Walking Tour

The tour commences and finishes at the main gates on the corner of Water Street and Moore Street.

1. Main gates. Erected in 1952 to acknowledge the contribution of Sir Alexander Peacock (who was from the Creswick area).
2. Quercus acutissima (sawtooth oak). Native to China, this uncommonly planted tree was one of the earliest plantings in the grounds.
3. John Tremearne School. In the early 1880s by Dr John Tremearne (medical officer for the hospital and hospital staff planted the seeding).
4. Native to the mountains of the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere, the cones are berry-like and, when dried, can have culinary uses.
5. Pinus radiata (Monterey pine). The Pinus radiata in the pine triangle are at least 85 years old. Native to small areas on the central coast of California and Mexico, these conifers proved to perform well under Victorian conditions because they were fast-growing, tolerant of the soil conditions and produced timber useful for construction, pulp for paper and for chipboard production.
6. Cedrus libani (Lebanon cedar). Native to the mountains of the Mediterranean region, this species is known for its high quality timber, oils and resins.
7. Ulmus minor ‘subop.sarimiensis’ (Jersey elm). This is one of only a few specimens of this species in the state.
8. Eucalyptus leucofora (yellow gum). Prince Charles planted this tree when he stayed on site in 1974.
9. Juniperus communis (common juniper). Native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere, the cones are berry-like and, when dried, can have culinary uses.
10. Cupressus arizonica (Arizona cypress). The landscaping in this area was commenced by the Public Works Department, but completed by students. While the study of this area has changed over time, this specimen has survived since 1969.
11. Basalt rocks. From Clunes, the basalt rocks were used on the steeper slopes of the University.

The Herbarium. Located in the University Building, the herbarium houses a large collection of plant species, including seven species that were contributed by botanist Baron von Mueller, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne 1861 to 1873. The herbarium is for research use only and not accessible to the public.

Stage 1 and stage 2 buildings. The hub of research on the campus, accommodating a range of laboratories and research staff and students.

Stage 1 wall. The shale profile seen here is an excellent example of the growing conditions in the area and the soil profile after the area was mined.

Glasshouse. Students use this specialised climate-controlled glasshouse to conduct research in many facets of plant growth and their tolerances.

Eucalyptus aromaphloia (Crewe apple-box). Endemic to Crewe, Victoria, these specimens are notable for being the basis on which the species was first described for botanical listing.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis (red gum). Specimens south of the gym are used for research purposes and field trials for students, examining how red gums survive the local soil conditions.

Gymnasium. East of the car park, opened in 2012. It is used by both the University community and the residents of Creswick.

Junctions. The road to the right leads to the La Gerche walk.

Fox Canyon. Named after the large numbers of foxes that lived there. Facing north, in 1969 an asterisk was established for Forest Botany. It included a total of 65 species, representing 11 different genera, mainly conifers and Tasmanian eucalyptus trees.

Architecture sites. Since 2008, this area has been used by students from the University’s Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, exploring the building of low cost, sustainable community infrastructure for Indigenous communities in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea.

Sequoia sempervirens (California coastal redwood). Native to North America. A quick grower, it is classified as the world’s tallest conifer.

Eucalyptus molliodora (yellow box). This remnant group of yellow box trees is an important ecological record of localised native vegetation.

The Lodge. Opened in 1977 for student accommodation.

Cedrus atlantica (atlas cedar). Great for timber production, it is also well suited to drought conditions.

Seppelts Hall. Named after Edwin James Semmens, an accomplished field botanist, historian, active member of the community and principal of the School of Forestry 1927-1952.

A.V. Galbraith House (AVG). Named after the Chairman of the Forest Commission, the house was built in 1961 for student accommodation.

Quercus rubra (English oak). This area includes some of the earliest plantings in the grounds and was expanded in 1972 with plantings of an additional 12 species of Quercus.

Sequoia sempervirens (giant redwood). Native to California, the wood is fibrous and brittle, so not suitable for construction. The bark is soft, pink and reddish brown in color.

Post-graduate building. Built in 1863, this building was originally used as the domestic staff quarters and later as the Victorian School of Forestry Principal’s residence. Prince Charles stayed in the building during his visit in 1974.
The Creswick campus has a significant collection of trees planted many years and is being realised by a generous donation from the family of the eminent forester, the late Alf Leslie, supporting the ongoing development of the arboretum walk as a legacy to Alf. The arboretum walk will continue to be developed over several years, replacing and expanding the collection to improve the overall landscape, adding to the heritage value of the site.

The Creswick campus tour incorporates the arboretum walk and gives you the opportunity to meander through the grounds, study the buildings, identify and nurture as an arboretum over its 100 year history. The concept of an arboretum walk to showcase and share this history has been a goal for many years and is being realised by a generous donation from the family of the late Alf Leslie, supporting the ongoing development of the arboretum walk as a legacy to Alf. The arboretum walk will continue to be developed over several years, replacing and expanding the collection to improve the overall landscape, adding to the heritage value of the site.

This tree was planted to commemorate Alf Leslie by his daughter, Leigh Leslie, on 16 October 2010. It is a Metasequoia glyptostroboides (dawn redwood), a fast-growing, deciduous conifer, native to China. It has a distinct aroma and provides useful wood for outdoor construction and furniture.

Pinus brutia (lone pine). This seedling of this pine was propagated from the original lone pine in Gallipoli. On 23 March 1975, Legacy unveiled a plaque to commemorate soldiers who fought at Gallipoli. In 1976, the top was broken off by vandals. Fortunately it survived, however you can see the scar it leaves from that wound.

The main culvert, their quest was to construct the guttering and local slate was used to construct the garden beds.

Thuja plicata (western red cedar). Native to Western USA, this tree has a distinct aroma and provides useful wood for outdoor construction and furniture.

Abies nordmanniana (Caucasian fir). Native to the mountains west of the Black Sea. Given this species dislikes hot, dry summers, this is an excellent specimen.

Podocarpus latifolius (African yellowwood). Located on the corner of Moore and Water Streets, this beautiful conifer contains fleshy berry-like cones, native to South African tropical and subtropical forests.

Chaemopsis lawsoniana (Lawson’s cypress). Native to Oregon and California.

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Carpinus caroliniana (American hornbeam). This hornbeam is native to eastern North America. It is a hardy species and is often planted as a shade tree in urban areas.

Pinus strobus (white pine). This pine is native to North America and is often found in forests. It is a tall, coniferous tree with a distinctive trunk.

Abies concolor (California fir). This fir is native to the western United States. It is a fast-growing conifer known for its attractive appearance.

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Cedar Stairs and Arboretum Walk

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