

## **Campus Tour**

### **Introduction**

Founded in 1853 by an Act of the Victorian Parliament, the University of Melbourne today is a thriving, internationally acknowledged research University with around 45,000 students from across the globe studying in a range of undergraduate and graduate disciplines. It is one of the oldest universities in Australia and the first in Victoria.

The original campus was set in a large area north of Grattan Street. Today the campus has expanded well beyond these boundaries.

The University is more than a place of learning and research. It is also an integral part of the cultural life of the city of Melbourne and as you can see just a short tram ride from the bustling heart of Melbourne.

The first classes commenced in April 1855, with three professors and 15 students. The only degree to be offered was the Arts degree, which included mandatory studies in Latin and Greek. Supreme Court Judge, Redmond Barry, who famously sentenced Ned Kelly to death in 1880, was the first Chancellor.

The founding professors were active in Melbourne's civic life. They held senior positions in the city's cultural institutions including the public library, clubs, Royal Society, observatory and churches, and they regularly contributed lead articles to newspapers.

A range of architectural styles – modern and traditional – can be seen on the Parkville campus, from the earliest building, the Old Quadrangle (1853), to the style of recent times such the award-winning Ian Potter Museum of Art, and the contemporary lines of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

This tour presents only a selection of the buildings and features of the University of Melbourne.

Enjoy!

### **1. The Ian Potter Museum of Art**

The Ian Potter Museum of Art has gone through a number of name changes and has been housed in different locations on the University of Melbourne Parkville campus. First established as the University Art Gallery in 1975, it was located in the centre of campus in the Old Physics Building.

Additional accommodation was found on Swanston Street for it in the Physics Annex in 1988. This space housed both the Ian Potter Gallery and the Art Conservation

Centre and together with the University Gallery were known as The University of Melbourne Museum of Art.

In 1998 a purpose-built art museum designed by Nonda Katsalidis and named The Ian Potter Museum of Art, opened to the public and is now considered one of the leading university art museums in the country. The Potter, won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects 'Project of the Year' award on its completion in 1999. Bursting through Katsalidis's sleek facade is the immense 1993 sculpture, Cultural Rubble, by the Australian-born sculptor Christine O'Loughlin, now based in Paris. She used fragments of classical statuary, architecture and pottery cast in white fibreglass from plaster moulds of originals in the Louvre to evoke the tension between Australia's European heritage and its future.

Inside the Potter, Napier Waller's immense Leckie Window dominates the three levels of exhibition space. The window was installed in the old Wilson Hall in 1935. After Wilson Hall burned down, the window was recovered and restored. The Potter houses the University's permanent collection, which has a strong focus on Australian art, from colonial to contemporary, including Aboriginal art. It includes some notable 19th-century Australian works. William Strutt's Bushrangers will be of interest to many visitors, as will the engravings of S.T. Gill, both among the earliest artists practicing in Victoria. The work of Australian impressionists is represented by important paintings of Rupert Bunny, E. Philips Fox, and Frederick McCubbin. It also holds the Classics and Archaeology Gallery.

Constituted by statute of the University Council in July 1998, the Ian Potter Museum of Art has custodial responsibility for the university's art collection, as well as participating in teaching and research, exhibiting and publishing and conducting public programs. Through its core activities the Potter provides for the acquisition, maintenance, conservation, cataloguing, exhibition, investigation, interpretation and promotion of the art collections of the University of Melbourne. In partnership with academic departments, the Potter takes part in teaching and research, as well as offering vocational opportunities to students in relevant degree programs.

The Potter has free admission and is open every day of the week except Monday.

## **2. Elisabeth Murdoch Building**

Previously named Old Pathology, the Elisabeth Murdoch Building housed the Medical School from the 1880s. Reed and Barnes, a major nineteenth century architectural practice, designed the building.

The building originally housed the State morgue in the cellar at the north end of the building. It now houses the School of Fine Arts. It boasts a charming library on the first floor, in the former dissection room; access is by the exterior staircase and straight through.

Reed and Barnes, and its successor partnerships designed many of the city's buildings, including many at the University of Melbourne.

## **3. Old Geology Building (1927)**

Now home to the Faculty of Science, this building was constructed in red brick instead of sandstone due to budgetary constraints. Outside are outstanding examples of the Ginkgo tree from China. The Western tree is a rare female and bears fruit.

