 University House
- 2 HC Coombs Building
- 3 Chancelry
- 4 JB Chifley Building (Library)
- 5 Arts Centre
- 6 Union Court
- 7 Family Law Court
- 8 Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre
- 9 Hanna Neumann Building
- 10 John Dedman Building
- 11 The Arts/Economics Quadrangle
- 12 Entrance Court
- 13 Physics Building
- 14 Zoology Building
- 15 Linnaeus Way
- 16 Botany Building
- 17 Forestry
- 18 Bruce Hall
- 19 Earth Sciences
- 20 University Staff Centre
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under ANU conditions are planted widely. The life of many native shrubs is relatively short, and so plantings tend to change with time as plants die out and are replaced, and any detailed description easily becomes outdated.

This guide can only point out some of the interesting areas and plants; a great many more exist about the campus and many individual trees and shrubs are discreetly labelled.

University Avenue has been almost entirely freed from traffic and developed as a series of formal and informal spaces linked by the original formal avenue of deciduous trees: English Elms *Ulmus procera* and Cedars *Cedrus atlantica* at the City end, then Cedars and White Poplars *Populus alba*, which dominate Union Court; variegated Elms *Ulmus 'Picturata'* and finally Lombardy Poplars *Populus italica nigra* and Fastigate White Poplars *Populus alba fastigiata*. Around the Flugelmann fountain in front of Bruce Hall are Chinese Elms *Ulmus par-*



vifolia. In the central section the avenues are interplanted with Purple Leafed Plums forms of *Prunus cerasifera nigra*. Near the North Road junction are Sweet Chestnuts *Castanea sativa* and at Sullivans Creek Road two Californian Big Trees *Sequoia gigantea* survive from the many thousands planted around Canberra by Walter Burley Griffin; nearly opposite are original specimens of *Eucalyptus blakeleyi*.

Union Court is planted with a mixture of exotic and native species. Important in the design are extensive ground cover areas of *Grevillea biteminata*, *Coprosma kirkii* and, beneath the Poplars, *Hypericum calycinum* and *Vinca minor*, a white flowered form. In the lower court are two beds of grey leaved natives; *Leptospermum lanigerum*, a form selected by ANU, *Grevillea glabrata*, Kangaroo Paws *Anizoganthus flavida*, and *Potentilla anserina*. Other native shrubs in various parts of the court include *Banksia spinulosa* and *Banksia robur*, *Hakea sericea*, the *Grevilleas* Omeo and Poorinda Peter and *Bursaria spi-*

nosa. Exotic shrubs include *Osmanthus fragrans*, *Abelia Chinensis*, *Gorse Ulex europaeus* and Bamboo *Phyllostachys aurea*. Minor trees, young at present, include the Pagoda or Scholar Tree, *Sophora japonica*, the Silver Birch *Betula pendula* and the Green Ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. *Wistaria* *Wistaria sinensis* hangs down from the Concessions roof garden which also displays *Banksia ericifolia*, *Albizia julibrissin*, *Grevillea bauerii* and *Rosa wichuriana* and *Convolvulus mauretanicus* as ground covers.

Entrance Court between the Copland Building and the Family Law Court, at present undeveloped, contains a young grove (1975) of River Peppermint *Eucalyptus elata* and a fine specimen of Red Box *Eucalyptus polyanthemus*. The pergola is to be covered with the Ornamental Grapes, *Vitis 'Alicante Bouchet'* and *Vitis coignetiae*.

The Arts/Economics Quadrangle is central to the largest of the teaching areas on campus. The quadrangle proper is planted

mostly with deciduous trees for winter sun but the adjacent 'Arts Wood' between the Neumann and Dedman Buildings is predominantly Eucalypts. Near the Entrance Court entrance, in the lower quadrangle, are beds of *Banksia asplenifolia*; nearby are *Yuccas* *Yucca gloriosa* and an unusual pure white Wonga Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*. Flanking the path are White Swamp Oaks, *Quercus bicolor*, which continue as street planting in Kingsley Street. In the sunken area are *Eucalyptus cinerea* and *Eucalyptus bicostata*; nearby are Black Birches *Betula nigra* with dark brown bark. Noteworthy among the mixed plants in the border below the verandah of the Arts 3 Building are the giant leaved *Gunnera manicata* and the native *Parahebe perfoliata*. In the pond is a variety of aquatic plants including Pickerel Weed, *Pontederia cordata*; topping the retaining wall behind is the Bluebell Creeper, *Sollya heterophylla*. Next to The Bank — the Haydon-Allen Lecture Theatre — are Oriental Planes *Platanus orientalis* and near the Neumann Building are three young





Tulip Trees *Liriodendron tulipifera* and a planting of native shrubs including various Banksias and Melaleucas as well as *Hakea petiolaris* and *Isopogon anethifolius*. On the west side of the Neumann Building is a small court dominated by two fine *Paulownia tomentosa*; the stairs down to the Union are decorated with the Japanese Wistaria, *Wistaria floribunda* and the Glory Vine, *Vitis coignetiae*.

