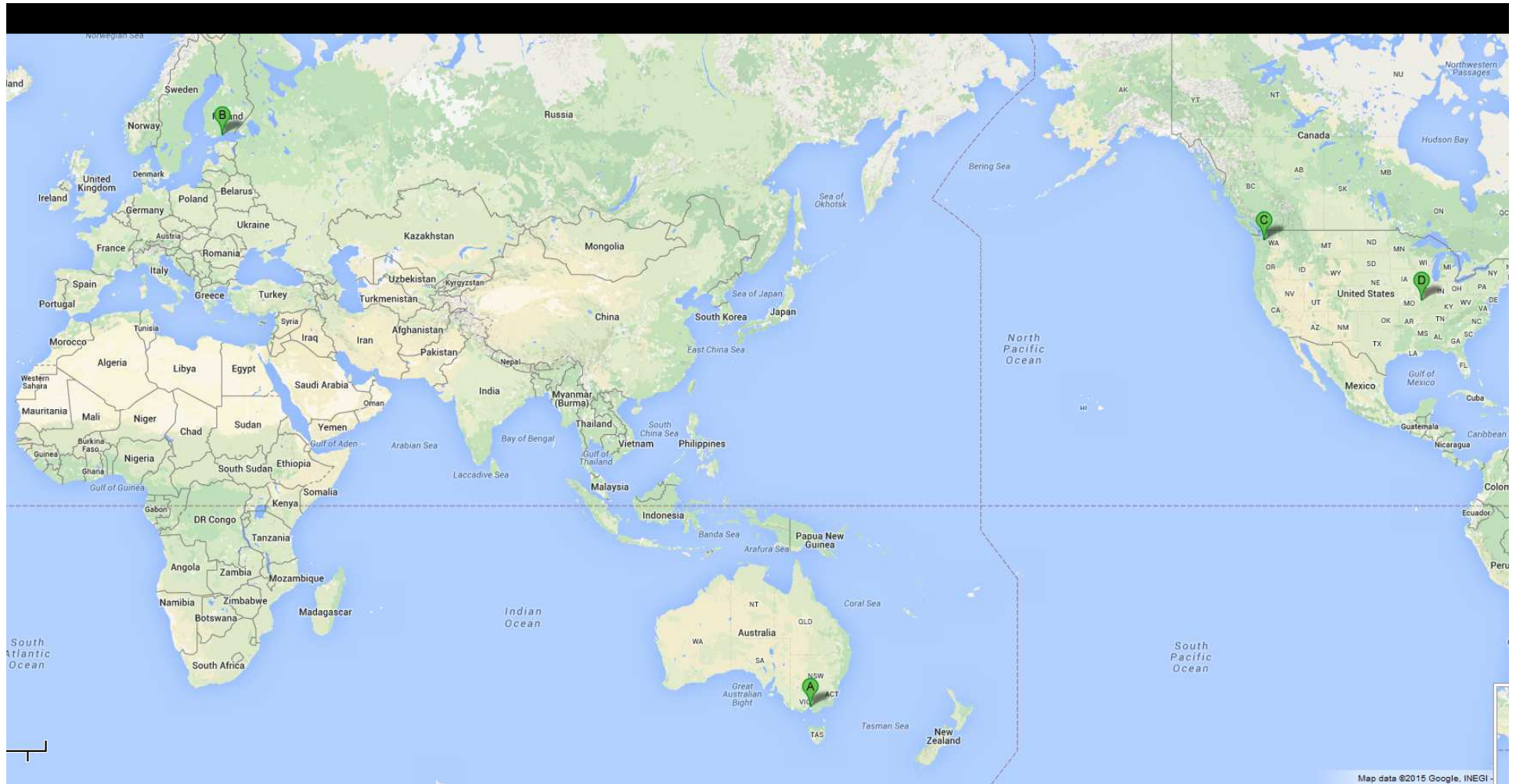# Storytelling in the Australian Garden

The three most useful things we discovered?

