

# Gabbinbar

# Aboriginal Garden

# Trail

In the Year 4 HISTORY curriculum students investigate the following questions:

- What was life like for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples before the arrival of Europeans?
- What was the nature and consequence of contact between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and early traders, explorers and settlers?

The Aboriginal Garden Trail provides first-hand experience as students:

- *explore the diversity and longevity of Australia's first peoples*
- *recognise the ways Aboriginal peoples are connected to Country and Place*
- *and understand early colonists use of land and its impact*

**W**e acknowledge the Giabal and Jarawair peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which Gabbinbar State School now stands. We pay respect to their elders, past, present and future – and acknowledge that the land has always been a place of teaching and learning. This garden trail continues that tradition and furthers the Aboriginal word Gabbinbar' as meaning 'a beautiful place'.

## Gabbinbar

Creating a beautiful place to belong, inspire and grow.

A copy of this booklet is available from Gabbinbar School library.

# Area A – Our Place

*Acknowledging plants of significance  
to Aboriginal peoples  
on whose land we stand at Gabbinbar.*

**Begin exploring the garden trail in this central garden space near the Tuckshop and eating area. This garden of plants significant to Aboriginal culture was planted by Year 4s in 2015.**

## 1a. Grass tree (*xanthorrhoea latifolia*)



A useful plant that had many uses for Aborigines in the Toowoomba region.

Uses included: the dry flower-stems were used as spears and fire-sticks; the flowers were a sweet nectar source; the bases of the leaves are sweet and nutty; a waterproof resin was collected from the leaf bases for attaching barbs in spears and stone axes to handles; and the tough leaves were used as knives to cut meat. When flowering, native bees love this plant.

A local native plant.

## 2a. Quinine Bush (*Petalostigma triloculare*)



Quinine Bush

This is a small tree. It has yellow flowers, bitter tasting bright orange hairy fruit and medicinal bark.

Aborigines used the fruits for toothache by placing the fruit into the mouth but not swallowing them. The bark was infused to make an antiseptic to treat fevers and wounds.

A local native plant.

### 3a. Midyim Berry (*Austromyrtus dulcis*)

This small shrub grows naturally throughout the coastal areas of northern NSW and south-east QLD. The small white star flowers in Spring are followed by edible soft, sweet berries that are light purple with spots. Birds such as honeyeaters are attracted to this plant and the flower nectar feeds butterflies.

Midyim berries were a favourite food for coastal Aboriginal people.

A native plant mainly grown in coastal areas.

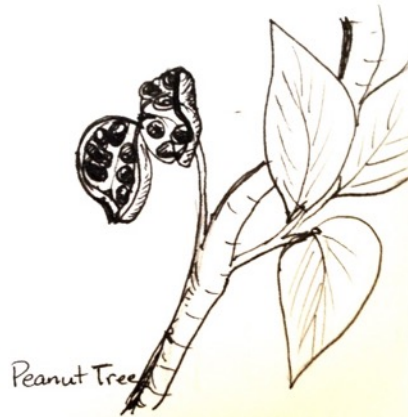


## 4a. Peanut Tree (*Sterculia quadrifida*)

This tree produces leathery, boat-shaped pods that ripen in Summer. The shiny, black seeds inside have a nutty 'peanut' flavour.

Aborigines ate the nuts raw and roasted and used the fibrous bark to make nets.

A local native plant.



## 5a. Pigface (*Corpabratus glaucescens*)

This plant brightens up our garden trail.

Aborigines ate the succulent green leaves, squeezed out the fleshy pink fruit that has a sweet, salty taste. Juice straight from the leaves can be used as a lotion to relieve the pain of burns and stings.

A native plant of Australian coastal areas including Botany Bay.



## 6a. Native grass (including *Poa labillardieri* & *Themeda triandra* or Kangaroo grass)

Native grasses and grasslands provide critical habitat for flora and fauna and traditionally, country for Aboriginal people to hunt and live.

Aborigines made use of many native grasses. For example grasses were used for bedding, matting, basket weaving and string making. Also the seeds were gathered for food and grass areas created to attract animals to be hunted such as kangaroos.

Europeans brought many different grasses to Australia. Today, there is active conservation of native grasslands. This is particularly important to protect native insects such as the Darling Downs Earless Dragon.



Native Grasses



## 7a. Devil's Marbles (*Eremophila debilis*)

This plant, like many plants has different common names. It has been called *Johnny Apple* and *Winter Apple*, and the name Devil's Marbles probably comes from the botanical name 'debilis'.

It is a ground cover plant with small flowers which can be white, pink or purple depending where it grows. Look for the edible sweet fruits in Winter.

Local aborigines would certainly have eaten the fruits of this plant and we can wonder at what indigenous name they gave the plant.

A local native plant.