#### **4. Architecture Building (1960s)**

Originally designed by the then Professor of Architecture Brian Lewis, with a 1990s addition designed by Daryl Jackson. Within are several sculptures, including Britannia and Goddess designed by English sculptor R.S. Jackson in about the 1860s.

In 1997 McIntyre Partnership added to the building a fifth level and saw-toothed roof in keeping with the spirit of the building's original design and in 1999 gave its exterior a facelift with new cladding.

A post office is located on the ground floor of the Architecture Building. There is a Commonwealth Bank at the far (north) end of the passage through the building.

#### **5. Chemistry Building (1938)**

This building was designed by the Victorian Public Works Department. It was one of many buildings designed under the direction of Percy Everett at the Public Works Department. Everett headed the Department from 1935 and under his direction it moved away from conservative and classical formulae to wholeheartedly embrace modernism.

#### **6. Union Lawn**

Also known as the 'Concrete Lawns', Union Lawn was originally the site of an ornamental lake which eventually was filled in due to space limitations.

#### **7. Old Commerce Building (1941)**

Now part of Architecture the front of the building features this 1856 Reed-designed Bank of New South Wales façade which has been incorporated into the original 1941 building.

#### **8. Sun Ribbon Sculpture**

The sculpture by the German-born Australian sculptor Inge King was donated by Eileen Kaye Fox in memory of her parents Ernest and Fannie Kaye in 1982. The Sun Ribbon Sculpture rests majestically on the Union Lawn. It is the focal point in the landscape.

#### **9. Baldwin Spencer Building**

Formerly the Biology School, and originally designed by Reed, Henderson and Smart this building was named after the foundation professor of biology, (Sir) Walter Baldwin Spencer (1860-1929), later an explorer-anthropologist working among the Aboriginal peoples of central Australia. Baldwin Spencer's interpretations played a major role in bringing the concept of 'dreamtime' into use.

#### **10. Raymond Priestley Building (1960s)**

The 'slab block' administration building houses the Vice-Chancellor and senior executive and is named after the University's first salaried Vice-Chancellor, the geologist and Antarctic explorer Sir Raymond Priestley.

Designed in 1969 by staff architect Rae Featherstone, who was also responsible for the Redmond Barry Building, it is the University's administrative headquarters.

### **11. Union House**

The original building on this site, designed by Reed and Barnes, housed the National Museum (now Museum Victoria located in Carlton Gardens) from 1863 until 1899. Only a few fragments of the original building are still visible. The George Paton Gallery features contemporary art exhibitions.

In 1910 the building was turned over to the recently formed Student Representative Council. The Union has a number of useful shops. If you want University of Melbourne windcheaters and other souvenirs, the 'Union Shop' is for you. The Union Theatre on the ground floor hosts student theatre productions. On the first floor, volunteers in the Food Co-Op, which began in the 1970s, sell cheap wholesome food and bulk groceries with minimal packaging. On the second floor you will find the Rowden White Library, a popular haven, where non-academic reading material can be found, music listened to, and DVDs watched.

### **12. The Beaurepaire Centre (1954)**

Is the result of a generous donation from former Olympic swimming champion Sir Frank Beaurepaire. It also served as a training facility for the 1956 Olympic games, in which the University had a major administrative role to play. A colourful mural by Leonard French graces the foyer.

The 25 metre pool was closed when major faults were discovered in 1999. The pool reopened in August 2005 after a \$5.3 million overhaul.

### **13. McFarland Court**

Was named after Sir John MacFarland, a Chancellor when the first salaried position of Vice-Chancellor was established in the 1930s. Formerly Master of Ormond College, MacFarland dedicated 46 years to University Council, becoming Vice-Chancellor in 1910 and Chancellor in 1918.

### **14. Wilson Hall (1879)**

Wilson Hall is the modernist box in orange brick to the right of the Quadrangle. Wilson Hall is the University's ceremonial space for conferring of degrees. It abuts the Quadrangle on the opposite side from Old Arts. (Access is from a plaza east of the Quadrangle, through the arch at the far right of the Quadrangle.)

