

Macquarie Place, Bridge Street

Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*)

Oriental/Hybrid plane tree (*Platanus x hispanica*)

Dating from around the 1860s or 70s when the statue of Sir Thomas Mort replaced the Macquaries' 'Drinking Fountain' (a 'taj mahal' type cubic structure); also in Macquarie Place is an impressive **hybrid plane tree** planted in 1954 by the Queen on the first visit of a reigning Monarch to Australia, to mark the beginning of *Remembrance Driveway* - the road between Sydney & Canberra, which has plantations and rest areas commemorating Australian Defence Corps lives lost in World War 2 and in conflicts since then. More on that at: www.remembrancedriveway.org.au. Macquarie Place is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as one of our oldest public 'squares' or open spaces*.



Hyde Park:

Hill's figs (*Ficus microcarpa var. hillii*)

Hyde Park's Avenue of Hill's figs forms was what was called 'Lovers' Lane' when its predecessor, an 1850s avenue of **Moreton Bay figs**, replaced the newly closed Macquarie Street south and was incorporated into the park. The Hill's figs date from c.1927 after the park was significantly excavated to construct the City Circle loop railway, Museum and St. James stations and exits. Its formal design is strengthened by this airy avenue which is justifiably popular to stroll. Hyde Park is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as our oldest (1810) gazetted public open space or park – see*.



Royal Botanic Gardens:

Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*)

Weeping lily pilly (*Syzygium francisii*)

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney is full of wonderful trees but one to highlight is the **Wollemi pine** in the main cross-path of the Middle Gardens, through the palm grove and near the Cacti & Succulent Garden - this was the first Wollemi pine planted in 'captivity' after its discovery by Phillip Noble in a remote gorge in Wollemi National Park in 1994. A great example of conservation by propagation and dispersal, it shows we've got much to learn about Australia. It echoes and replaces 'The Wishing Tree', a famous and massive Norfolk Island pine that stood on this spot for some 100 years, site of many a circling, ever-hopeful wish-making public; More at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wollemia> If you've come this far you may as well go via the cafe and enjoy the huge **weeping lily pilly**, with its roots in Farm Cove Creek and the lily pond(s). Full of ibis and other birds so can be a tad 'whiffy', but an impressive giant in any case. The Botanic Gardens and Domain are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as perhaps our most important designed cultural landscape, site of the first farm of the fledgling colony and more*.



The Domain:

Moreton Bay figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*); Port Jackson Figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*); Hoop Pines (*Araucaria Cunninghamii*); Native Teak Trees (*Flindersia australis*)

A grand mixed avenue within The Domain almost parallel to Art Gallery Road. The trees were planted from the 1850s by Director of the Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore and embellished by his successor, Joseph Maiden from the 1890s. Emerging out of the avenue like rockets are two mature hoop pines, and a number of massive figs (**Moreton Bay, Port Jackson and others**) are scattered through the avenue and towards the rear entrance to the Mint/Sydney Hospital sites. Not to mention the **native teak trees** that drop their leaves soon and go 'white' with flowers against the dark green leaves.

*Check out <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/heritagesearch.aspx>



Observatory Hill, The Rocks:

Moreton Bay figs (*Ficus rubiginosa*)

For the adventurous, climb up Argyle Street and Observatory Hill with a picnic lunch for one of Sydney's best panorama views (the highest natural point in central Sydney, hence the observatory's and harbour-master's tower's locations) and enjoy the ring of Moreton Bay figs put around the observatory's fence dating from the 1850s. They give a bit of moderating scale to the massive Harbour Bridge, which otherwise dominates the foreground and much else. Recent pressure from avid astronomers means these figs are under threat of removal - a pity, given the park is a vital green lung for those living in dense Millers' Point and The Rocks. Ask any couple getting their marriage photos taken there, any family group enjoying one of Sydney's best picnic spots (with shade)...

Sydney Observatory (and much of Millers Point) are listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

