Looking at some of the animal statues and installations in Sydney

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For reference, see maps provided at the end of this document.

In the centre of the city, along George Street, look carefully at the outside of the Queen Victoria Building, at the end where there is a large statue of Queen Victoria. Just behind this statue is Islay, a small bronze terrier, begging on a wishing well on behalf of donations for the New South Wales Deaf and Blind Children’s Institute. This was created in the 1980s by the young Sydney sculptor Justin Robson whose earlier work was on giant Aero bars and miniature petrol pumps for the US chain Exxon.
Walk down George Street toward the harbour and look for Angel Place. Here you’ll find the installation Forgotten Songs. Look up at the birdcages and hear the songs of birds that have been displaced from central Sydney since European settlement. Look down to see the names of these birds.

Forgotten Songs

Keep walking toward the harbour. Turn down Bridge Street and walk to Macquarie Place Park. Here you’ll find the main sculpture from Tracey Emin’s The Distance of Your Heart, a large stone birdbath. As a part of this installation, there are over 60 small bronze bird sculptures dotted along Bridge and Grosvenor Streets – look up! Emin addresses the issue of Australia’s distance from the rest of the world, using birds to express the loneliness one can feel when travelling far from home.

The Distance of Your Heart
Take a walk in the **Royal Botanical Gardens** from the bottom of Macquarie Street. Look out for, near the start of the street, **Huntsman and Dogs**, in iron and copper made c. 1878 by Henri Jacquemart. Nearby is **Mare and Foal** by Arthur Jacques Le Duc (donated by the NSW Art Gallery in 1961).
If you walk through the gardens and out near the Art Gallery of New South Wales go left on The Domain and look for the statue of Henry Lawson and His Dog. It was finished by George Lambert and unveiled in 1931, some years after the writer’s death. Lawson’s memorial fund asked for a “work of art”. The memorial presents the company of a swagman and a dog, who could be images in several of Lawson’s bush stories. Although Lawson usually lived in the Sydney area, the fund wanted him to be described as an “Australian of the bush and not of the city”. Yet a hat was rejected so that his long hair would be better modelled. No details were created about the dog’s appearance.
Walking back from the Domain and **coming up to Macquarie Street at the junction next to the Royal Botanic Gardens** and opposite the Mitchell Library, one can see a bronze plaque dated 1950 in favour of the horses of the Desert Mounted Corps regiments that took place in the Desert campaign in the Middle East, by Bonar Dunlop. The three horses are strikingly portrayed with just one of the men.

![Desert Mounted Corp - First World War memorial plaque](image)

Walk along **Macquarie Street, away from the Sydney Opera House** as there are several points to see.
The statue of Captain Matthew Flinders, the explorer of southern Australia, was created by W. R. Colton, outside the Mitchell library in Macquarie Street, in 1925. In the early 1970s, Australian writers found the writing of Flinders on his ship-based cat, Trim, in the National Maritime archive in Greenwich, London. As described by Flinders, Trim was “the best and most illustrious of his race, the most affectionate of friends, faithful of servants, and best of creatures”. Trim was described as possessing a black body with four white feet and a white star on his chest, weighing between ten and twelve pounds. His daily life included running after balls, taking food from the table of “almost every officer” and, pleasantly, from their own mouths! The statue of Trim was created by John Cornwell in 1996 and placed outside the empty window of Mitchell library behind Flinders. Please note the pawprints to and from the statue of Flinders. (You can buy copies of the book Trim and tea towels and keyrings in the nearby State Library of New South Wales shop, and have tea and coffee at Café Trim).
Carry on walking down **Macquarie Street**, away from the harbour.

Now look at the hospital on the left. In front is **Il Porcellino** or wild boar, reminiscent of a statue (you may have previously seen copied outside in Florence) by Pietro Tacca over 400 years ago. This was donated by the Italian marchesa Clarissa Torrigiani in 1968 in memory of her late father and brother who had worked medically for Australian troops in the First World War. Council officials from the local archives stated in the late 1960s “It will be one of the few animal statues in Sydney. The only other one appears to be the ‘Mare & Foal’ in the Botanical Gardens.”
Continue walking to **Hyde Park**. In the gardens there are various animal sculptures, especially in the main fountain. Look too at the ANZAC memorial of the First World War and view the granite work of Rayner Hoff. Not only is there soldiers’ activity but also the presence of **horses**.
A little further afield but still in the Sydney area:

Outside Central Railway Station in Sydney on the named Railway Square, set back from the path, you will find an interesting sculpture of Donna the Hearing Guide Dog who was the companion to John Hogan, and both were regular travellers around the area. Donna died in 1995.
Now off to the **University of Sydney’s Quadrangle** where there are numerous examples of animal sculptures and gargoyles.

In the **Chancellor’s Garden**, at the back of the Quadrangle, look for the sculpture **Horse** by Shona Nunan, which she gifted to the university in 1992.

We hope you enjoy wandering around Sydney and looking at the animal sculptures and installations!
Suggested readings and web sites:


Islay

http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/animals/display/98405-islay

Forgotten Songs


The Distance of Your Heart


Huntsman and Dogs

http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM5QYN_Huntsman_and_Dogs_Sydney_Australia

Mare and Foal

http://staging.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMFQR0_Mare_and_Foal_Royal_Botanic_Gardens_Sydney_Australia

Desert Mounted Corp Memorial


Trim

http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/animals/display/23316-trim/
il Porcellino

Hyde Park sculptures

ANZAC Memorial

Donna the Hearing Dog
http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/culture/animals/display/103137-donna-the-hearing-guide-dog/-

University of Sydney gargoyles