



# Bush Trail

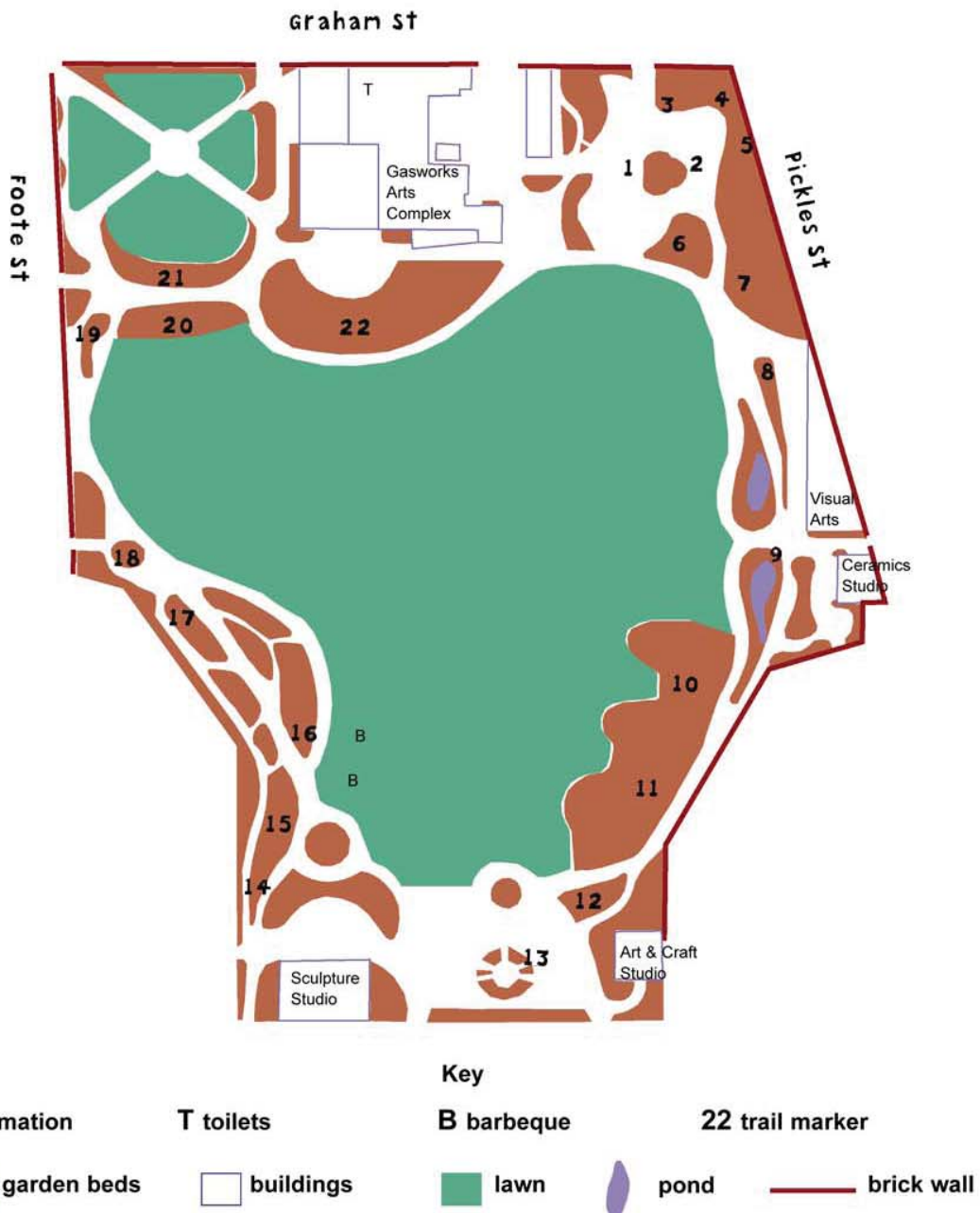
## Gasworks Arts Park, Albert Park

Australian native plants have a unique range of uses. Information provided by indigenous people throughout Victoria shows that over 1,050 different species of native plants were used for all the daily necessities of life. These uses included food, canoes, homes, tools, ornaments and treating sickness. Newly arrived settlers also found many of these plants essential for everyday living.