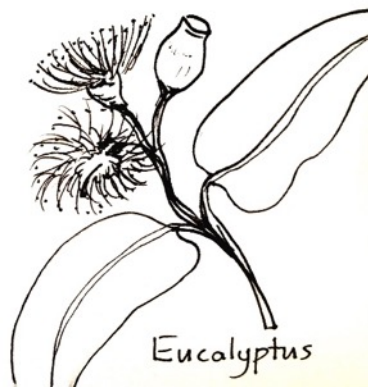


## 8a. Eucalyptus species (inc. *Eucalyptus* 'Summer red' )

Different species of eucalypts provided Aborigines with materials for medicines, smoking ceremonies, tools, didgeridoos, clap sticks, weapons and shelter, and many are still used today.

Crushed leaves release eucalyptus oil which can be used as an inhalant for colds, a disinfectant and insect repellent, compress for wounds, and boiled in water to make a lotion for aching muscles.

Many eucalypts or 'gum trees' are too large to be grown close to buildings. *Summer red* is a specially bred small eucalypt, suitable for our garden trail.



## 9a. Australian Cornflower (*Rhaponticum austral*)

This is an ENDANGERED LOCAL PLANT.

It looks similar to a scotch thistle. We can help our native insects by protecting this plant, collecting seeds and growing more Australian cornflowers.

A local native plant.

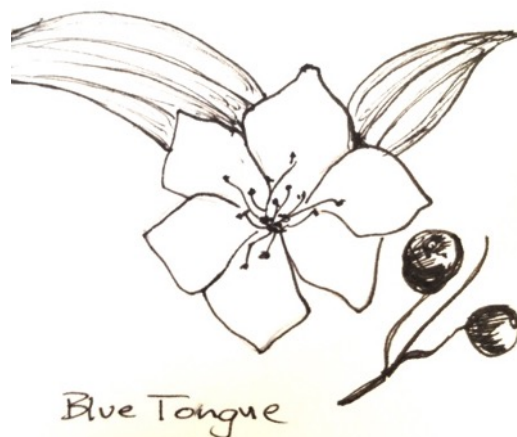


## 10a. Blue Tongue (*Melastoma malabathricum*)

This plant is found in many parts of Australia and Asia on the edges of forests. It is sometimes referred to as a native Rhododendron. The fruit is eaten by parrots.

Aboriginies ate this edible fruit. It is a tasty snack that will leave your mouth blue, but check with an adult before tasting it.

A native plant found in many places including from north-east QLD to north-eastern NSW.



## 11a. Yams (*various species*)

### & Warrigal greens (*Tetragonia tetragoniodes*)

Two significant foods for Aboriginal peoples.

**Yams** are the enlarged roots of several yam plant species. They are found in the wild all over Australia and still a popular bush food. Sometimes the only sign of yams is a flowering vine that is growing up a tree. Traditionally, Aboriginal women used a digging stick to dig up yam roots. They can be eaten raw, or cooked in the ashes of a fire.

**Warrigal greens** or wild spinach grows in many parts of Australia and was recorded by Early European visitors: firstly by Captain Cook in 1770, then by the First Fleet Europeans as a valuable source of 'greens' to avoid scurvy. Warrigal greens must be cooked and can be eaten in small quantities.

Local native plants.



## 12a. Lemon-scented Myrtle (Backhousia citriodora)

The fresh lemon-scented leaves or dried leaves are popular in cooking bush-tucker foods; used as a refreshing tea; also in Asian cooking and are added to cleaning products, shampoos, soaps and body lotions.

Crush a leaf and enjoy the smell.

Local native plant to northern NSW and southern QLD



Lemon-scented Myrtle

## 13a. Native Bees (*Tetragonula Carbonaria*)

'Sugarbag' or honey from these small native stingless bees was prized by Aboriginals who collected it from wild nests and traded it. Sugarbag honey is a rare product and hives only produce about 1kg of honey per year.

Native beeswax was used to seal wooden tools and make mouthpieces for didgeridoos.

Our hive has been carefully placed in a hollow log so that the bees can go about our garden trail collecting nectar and pollinating plants.

Take the time to WATCH the bees but DO NOT TOUCH.



Native Bee .

# Area B – Intermediate Walk

*Fibre and String plants and rocks can  
be found along this walk.*

**Starting from the Tuckshop and eating area, walk  
along the pathway on the Northern side of the  
Intermediate D block.**



## **1b. Melaleuca species** (*including paper-bark melaluca and fibrous bark melaluca*)

Traditionally, melaleucas were important and useful trees for aborigines. The leaves were crushed and rubbed on the skin for an insect repellent, and for antiseptic qualities.

The paper barks had many uses including using the sheets of bark for lean-to shelters, wrapping food, dressing wounds and making bandages, as sleeping mats and lining baskets for babies, and even natural raincoats. The wood was used for making spears and digging sticks. Look for nectar feeding bees, birds and insects enjoying the flowers on these trees.



## 2b. Blue Flax-lily (*Dianella congesta*)

The fibre of the leaf is very strong and suitable for splitting and twisting into cords or weaving into baskets. Some sources suggest the electric blue berries are edible, others say there is no evidence that they were eaten by Aborigines.