The original sumptuous neo-Gothic hall was designed by Joseph Reed. That building burned down in 1952. The task of replacing it was entrusted to Bates, Smart and McCutcheon, successors to Reed and Barnes. McCutcheon had pioneered the international style in the 1930s; for the new Wilson Hall he produced a functionalist

box. Wilson Hall is distinguished by its 'four different external facades' and, inside, by the four walls of the main hall presenting four entirely different materials, as Philip Goad of the Architecture Faculty puts it in his *Melbourne Architecture*. Considered a masterpiece when it opened in 1956, it was deemed insufficiently modernist by critics like Robin Boyd, author of the classic modernist protest, *The Australian Ugliness*.

### **15. The Old Quadrangle (1854)**

Designed by Francis White, with apartments on the east and west wings for the professors, this is the oldest building on campus. Camellia bushes have been a feature of the courtyard since the 1860s. The southern cloisters were finally realised in 1970.

In 1856, masons working on the Quadrangle downed tools. They marched to the corner of Victoria and Russell Streets and there resolved not to resume work until they obtained an eight-hour day. They did. The Old Quadrangle is almost certainly the first major construction project completed on that basis. In 1930 cloisters were added to the east and west wings and in 1970 the south side of the Quadrangle was added. The Quadrangle housed the Law Faculty for many years. When Law moved to University Square in 2002, Philosophy, Classics and Archaeology moved into the Quadrangle.

### **16. Foundation Stone**

Mystery surrounds where the original foundation stone, containing some British coins and a copy of the *University's Act of Incorporation*, lies beneath the Quad.

A foundation plate with a Latin inscription composed by the Chancellor, Redmond Barry, closed the cavity and was covered by a second stone. This is a replica of the foundation plate.

### **17. Mildura Branch**

The plaque commemorates the University's Mildura Branch which operated from 1947 to 1949. The campus operated after World War 2 and offered many returned service personnel the opportunity to gain professional qualifications.

### **18. Eight-Hour-Day Plaque**

This plaque commemorates a stonemason's stop-work in 1856 which launched the campaign for the eight-hour-day, an event of international significance in the history of workers' conditions and industrial relations.

### **19. Cussonia Court**

Named for the *Cussonia spicata* tree gracing the middle of the courtyard.

This tree was propagated from a cutting from the original tree planted in the 1880s by Professor McCoy, one of the University's first four professors.

### **20. Old Arts Building (1924)**

Is designed along utilitarian lines despite its Gothic Revival exterior look. The main building was designed by the Victorian Public Works Department and constructed between 1919 and 1924. It was faced in sandstone from Kyneton, near Bendigo.

Often mistaken for one of the oldest buildings on campus, the design of the Old Arts Building with its restrained Tudor detailing. Aspects of the Old Quadrangle, such as the window details and surrounds, are appropriated to create a complementary building in Old Arts for which it was proposed that cloisters would eventually join together.

Without the grandeur of Old Wilson Hall, Old Arts, particularly its tower, has become the defining image of the University.

### **21. Deakin Court**

The pillars in the middle of the courtyard and at the eastern end are relics saved from the original Gothic Revival style Wilson Hall. The sculptures are by Melbourne sculptor Bruce Armstrong, whose work can also be seen at the National Gallery of Victoria and Heide Museum of Modern Art. The enormous Eagle on Warundjeri Way near Docklands is another of Armstrong's works.

### **22. Old Physics Building (1889)**

Designed by Reed, Henderson and Smart, this building now houses the University's Centre for Indigenous Education and a conference centre.

### **23. Natural Philosophy Building**

(The early term for Physics) this building now houses botany facilities including the Herbarium, a collection of over 100,000 botanical specimens, used in teaching and research. Included in the collection are a number of Joseph Bank's cuttings from his voyage with Captain Cook.

### **24. University House (1884)**

The founding professors lived in the apartments in the Old Quad. Later a row of houses was built along Professors Walk and the only one remaining is this one, built for Professor Nanson, Professor of Mathematics, and noted for his work on Australia's preferential voting system. It now houses the University staff club and contains a variety of collections.

University House is known for excellent wine. Because the liquor licensing laws in the 1950s required it to be a private club if it was to serve alcoholic beverages, it is a club and you must be accompanied by a member to enter.

