

# Carrum Carrum to Corhanwarrabul

## ONCE AS IT WAS

Discover the Natural, Cultural and Ecological Treasures

forested feet of ancient mountain ranges

from vast magical wetlands, to the

of Greater Dandenong and beyond

Mean - The last Bone  
Manager and Fire Keeper  
80000 - The Aboriginal  
Great Creator of the Bunurong people



**LEGEND**

MORDIALLOC  
modern suburb name

MOODY YALLOCK  
traditional Bunurong name

- Eucalyptus Woodlands
- Wetlands & Floodplains
- Oyster & Shellfish beds, reefs
- Foothills, Rises & Ranges
- Illustration extracts drawn by Aboriginal artist Tommy McRae S.E. Australia 1836-1901
- Mangroves

This special 'Once As It Was' Map is the combination of several different maps merged into one.

All based on some of the earliest observations by Europeans of this special land.

We are all the newest custodians of these ancient lands to which we now all call 'Home'!

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We Acknowledge the local Bunurong custodians, past and present, the Elders and the Ancestral Spirits, and we honour the Land upon which we live and work.

We also Acknowledge the shared custodianship in the health of the Land in which we all must embrace and act upon.

This map was developed by Dean Stewart of Aboriginal Tours and Education Melbourne A-TAEM and City of Greater Dandenong IAHP New Directions Mothers and Babies Services in collaboration with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, City of Greater Dandenong Council, City of Casey Council, Frankston City Environment Team and the design team at Green Scribble.

This project has been supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme.

This eco-map project has been endorsed by

### CARRUM CARRUM | The Carrum Wetlands



Lagoon in Carrum Carrum swamp evening c.1872 J.W Curtis Courtesy NGA  
"The call of the Kookaburra was heard everywhere ... when - Oh! Wild turkeys. But what are those tall things over yonder? A flock of native companions (the Brolga)" 1854 Recollections of W. Bruton

Carrum Carrum was once the ecological jewel of early Melbourne's original wetlands - our 'Temperate Kakadu'.

This ancient wetland was huge, stretching from today's Mordialloc to Frankston and reaching back into Dandenong. It covered over 5000 hectares of land, and was many thousands of years old, second only to 'The Great Swamp', the vast Koo-wee-rup wetlands to the East.

Carrum Carrum was the thriving heart of the entire region, with Dandenong and Eumemmering creeks as twin aorta, pumping life giving fresh water from the mountains into a rich wetlands eco-system teeming with life. It was a place of Brolga, Swan, Duck, Cape Barren Geese and Wallaby, with its waters rich in Eel, Fish, Turtle, Frogs and Mussels. It was also a vital migratory point for innumerable other indigenous animal, bird and insect species.

For the traditional Bunurong people Carrum Carrum was a physical and spiritual focal point. For the Europeans it was an intolerable hindrance, and they rapidly set about draining away this natural wonder.

Today only remnants of beautiful Carrum Carrum remain, being Edithvale and Seaford wetlands. These two surviving reserves represent less than 15% of the original Carrum Carrum, even so both sites are now declared international RAMSAR wetlands protected under law for their global ecological significance.

After 100 years absence Brolga may dance once more in Seaford!

### CORHANWARRABUL | The Dandenong Ranges



Ferntree Gully in the Dandenong ranges E. von Guerard c.1857 Courtesy NGV

This low mountain range, the Dandenongs, or Corhanwarrabul is actually an ancient 300 million year old mega volcano!

Massive eruptions of molten lava spilling out over a huge area. After many millions of years of uplift and erosion the deep rich soils and increased rainfall created a dense forest of ancient tree ferns, lyrebirds and towering Mountain Ash Eucalyptus trees.

The Mountain Ash of Corhanwarrabul are one of the tallest trees on earth, rivaling the giant Sequoia Redwoods of California.

The foothills of Corhanwarrabul were traditional winter sanctuaries for the Mayone Bulluk Bunurong clans, with all the remaining extensive forested ranges being the heartlands of the Wurundjeri balluk and willam clans of the Woiwurrung people.

Traditionally every mountain peak and rivulet had an ancestral name and song, with special sacred places hidden deep within quiet gullies, secluded caves and cascading waterfalls.