Local native species include: *Dianella caerulea* and *D. longifolia*.



Blue Flax Lilly

## 3b. Native Frangipani Tree (*Hymenosporum flavum*)

This partly deciduous tree has perfumed flowers in Spring. The tree attracts birds, native bees and other insects. Bark fibres were used by aborigines to make cords to bind things.

A local native plant.



## 4b. Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)

The leaves of this plant common to the Toowoomba area were useful for weaving and binding. The leaves were collected, dried and then moistened to make them pliable. After, they were used to make mats and baskets or stripped to make rope.

The white leaf bases were eaten and the seeds ground to make a type of damper.

This is also an important butterfly host plant for the Black-ringed ochre, Splendid ochre and Orange ochre butterflies.

A local native plant.



## 5b. Native hibiscus (*Hibiscus heterophyllus*)

This plant once common from Brisbane to Toowoomba, was recorded by the botanist Allan Cunningham in 1824. It has a small flower like the large garden hibiscus.

Traditional aboriginal uses included eating flower petals, and pounding the strong stem fibres to make string for dilly bags. The leaves and roots can be eaten and the flower buds made into a jam like rosella jam.

A local native plant.



## 6b. Birdwing Vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*)

This vine is an important larval food plant for the beautiful Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. The vine is thought to have grown on the Toowoomba escarpment.

Early Europeans brought a plant to Australia called The Dutchman's Pipe which nearly destroyed this large butterfly by tricking it into laying eggs on the leaves and when the larvae hatched and ate the Dutchman's pipe plant they died because it was poisonous.

You can research more about this plant and how you can help protect Richmond Birdwing butterflies at: [www.richmondbirdwing.org.au](http://www.richmondbirdwing.org.au)



## 7b. Rocks *(various rock types)*

Rocks of many types are present in the Toowoomba area which was once a volcano. Rock types include soft sedimentary sandstone in creek areas and hard, heavy basalt rocks on the Toowoomba range.

Traditionally, rocks had a very important place in the Aboriginal way of life including for tools, painting material and ceremonial stones.

Soft rocks were used to make ochre of different colours and are still used today for painting. Grinding stones were made from hard rocks that could grind seeds for flour. Cutting implements like axes and knives were chipped from very hard rocks such as quartz.

When Europeans settled this area they valued local rock and many of the old buildings in Toowoomba and Brisbane were built from sandstone that comes from below the range.

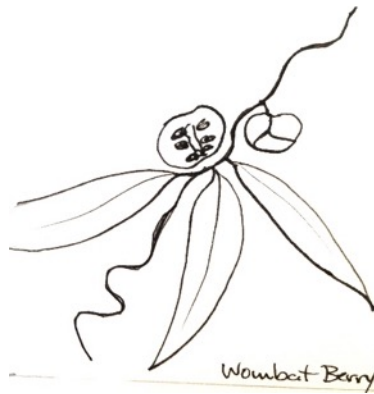
Basalt is an **igneous lava rock** local to the Toowoomba area.  
Sandstone is a **sedimentary rock** local to areas below the range.



## 8b. Wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*)

Aborigines found the tough stem useful for tying things. The roots may have been eaten by Aborigines, but the fruits do not seem to be eaten except for medicine.

A local native plant.





## 9b. Native Ferns *(various species)*

Many ferns are native to the Toowoomba area, from large Tree Ferns to small Maidenhair Ferns. Ferns grow well as a bottom-storey, ground level plant like can be seen in this area.

Epiphytic ferns also grow well in shaded cool, moist areas. *Epi* means 'upon' and *phyton* means 'plant', so an epiphytic fern grows upon another plant. Can you see one in this area?

Traditional aboriginal groups would have used ferns for different purposes depending on the particular fern, but commonly for fibre to make string, bags, rope and baskets.



## 10b. Ivory Curl Flower (*Buckinghamia celsissima*)

This Summer flowering tree has a wonderful scent. The flowers are a magnet for insects and insectivorous birds.

Aborigines may have used this plant for medicine and today scientists are also interested in its anti-bacterial properties.

A native plant of North Queensland.



# Area C - Entry Way

*Walking from the carpark entry see significant local trees.*

**Starting from the carpark entry, make your way down the driveway to find plants – particularly trees that were valued by both Aboriginal peoples and Early Europeans.**

**A baby Bunya Pine was planted in 2016 to honour the Boinya-boinya trail where Gabbinbar now stands.**

## 1c. Bunya Pine (*Arucaria bidwillii*)

Toowoomba was once on the important *boinya-boinya* trail from coastal SE Queensland to the Bunya Mountains where Aboriginal groups held a 'Bunya Feast' whenever the nuts were plentiful (approximately every 3 years). Groups from hundreds of kilometres away meet at special sites along the way for ceremonies, discussions, negotiations and trading of goods. The Bunya Pine is a totem for the local Jarowair people.



