



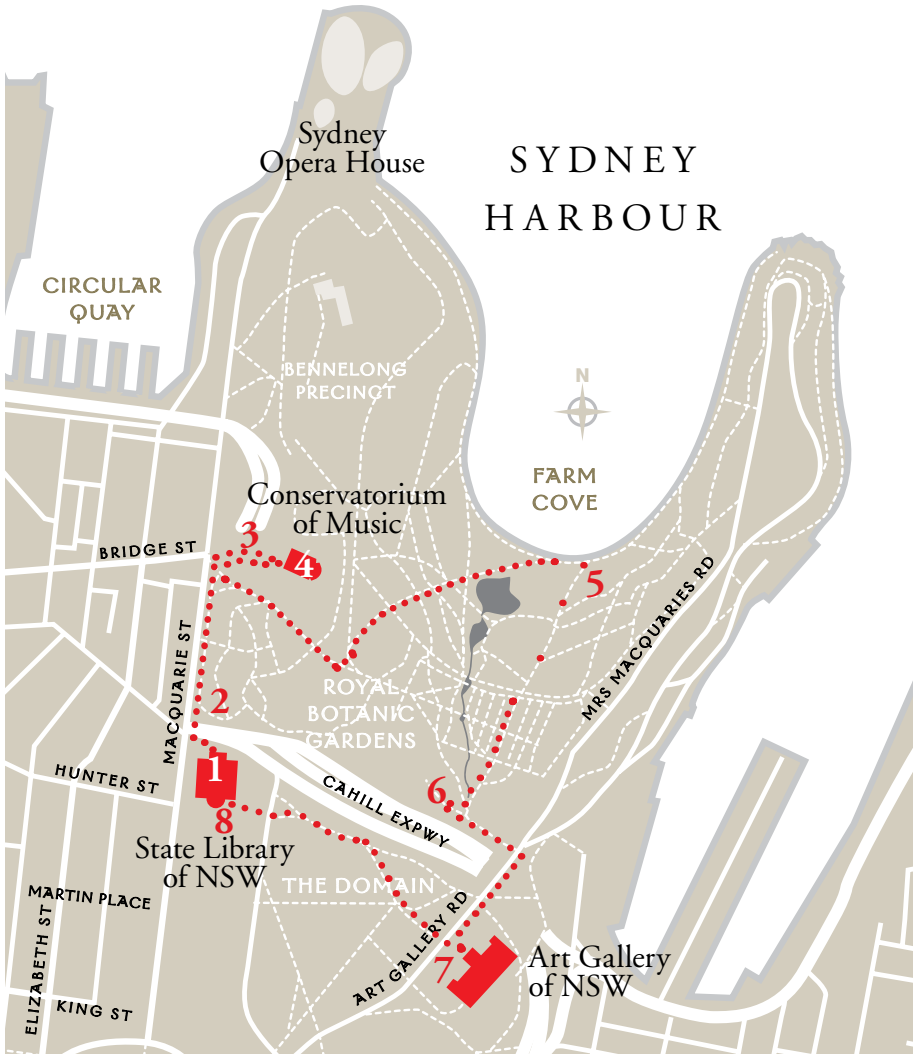
State Library
of New South Wales

EQUINITY



WALKING TOUR

The *Equinity* walking tour features artworks and monuments celebrating the horse and its place in our history. It begins in the State Library of NSW, then takes you to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Art Gallery of NSW and back to the State Library, where you can visit the *Equinity* exhibition, upstairs in the Picture Gallery.



This walk is approximately one hour in duration and includes steps in some sections. When access to some areas is limited, this is detailed in the directions.

Begin in the Mitchell Library vestibule, just inside the front doors of the historic Mitchell Wing. Proceed towards the reading room and enter via the middle door.

High on the wall to your left are three stained glass windows featuring horses. You may also view these windows from inside the reading room (if entering the reading room, bags larger than a small handbag must be stored in the lockers).

1. Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* inspired the horses depicted in each window. In the centre window is the poet, mounted to ride with the pilgrims, while on the left the company are leaving the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London. On the right, the pilgrims are in sight of Canterbury Cathedral.

Interestingly, the earliest building on the site where the Mitchell Library now stands was the Light Horse Barracks, built for Governor Macquarie and later converted into the Female School of Industry.



