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Southern Division  
( Incorporating Victoria,  
Tasmania and South  
Australia )

## April 2016 Meeting - Report

### Site Visit - Australia Garden Cranbourne Saturday 16th April

On a morning that started sunny then, clouded over as a prelude to drizzly rain, our small group led by Barrie our guide set off to explore this wonderful garden. Developed on what was an old sand pit in the midst of an area containing original remnant bush land, it proved to be an ideal location to build an 'Australian Garden' requiring as it would a sandy soil. It is the result of many of Australia's finest garden and landscape designers and offers visitors a snapshot of the many and various environments found on this continent and the flowers, trees and shrubs that they support. Apart from the sheer joy of the visual experience it is also extremely valuable as an educational facility for students of all ages.

As you leave the Visitor Centre, the scene is set by a representation of the 'red centre' a quintessential Australian environment



From here it just gets better and better as the footpaths wind through representations of the different environments and the fact that as an Island continent water plays a vital role in many ways.

Colour, in the form of flowers, was in short supply but the range of greens, even in the poor light of an overcast sky and drizzle, are truly dazzling. Below are 4 images



The magnificence of this place can only be appreciated by visiting and walking around and our guide Barrie recommended that we return in Spring to which we all heartily agreed. So, we plan to have a return visit in either in late September (after the conference in Brisbane) or early October

Our little group is shown below as we took a few minutes break to take on board the details of the garden within which we were which went from plantings requiring a lot of water to those who can tolerate drought conditions.



To find out more about this garden visit [www.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au).

Look out for the notice for our visit in Spring, if it is a nice day we could always have a picnic too and include a walk in the bushland to complete the colour experience

Derek Grantham