

**Kiambram Native Plant Information:****Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella Longifolia*):**

Commonly known as the 'Long-leaved' Blue Flax lily this native species is formally categorised as a tufted, rhizomatous, perennial herb with grass-like leaves, and pale blue lily-like flowers that usually bloom in spring and summer. Shiny, pale edible blue coloured berries follow flowering and are considered a (supplementary) bushfood.

*Dianella Longifolia* was / is relatively widespread throughout its natural range and is found throughout the non-arid parts of Australia, including the Kimberley, eastern and southern Australia and northern Tasmania.

Blue Flax lilies are a butterfly host plant to the 'Yellow-banded Dart Butterfly' (*Ocybadistes walkeri*), they provided much needed habitat for a range of native invertebrates and are visited by Pale Headed Rosellas (*Platycercus adscitus*) when fruiting who eat the seeds.

*Dianella longifolia* is an attractive drought-tolerant and frost-tolerant plant and is long-lived once established. It prefers a well-drained soil in a sunny or semi-shaded position and is widely used in revegetation work.

It is understood that *Dianella longifolia* has medicinal properties, its root extracts have demonstrated antiviral activity. Traditionally the berries were used as a natural dye and the leaves were used for weaving. The berries can be eaten raw, the edible roots were traditionally pounded and cooked on hot rocks. Most *Dianella* plants will survive fire; regenerating quickly from rhizomes as well as any seedbank.

**Blue Lillypilly (*Syzygium oleosum*):**

Commonly known as the Blue Lillypilly, it is a species of *Syzygium* tree native to eastern Australian rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests. It is usually a small tree, 4 to 15 m tall. The leaves have a large number of oil glands on the leaves, which make the crushed leaves smell like mango / apricot. The leaves can / are also used in aromatherapy. Its flowers are small and white-cream colored and attract native and European bees. It produces a purplish red fruit when young, changing to purplish blue when ripe, which are very popular with children, as it's the blue fruit that can also make your tongue go blue (temporarily).

The fruit can be eaten freshly picked from the tree or cooked. It has a pleasantly crisp texture and is mildly aromatic and sweet. The fruit can also be made into jams, jellies sauces and drinks, etc. It is also grown as an ornamental plant in landscaping and is a significant fauna and pollinator attractor, including native birds, bees and possums, etc. Ring-tailed possums will often nest on the canopy of lillypillies.

**Dwarf Silky Oak (*Grevillea banksii*):**

Commonly known as Banks' grevillea, red flowered silky oak and dwarf silky oak, is a species of flowering plant in the family Proteaceae and is endemic to Queensland. It is an erect shrub or slender tree with divided leaves that typically grows to a height of approx. 2–10 m. Flowering usually occurs from August to October with creamy white to bright scarlet flowers, which attract a wide range native birds (honey-eaters), bees and butterflies. However, we have noticed that they have also been flowering throughout Autumn and Winter. Seeds follow flowering, which attract another host of seed eating birds, especially Pale Headed Rosellas (*Platycercus adscitus*).

Banks' grevillea is usually naturally found on the Queensland coast from Ipswich to Yeppoon, and often further inland to Toowoomba, etc. It mainly grows in woodland and forest, usually in flatter places and / or along roadsides, etc.

*Grevillea banksii* is one of the most widely cultivated grevilleas and is a parent of numerous hybrids including G. 'Robyn Gordon' and G. 'Superb', G. 'Misty Pink', G. 'Pink Surprise', and G. 'Ned Kelly'.

The flowers and seed pods contain toxic hydrogen cyanide. The alkyl resorcinols in *Grevillea banksii* and *Grevillea* 'Robyn Gordon' can be responsible for contact dermatitis in some people, but not all.

**Five Leafed Native Grape (*Cissus hypoglauca*):**

Is one of the better known climbing plants of the genus *Cissus* in the grape family. A climber naturally found in the more moist areas of eastern Australia, it often colonises areas of disturbed forest damage after storms, fire or logging.