Today there still exists the cathedral like majesty of these ancient forests, to the elusive performance of the superb lyrebird song echoing within its valleys, within the ancient Corhanwarrabul ranges.

As is the deep connections and its equally ancient spirit!



# CARRUM CARRAM TO CORHANWARRABUL

## Once As It Was

AN ECO-MAPPING PROJECT  
from vast magical wetlands,  
to the forested feet of ancient  
mountain ranges

### COME ON A JOURNEY

Discover the Natural, Cultural  
and Ecological Treasures of  
Greater Dandenong and Beyond

A SHARED HISTORY  
A SHARED ECOLOGY  
A SHARED HOME

#### OLD WAYS, NEW MOB!

Take the young of your clan on a journey of Knowledge. Learn them up! And learn yourself. Walk the Land, connect with the natural world - not the TV room.

For thousands and thousands of years before modern times, all learning by the young, the imparting of their entire world, that deep ecological lore and cultural knowledge was done by family, by the clan.

By Mums, by Dads, by Aunties, by Uncles, and by the Elders. Learning was deep observation and listening, not just of the Elders, but listening to the very land itself. Learning was also walking the lands, walking country, walking your home.

Consider, traditionally you would walk several kilometres every single day, harvesting foods and resources from diverse local ecosystems for all your community, your clan to share in.

Everyone had a role, all striving to support the whole. All would have been up and walking by very early morning, but most would be back home by early afternoon, their working day done. The rest of the day spent in other pursuits, then leisurely preparing the evening communal dinner amongst friends and family.

Learning was also by song, and by performance. You sung the land, the rivers, the trees. You danced the seasons and the animals. You sung the ancestors and spirits.

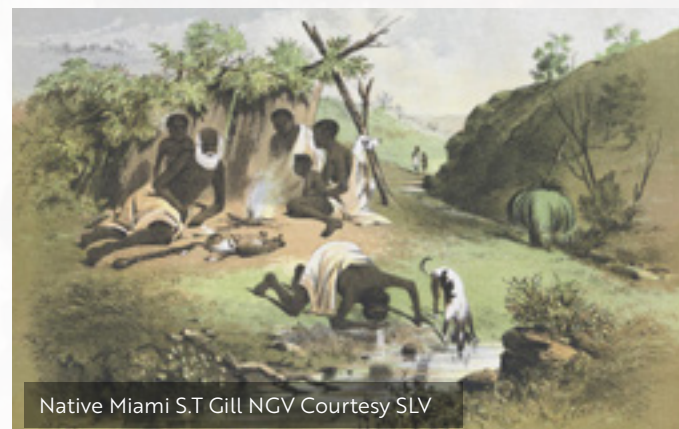
You sung the stars and danced the Moon and Milky Way.

Please take this brochure and walk this land, your home. Rediscover the precious surviving ecological places.

Teach in the Old Ways, by walking & connecting back with these bushland reserves. Take the time to listen, to observe and to feel.

Drink deep in the land - and who knows you may hear the land singing softly to you.

The deeper you look, the deeper you understand.



Native Miami S.T Gill NGV Courtesy SLV

Discover more  
victoriancollections.net.au/stories?theme=aboriginal-culture'



## The Richness of Life

OF GREATER DANDENONG AND BEYOND

### The Ecological Vegetation Communities (EVC) Map of Greater Dandenong

Look at the many different colours on the EVC map shown here.

It may look like a painting but what it shows are all the innumerable types of local indigenous plants, indigenous animals and natural ecosystem communities that once existed throughout this land, and which today is now all cars, concrete and crowds.

Realize each coloured ecosystem means different plants, animals, soils and micro climates, meaning huge diversity in traditional bush foods, medicines, fibres etc. Each ecosystem and its many traditional uses was like us today going to our supermarket and trolleying down aisle 1, then 2, then 3 on shopping day.

All these different local plants and animals were deeply understood, used and greatly respected by untold generations of the first nations Kulin people. For thousands of years right here existed an entire society, a complete economy and a spirituality that had found and lived a deep balance with the earth and the natural world.

First nations society understood they were but one community - a human community amongst and dependent upon innumerable natural communities they all shared the land with.