Traditionally the nuts were ground and made into a paste which was eaten raw or roasted over hot coals to make bread and today many modern recipes have been created for bunya nut foods. Gabbinbar's Bunya Pine stands at the entry of our school and honours indigenous peoples and wildlife that came before us.

A local native plant.

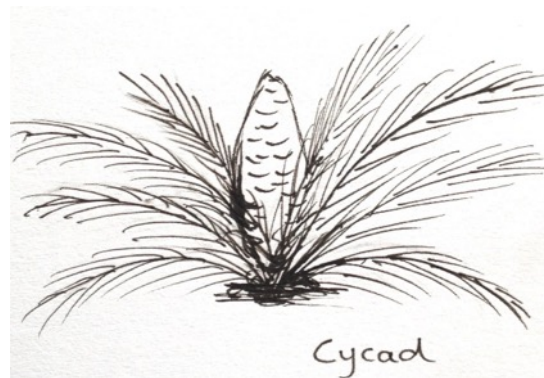
*Our Bunya pine is a baby but you can find Bunya Pines that were planted over 100years ago at the entrance of Cobb & Co Museum in Lindsay Street and other places around Toowoomba.*

## 2c. Cycads (*Macrozamia species*)

These beautiful ancient plants produce a large cone in the centre. They were known by the aboriginal name *Burrawang* around Botany Bay.

Samples of cycads were collected by Joseph Banks in 1770.

They are poisonous. Aborigines knew how to treat the seeds from the cones in running water for several weeks to remove the poison. They were then ground to a paste, cooked and eaten. In our school they are found at the entrance of the carpark and at the step entry near the library stairs.



### 3c. Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)

Silky oaks are fast growing trees and can live for 100 years. Aborigines used the flowers to make a sweet drink by dipping the whole flower-heads into water. Bees and rainbow lorikeets also love the nectar of the flowers.

These trees were harvested extensively in the Darling Downs region by early European settlers for making furniture.

A local native plant.



## 4c. Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolium*)

This tree looks like it is on fire when it flowers! It attracts insects, birds and butterflies. Aborigines roasted the seeds that are in large leathery pods.

A local native plant.



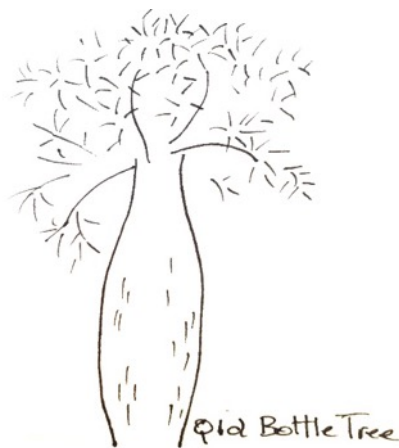
## 5c. Bottle tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*)

Also known as the Queensland bottle tree; it gets its name from the bottle shaped trunk. It is a deciduous, succulent plant, meaning it loses its leaves and it holds water.

Aborigines would cut into the trunk to drink the sap or eat the soft edible pulp; the fibres in the bark were used to make string for nets; and the seeds, roots and shoots were cooked and eaten.

Early Europeans used this tree to feed their cattle in times of drought.

A local native plant.

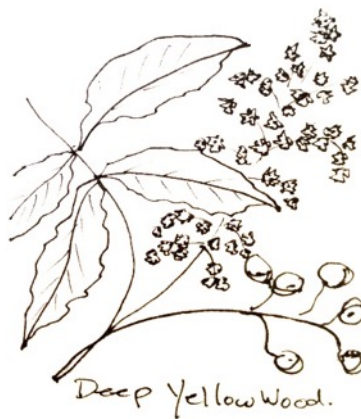




## 6c. Deep Yellow Wood (*Rhodosphaera rhodantheua*)

A dry rainforest tree that was once common, but early Europeans cut these trees down for timber. It is a relative of the mango tree and has masses of flowers that native bees love followed by berries. Aborigines ate the shiny brown fruits

A local native plant.

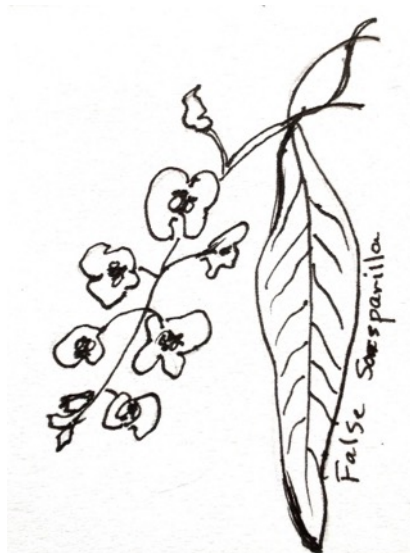


## 7c. False Sarsaparilla Vine (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

This vine grows in many parts of Australia, usually in open forests and is sometimes referred to as 'happy wanderer'. It flowers and fruits in Spring.

Early European settlers experimented with using the roots and leaves to make a tea because of its similarity to true sarsaparilla that grows in Europe.

