

TAKE A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF UKARIA CULTURAL CENTRE GARDEN

Welcome to UKARIA's garden – a landscape shaped by music, movement and the rhythms of the natural world. In much the same way that a piece of music is never the same twice, a piece of music is illuminated in new and unpredictable ways as it interacts with the environment in which it is heard. Light, season, sound and weather change how it feels in every moment.

This garden sits on the site of the original Jurlique Herb Farm, where concerts were once held in the old farm shed. It was inevitable that a garden would play an integral role in Founder Ulrike Klein's vision for UKARIA Cultural Centre.

Originally designed by Winnie Pelz in 2014, with subsequent input from Dean Butcher and Steve Hailstone, the garden covers approximately 5,000 square metres. Over 500 different plant species and varieties are irrigated with rainwater harvested from the concert hall roof and a bore on the property. The garden is maintained by Adam Hancock and Andrew Plummer, with the support of a committed group of monthly volunteers.

A. Heritage Garden. A celebration of UKARIA's origins, this garden draws inspiration from the former Jurlique show garden. It combines clipped forms and block plantings to showcase each plant. Several of the original roses remain, including the recently introduced Ulrike Klein rose. Plants include weeping mulberries, lavender, rosemary, *Salvia*, *Echinacea*, *Cistus*, *Agastache*, *Limonium* and *Anisodonta*.

B. Grass Garden. The Grass Garden showcases texture and movement through a mix of both native and exotic grasses. Soft sawdust paths, muted tones and the gentle rustling of foliage create a calm, immersive space that comes alive from mid-summer through to mid-winter when the grasses reach their full height and catch the light beautifully.

A mix of annual flowers such as cosmos, Californian poppies and *Nigella* is woven throughout the grasses, adding bursts of seasonal colour and interest across the year. Other plants include *Miscanthus*, *Panicum*, *Gleditsia*, *Forsythia*, *Cotoneaster*, *Themeda triandra* and *Austrostipa mollis*.

C. Santa Rosa Labyrinth. Constructed from 3,600 large oval-shaped beach pebbles, the Santa Rosa Labyrinth offers a quiet counterpoint to the surrounding garden. Its west-east orientation and eighteen gentle turns invite a slow, meditative walk. Sheltered by *Allocasuarina* and *Berberis*, and watched over by a striking *Eucalyptus leucoxylon megalocarpa*, the space provides refuge for a diverse community of local birdlife.

D. Meeting Circle. A ring of *Pyrus calleryana* 'Capital', *Banksia* 'Roller Coaster', *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Eremophila* and *Calothamnus* encloses this intimate gathering space, often used for weddings and special events.

Peter Maddox's trio of corten steel instruments – 'The Strings' – is nestled amongst a new patch of Woody Meadow plants, capturing a physical expression of the 'music in nature' ethos at the heart of UKARIA.

E. Woody Meadow. This area draws on research from the Melbourne University Woody Meadow Project. It is designed to have high visual impact, be low-maintenance, drought-tolerant and supportive of local wildlife.

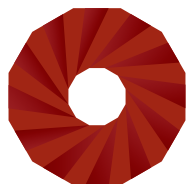
The planting style uses dense layers of hardy shrubs, groundcovers and small trees – around seven plants per square metre. Once established, it requires little to no irrigation and can be cut back to just above ground level every two–four years to renew growth. Plants include multiple varieties of *Grevillea*, *Alyogyne*, *Leptospermum*, *Goodenia* and *Melaleuca*.

F. Hillside Garden. The Hillside Garden mirrors the surrounding bushland, showcasing local species in a curated garden setting. The sound of running water from the aquatic habitat, along with abundant bird and aquatic life, enhances the sense of immersion. Sheltered by large eucalypts, this area features species endemic to the region such as *Hibbertia*, *Correa*, *Leptospermum*, *Prostanthera*, *Ixodia*, *Pultenaea* and *Arthropodium*.

G. Crescendo Garden. The Crescendo Garden is designed for rich, layered colour in a contemporary naturalistic style, using a combination of exotic perennials, grasses, bulbs and annuals. Seasonality is embraced: spent seed heads are often left standing alongside fresh blooms and new growth, creating a constantly changing tapestry of form and texture. The garden is renewed each year by pruning back to ground level. Plants include multiple varieties of *Salvia*, *Sedum*, *Lilium*, *Echinops*, *Calamagrostis*, *Penstemons* and *Pyrus salicifolia*.

H. Mediterranean Garden. Providing a visual backdrop to the Cultural Centre, these terraced beds support plants that thrive in dry, warm conditions. Strong structures and bold foliage contrast with the softer plantings elsewhere in the garden. Plants include Golden Ash, Forest Pansy, Citrus, Persimmon, *Cotinus* and *Wisteria*.

I. Paddock. Below the main garden, remnants of the original orchard remain, with numerous old pear trees still bearing fruit. These are dwarfed by an impressive historic mulberry tree, a living link to the site's agricultural past.



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