There were many aboriginal language groups living along the Victorian coastline who utilised the plants for food and medicinal purposes. We thank the Wurundjeri and Boonwurrong people who were two such groups whose advice was welcomed on this project.

The Bush Trail takes you on a journey of discovery exploring the plant life of Melbourne's coastline. Today we still make products from many of these plants including medicines.

Start your journey at the information board in the Gasworks Art Park, Albert Park (Melway Ref 57, D4). Walk along the trail using this guide as a reference to the plants. The local indigenous plant name is provided where it is known.



### **1. KUMMEREE OR PIGFACE**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation squeezed this plant for its water which was used as a painkiller for stings and burns. The summer fruit was also eaten.

### **2. WARRIGAL SPINACH**

The convicts and settlers of Botany Bay ate this spinach raw or cooked.

### **3. NATIVE BULB BED**

This bed contains Murnong (Yam Daisies), Pike (Leek Lillies) and Chocolate Lillies. The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation ate these bulbs raw or cooked.

### **4. LILLY PILLY**

Women settlers made jam from the berries of the Lilly Pilly.

### **5. KABIN OR RUNNING POSTMAN**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the long tough stems of this plant for rope and the nectar was sucked from the flowers.

### **6. 'KURWAN' OR BURSARIA**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the flowers of this plant for their sweet nectar and the timber was used to make tools. Sunscreen is made from a chemical called 'aesculin' which is found in the leaves of this plant.

### **7. 'KUUNGURRUN' OR WEDGE LEAF HOP BUSH**

Early settlers brewed ale with this plant instead of using traditional hops.

### **8. 'BOWAT' OR POA GRASS**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the grass blades of this plant to weave string baskets and nets for fishing.

### **9. REEDS AND RUSHES**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the common reed to make spear shafts. Bulbs and roots of the Bulbrush, Clubbrush and 'Polango' (water ribbons) were ground and baked.

### **10. AUSTRAL INDIGO**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used this plant as a source of blue dye and also as a fish poison. Blue dye was made from the Flax Lily and its leaves were also used for basket making and string.

### **11. EUCALYPTUS**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the bark of Eucalyptus trees to make canoes, shields and roofing. The tree's gum was used to treat dysentery and burns. The leaves of the Eucalypt are commonly known to be beneficial for coughs, colds, rheumatism, disinfectant and insect repellent.

### **12. SWAMP PAPERBARK**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the bark sheets of this tree for roofing and to make blankets and bandages. The flowers yield sugar and the wood was used to make digging sticks, clubs and spears. The leaves were crushed in water to treat colds.

### **13. WHITE CORREA**

Early settlers used the leaves of this plant to make tea.

### **14. SEABERRY AND RUBY SALTBUSH**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation ate the berries of the Ruby Saltbush. The early settlers used the berries of the Seaberry Saltbush to make ink for steel nib pens.

### **15. KANGAROO APPLE**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the berries of this plant were used as a form of contraception. The berries were only edible when fully ripe (deep orange).

### **16. 'KARAWUN' OR MAT RUSH**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation ate the base of the flowers and young leaves of this plant. The leaves were also excellent for making baskets and eel traps.

### **17. COAST TI TREE**

The name of this plant comes from the early settler's use of the leaves to make tea. The oil is still widely used today, including the treatment of acne. The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the wood of this tree to make boomerangs and spears. The flowers also provided sugar.

### **18. 'WORIKE' OR BANKSIA**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the flowers of the banksia to filter and sweeten water. Settlers used the stem cores of the dead flowers for cleaning pipes and candle making.

### **19. 'BURN-NA-LOOK' OR BLACKWOOD**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the wood of this tree to make boomerangs, spears and shields. The bark was soaked and used to treat rheumatism.

### **20. COAST WATTLE**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation roasted the seeds of the Coast Wattle for food.

### **21. 'WURUN' OR COAST MANNA GUM**

The sugary deposits found on the leaves of this tree were 'manna from heaven' for the Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation people and early settlers. The leaves were used to smoke out fevers and to make a wash for sores.

### **22. 'WAYETUCK' OR BLACK SHE-OAK**

The Yalukit Willam clan and people of the Kulin Nation used the wood of this tree to make boomerangs, shields and clubs. The leaves were used to direct dripping water into bowls or 'tarnuks'.

**\*Please do not eat any of the plants.**

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Further copies of this brochure can be found at [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au)  
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