A local native plant.



## 8c. Stringybark (*Eucalyptus species*)

This magnificent tree is one of the many species of eucalyptus that has a 'stringy' bark. Some have long stringy bark and others short stringy bark like this example. Many of these trees were traditionally used by Aborigines to make canoes from the inner bark.

Early Europeans also used the example of Aborigines to use the bark for roofing and the walls of huts.



# Area D – Bird Walk

*Walk up the path between the  
buildings to find important bird  
attracting plants.*

**Starting near the Native bee-hive walk up the pathway towards the Science and Music rooms then between the buildings towards Mackenzie Street to see plants that are important to bird life.**

## 1d. **Callistemon** species (including *Callistemon viminalis* 'Captain Cook')

Callistemon is a word made from two Greek words: 'callis; (beautiful) and 'stemon' (stamen); together they mean beautiful stamens which they are. The common name is 'bottlebrush'.

The flower spikes produce nectar. Birds and insects use the flowers for food and the tree is also a host for Witchetty grubs (larval stage of the cossid moth).

Traditionally, aborigines would have soaked nectar-laden flower heads in water to produce a sweet drink.



## 2d. Grevillea species *(many hybrid species)*

Like the banksias, grevillea flower spikes produce a nectar important to wildlife: bees, butterflies and birds.

Aborigines would have used the fresh flowers for sweetness by just sucking them or soaking them in water to produce a sweet drink.

Look for these trees throughout the school gardens.



### 3d. Tea-trees (*Leptospermum species*)

The common name for Leptospermums comes from the early European settlers who soaked leaves in boiling water to make a tea rich in Vitamin C. It is thought that Captain Cook used tea tree to boil a tea that helped prevent scurvy for the sailors.

Local aborigines used Tea Tree leaves as a medicine as well. Try crushing a leaf and enjoy the smell.



## 4d. Banksias (*including* Banksia robor)

Many banksia species are seen throughout the school gardens and are an important food and nectar source for native birds and insects. Banksias were named after Joseph Banks, the botanist who came to The Great South Land (Australia) with Captain Cook in 1770.

Aborigines had many uses for these beautiful trees. The flower spikes produce edible nectar; syrup for sore throats. The dry flower cones were used to strain drinking water or even as hair combs. Some groups used the woody cones as firebrands (burning wood that could be carried from place to place), and some groups used the wood to make a tool like a needle for weaving baskets and mats. A native plant.





## 5d. Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis parvifolia*)

The foliage and flowers are food for many Australian birds, caterpillars and butterflies.

Aborigines may have eaten the orange fruits but they are not considered very tasty. Today we value this tree for its shade. You can see it planted in many streets on footpaths.

A native plant.



## 6d. Tulipwood Tree (*Harpullia pendula*)

This tree was prized for its wood by early Europeans and most original trees were cut down in the Toowoomba area.

Traditional Aboriginal uses included using the wood for carvings and when fruiting catching birds for food.

Native doves including the top-knot pigeon frequently seen in our school gardens eat the fruit of this tree.

A local native plant.



## 7d. Spear Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*)

This large lily is a native plant to the Toowoomba Range. Aboriginal people may have roasted the roots or the base of the lily stalk. The large leaves would have been useful for carrying food.

A local native plant.



## 8d. Piccabeen Palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*)

The name of this plant comes from its Aboriginal name: pikki. It is a tall palm that sheds palm sheaths that were used as water and food containers and could even be used as a cradle for babies.

The bright orange fruits are loved by native birds.  
forest of Piccabeen palms can be seen at Ravensborne National Park.

A natural

A local native plant.



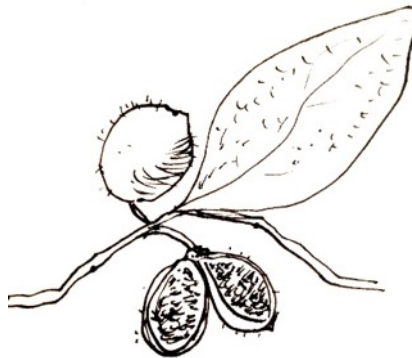
## 9d. Sandpaper Fig (*Ficus opposita*)

This small fig was a 'supermarket' tree for Aboriginal peoples because it had so many uses: food, shade, medicine, tools, firesticks to start fires and fibre to make string for nets and traps.

Birds also love this tree for the small fig fruits (which are really the flower receptacle).

The leaves are rough like sandpaper and were used to polish wooden objects such as spears and boomerangs, or even to rub rough skin smooth.

A local native plant.



Sandpaper Fig

# Area E – Junior Walk

*Walking down and up the pathway to  
the Juniors find plants special  
to both Aboriginal peoples and Early  
Europeans.*

**Starting near the Native beehive walk down the  
pathway to look for these plants.**

## 1e. Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum species*) and Holly Dovewood (*Alchornea ilicifolia*)

These are examples of native plants that were given European names.

The 'Holly' plant because its leaves resemble European holly that is used at Christmas time.