Sharon Willoughby

Manager Public Programs
Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
email: sharon.willoughby@rbg.vic.gov.au
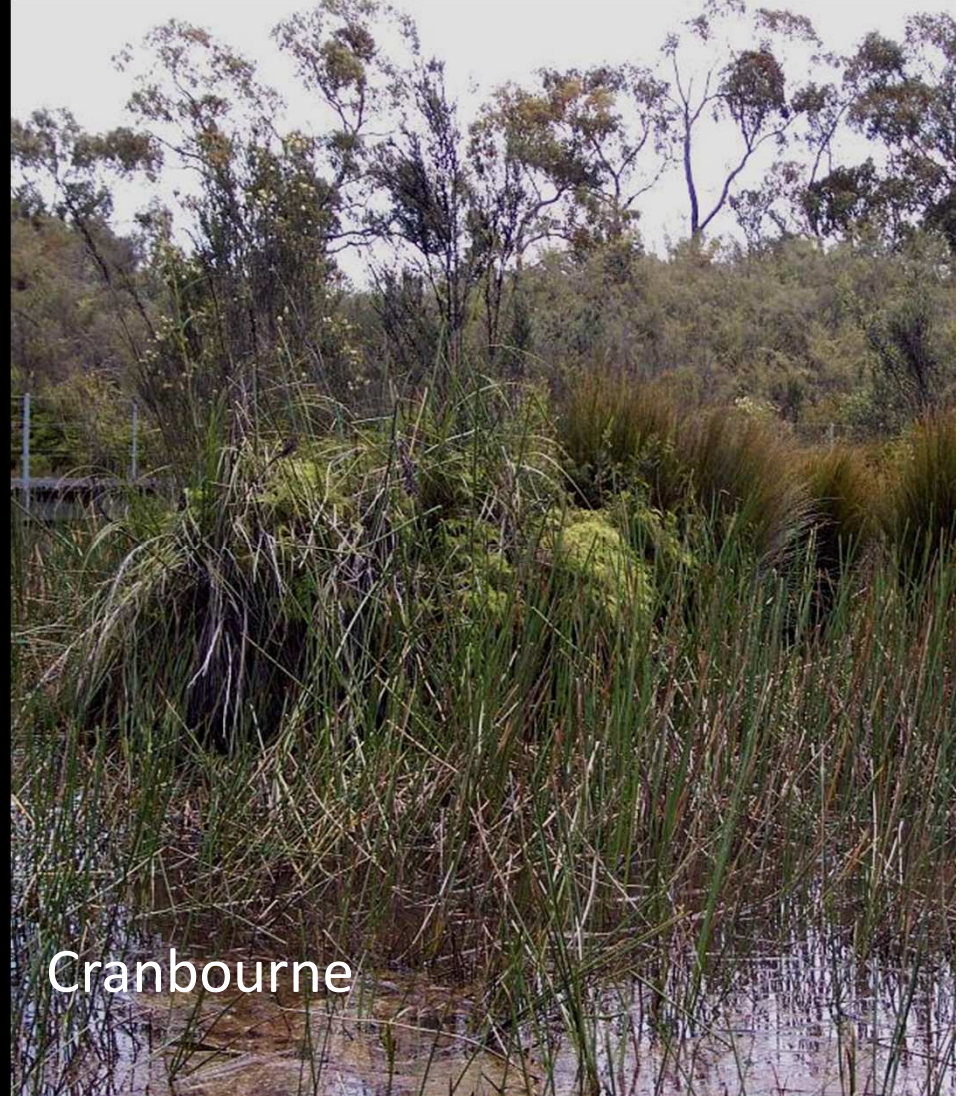**twitter: @swilloster**

Case Studies

1. Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden, Helsinki, Finland.
2. Australian Garden, Melbourne, Australia.
3. Washington Park Arboretum, USA.