*Cissus hypoglauca* is a large woody vine. The name water-vine comes from the fact that the woody sections of the vine may be cut into sections and the sap that drips from the sections may be drunk as water. The leaves are usually arranged in a group of five (5). Leaves are ovate in shape, green coloured with a blueish shade underneath. The young leaves are reddish and hairy.

Yellow flowers occur mostly in spring and summer. A purple / blue grape-like fruit matures in the middle of the year. This native grape can provide abundant food source and shelter for many fruit and seed eating birds and small animals. The berries can be eaten raw and provide a delicious watery snack but it can leave an aftertaste that can be slightly irritating. Native grapes were traditionally used to treat sore throats, by crushing them up and gargling them in warm water.

This plant provides abundant food and shelter for birds and small animals. Native grapes grow the best in morning sun and afternoon shade.

This species often grows in fire prone environments and regenerates from seed and its vigorous root system.

The fruit was part of the diet of Indigenous Australians. Strong loops of the vine were used to aid climbing trees to collect honey from native bee nests. Drinking water was obtained by cutting the stems and letting them hang.

Cissus is a genus of about 350 species – inhabiting mainly the tropical zone worldwide. Australia has 14 species, 7 of which are endemic, occurring in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Northern Territory. NSW currently has 4 species.

### **Native Currant (*Carissa ovata*):**

Native Currants are bushfoods and butterfly attractors. It's sprawling habit and spiny leaves make it ideal small bird habitat. Insects are attracted to the sweet smelling highly perfumed white tube shaped flowers which usually bloom in spring and early summer, followed by edible purple / black berries which is considered a supplementary bushfood. Native Currants are hardy and mildly frost tolerant, they also attract butterflies and fruit eating birds. Can be used as a prickly edible hedge, barrier or screen. *Carissa ovata* can also do well in black cracking soils, attracts butterflies and is fire retardant.

This species is a member of the Apocynaceae family along with Hoya, Frangipani, Alyxia and Parsonsia, etc. As the previous species name implies, the leaves are ovate (egg-shaped), with a rounded edge, which are bright green and glossy all year. They are also a food source for a range of fruit and seed eating birds.

### **Native Grape (*Cissus Antarctica*):**

This native grape is a supplementary bushfood and butterfly host plant. It attracts the Joseph's Coat and Hawk Moths, it is bird attracting, a native food and tool source and is a perfect ground cover for landscaping / verge plantings, etc.

*Cissus antarctica*, is also commonly called the "Kangaroo Vine", is one of the best-known species of the genus *Cissus* in the family of Vitaceae. It is often seen to be more of a ground cover in domestic settings, rather than a climbing plant or a traditional grape vine, however, in its natural range, it can become quite large and dense. *Cissus Antarctica* is native to sub-tropical Australia.

*Cissus antarctica* is often used as in subtropical climates, as an attractive ornamental plant in gardens. The native grape is also a popular interior or houseplant and a well-adapted plant, even in subdued light.

### **Native Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon refractus*):**

Commonly known as barbed wire grass, due to its seed structure, this species of perennial grass in the genus *Cymbopogon* (Lemon Grass). It is native to Australia.

The leaves, when crushed gives off a lemon-ginger scent like other grasses in the genus *Cymbopogon*. Flowering occurs mainly from spring to autumn, followed by seed heads, which are eaten by native seed eating birds, such as double barred finches. *Cymbopogon refractus* is very drought tolerant but can be affected by frost. The leaves die off in the cooler months and return in the warmer. They can be used in making lemongrass tea, can be used in stir fries and dried and powdered to flavour biscuits, etc. The seeds are also edible to humans and were regularly harvested, processed and consumed by Indigenous Australians. The native

lemongrass provides shelter to a range of wildlife and is the host plant to the Evening Brown Butterfly (*Melanitis leda*).

*Cymbopogon refractus* often grows on poor soils and is found along roadsides, native pastures, woodlands and forests of Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory, and Victoria.

### **Native Orange / Caper (*Capparis mitchellii*):**

The native orange is an Australian native plant found in dry inland areas of Australia. Its scientific name is *Capparis mitchellii*. It is not related to oranges (citrus), but to capers, which is why it is also known as the 'Caper Bush / Tree'!