The core of University House is the only remaining professorial home. The modern entry meets National Trust requirements by being distinct from the original building. The veranda originally graced Ogg's Pharmacy in Collins Street (City). The path south from University House is known as Professors' Walk (originally Road): from the late 1880s until the 1950s, five more such houses for professors lined the road.

### **25. Botany Building (1923)**

The Botany Building is built in brick as opposed to stone for reasons of economy but

inside it contains another of Napier Waller's stained glass windows, *Orchids*.

## **26. Carriage Gates**

These are reputed to be the original front gates relocated from the Grattan Street entrance in the 1950s.

## **27. System Garden**

This is the creation of the first professor of Natural Science, Frederick McCoy. Begun in 1856, the garden originally comprised a series of concentric garden beds, organized according to his own, unique botanical classification system. It has gradually given way to the present park, but remnants of the original organisation survive in some plant and herb beds and in the octagonal tower at the centre of the garden, dating from 1860.

## **28. Port Arthur Stone**

The stone was taken from the Port Arthur church and mounted with a Pilkington-Gibbs heliochronometer, both from the estate of Sir Russell Grimwade.

**29. Land and Environment Building.** Originally the School of Agriculture, the school is one of Australia's largest providers of education and research activities that support sustainable primary industry. Ranging across four campuses, the school offers resources which include on-site accommodation, test farm, ornamental gardens, a demonstration forest, and state-of-the-art laboratories.

## **30. Grainger Museum**

This building was financed in the 1930s by the Melbourne-born composer Percy Grainger.

The Museum is a red brick building in the shape of a semi-circle completed in 1936. Grainger (1881–1961), Australia's best-known composer, funded the Museum to house the archives, instruments and mementos he left the University.

The Museum is currently closed for building conservation works but the collection is accessible by appointment in the Baillieu Library. Visits are by prior arrangement only (ph: 8344 5270). Much of Grainger's collection is held in the Baillieu Library.

## **31. Conservatorium of Music (1909)**

Graced with Art Nouveau motifs, the building was designed by Bates, Peebles and Smart, to face outwards from the rest of the University, with sound-proof rooms. Designed in 1908, it was built in stages and completed only in 1935. Just inside the front door (facing Royal Parade) is a sumptuous portrait of Dame Nellie Melba in full regalia. Dame Nellie (1861–1931), Australia's greatest diva before Joan Sutherland, was born in Richmond, just east of East Melbourne. She laid the cornerstone in 1909 and donated funds for the lovely Melba Hall, a 400-seat concert hall perfect for chamber music, which was designed by the Public Works Department and completed in 1914. It was refurbished and a balcony added in 1986 (design by Daryl Jackson).

In addition to the portrait of Dame Nellie Melba, inside the auditorium are a number

of key portraits including one of Francis Ormond.

### **32. Babel Building (1946)**

This building was named the 'Babel Building' because it originally housed the European language teaching departments.

The Babel Building was built in two stages (1948 and 1957), it was the work of a former associate of Sir Roy Grounds and was accepted as a modernist statement. It is what George Tibbits calls 'form follows function modernism'. The first stage involved only three levels. Two more were added and the north wing completed in the second stage.

During 2000, Babel underwent rebuilding for the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. Three new levels were added, designed by Blomquist and Wark. From early 2009 it will house the Faculty of Arts.

### **33. Baillieu Library**

The Baillieu is the largest library on campus. It houses the humanities and social sciences library; most other disciplines are covered by branch libraries. The Baillieu also houses a fine collection of rare books, emphasising early Australiana and the explorations of Australia, and also holds a Middle Eastern manuscript collection as well as other treasure troves. (For information, go to Special Collections on the third floor.) The Music Library, Grainger and Prints collections may also be of interest.

The bookshop sells publications from Melbourne University Publishing, one of the few university presses remaining in Australia.

The original building, completed in 1958, by the architectural firm John FD Scarborough, presents as modernist architecture, distinguished by its front facade of non-load bearing curtain wall in glass and ochre panels with aluminium struts. The foyer still retains its 1950s decoration.

The ground floor was completely renovated in the late 1990s. All that remains of the original style is the semi-circular central staircase, originally meant to float in the open.