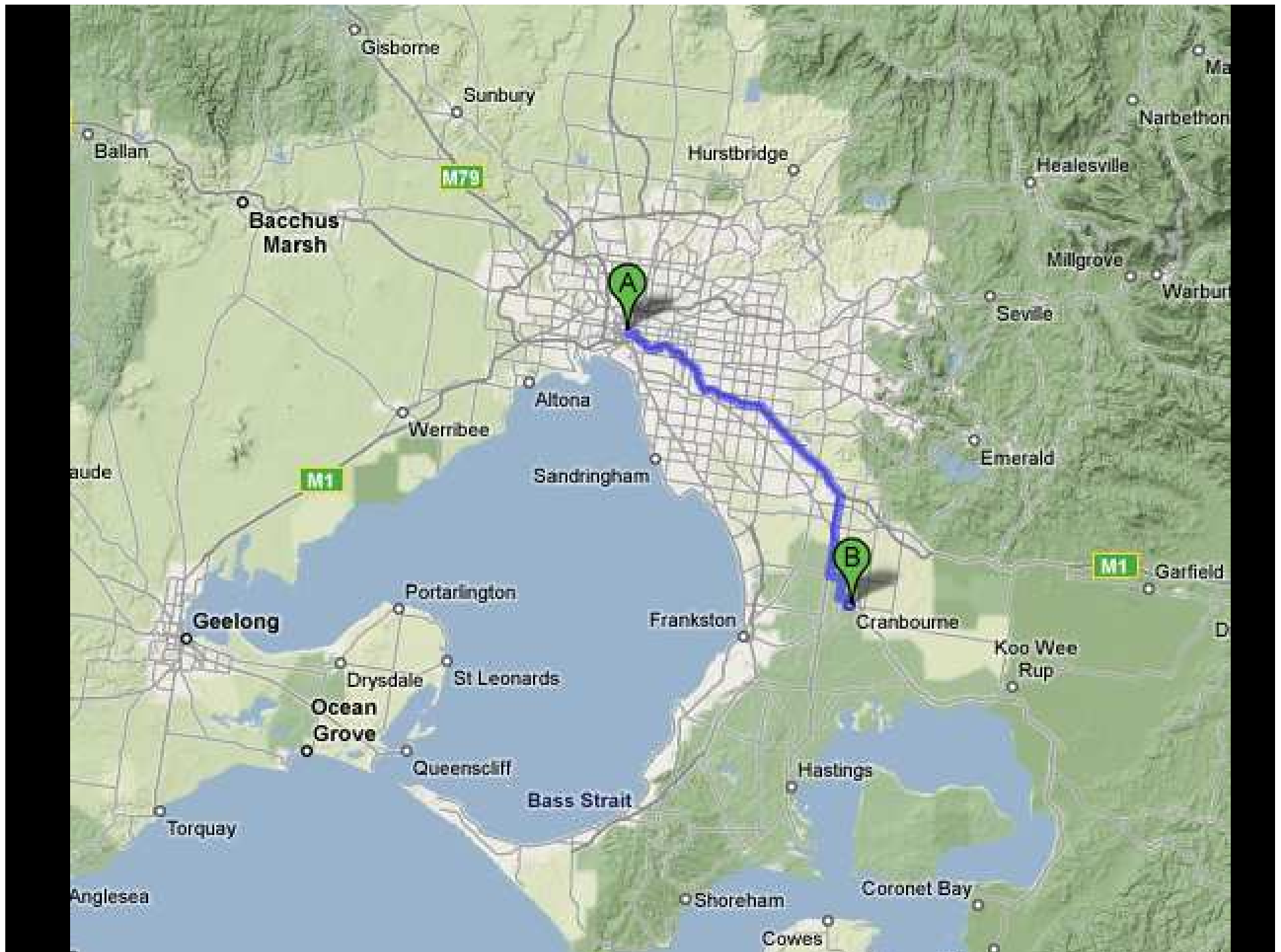# Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Melbourne

Cranbourne

Aerial Photo of the RBG Cranboune, 2013.

