

Indigenous Plant Use

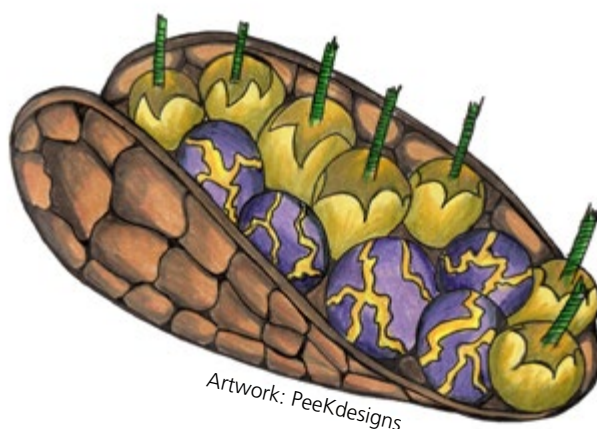
FACT SHEET

www.wirraminna.org/drdave-outback/

When you look at a woodland what do you see? Most people would agree with Dr Dave that they see habitat for native animals and plants. From an Aboriginal perspective, woodlands are more like a supermarket that has been providing for the needs of Aboriginal Australians for thousands of years.

Traditional uses of native plants include:

- tools
- fishing nets
- adhesives (glues)
- weapons
- dyes
- fish poisons - used to stun fish
- food and sweet drinks
- medicine



Artwork: PeeKdesigns

EXAMPLES OF INDIGENOUS PLANT USE

Drooping She-oak: A very important food plant for the Glossy-black cockatoo. The strong hard wood is suitable for making handles of tools like stone axes.

Ruby Saltbush: the colourful pink and red fruit make a sweet snack. They are also used to make a dye.

Silver Wattle: Seeds are a protein rich food source. The resin is an all-purpose adhesive. The bark is used as a fibre and a fish poison.

Currawang: A tall plant that grows on rocky outcrops. The long straight trunks were the perfect choice for making spear shafts. It is also called Spearwood.

Quandong: A parasitic plant that latches onto other plants underground. Bright red sweet tasting fruits. Can be used to make jam.

Cats-paw Grevillea: Has woolly leaves and abundant orange flowers that are full of nectar. These flowers were dipped in water and shaken around to make a sweet drink.

Kangaroo Grass: Really important plant for habitat for legless lizards, dunnarts and seed eating birds like the Diamond firetail. The fibres in the leaves and stem were used to make very strong string. This could be used to make fishing nets.

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ACTIVITIES

www.wirraminna.org/drdave-outback/

Use the "Wiradjuri Plant Guide" on the Murray Local Land Services website to fill in the details on the table. Choose three other plants to complete the table.

www.murray.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/publications

NAME	WIRADJURI NAME	USES
Pituri		
Grass tree		
Eurah		
Native millet		
Native yam		
Hopbush		
Red stringybark		
Wild flax		