We are but a single star amongst the constellation of natural communities - all bound together physically, and bound in spirit.

The ancient local people knew this - It's our turn now!

Don't be a tourist of your own Home, get to know your own ecological backyard.

Our Time, Our Turn!

Discover more  
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-nature-and-wildlife/  
growing-biodiversity

#### Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve

Ecology type: SANDBELT  
HEATH & WOODLANDS



Tucked away within the sprawling suburbs of Springvale is a precious piece of ancient heathland and woodland. Reduced to just 2.5 hectares, these rich ecosystems of Sandbelt

habitat once covered many 100's of hectares right across this local landscape, and were home to diverse and unique animals, birds and plants.

So precious was this fragment of ancient ecosystem that local community fought hard and long to save this beautiful bushland remnant. An 8ft high environmental fence strengthens this ecological protection.

Today a beautiful new Environmental Education Centre and Sensory Trail now deepens that protection through creative programs of environmental awareness & connection, and the vital role we all play to ensure its survival

Explore more treasures: Coomoora Reserve, Rowan Woodlands Reserve

Discover more  
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces/parks-and-reserves

#### Frank Pellicano Reserve

Ecology type: RIVER RED  
GUM WOODLANDS



To walk this isolated reserve is like walking back in time; vast River Red Gum forests that once covered much of Greater Dandenong and beyond. This special reserve is one

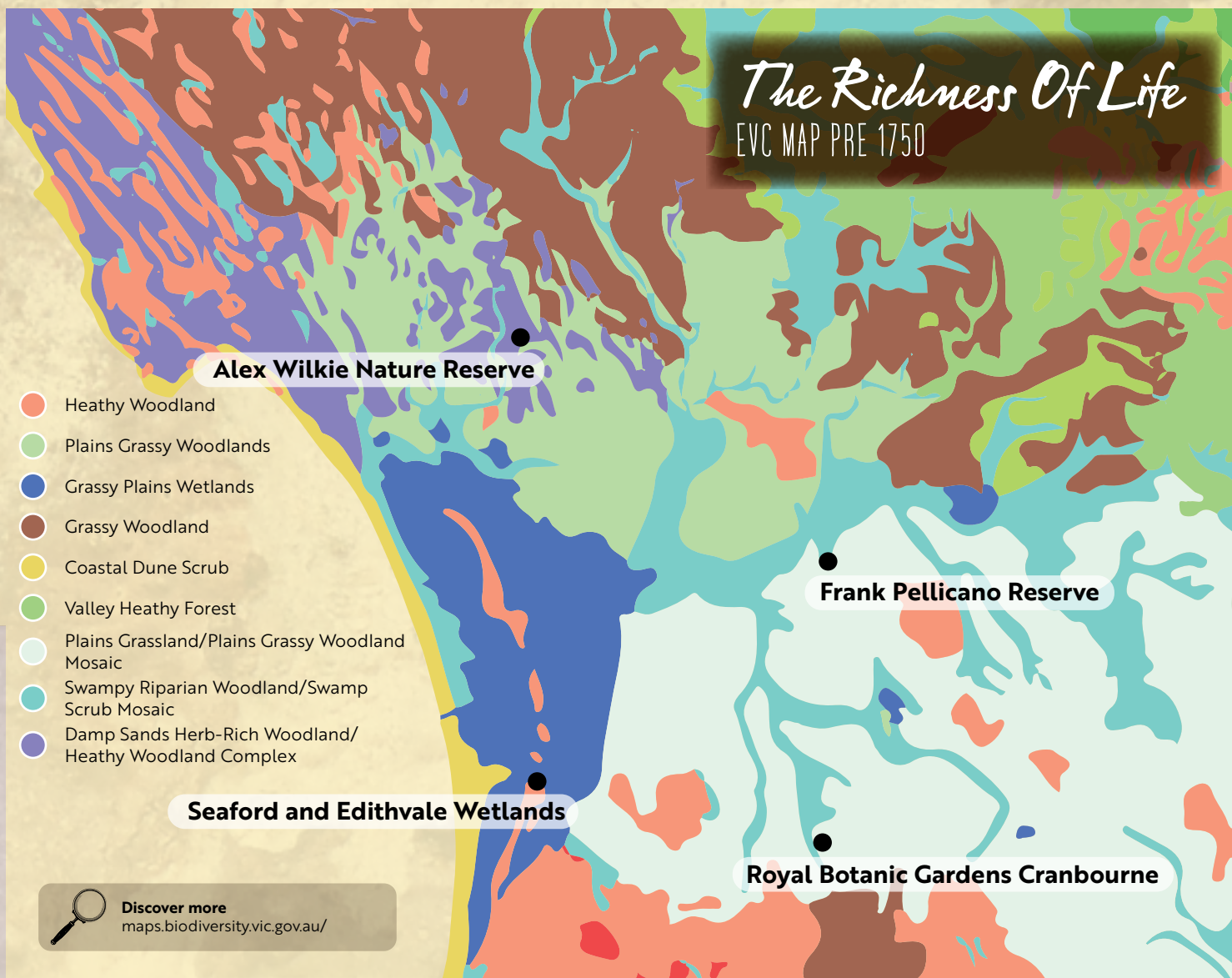
of the largest surviving stands of River Red Gums in the entire Gippsland Bioregion, and includes other rare and endangered indigenous plants and animals and is now a designated eco-fenced Conservation Zone.