The Christmas Bush was growing extensively around Botany Bay and flowered at Christmas time so early Europeans cut branches to decorate their homes.



## 2e. Lilly-Pilly species (*Syzygium species*)

This was once a common bush-tucker plant for people and wildlife on the east coast of Australia. It was one of the first edible plants to be noted during Captain Cook's visit in 1770.

Traditionally aborigines ate the fruits raw and early colonist made the fruits into jams and Summer drinks. You can try tasting the fruits but check with an adult first.



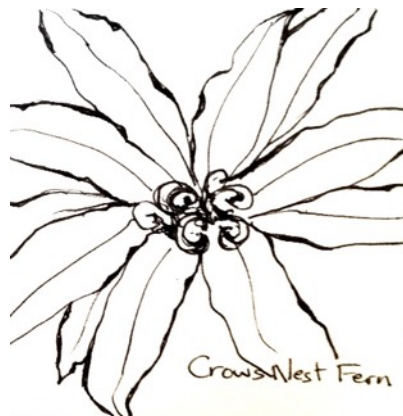


### 3e. Crows Nest Fern (*Asplenium australasicum*)

This is an epiphytic fern meaning it can grow in the air so you often see them growing in rainforest trees. Debris is caught in the saucer like centre of this plant where it provides a wonderful moist habitat for frogs and insects.

The young fronds were eaten by Aborigines as a vegetable.

A local native plant.



## 4e. Creeping Boobialla (*Myoporum acuminatum*)

The creeping boobialla ground cover is a native plant to many parts of Australia. It has white flowers in Summer followed by small edible purple fruits.

Aborigines would have enjoyed these small fruits as a food source.

A local native plant in many parts of Australia.



## 5e. Native Ginger (*Alpinia caerulea*)

Native gingers are beautiful plants found in many countries. They have edible berries and roots that taste like the ginger that we eat today. Leaves can be used to lay under or wrap meat cooked on an open fire.

Native ginger was traditionally so popular with aboriginal people that it is said that the seeds spat out along the trails would mark the trails for future use.

A local native plant.



## 6e. Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistonia australis*)

Known as 'daranggara' to the Eora people of Sydney when the First Fleet arrived. Aboriginal people used the leaves as roof thatch and for weaving baskets.

Early Europeans used these leaves to make a popular early colonial hat called the 'cabbage palm hat' to protect their fair skin from the hot sun. They processed the leaves by boiling, drying and bleaching the leaves in the sun, before weaving and plaiting the hat.

A native plant to the east coast of Australia.



## 7e. Native Tamarind (*Diploglottis cunninghamii* or *australis*)

Many Australian birds feed on the fruit of this rainforest tree including the crimson rosella, topknot pigeon, figbird and satin bowerbird. It is a host tree to the pale green triangle butterfly.

Aborigines also valued the fruit. Today it is added to jams and chutneys or can be made into a tangy cool drink.

A local native plant.



## 8e. Broad-leaved Palm Lily (*Cordyline petiolaris*)

A tall narrow palm with glossy red berries. Aborigines ate the berries of local species when fully ripe.

There are many cordyline plants from around the world in the school gardens.

This cordyline plant is a local native plant.



## 9e. Native Mint (*Mentha diemenica*)

There are about 90 different bush mints that have been identified in Australia. It is a ground cover plant with light coloured flowers in Spring and mint flavoured leaves.

Traditionally, aborigines used mints as a medicinal herb for headaches and illnesses. Early Europeans saw the value of this plant to make a refreshing tea and today we can enjoy smelling the minty leaves and add them to drinks.



Native Mint

## 10e. White Love Flower (*Pseuderanthemum variabile*)

This creeping plant provides pretty white flowers in Summer and a groundcover in our Aboriginal Garden Trail.

Perhaps aboriginal children once enjoyed the flowers as we do today and had a special name like the European name 'love flower'.

This plant is an important host to some local butterfly species including the varied eggfly butterfly. A local native plant.





## 11e. Wattle species (*including Acacia podalyriifolia – Queensland Silver Wattle*)

The Wattle is Australia's National Emblem.

Over 100 different wattle species were used by different Aboriginal groups.

Aboriginal uses included: the seeds of wattles were roasted and eaten, young pods eaten like peas; the gum of acacia species was used as a snack 'lolly' food especially by children or soaked in water to make a jelly (paler amber gums are sweeter than red-brown gums); timbers from wattle trees provided firewood, hunting spears and boomerangs and building materials for temporary shelters.

Wattles can also host witchetty grubs in the soil around their roots. Today wattle flowers and seeds are used in bush-food cooking.

Local native plants.  
Native bee species



# Area F – Play Space

*Find significant plants and trees in  
our playgrounds.*

**Begin in the Junior playground to find important shade trees that were significant in Aboriginal culture. With room to move, more significant plants could be added to this area.**

## 1f. Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*)

These trees were planted at Gabbinbar to provide shade in our Junior playground during Summer. In late Winter they lose their leaves for a short time so they are one of the few Australian deciduous trees. Early Europeans harvested Red Cedar for timber to make houses, furniture and shipbuilding.