The Arts Wood contains Crabapples *Malus* cultivars, *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, Elms and several Eucalypts, notably *Eucalyptus rubida* and *Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea*. Next to the Dedman Building is a collection of Bottle-brushes *Callistemon* and on the bank down to the car park a collection of hybrid grevilleas.

Linnaeus Way runs between the Botany and Forestry Buildings, there are many unusual species here. The street trees are Willow Oaks *Quercus phellos* notable for autumn colour; near Zoology is a group of *Angophora intermedia*, related to the Eucalypts.

In the small formal garden below the Botany greenhouse the rare *Echium wild-pretii* from the Canary Islands can sometimes be seen; along the Linnaeus Way front of Botany are Victorian Christmas Bushes *Prostanthera lasianthos*, the Southern Beech, *Nothofagus obliqua*, and a swamp cypress, *Taxodium distichum*.

Interesting in the Forestry front garden are the long leaved *Acacia stenophylla*, the Native Broom, *Viminaria denudata*, and the Pineapple Guava, *Feijoa sellowiana*.

In and about the Forestry car park is a collection of Eucalypts among them *Eucalyptus risdoni*, the Silver Peppermint, and the shrubby *Eucalyptus stricta*; the Sydney Blue Gum *Eucalyptus saligna* grows well here. At the south and last sides of Forestry is a collection of Conifers, and at the east end of Forestry Engineering more Eucalypts, including the River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and, in the adjacent Research School of Biological Sciences forecourt, *Eucalyptus fraxinoides* and very fine Powdered Gums *Eucalyptus pulverulenta*.

University House was one of the earliest buildings on campus and its grounds are planted in a rather English style with emphasis on deciduous trees. Near the end of the Hall are Lindens *Tilia cordata* and specimens of Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora* and Candlebark *Eucalyptus rubida*. Nearby are: a good Himalayan Strawberry Tree *Cornus Capitata*, Crepe Myrtles *Lagerstroemia indica* and Magnolias. The Hall itself is covered in Virginia Creeper *Parthenocissus*.

The Quadrangle is dominated by fine Silver Birches *Betula pendula* and Liquidambars *Liquidambar styraciflua* and there are also Ginkgos *Ginkgo biloba* and a fine *Quercus ilex*. The clipped tapestry hedges include *Viburnum tinus*, *Pyracantha*, *Prunus lauro-cerasus* and other species, and the pond is planted with an assortment of Water Lilies and the South African *Aponogeton diastachys*. The entrance to the Fellows Garden is dominated by a fine *Eucalyptus maculosa* (correctly *Eucalyptus mannifera*, sub species *maculosa*). Other trees include the Chinese

Elm and Birches. There is perhaps more attention to seasonal colour here than anywhere else in the University; it comes from such shrubs as hybrid Rhododendrons, *Enkianthus campanulatus*, Flowering Peaches *Prunus persica* cultivars and various herbaceous plants including Hellebores *Helleborus orientalis* and *Helleborus corsicus*, *Aquilegias*, Violets and daffodils. North of the House, near Garran Road and in the adjacent area known as the Glade is an extensive planting of Crabapples, including *Malus aldenhamensis*, *Malus floribunda*, *Malus ioensis* and others; it was once proposed that very extensive plantings of Crabapples would give a distinctive character to the University.

The University is endowed with some splendid ancient eucalypts, none finer than the huge Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora* in Ellery Crescent, opposite East Road. Other fine examples of this species occur near the Garran Road/Fellows Road intersection, along with Apple Box *Eucalyptus*



bridgesiana and the local Red Gum, *Eucalyptus blakeleyi* which is also well represented near the Life Sciences Library and the Physics Building. The largest of these trees are estimated to be more than 250 years old. There are many other Eucalypts planted; *Eucalyptus bicostata* (potentially the largest tree grown at ANU), *Eucalyptus maculosa* (which is wild on Black Mountain), *Eucalyptus viminalis*, the Ribbon Gum, and the grey-leaved *Eucalyptus cinerea* being the most prominent. Many indigenous trees

remain on the Acton Ridge and among them may be seen various old fashioned garden plants near the houses — in the Spring this area is pretty with Wistaria, Banksian Roses, Plum Blossom and the like. Also on the Ridge may be seen some of the few remaining areas of native grass — Kangaroo Grass *Themeda australis* below the Staff Centre and Paddy's River Grass *Microlaena stipoides* in the Vice-Chancellor's private garden.

In the Earth Sciences courtyard is the rare

Phoenix or Wu Tree, *Firmiana simplex*, traditionally associated with scholars in its native China; and finally, many of the Poplars about the Campus result from research into the genus done by Professor Pryor.

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