These huge Eucalypt forests were clear-felled with the arrival of Europeans and literally 'fuelled' the progress of colonial Melbourne. Today this rare reserve is completely encircled by sprawling concreted industrial estates.

Take a quiet walk in this very, very special piece of land and you can still feel the deep spirit here.

Explore more treasures: Monash Reserve, Bowmans Redgum Reserve, Fotheringham Reserve

Discover more  
www.casey.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/user-files/Indigenous  
Plant Guide Casey and Cardinia.pdf



#### Seaford and Edithvale Wetlands

Ecology type: WETLANDS  
AND BILLABONGS



Seaford and Edithvale Wetlands are the last remnants of the vast Carrum Carrum wetlands.

Wetlands, Billabongs and extensive floodplains covered large areas of Melbourne's South East region for thousands of years. They filled and overflowed across the landscape in Winter, then contracted over Summer, repeating the cycle all over again next season.

Wetlands are the ecological heartbeat, the rhythm and pulse of the entire natural landscape.

Like any heartbeat this seasonal pulse means life – and these wetlands teemed with life. From indigenous fish, frogs, plants, yabbies, birds, kangaroo, geese and turtle; the list was endless.

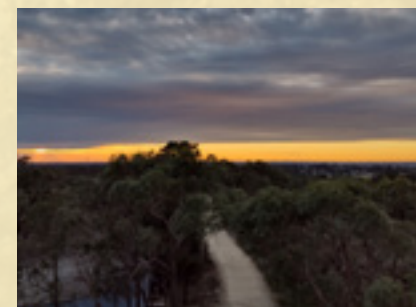
Seaford and Edithvale Wetlands were almost destroyed in just 4 generations of modern Melbourneans but their survival and protection give a beautiful vision, and a hope, of bringing back these unique and vital ecosystems

Explore more treasures: Tirhautuan Wetlands, Hidden Grove Reserve, Falkiner St

Discover more  
frankston.vic.gov.au/Environment\_and\_Waste/Environment/  
Biodiversity

#### Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Ecology type: HEATHLANDS,  
WOODLANDS AND  
WETLANDS



RBGC as it is fondly known, is a large remnant of precious bushland, over 350 hectares (900 acres) in fact, and completely surrounded by one of the fastest growing suburban developments in modern Melbourne.

It is a bushland of recognised State conservation significance for local flora and fauna, including many rare and endangered indigenous species. It is still home to wombats, echidna, wedge-tail eagles, 6000-year-old peat swamps, innumerable orchids species and is one of the last and largest surviving populations of the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

The new 15 hectare multi-million dollar 'Australian Garden' showcases 170,000 uniquely Australian continental plants and sculptural landforms from right across our 'Great Southern Lands'.