Swamp Wallaby

Southern Brown Bandicoot

Boobook Owl

Echidna

New Holland Mouse

Koala

The Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 2012.
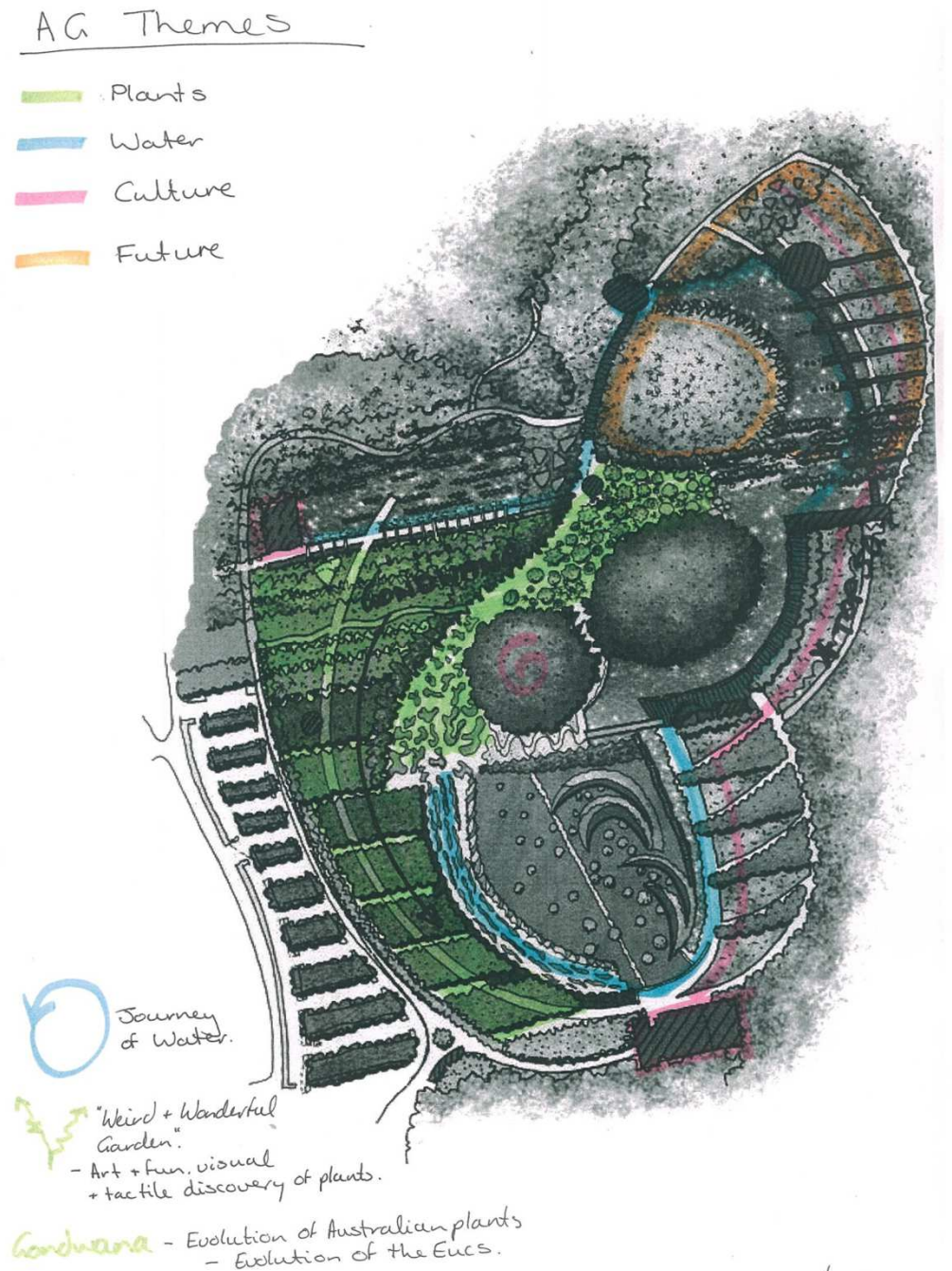Photograph: John Gollings. Landscape Design: Taylor, Cullity and Lethlean with Paul Thompson.

The beginning of the Journey

My first day at work – 2002

1. Seeing the imagined garden...

Australian Plants are Amazing!

- Australian **Plants** are surprisingly beautiful, diverse and unique.

- The story of **Water** its cycle through the land helps us to understand the character of the Australian landscape.

- **Cultural** expressions reveal the connections between people, plants and landscape.

- Australian plants are essential to living sustainably in the **future**.

AG Themes

- Plants
- Water
- Culture
- Future

Journey of Water.

"Weird + Wonderful Garden".
- Art + fun, visual + tactile discovery of plants.

Gondwana – Evolution of Australian plants
– Evolution of the Eucs.