Most large red cedar trees were cut down around Botany Bay after just 100 years of colonisation. Many were also cut down by 'cedar-getters' using handsaws from around the Toowoomba region by the early 1900s.

*Stand in the shade of our Gabbinbar Red Cedars and think about what uses Aboriginal peoples would have had for these giant trees that can live for over 200 years.*

A local native plant.



### 3f. Forest Sheoak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*)

The hardwood of these trees was often used by Aborigines for making boomerangs, clubs and shields.

The seeds are an important food source for cockatoos and the small seed cones may have been used by Aboriginal children to play games with.

Find casuarinas or she-oaks on our oval.

A local native plant.



## 4f. Queensland Nut (*Macadamia integrifolia*)

For thousands of years Aborigines feasted on these sweet delicious nuts that naturally grew on the slopes of the Great Dividing Range. They called them, *gyndl* or *jindilli* or *boombera*. Fallen nuts were collected in dilly bags and taken to feasting grounds.

Artefact stones with a round hole for holding the nuts have been found alongside a larger 'hammer' stone used for cracking the nuts. Oil was also squeezed from the nuts and used as a binder with ochres and clay for face and body painting.

Today, macadamia nuts are the most well-known of Australia's native bushfoods.

A local native plant.



Macadamia Nut

**TAKE CARE! Some information about bush foods and medicines may be anecdotal. Correct identification and preparation is essential before eating any bush foods.**

**Selected Sources and Further Information can be found with the following links:**

- Toowoomba Regional Council, Crows Nest Native Nursery -plants, information, identification:  
[www.toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com.au](http://www.toowoombaplants2008.blogspot.com.au)
- Australian Stingless Native Bees: [www.zabel.com.au](http://www.zabel.com.au)
- Toowoomba Bird Observers: [www.toowoombabirdobservers.org.au](http://www.toowoombabirdobservers.org.au)
- Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network:  
[www.richmondbirdwing.org.au](http://www.richmondbirdwing.org.au)
- Take a tour of USQ Gumbi Gumbi Gardens: use Gumbi Gumbi Mobile App
- Australian National Botanic Gardens: [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)
- Redland Bay Indigenous plant nursery and centre:  
[www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au)
- Bush Foods fact sheet from Queensland Museum: [www.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.qm.qld.gov.au)
- More about using bush foods: <http://tasteaustralia.biz/bushfood/>
- Bunya Mountains caring for Country plan:  
[http://www.bmrg.org.au/files/2313/7758/3382/Final-Bonye\\_Buru\\_Booburrgan\\_Ngmmunge-301010zzz.pdf](http://www.bmrg.org.au/files/2313/7758/3382/Final-Bonye_Buru_Booburrgan_Ngmmunge-301010zzz.pdf)
- For a books about Aboriginal peoples and their plants see:  
[https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Aboriginal\\_People\\_and\\_Their\\_Plants.html?id=BrQdF-uBCXgC](https://books.google.com.au/books/about/Aboriginal_People_and_Their_Plants.html?id=BrQdF-uBCXgC)
- Black Emu, Black Seeds: agriculture or accident? Bruce Pascoe 2014
- School Unit Plan C2C Unit 2 – History Year 4 (V3.0). Content descriptions, achievement standards and general capabilities © ACARA 2014. For more information about ACARA cross-curriculum priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders history and culture, see:  
[http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/cross\\_curriculum\\_priorities.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/cross_curriculum_priorities.html)