Used by Indigenous Australians as a bushfood, the sweet tangy tasting fragrant fruit is a good source of vitamin C and may be eaten raw or in drinks and sweet and savoury dishes. The seeds and skin are not edible, however, it is worthwhile to disperse the seeds for future propagation.

It is also known as the native orange, native pomegranate, and bumble tree. It is known in the Arrernte language of Central Australia as "merne atwakeye", meaning bush orange, in the Adnyamathanha language of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia as "iga" or "iga warta", and in the Gamilaraay language as "bambul"!

*Capparis mitchellii* can grow up to approx. eight (8) metres tall, as a tall shrub or small tree. The bark is black and deeply grooved, and the plant is very thorny when young. The short-lived flowers, are large and white or cream in colour, with long protruding stamens, which are followed by large fruits, which are round and green when unripe, turning a shade of purple or orange and becoming soft and developing a sweet smell as they ripen in mid to late summer.

The native orange grows in open savannah, in drier areas of Australia, being especially prevalent in inland eastern areas of New South Wales and Queensland and southern parts of the Northern Territory. It prefers sandy to clay loams but will grow on rocky hillsides and is tolerant of limestone.

The fruit is often inhabited by the caper white butterfly larvae, which uses *Capparis mitchellii* as a host plant and is one of the preferred foods of the spotted bowerbird.

### **Native Peanut Tree (*Sterculia quadrifida*):**

The Native Peanut Tree is an Australian bushfood, bush medicine and traditional tool source, that grows to a height of approx. 5 –10 metres and has a spreading deciduous canopy.

The Peanut Tree has with creamy-white / greenish - yellow flowers that are borne in small clusters in the hot summer months from November to January. It is considered to be one of the best native shade trees that emits cool air as it is fire-retardant. It is also a bird attracting tree and a native fauna food source!

*Sterculia quadrifida*, also commonly known as the peanut tree, naturally grows in the dry rainforests, vine thickets and gallery forests of coastal Queensland, the Northern Territory and North-Eastern New South Wales.

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The seed pods are orange on the outside and orange or red inside when ripe. These pods contain up to 8 black seeds that are edible and taste like juicy raw or boiled peanuts.

The bark was traditionally used by Indigenous Australians in their weaving techniques to make baskets and other fibrous products.

As a bush medicine, the leaves and inner bark were used to treat wounds, sore eyes, stings, bites and as styptic dressings.

*Sterculia quadrifida* grows well throughout South-east Queensland and is found as a feature tree in many parks and gardens!

### **Native Raspberry (*Rubus probus*):**

This native raspberry is a valued and versatile bushfood, bird attractor and lantana replacement in revegetation projects. *Rubus probus* has white Spring / Summer flowers followed by a bright red juicy berried fruit. This highly prized native food source has a great tasting fruit, which can be eaten fresh or made into jams, sauces, drinks, etc. The native Raspberry provides the perfect habitat for small native birds and attracts native stingless bees when flowering.

*Rubus probus* (syn. *Rubus muelleri*), also known as the Atherton raspberry, is a wild raspberry species native to Papua New Guinea and Eastern Australia. The Sweet Raspberry is upright in its growing habit, the leaves are light green and shiny. *Rubus probus* has been commercially cultivated in Australia as a cool season punnet fruit. The plant is very resilient to warmer growing conditions and can produce up to 3 kg per plant.

*Rubus probus* can form dense thickets and is therefore a good replacement for Lantana to provide small bird, reptile, mammal habitat. If planted in a home garden setting, it is recommended that this form of the native raspberry be grown in either a large pot with a water well or into a planted box, where it can be prevented from suckering.

*Rubus probus* is found in rainforests and wet sclerophyll forests from Tasmania to Queensland and is sometimes confused with other native raspberries such as *Rubus rosifolius*, however, *Rubus probus* has fruits that are wider and juicier, while *Rubus rosifolius* has fruits that are more elongated.