24/7/07

2. Create a Sign Family
What does our garden look & feel like?
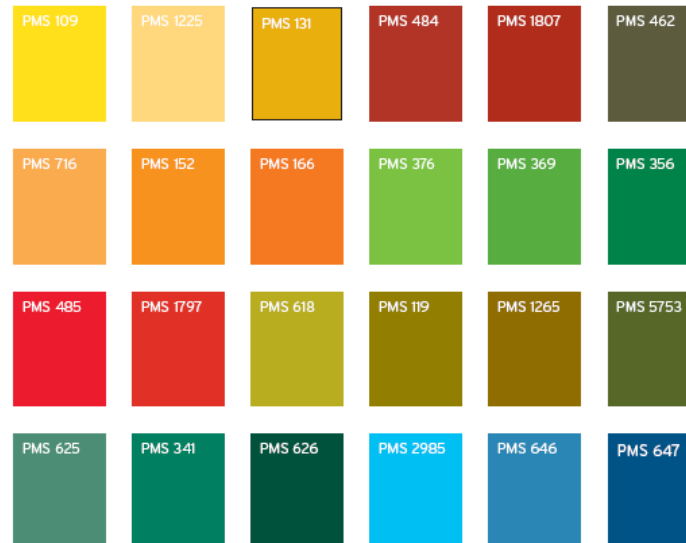
AG sign overview sign family