Explore more treasures: Grandeur Nature Reserve, Hilltop Nature Reserve

Discover more  
rbg.vic.gov.au/learn/early-childhood-excursions/balee-koolin-  
bubup-playgroup/

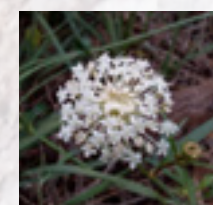
This project has been supported by:



### BUSH FOODS

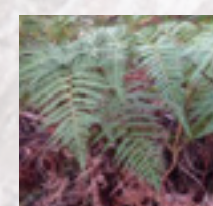
#### ALEX WILKIE NATURE RESERVE

SANDBELT HEATH & WOODLANDS



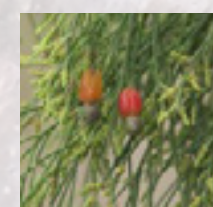
**River Red Gum – Tarchymene composita**  
Traditional name : **unknown**  
Type: Seasonal herb

USES:  
• The underground tubers provide a starchy food - roasted or raw.  
• Similar tuber plants were important stable traditional food sources including numerous orchids, lilies and yam daisies.



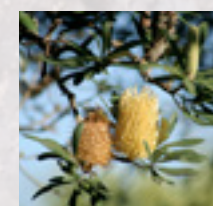
**Bracken - Pteridium esculentum**  
**Djabwurrung: Mookitch**  
Type: Spreading fern

USES:  
• Roots were roasted in fire, beaten to a paste with water to remove the fibres then baked in fire  
• Young curling shoots crushed and juice used for insect bites. Bracken leaves are poisonous.



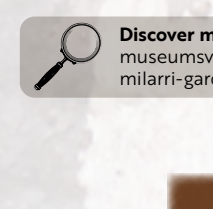
**Cherry Ballart - Exocarpus cupressiformis**  
**Kulin/Woiwurrung: Ballee**  
Type: Medium tree

USES:  
• Wood used for tools and spear throwers  
• Ripe red berries eaten and great bait to entice emu  
• Medicine sap recorded as traditional use for snakebite  
• Was used for Ceremonial smoking.



**Coast Banksia - Banksia integrifolia**  
**Woiwurrung/Kulin: Woortike**  
Type: Medium/large tree

USES:  
• Flowers soaked in water to extract nectar and create a sweet drink  
• Dried flowers used as water strainers and excellent as fire starters  
• Vital for many types of birds, animals and bugs.

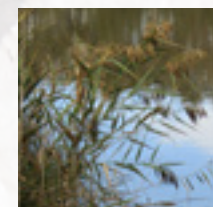


Discover more  
museumsvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/about-us/the-plants-of-  
millarri-garden/

### BUSH FOODS

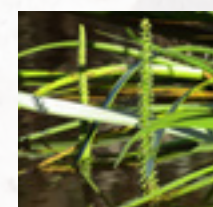
#### SEAFORD AND EDITHVALE WETLANDS

WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS



**Common Reed - Phragmites australis**  
**Djabwurrung: Taark**  
Type: Aquatic reed

USES:  
• Straight stems used for spear shafts  
• Leaves dried, split and woven string, rope, baskets  
• Fibrous roots beaten to a paste and starchy content roasted  
• Young white shoots can be eaten raw  
• Stems dried and cut into small lengths and strung into elaborate necklaces, headbands, nose pegs and ornamentation.



**Water Ribbons - Triglochin procera**  
**Kulin/Watharung: Pol-an-go**  
Type: Aquatic lily

USES:  
• Large starchy tubers collected and cooked in ground ovens.



**Kangaroo Apple - Solanum laciniatum**  
**Gunditjmarra: Mookitch**  
Type: Medium shrub

USES:  
• Ripe orange/red fruit eaten raw or cooked, Poisonous when green  
• Unripened fruit used for birth control.



**Matrush, Spiney headed - Lomandra longifolia**  
**Kulin/Woiwurrung: Karawun**  
Type: Medium tree

USES:  
• Leaves dried, split woven for eel traps, nets, bags, string, ornaments  
• White base of leaves eaten raw  
• Seeds collected and ground into a flour/paste.