This sweet native raspberry is a hardy plant that does well in a sunny position and it responds well to pruning, after fruiting has finished. Native Raspberries require adequate water and well drained soils to perform well. The fruit has a sharp berry-raspberry flavour, often a stronger / fresher taste than shop-bought exotic raspberries.

### **Northern Sandalwood (*Santalum Lanceolatum*):**

*Santalum lanceolatum* is an Australian tree of the family Santalaceae. It is commonly known as northern sandalwood or bush plum and in some areas as “Burdardu”! The mature height of this plant is variable, from approx. 1 to 7 m. The flowers are green,

white, and cream, usually appearing between January and October. The species has a distribution throughout central Australia, becoming scattered or unusual in the more southern regions.

The native range of the plant extends from north-western Victoria, northwards through New South Wales to North Queensland, westwards across The Northern Territory and into north-western Western Australia. It is a plant primarily of arid and semiarid inland areas, although its distribution reaches the coast in both Central Queensland and the Kimberley. The tree is becoming increasingly rare across much of its desert range due to destructive browsing by feral camels.

The family Santalaceae falls within the mistletoe clade, and *S. lanceolatum* is a hemiparasite, which obtains some of its water and mineral nutrient requirements from the roots of other plants.

The plant is used by the people of the northwest for medicinal purposes, and is placed within the 'Burndad song cycle' of those countries. In the Marra language, it is called dumbuyumbu. This name also occurs in neighbouring languages such as Alawa and is used in Roper River Kriol. Burning the leaves repels insects and a compound in the leaves help cure depression and despondency. New born babies were ceremonially smoked by traditional indigenous Australians with the leaves of this sandalwood species. The heartwood also contains sandalwood oil, which can be used in incense and aromatherapy, etc.

### **Oldman Saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*):**

Is a species of saltbush and is a large woody shrub known commonly as “oldman saltbush”! It is native to Australia and occurs in each of the mainland states, thriving in arid and semi-arid inland regions.

*Atriplex nummularia* is a perennial species that is extremely hardy, thriving in particularly harsh environments such as saline and alkaline lowlands. *A. nummularia* is the largest species of Australian saltbush, typically growing approx. 2–4m wide and up to approx. 3m tall in either a sprawling or erect habit. It develops woody stems which branch from or close to ground level and utilises a taproot with a subsequent root system that is moderate to deep, making it drought tolerant. It can also be deciduous if the weather is cold / dry enough.

The leaves are edible as are the seeds, which are typically round with a thick, woody seed coat and an overall reddish-brown appearance. They are edible and can be made into a popcorn when panfried.

Oldman Saltbush belongs to the genus *Atriplex* which comprises 298–377 species commonly referred to as a saltbush. In South-west WA, its indigenous (Noongar) names are purngep, pining, and binga.

*Atriplex nummularia* naturally occurs New South Wales, the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. It usually occurs on saline, low-lying clay soils such as floodplains, but is highly adaptable and can occur in most soil types.

The name saltbush fittingly describes a function of the species in which they retain salt in their leaves absorbed with water through osmosis. Optimal growth is achieved in places where the mean annual temperature is between 15–24 °C and where rainfall is between 230–650mm per annum, though conditions outside this range may be tolerated once the plant has become well established. *A. nummularia* primarily grows on alluvial or limestone soils and while extremely tolerant of both saline and alkaline conditions, it does not cope in an acidic environment. The species is able to grow in soils ranging from clays to sand, but is best suited to well-drained soils that have a deep profile.

*A. nummularia* is often used as a food source for the larvae of some species of butterflies and provide habitat for birds, small animals and spiders, etc.

*Atriplex nummularia* is among the most commonly utilised forage shrubs in Australia and has become widely cultivated for stock fodder. This is primarily a result of its propensity to survive in harsh environments subject to flooding, drought and high levels of salinity, as well as being palatable to livestock due to the elevated mineral content of the plant.

