

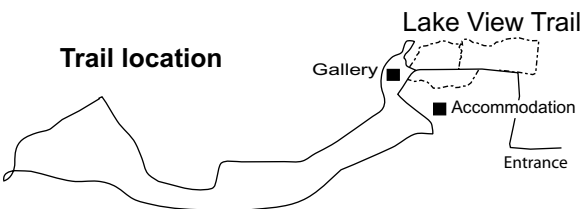
Myall Park Botanic Garden is located within the southern part of the Brigalow Bioregion. This region, unique in the world, is characterised by the leguminous tree *Acacia harpophylla* (brigalow) which forms forest and woodland on clay soils.

As this red ridge indicates, brigalow ecosystems are not predominant throughout the entire region. Large areas are characterised by a range of ecosystems such as eucalypt woodland (our iron bark community) and bull oak/cypress pine woodlands.

Nature conservation in the bioregion has received increasing attention because of rapid and extensive loss of habitat due to extensive agricultural and pastoral development. Approximately 2.2% of the bioregion is reserved in protected areas.

This trail takes you through fine examples of protected ecosystems.

Enjoy the plants, the shapes of the trunks and the sounds of the wind through the trees. Join us in protecting this endangered, internationally recognised bioregion.



Please stay on the trail.
Stay within the Garden property at all times.

Myall Park Botanic Garden is owned and managed by a Board of honorary Directors.

Would you like to help us? Telephone 07 4665 6705

www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au



2010

Bird list

As you walk, listen and look for birds. Depending upon the season you may see and hear brolgas, mistletoe birds and a variety of honeyeaters.

The Myall Park Botanic Garden Bird List is available from the Gallery.

Note your sightings here:

Do the Right Thing

Help us preserve the Garden please

- * All plant material belongs to the Garden - seeds, flowers, nuts, caps, cuttings. Unauthorised removal will result in prosecution.
- * Vehicles keep to the Loop Road and car-parks.
- * NO smoking, open fires or barbecues. Fire danger is HIGH.
- * Take out what you have brought in. There is no rubbish collection.

This trail is maintained by volunteers for your continued pleasure.

Local unemployed youth constructed the bridge and stairs along the trail in 1995. The trail was sponsored by the One Billion Trees programme and Broombin Bushwalkers.

Lake View Trail

The Lake View Trail provides an opportunity to see several plant communities and species typical of this region.

The trail takes a one-way route downhill (one steep section) towards the lake and returns via a short climb up the escarpment.

From the same entrance, there is a short circuit of 500 m for those who wish to take a briefer look at a few plant communities.

1. Iron bark Community (*Eucalyptus crebra*)

Typically occurs on gravelly or stony ridges with sparse ground cover of grasses and dianella species. Associated trees include poplar box (*Eucalyptus populnea*), gum-topped box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*), cypress pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*), bull oak (*Allocasuarina luehmanni*) and *Acacia crassa* ssp. *crassa*.

2. Note the grasses at the top of the ridge on your left, while on your right the stony ridge has few if any grass species. Here too are trees blown over by strong winds several years ago, featuring more recent vertical growth. Several species in this area have survived by adapting in this way.

3. Bull Oak Community (*Allocasuarina luehmanni*)

This community is almost totally dominated by one species. Male and female flowers occur on separate trees. The compact heads of female flowers occur on the branches while male flowers are found at branchlet ends.

4. Gum topped box Community (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*).

Scattered on rocky outcrops in very shallow soils with a mid-storey of cypress pines. Note the old silvery wood of the dead cypress. Cypress pine is popular with builders because of its resistance to white ants.

5. Trail Junction

The path to the left continues down towards the lake. (For a shortcut back to the gallery, turn right here, follow the path to the entrance road and turn right up the hill.)

Stand quietly for a few minutes and listen for the calls of various woodland birds. Watch for signs of wallabies and echidnas as well.

6. Top of Steps

The edge of the laterised sandstone escarpment has a smooth-barked apple (*Angophora leiocarpa*) community with a mid-storey of cypress pine. Angophoras have some value as honey trees when flowering in December and January. Proceed carefully down the steps towards the lake and fertile clay soil country.

7. Brigalow Community (*Acacia harpophylla*)

Brigalow is invariably associated with fertile soils. It often

grows in mono-specific communities, with trees up to 10 m tall growing together to form a dense stand, probably due to root suckering.

8. Sandalwood (*Santalum lanceolatum*)

The blue-green leaved sandalwood is a root parasite. It attaches its roots to other plants and is often found in brigalow communities. This area also features a dense groundcover of brigalow grass (*Paspalidium* sp.).

9. Lake View

The fringing trees around the lake include forest red gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), belah (*Casuarina cristata*) and river cooba (*Acacia stenophylla*). Waterlilies may be floating on the surface during late summer: the blue (*Nymphaea gigantea*) and the rare pink (*Nymphaea gigantea* var. *neorosea*).

Stand quietly and check for water birds.

10. More brigalows in association with weeping myall (*Acacia pendula*) and sandalwood. Aborigines used myall wood for making boomerangs. This area is infested with two cacti, escapees from the homestead garden.

Turn right at the road along the avenue of Chinchilla white gums (*Eucalyptus argophloia*). Either continue up the road to the gallery or after 100m reconnect with the trail on the left of the road.

11. Melon Holes

Here the brigalow is growing on very heavy clay that has formed depressions called melon holes or gilgais. Wilga and sandalwood act as understorey. Wilga belongs to the citrus family (Rutaceae) - crush a leaf and smell.

Note also the declared pest, mother-of-millions (*Bryophyllum* spp.) A succulent from tropical Africa, it grows to 1m and has red flowers in winter. Plants have flourished in this area because of little competition from native flora. Spraying to eradicate this pot-plant escapee is being conducted.

12. The wire enclosure is a 'chook run' once used by the Gordon family.

13. Continue west heading up the escarpment. Enjoy the beauty of the angophoras and mat-rushes.

14. Trail's End

At the top of the escarpment is a rock platform where water flows during good rains. As you cross this area, note the engravings and read the sign about these site-specific artworks - 'Journeys and Connections' and 'Imprints'.