PRIMARY PRECINCT SIGNAGE - ELEVATION

EL @ 1600

1050

| VOID |
| VOID |
| VOID |

ELEVATION   SIDE ELEVATION - B

1400

ELEVATION   SIDE ELEVATION - B
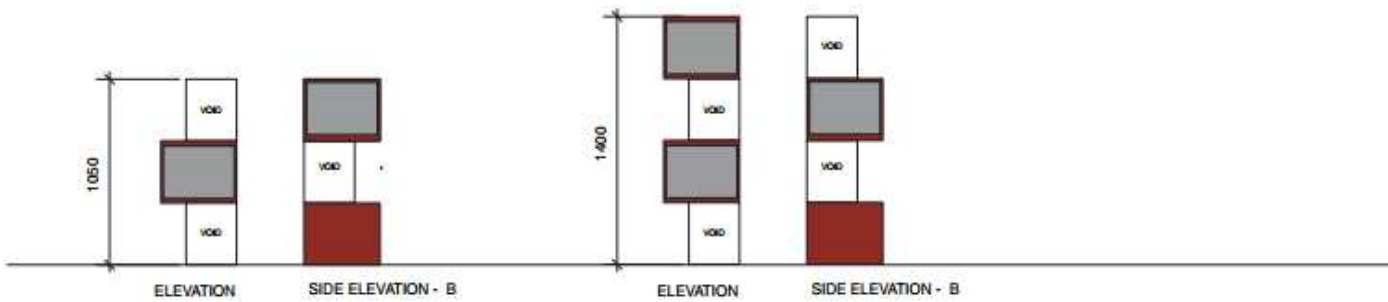
SECONDARY PRECINCT SIGNAGE - ELEVATION

EL @ 1600

700

ELEVATION   SIDE ELEVATION - B

1050

ELEVATION   SIDE ELEVATION - B

ARTIST MARKER A3 - SIDE ELEVATION

EL @ 1600

LOLLIPOP SIGN   INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE A3x2   INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE A3   INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE A4 portrait   PLANT SIGN A4   PLANT SIGN A5   PLANT SIGN HALF A5
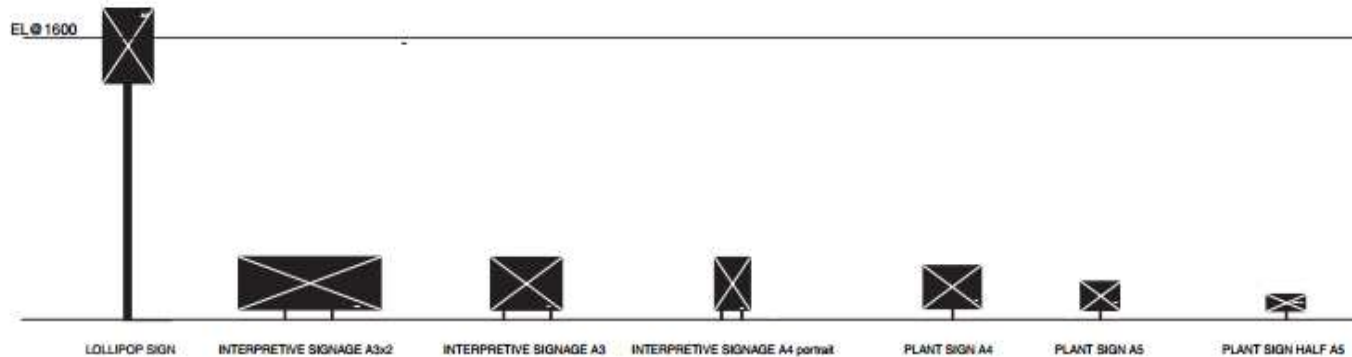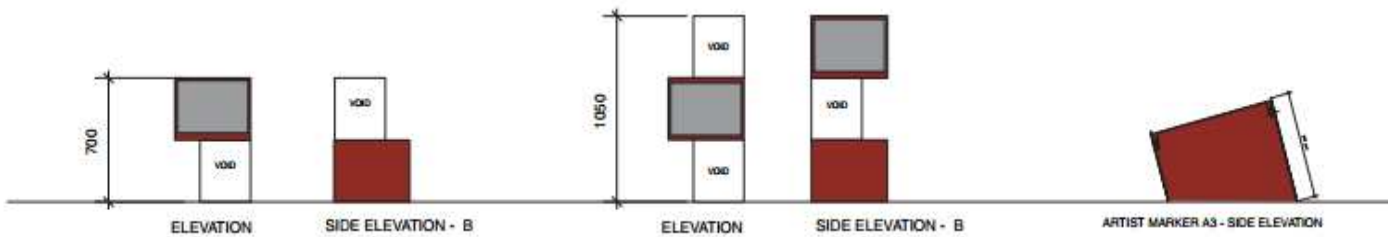
Australian Garden sign family
The full complement sign family for the Australian Garden.

The Australian Garden signage system for use at primary and secondary levels consists of a single boxed unit that is repeated by stacking them on top of each other.

The units are able to be configured in a number of different ways.

The basic options are illustrated — refer configuration options at primary & secondary levels.

A greater range of options can be achieved by drilling extra holes in the tops/bottoms of the boxes.

These should be specified prior to fabrication as the holes will need to be countersunk on the inside of the boxes.

The solid sides of the boxes are intended to carry graphic panels in A3 landscape and A4 portrait format.

The graphic panels have a digital output with protective film/spray applied to the face.

Deep red is indicative of corten steel.

Dry River Bed

From chest rub to laundry tub

Today *Eucalyptus* oil remains a favourite in many Australian homes.

Eucalyptus oil was one of the first products sent back to England from Sydney in 1789. It was distilled from the leaves of the Sydney Peppermint *Eucalyptus piperita*.

In 1852, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, the Victorian government botanist, encouraged a young pharmacist, Joseph Bosisto, to set up a commercial *Eucalyptus* oil distillery in Dandenong, Victoria. Bosisto's also produced *Eucalyptus* lozenges and cigarettes, recommended for chest and throat ailments.

Illustration from Felton Grimwade & Bickford Pty Ltd, Bosisto's ephemera collection.

BOSISTO'S PARROT BRAND
FOR RHEUMATISM, COLDS, COUGHS, SORE THROAT &c.
EUCALYPTUS OIL

Thysanotus multiflorus
Many-flowered Fringe-lily
Liliaceae

AG interpretive grid A3: ways to use grid

Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

140mm(w) x 74.3mm(h)

210mm(w) x 111.375mm(h)

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Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

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70mm(w) x 74.25mm(h) | 70mm(w) x 74.25mm(h) | 70mm(w) x 74.25mm(h)

210mm(w) x 111.375mm(h)

Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

70mm(w) x 74.25mm(h)

140mm(w) x 74.3mm(h)

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210mm(w) x 111.375mm(h)

Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

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210mm(w) x 297mm(h)

Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

210mm(w) x 420mm(h)

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Emotional Toll
destructive agent or symbol of renewal?

single square is 35mm(w) x 37.125mm(h)

210mm(w) x 148.5mm(h)

70mm(w) x 74.25mm(h)

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3. Evaluation: Is this approach having an impact?

In the Australian Garden

Out beyond the boundary!

A inter-disciplinary approach.

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