The seeds from the plant are a traditional food source for many Indigenous Australian communities, both consuming them on their own and as a component of meals. *A. nummularia* is also used as a windbreak, stock shade, crop shelter-belt, screen or hedge, firebreak, erosion control and soil binder particularly for stabilising sand dunes as well as rehabilitating eroded or scorched soils.

Grubs found in the roots were eaten either raw or roasted by Noongar people (SW WA), and the leaves and roots were mashed and boiled with water, to bathe skin sores wounds and burns, while early settlers reportedly drank the same decoction to treat scurvy.

### **Plum Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*):**

Known as the plum pine, the brown pine or the Illawarra plum, is a species of *Podocarpus* endemic to the east coast of Australia, in eastern New South Wales and eastern Queensland.

It is a medium to large evergreen tree growing to approx. 10 to 30m tall, found the length of the Australian easter seaboard. The seeds and (highly valued) edible fruit are conjoined. The fruits are considered a significant bushfood and are used both commercially and domestically in jams, sauces, desserts and drinks, etc. Each mature tree can produce up to 10 to 15 kgs of fruit per year, however, much less in times of drought, etc.

The timber was prized for furniture making, joinery, boat planking, lining and piles in salt water. *Podocarpus elatus* is often used as an attractive ornamental street tree in landscaping. It is a butterfly host plant and the fruits attract fruit eating birds, such as Currawongs, which help disperse the seeds.

**QLD Silver Wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*):**

Is fast-growing (nitrogen-fixing) perennial tree that is widely cultivated. It is native to Australia and its uses include environmental management for soil stabilization and erosion control.

It grows to about 5m in height and about the same in total width. It blooms profusely during winter, which attract bees to its fragrant flowers. Its common names for it are Mount Morgan Wattle and Queensland Silver Wattle

The silver foliage of the Queensland Silver Wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*) is highly attractive and often used in floral displays. This species is native bird, bee, mammal and butterfly attracting, it is highly adaptable to a wide range of soils, likes full sun, is drought hardy and frost tolerant.

After flowering, the Queensland Silver Wattle produces seeds which have a mutually beneficial relationship with native ants. Each seed has a nutritious treat attached to it and the ants take the seed into their nests. Once the treat is eaten, the seed being naturally sown into the soil, waits for a bushfire before fructifying into more seedlings.

**Riberry Lillypilly (*Syzygium luehmannii*):**

Is a popular and highly sought after bushfood and pollinator attractor. It is a highly prized native food source – perfect for jams, drinks and sauces, bird and native bee attracting, good for edible hedging, etc. Often used in landscaping, has an attractive tear shaped leaf that is often a light pink colour on the new growth. In a good year, a mature tree can often produce up to 10 to 15kgs of fruit per year.

**Scrambling Lily (*Geitonoplesium cymosum*):**

The Scrambling Lily naturally grows as a vine in dry rainforests, drier forests and woodlands, of Eastern Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Fiji, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island.

The scrambling lily, also known as the native Asparagus has glossy green leaves, the flowers are mauve to white, which turn into a black fruit. The shoots can be harvested and eaten like asparagus and have a pleasant green pea / bean-like flavor.

This rarely cultivated native vine is both bird and butterfly attracting, frost tolerant native bushfood spreads from 1 - 3 metres, that does well in either full sun or part shade, in moist well-drained soils. The Scrambling Lily is a good trellis or fence climbing garden specimen!

**Stiff Jasmine (*Jasminum simplicifolium*) :**

A native climber with bunches of fleshy black berries, that can stain your fingers when crushed. The unripe green fruits have an attractive pearly sheen. Native birds eat the fruit and help proliferate the plant by dispersing the seeds.

Stiff jasmine is a hardy plant, growing in habitats ranging from wet rainforests where it is a large, woody-stemmed climber, to drought-prone vine scrubs where it grows as



a bulky scrambler. It will even thrive in an open site where it has nothing to climb on, becoming a large, tangled, bird-sheltering shrub.

A fast-growing plant, with fragrant white jasmine flowers, that can become ideal bird habitat when mature.