Changing exhibits are held on the first floor, just outside the lifts. The library system as a whole vies with Sydney to be the country's premier university library. At century's end, Melbourne held more than 2.3 million volumes and subscribed to 14,000 serials. The bookshop moved to the north end of the Baillieu Building in 2003 in order to allow demolition of its old home, an unfortunate accretion to the Old Quadrangle.

### **34. Charity Being Kind to the Poor (1893)**

This originally adorned the entrance of the Equitable Life Assurance Building in Collins Street.

### **35. Western Entrance**



The western entrance to the car park features *Atlantes* (1880) carved by James Gilbert and originally from the Colonial Bank in Elizabeth Street.

### **36. Underground Car Park (1970)**

This engineering innovation uses mushroom-shaped columns to support the roof and accommodate drainage for the lawn and trees above. Its atmospheric interior appeared in the Australian film *Mad Max*.

### **37. Medical precinct**

The University is located next to and forms part of a large biomedical research precinct of world-class standing. The Howard Florey Institute, Microbiology, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Bio21 Institute are close by. The Medical History Museum houses artefacts and documents which tell the history of the Medical School. On the corner of Grattan and Elizabeth St you will see a remnant of the original iron fence which surrounded the campus. It was partly removed at the request of the Melbourne City Council in return for the provision of electric lighting.

### **38. South Lawn**

Landscape designers Ellis Stones and Ron Rayment, created a roof garden over the underground car park.

### **39. John Medley Building (1971)**

This building was designed by Sir Roy Grounds, perhaps best known for his design of the National Gallery of Victoria on St Kilda Road.

### **40. Gatekeepers Cottage (1860)**

The cottage was designed by Joseph Reed and is now home to the Office of the Provost, the academic leader of the University of Melbourne.

### **41. University Square**

The centerpiece of University Square is the Alan Gilbert Building home to Australia's first large-scale building-integrated photovoltaic solar power generator which won an award for sustainable architecture. Law is now located in the Building at the southern end of the square. The ICT Building to the west incorporates original 19th century terrace houses into the façade, thus preserving the original streetscape.

The Faculty of Law moved to the ten-storey building at the far (City or south) end of the square. This enabled Philosophy, Classics and Archaeology to move to the historic Old Quadrangle, which Law had occupied for many years. Brunetti's café on Faraday Street has an outpost in the ground floor of the Law Building, where you can stop for a quick caffeine fix.

A car park for staff, students and the general public lies beneath.

### **42. Engineering Building (1899)**

Designed by Reed, Smart and Tappin, this building was the first permanent

home of the first engineering course in Australia. Inside a plaque commemorates the first engineering professor, William Charles Kernot.

#### **43. 1888 Building (1888)**

This Building is now home to the Graduate Centre, but once housed the Melbourne Teachers' College until 1994 when it became home to the University's School of Graduate Studies, and now the School of Graduate Research.

It was designed by the Victorian Public Works Department. Features include stained glass windows and ceramic tiled portraits commemorating those staff and students who served in the First World War.

Thanks to the generosity of paper magnate Richard Pratt, the 1888 Building was renovated under the direction of conservation architects Allom Lovell and Associates, and reopened in 1996. At the top of the stairs is the splendid Gryphon Gallery, formerly the examination hall, with a moving stained-glass memorial to the teachers who died in World War I. If the door is locked, ask at the entrance to see the Gallery.

#### **44. Frank Tate Building (1939)**

Originally part of the Melbourne Teachers' College, this Art Deco building is now home to a learning centre for students providing individual and collaborative learning spaces.

#### **45. Sidney Myer Asia Centre (1999)**

Home to the Asia Institute and Asialink, this building was designed by Nation Fender Katsalidis. Katsalidis has here gone for a starker look than for the Potter, except for the rust-coloured podium at the corner, which provides a buffer between the Potter and the Alice Hoy Building on Monash Road, a 1960s brick construction inherited from the former College of Advanced Education. Walk through the entrance of the Sidney Myer Asia Centre and note the splendid water feature designed by Fiona da Preu, formerly Assistant Director, Buildings and Property.

The Centre promotes public awareness and understanding of Asia. The sculpture Spirit Wall which graces the North Eastern corner is by Akio Makigawa.

**This now completes the tour which we hope you have enjoyed. You may wish to visit Brunetti, situated right next to the Potter, for refreshment.**