

Burramattagal Country

The Traditional Custodians of this land are the Burramattagal People, a clan of the Dharug. Burramattagal is derived from the Aboriginal word for 'place of eels'. Arrunga Bardo means 'calm water'.

The Burramattagal have always had a strong spiritual connection with the land, and they knew the seasonal availability of these resources.

This area was an important place for trading, meetings and ceremony.

Food and medicine

Various plants in this garden were a food source for the Burramattagal. Some parts are toxic and were not eaten, or required special preparation for eating. Flowers were steeped in water to produce sweet drinks.

The bush was also a Burramattagal medical kit providing powerful remedies. Plants were used to treat numerous health conditions including tooth aches, relieving fever and to dress cuts and wounds.

A variety of leaves, and other plant parts, were crushed and inhaled for medicinal purposes.

Hunting and weaving

The leaves from these plants were used in many ways such as sandpaper or made into baskets to carry food and fire.

The bark from trees was used to make canoes, bedding and coolamons.

The flower stalks from the grass trees were used to make spears for fishing and hunting whilst various weapons were made from saplings and timber.



The Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre

offers educational tours to Lake Parramatta, where visitors can actively explore our rich cultural and natural heritage with skilled Cultural presenters and in-house guides.



The Arrunga Bardo Garden is 50 metres from the P2 carpark, along a sealed, wheelchair-accessible track.

The garden was developed in 2005, with funding from a NSW Government 'Protecting Our Places' grant. New signage was installed in 2022. A key purpose was to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal community involvement, and a sense of ownership of an area within Lake Parramatta Reserve.

For Lake Parramatta Visitors Guide brochure information in your own language please scan QR code.

Chinese (Simplified) 有关使用您自己语言的宣传册信息· 请扫描QR码

Hindi अपनी भाषा में वविरणिका की जानकारी के लिए कृपया QR कोड स्कैन करें

Arabic أيّ وضّة يرسلنا أباجتسالال زمر حسم ى چري ، مألأ كتغللب ببيتكلال تامولعم ىلع لوصحلل

