

## BUSH UNIVERSITY

### Learning with Nature

Take time out to 'go wild' or 'go bush' in the Green Wedge; its free, its fresh and its fun.

Children, and the young at heart, thrive in nature and Darrabi provides a gathering place for meaningful hands-on learning about Australia's remarkable biodiversity.

Only when we can learn from ancient Indigenous practices, consuming less and conserving more, can we live in harmony with this land and sustain its future.

### Useful or Edible Plants

Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek play home to many native and Indigenous plants.

Darrabi has over 500 native plants including 120 different species known to be used by Aborigines throughout Australia.



**N**illumbik  
**R**econciliation  
**G**roup Inc



## SPECIES INFORMATION

The species, which were planted by the school children, are placed within or outside the season in which they were used, fruit or flower. The detailed Plant Guide is available through the Friends of Darrabi.

### Darrabi Garden - Melway Ref: 263-A7

Behind the School in Ferguson's Paddock

Main Road - Hurstbridge - Victoria

Directions and a species list is available from

**Hurstbridge Primary School**

**03 9718 2386**

For further information or to join in planting days or events, contact

**Friends of Darrabi**

PO Box 394 Pantom Hill Vic 3759

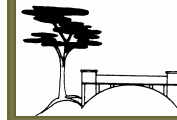
Convenor: Susie Walker

**03 9719 7170**

### PLEASE NOTE

Information in the Darrabi species list is a guide only. It is extremely important to obtain full information on any plant to be eaten. Nillumbik Reconciliation Group, Nillumbik Shire Council and Hurstbridge Primary School strongly recommend that detailed advice on each plant is obtained before any plant material is collected, prepared or eaten. Some plants are poisonous if not prepared correctly.

Thoroughly check which part of the plant is edible, when it is edible, and what special treatment is required to prepare it for eating or medicinal purposes.



**HURSTBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

*Imagine, believe, achieve*

# Darrabi

## ABORIGINAL BUSH FOOD & RECONCILIATION GARDEN



  
**N I L L U M B I K**  
THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE

# DARRABI ABORIGINAL BUSH FOOD & RECONCILIATION GARDEN



## A Unique Public Space

The Darrabi Garden is a unique community asset, conveniently located in Ferguson's Paddock beside Hurstbridge Primary School.

Adjacent to the Diamond Creek and surrounded by bushwalking trails, playgrounds and public open space, Darrabi provides an ideal learning environment for schools, community groups and anyone with an interest in Reconciliation, health, art and culture, the environment or tourism.

## Darrabi Means "Awaken"

Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and parents and teachers of Hurstbridge Primary School created the garden to help 'awaken' and educate children and visitors to the wisdom of Indigenous culture, and the untapped usefulness of our native plants.

## Welcome to Wurundjeri Land

Darrabi was opened on Sorry Day, May 2007 with a symbolic 'Sea of Hands' and a smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri Elder Kim Wandin and Nillumbik Reconciliation Group's Yorta Yorta Elder Pam Pedersen.

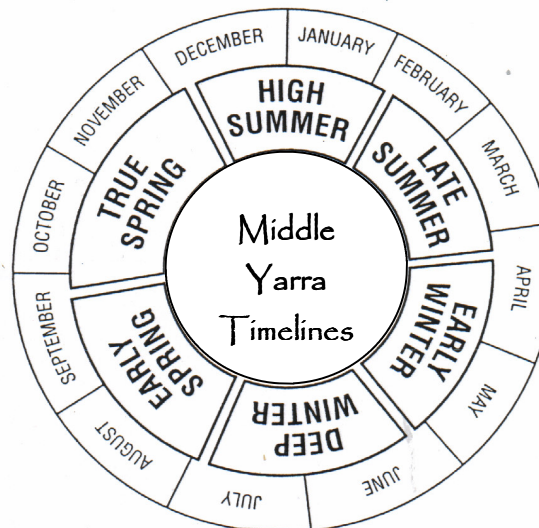
## Connected to Country

For thousands of years Aborigines lived in harmony with the land and depended upon its seasonal resources for their physical and spiritual survival. They were happy, healthy and organised people with an intimate knowledge and respect for the native plants and animals they relied on.

They thoughtfully hunted and gathered food along the Yarra Valley to ensure the long-term health of their environment.

Their tribal lands provided all their needs. They used native plants for food, drinks, medicines, fibre, clothing, shelter, shields, tools, transport, containers, art, toys, adornment and musical instruments.

*As Captain Cook said...  
'they were content and had no use  
for the things we offered.'*



## Six Seasons of the Middle Yarra

Aborigines understood the seasons differently to us. We imported four seasons from Europe, and have commonly adopted these, inappropriately to every region. But in recent years, Australian botanists and biologists have studied animals and plants of the Yarra Valley and identified six seasonal changes that more closely reflect our local climate and environment.

The Six seasons timelines are the emphasis of Darrabi's design which features a 30m circle with six segments radiating from a central plaque and diagram.

## Outdoor Classroom

Of particular interest to schools and community groups is the large rock circle or 'outdoor classroom' with its earth fire pit.

*When we connect to nature  
we connect better to each other  
as partners in a shared environment.*

## Hidden Wisdom

Time spent in thought and exploration at Darrabi Garden helps us to develop a deeper understanding of the richness of Aboriginal culture and how they moved with the seasons, cultivating yet conserving the natural environment.

There is great hidden wisdom in indigenous knowledge. As we embrace this, we build the bridges of reconciliation to an authentic Australian culture for future generations.