**Area E – Junior Walk**

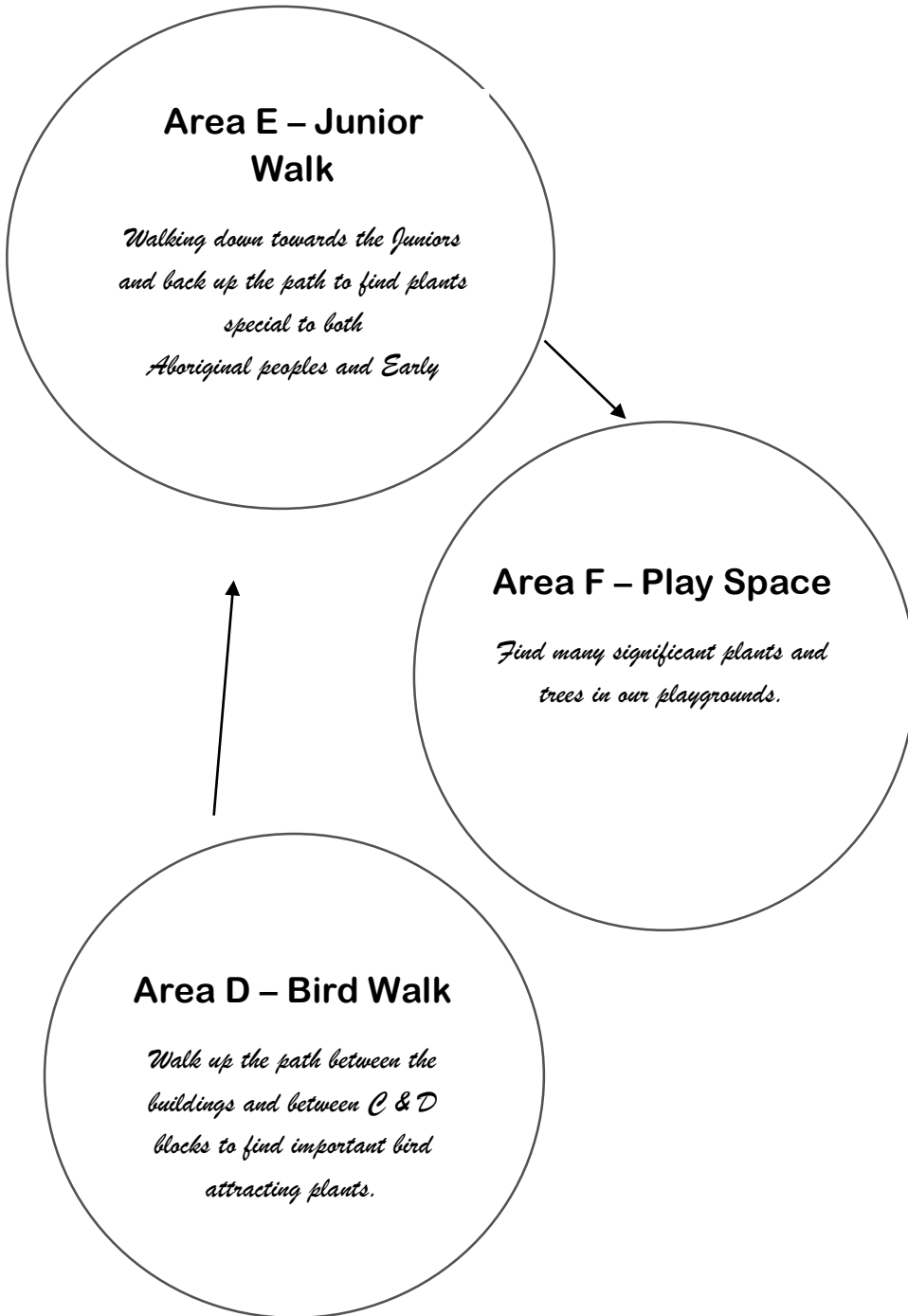
*Walking down towards the Juniors and back up the path to find plants special to both Aboriginal peoples and Early*

**Area F – Play Space**

*Find many significant plants and trees in our playgrounds.*

**Area D – Bird Walk**

*Walk up the path between the buildings and between C & D blocks to find important bird attracting plants.*





## An Important Note:

Aboriginal groups hunted and gathered food and materials sustainably for over 60,000 years before Europeans came to colonise this land.

European settlers needed food, building materials and medicines so experimented with plants similar to ones they knew and others they saw being used by local people.

It is important to note that Australian Aborigines and Europeans came from very different cultures and environments. They had different beliefs and understandings about food, health, sickness, lifestyles and seasons. But today we can learn from both Western European and Indigenous cultures to look to a future that values our local plants.

## A USEFUL LIST

<p><b><u>Food:</u></b>  <b>Seeds &amp; nuts:</b> 4a, 1c, 2c, 4b, 4c, 11e, 4f,   <b>Fruits:</b> 3a, 7a, 10a, 9d, 2e, 4e, 7e, 8e,  <b>Other:</b> 11a, 12a, 13a, 2c, 6d, 7d, 5e,</p>	<p><b><u>Drinks &amp; teas:</u></b>  12a,3c,7c 1d, 2d,</p>
<p><b><u>Medicine:</u></b>  2a, 5a, 8a, 1b, 10b, 3d, 9d, 9e, 2f.</p>	<p><b><u>Clothing</u></b>  raincoat- 1b, hat- 6e,</p>
<p><b><u>Tools</u></b>  1a, 8a, 1b, 7b, 4d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 3f,</p>	<p><b><u>Houses &amp; timber</u></b>  3c, 6c, 8c, 6d, 11e, 1f,</p>
<p><b><u>Fibre &amp; String</u></b>  6a, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 8b, 9b, 5c, 9d,</p>	<p><b><u>Baskets &amp; containers</u></b>  6a, 1b, 2b, 7d, 8d, 6e,</p>
<p><b><u>Fire</u></b>  1a, 4d, 9d,</p>	<p><b><u>Music instruments</u></b> 8a,  <u>Paint</u> 7b</p>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANKS go to: Coles/Landcare for the seed funding grant and Toowoomba Regional Council. staff, students, P&C parents and community friends of Gabbinbar State School Toowoomba Queensland

Information about the trail compiled by M. Elvery (Year 4 class teacher, 2017)