Exit the building via the front steps of the Mitchell Wing, turn left towards Macquarie Street. Cross the pedestrian crossing and at the lights on the right to arrive at the edge of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

2. At the corner of the Botanic Gardens is a monument to the Horses of the Desert Mounted Corps, unveiled on Anzac Day 1950, which reads:

Erected by members of
the Desert Mounted
Corps and friends
to the gallant horses
who carried them
over Sinai desert
into Palestine
1915–1918.

They suffered wounds,
thirst, hunger and
weariness almost
beyond endurance
but never failed.

They did not come home.
We will never forget them.

Continue left along the asphalt path towards the harbour until you reach the intersection of Bridge and Macquarie streets.

3. At the intersection there is a large equestrian statue representing King Edward VII, who reigned from 1901 to 1910.

To your right you will see a large cream castellated building: the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (open Monday to Saturday 9 am – 5 pm).

4. Francis Greenway designed this building which, the commemorative plaque reads, ‘was begun in 1817 as stables and servants’ accommodation for Government House. After substantial alteration it became the Conservatorium of Music in 1915’.

Downstairs on level 1, an exhibition of artefacts — including horseshoes — uncovered during the redevelopment of the site, features a quote from Governor Macquarie in 1819: ‘I had so long suffered such very great inconvenience from the want of a secure stables for my horses and decent sleeping places for my servants’.

Retrace your steps and enter the Gardens (open daily: March to October 7 am – 6 pm; November to February 7 am – 8 pm) via the Conservatorium Gate.

Follow the path downhill, past the rose gardens and down the steps to the Lower Gardens. Turn at the first path to the left toward Bennelong Precinct, then the first path to the right and follow this path downhill toward the Main Pond. Continue past the Main Pond to Farm Cove.

5. Not far from the Main Pond, overlooking Farm Cove, you will find a bronze statue called *Mare and foal* by French sculptor Arthur Jacques LeDuc (1848–1918). The mare's name is La Reyna and the relief sculptures on the pedestal show training and racing scenes. The statue was restored in June 2002.

Take the path near the *Mare and foal* away from Farm Cove.

Follow the signs to the Middle Gardens (the path crosses the Macquarie Wall). Follow the signs to the Domain (uphill) and you will come to the Levy Drinking Fountain.

6. Not far from the fountain, rest a moment on the Henry Kendall Memorial Seat. The winged horses, carved by L Bicego, were completed in 1940. The seat was erected through the bequest of Mrs Hamilton Grey, an admirer of Kendall's poetry.

Return in the direction of the fountain and exit the Gardens via the Woolloomooloo Gate. Turn right and walk towards the Art Gallery of NSW.

7. Two large equestrian statues by Gilbert Bayes (1872–1953), unveiled in 1926, guard the Art Gallery: *The offerings of peace*, inscribed 'The real and lasting victories are those of Peace & not of War'; and *The offerings of war*, inscribed 'That our house may stand forever and that justice and mercy grow'. Note the horses in the bronze relief panels on the front of the gallery.

From the gallery take the path through the Domain back to the State Library. Climb the steps to Domain Terrace.

8. On the southern façade of the Mitchell Wing you will see a series of reliefs depicting the religions, philosophies and arts of past civilisations. The third panel from Macquarie Street (viewed more clearly from the glass bridge connecting the buildings) shows a Chinese saddled warhorse inspired by funeral ornaments of the T'ang Dynasty. The fifth panel shows a horse and rider from the frieze of the Parthenon in Athens. The sixth reproduces an Assyrian mounted archer from the King's Palace at Nineveh. The eighth relief, based on a marble panel in the Villa Hadriani, represents a horse-breaker by a Greek sculptor of the fifth century BC.

Equinity

A free exhibition in the State Library's Picture Gallery
Open 8 October 2007 – 13 January 2008

Opening hours

State Reference Library, Mitchell Library Reading Room & Exhibition Galleries:

Mon to Thurs: 9 am to 8 pm, Fri: 9 am to 5 pm

Weekends: 10 am to 5 pm

The Mitchell Library Reading Room is closed on Sundays.



State Library
of New South Wales

Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Phone (02) 9273 1414

Fax (02) 9273 1255

TTY (02) 9273 1541

Email library@sl.nsw.gov.au

www.sl.nsw.gov.au