### **Warrigal Greens (*Tetragonia tetragonioides*):**

Warrigal Greens are Australia's answer to English spinach. These bush tucker greens have been used as a spinach substitute since early European colonisation in Australia. Interestingly, records don't show them featuring as widely in Aboriginal cooking, though they are known to have been part of Maori cuisine. This plant is native to both Australia and New Zealand, as well as Chile, Argentina and Japan.

You can use Warrigal Greens the way you'd use spinach, chard, silverbeet and bok choy. Like with spinach, the leaves are rich in oxalates, so should be blanched or cooked before eating. Small yellowish flowers will appear in Spring and Summer; these may be eaten as well in soups, stews, and as a steamed vegetable.

Warrigal Greens is a leafy green herb that grows in sunny to shady spots. They'll tolerate somewhat poor soil, but do better when kept moist in a rich, free-draining loam. This plant may die back during Winter, but may revive itself in the Spring. In colder regions, treat it as an annual.

This species grows in a sprawl over the ground out to about 200cm, reaching up to 20cm in height. It makes an excellent gap filler, ground cover or pot herb.

Warrigal is from the indigenous Dharug language, meaning "wild"!

### **Willow Acacia (*Acacia salicina*):**

*Acacia salicina* is a thornless species of Acacia tree native to Australia. The local common names of this species include Cooba and Willow Wattle. *Acacia salicina* is a large shrub or small evergreen tree growing from approx. 3 to 20m tall. The tree's seeds are shiny, black and edible to both humans and birds, animals, etc.

It has pale yellow flowers, which attract both native and European bees. It is also nitrogen-fixing and is a butterfly host plant.

*Acacia salicina* is naturally found throughout parts of Eastern Australia, where average yearly rainfall is from approx. 375-550mm, with the plant found growing in regions receiving more than 1500mm annually in northern Queensland and as low as 100mm annually in central Australia. Its natural altitude range is from 50-300m above sea level.

It does well in full sun exposure and it tolerates frosts down to - 6.7 deg. C. *A. salicina* can be used to help stabilize riverbanks and other areas. The tree's foliage and seed pods are important fodder for livestock during drought.

**White Cedar (*Melia azedarach*):**

*Melia azedarach* is native to Australia and South East Asia. Its natural distribution is from around Cooktown in north Queensland through to the south coast of New South Wales, however, it has also become naturalised in other areas of Australia, including the Kimberley region of Western Australia and southern parts of South Australia.

White Cedar belongs to the mahogany family Meliaceae. It is a deciduous shade tree that can reach approx. 12 metres high and sometimes up to 30 metres in favourable natural environments with a width of 6–8 metres. The plant has an average lifespan of about 20 years.

The flowers are small with five pale purple and white petals. The flowers are often found growing in clusters. The fruits are poisonous to humans and some other mammals but birds such as black cockatoos are able to eat the fruits and thereby disperse the seed through their droppings. Some reports suggest that ingesting the fruits can be fatal to humans.

White Cedar is often planted as a shade tree and used in landscaping due to its dense canopy. The fragrant lilac flowers and yellow fruits of White Cedar make it an appealing ornamental tree. The hard seeds of the plant can also be used in art and crafts, including making beads for rosaries.

The plant prefers open sun and can do well in partial shade too. It is hardy to most frosts and can withstand extended dry periods. It can also adapt to a wide range of soil conditions.

White Cedar flowers during autumn and fruits are produced thereafter, usually from March to August.

Cape lilac tree caterpillars (*Leptocneria reducta*), can defoliate the tree.

**Wombat Berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*):**

Commonly named wombat berry, is the sole species of evergreen vines that grow naturally in Malesia, the Pacific Islands and eastern Australia. They grow in sclerophyll forest, woodland, heathlands, shrublands, gallery forest and on the margins of and in rainforests.

Its flowers are pink to mauve or white, the berries are yellow-orange and contain numerous black seeds. The fruits are not considered edible for humans and are best left to the birds to consume, who will then disperse the seeds. Wombat berries form a habitat that attracts birds, bees and small invertebrates.

The tubers were traditionally eaten baked by Indigenous Australians, and have a sweet earthy flavour.