Discover more  
advance.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Uses-for-  
Native-Plants-of-the-Mornington-Peninsula.pdf

### BUSH FOODS

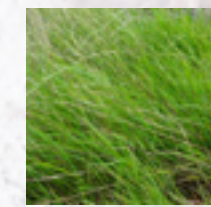
#### FRANK PELLICANO RESERVE

RIVER RED GUM WOODLANDS



**River Red Gum - Eucalyptus camulduis**  
**Woiwurrung/Kulin: Be-al**  
Type: Large tree

USES:  
• Bark also used to make houses, tools, shields, weapons, containers, art and canoes. Sap used to seal burns and mixed with water to treat diarrhoea  
• Leaves crushed and used as strong antiseptic for wounds and colds  
• Used for Ceremonial and cleanse smoking.



**Weeping Grass - Mircaleana stipoides**  
**Kulin/Djadja wurruung: Wuuloitch**  
Type: Grass

USES:  
• Grass seed collected and ground into a flour/paste  
• Used in the same way as Kangaroo Grass Themada seed.



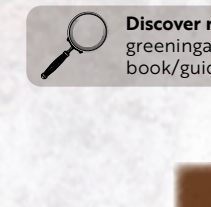
**Bullrush/Cumbungi - Typha domingensis**  
**Gunditjmarra: Poortetch**  
Type: Aquatic reed

USES:  
• Leaves dried, split and woven for eel traps, nets, rope, baskets, ornaments  
• New white shoots and base of leaves can be eaten raw  
• Roots beaten to a paste and the rich starch roasted or steamed in earth oven  
• Root fibres used for string.



**Grass Tree - Xanthorrhoea minor**  
**Kulin/Woiwurrung: Baggup**  
Type: Grass tree

USES:  
• Nectar from flowers. Roots eaten as well as soft young leaves  
• Waterproof resin used to fasten axe heads and as a sealant  
• Dried stems made excellent firedrill bases.

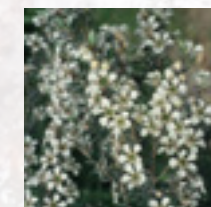


Discover more  
greeningaustralia.org.au/publications/koori-bush-tucker-garden-  
book/guide\_koori-bush-tucker-garden-book/

### BUSH FOODS

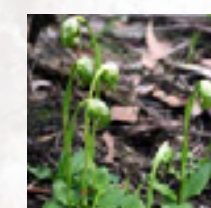
#### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS CRANBOURNE

HEATHLANDS, WOODLANDS, & WETLANDS



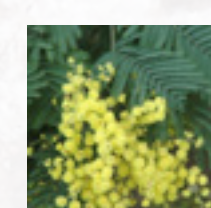
**Woolly Tea Tree - Leptospermum lanigerum**  
**Kulin/Woiwurrung: Woolip**  
Type: Medium tree

USES:  
• Branches used for spear shafts, digging sticks  
• Flowers soaked in water to extract nectar and create a sweet drink  
• Medicine leaves used as an antiseptic for wounds, skin & respiratory conditions.



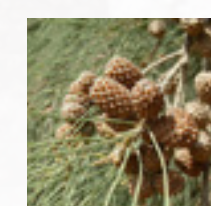
**Orchids Greenhood - Pterostylis nutans**  
Traditional name : **unknown**  
Type: Seasonal herb

USES:  
• The underground orchid tubers provide a starchy food - roasted or raw, but only with the knowledge of where best to look when not flowering and visible.



**Silver Wattle - Acacia dealbata**  
**Woiwurrung/Kulin: Muyan**  
Type: Medium tree

USES:  
• Wood used for stone axe handles, Gum mixed with ash as strong resin glue  
• Food Grubs in timber, Gum eaten fresh or collected and stored in dry place for later  
• Gum also dissolved in water with nectar for nutritious drink  
• Medicine scrapped bark infused with water as an indigestion remedy.



**She Oak - Allocasuarina verticillata**  
**Kulin/Woiwurrung: Wayetuck**  
Type: Large tree

USES:  
• Hard wood used for tools, weapons and shields  
• Young shoots and cones were eaten to allay thirst  
• When windy the trees sing, full of spirit.

Discover more  
rbg.vic.gov.au/learn/early-childhood-excursions/balee-koolin-  
bubup-playgroup/