Liz Williamson
Weaving Eucalypts Project

The Weaving Eucalypts Project is a collaborative project investigating interloving local, cultural connections and universal textile traditions. In 2011, colleagues in Australia and India were invited to collect two metres of silk fabric with locally sourced eucalyptus leaves; once received in my studio, the dyed silk was stitched and woven into a warp of cotton and linen threads. Some fabric was dyed in my studio with leaves collected from specific species of eucalyptus in India. In 2012, the project was expanded to include representation from countries touched by the Indian Ocean – Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Madagascar, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Thailand. Eucalyptus in these new sites were identified as being becoming hybridized, regarded as ‘local’ and grown for diverse commercial purposes. In some places, eucalyptus is grown for its commercial value, while in others it is regarded as no more than a weed. The project is emphasizing that eucalyptus is not just an afforestation project, but has a long history of use and cultural significance in multiple countries and is a collaborative project interweaving local knowledge and tradition with contemporary craft dialogue.

When the Eucalyptus species has been identified, the botanical and common names are given; for most, the botanical name has been determined from eucalyptus leaves in E. Loddigesii. The date listed is when the panel was woven and where only one name is given, the fabric was dyed locally. E. grandis

Liz Williamson, 2013

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Liz Williamson, 2013

Weaving Eucalypts Project 2020-2021
Silk dyed by artists in Australia, India and Bangladesh with locally sourced eucalyptus leaves, bark or twigs; silk hand woven as well as linen and cotton warp.

Silk fabric in this panel was dyed with Darngardi Snappy gum bark collected on a bush medicine trip to Windjana Gorge, from trees growing on the limestone ranges in Marruwarrawarra Fitzroy. The silk was dyed with Darngardi Snappy gum bark collected on a bush medicine trip to Windjana Gorge, from trees growing on the limestone ranges in Marruwarrawarra Fitzroy. The silk was dyed with Darngardi Snappy gum bark collected on a bush medicine trip to Windjana Gorge, from trees growing on the limestone ranges in Marruwarrawarra Fitzroy. The silk was dyed with Darngardi Snappy gum bark collected on a bush medicine trip to Windjana Gorge, from trees growing on the limestone ranges in Marruwarrawarra Fitzroy.

#25

Kathleen Tessen, Melbourne, Australia 7 August 2021
Silk fabric in this panel was dyed with E. grandis (Silver dollar) bark and leaves with an iron mordant. The resultant colour is a light golden brown, with the fabric being pre-mordanted with an iron mordant before being dyed with a light brown mordant. The resultant colour is a light golden brown, with the fabric being pre-mordanted with an iron mordant before being dyed with a light brown mordant. The resultant colour is a light golden brown, with the fabric being pre-mordanted with an iron mordant before being dyed with a light brown mordant. The resultant colour is a light golden brown, with the fabric being pre-mordanted with an iron mordant before being dyed with a light brown mordant.

#26

Kathleen Tessen, Melbourne, Australia 7 August 2021
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Kristen contributed 10 pieces of Dupioni silk fabric each eco printed with leaves from *E.crenulata* from 'dry season when the sap is running'. The silk was tied into waterhole and spiderweb. The silk was dyed with Darngardi Snappy Gum bark collected on a bush medicine trip to #70 dye pot using leaves from several different types of local eucalypts species. Each piece was uniquely patterned and all 'made with love from the Kimberley'. No mordant was used in the dye pot.

Diane Kearney, Leonora, Western Australia May 2022

Eucalyptus (Tasmanian silver gum) leaves and Eucalyptus (Tasmanian snow peppermint) leaves were soaked for a number of days in water before being inserted into half-dried silk, a little iron water was painted onto some of the leaves before steaming, giving the orange red colour.

Annette Langland, Strathalbyn, Victoria Australia 17 May 2022

Eucalyptus (Victoria eastern red gum) other round blue green leaves were used to colour the silk with an eco-sylo technique giving a range of colours from bright pink or red, the silk was pre-mordanted with salt and used to give some rose effect.

Annette Langland, Strathalbyn, Victoria Australia 18 May 2022

Eucalyptus (Narrow leaf peppermint) with mordants of copper, iron, alum and cream of tartar in various combinations. Alum brightens a natural dye colour, iron darkens it and copper gives green colours.

Cattina Feeten, Strathalbyn, Victoria Australia 20 May 2022

The silk woven into this panel was dyed with Eucalyptus (Narrow leaf peppermint) with a range of pale and deep shades. The different tan and yellow colours resulted from the fabric being pre-mordanted with soda ash, alum, cream of tartar before being dyed, the light tan section had no mordant.

Auki Ikoustra, Ubregatta, Western Australia 23 May 2022

Leaves and flower buds from *Eucalyptus* (Tasmanian blue gum) endemic to Tasmania were used to dye the silk in the panel, the silk was stretched up and tied in a dye bath along with alum and heated in an electric oven.

Auki Ikoustra, Ubregatta, Western Australia 14 May 2022

Leaves from *Eucalyptus* (Tasmanian silver gum) endemic to Tasmania were scattered over the silk fabric before being rolled and twisted into a long shape and steamed in a dye pot on an open fire, no mordant was used but traces of iron from the pot may have impacted on the colour.

Stannary, NSW Australia 15 May 2022

The silk woven into this panel was dyed with *Eucalyptus* (Blackbutt) leaves collected from a tree growing in my street. The colour was darkened with an iron mordant and woven with highlights of silk coloured with *Eucalyptus* (Silver dollar) dyed with by iron mordant.

Stannary, NSW Australia 28 May 2022

The silk woven into this panel is dyed with *Eucalyptus* (Blackbutt) leaves collected from a tree growing in my street and woven with highlights of silk coloured dark pink with *Eucalyptus* (Silver dollar) dyed with by iron mordant.

Stannary, NSW Australia 30 May 2022

The silk woven into this panel as dyed with *Eucalyptus* (Blackbutt) collected from the tree outside my house, dyed at various times, mostly with an iron mordant.

Jo Morrell, Handorf, Kangaroo Valley, Victoria 30 May 2022

The silk in this panel is beautifully coloured with a botanical contact print of fresh Eucalyptus pink and all made with the foliage from the Kimberley. The silk leaves were woven in the top section of the panel had no mordant while in the bottom section was dipped into iron water making the colours slightly darker. The silk leaves created interesting stripes when woven.

Amanda McH, Melbourne, Victoria Australia 3 November 2022

*Eucalyptus* (Red blood) and *Eucalyptus* (Big leaves) treasured leaves were used to dye the silk in the pink. A small amount of fence foliage (Hakea) was also used to dye the silk leaves before the silk leaves were folded and clamped, some were dyed without a mordant. Fence foliage was also added to the *Eucalyptus* treasured leaves before being stitched, folded and steamed, again some with ironos and some without.

Orenda Rose, Outerd, Sydney, NSW Australia 4 June 2022

This panel was woven with silk coloured with *Eucalyptus* (Blackbutt) leaves collected at *Eucalyptus* (Big leaves) treasured leaves were used to dye the silk in the pink. A small amount of fence foliage (Hakea) was also added to the silk dyed treasured leaves for extra colour. The silk leaves were woven in the bottom section of the panel had no mordant while in the bottom section was dipped into iron water making the colours slightly darker.

Anita Barry, South Melbourne, Melbourne Australia 2 December 2022

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In the Kimberley, the leaves of *Eucalyptus* were collected from a tree growing on the banks of the river a few weeks before being wrapped in silk fabric and given a light spray of vinegar before steaming. The resulting colour was not as vibrant as Juan Carlos noted for this species.