Korean 한국어로 된 브로셔 정보는 QR 코드를 스캔하세요

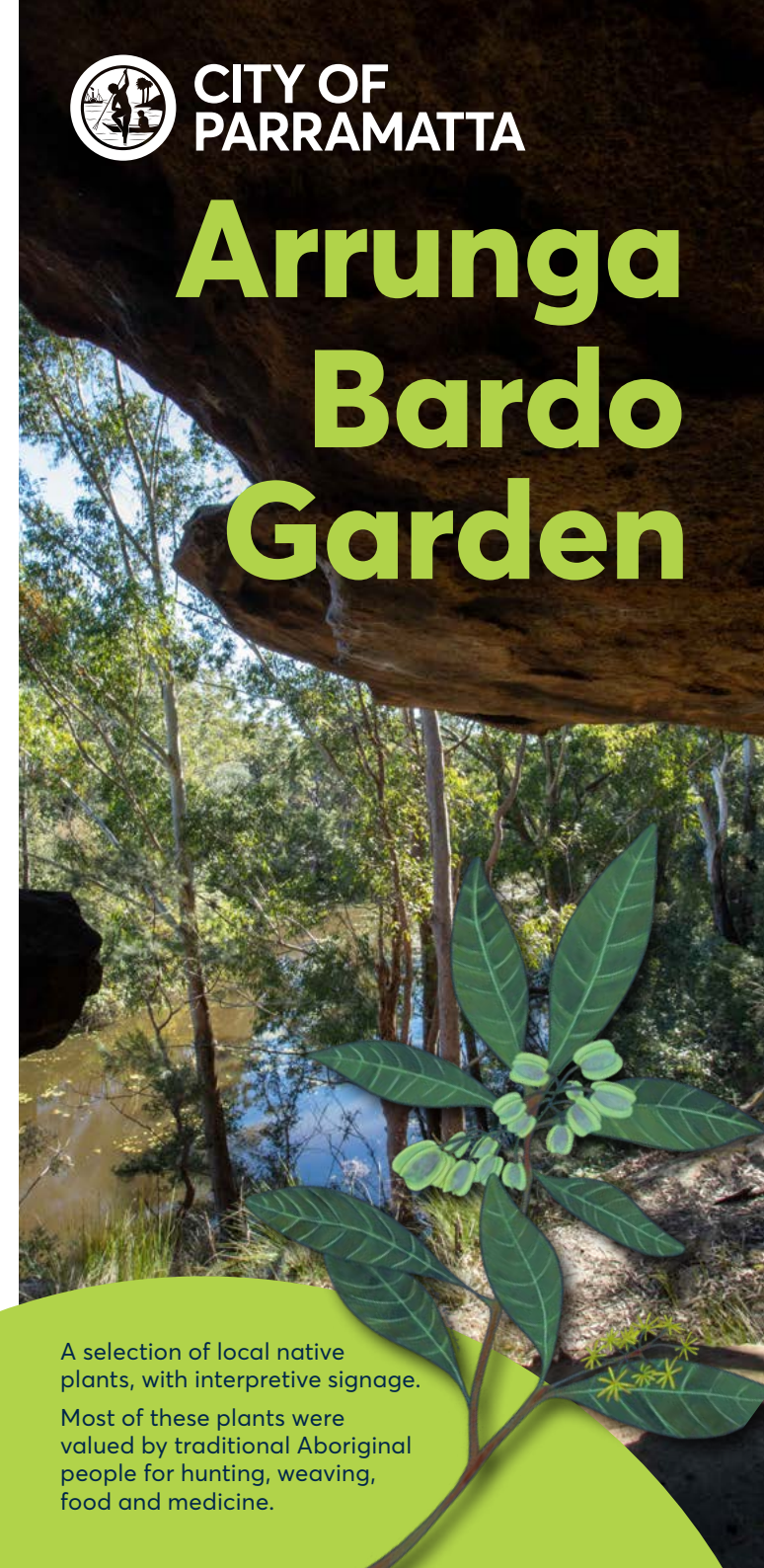


January 2023



CITY OF
PARRAMATTA

Arrunga Bardo Garden



A selection of local native plants, with interpretive signage.

Most of these plants were valued by traditional Aboriginal people for hunting, weaving, food and medicine.

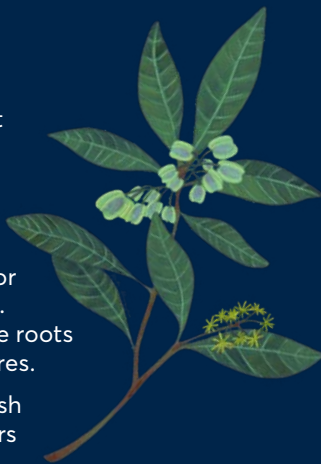
Hop bush

Dodonaea triquetra

This important medicinal plant was used in many ways by Aboriginal People.

The leaves were chewed for toothache, as a sponge to relieve fever, and as dressing for stonefish and stingray wounds. A liquid made from soaking the roots was used for open cuts and sores.

Dodonaea is known as hop bush because early European settlers used it to make beer.



Native rosella

Hibiscus heterophyllus

Native rosella tends to grow to around 2 metres tall. The huge flowers have a deep red centre with a variety of petal colours occurring along the east coast of Australia.

Northern varieties are often yellow with southern flowers being white.

The flowers are very good at attracting birds and insects.

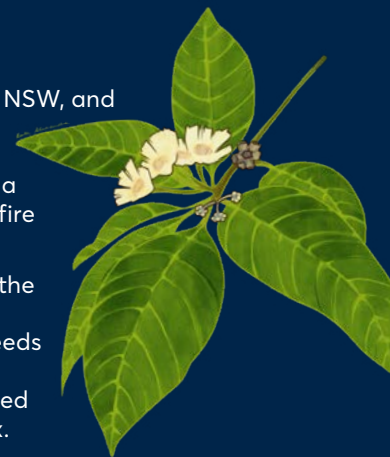


Turpentine

Syncarpia glomulifera

Turpentine is native to NSW, and may reach 60 metres in height. It produces an aromatic resin and a durable timber that is fire and pest resistant.

In summer and spring the starry white flowers produce nectar that feeds insects, honey-eating birds and the threatened grey-headed flying fox.



Smooth flax-lily

Dianella longifolia

Dianella is softer than the lomandra, and produces edible purple fruits (spring to summer) that taste a bit like a nashi pear.

When the plant leaves are dried then soaked in water it becomes flexible for weaving string. The kids use it as a whistle — they call it a snake whistle.



Blady grass

Imperata cylindrica

A perennial grass with leaves about 2 cm wide that narrow to a sharp point. The margins of the leaves are finely toothed and embedded with sharp silica crystals.

It is planted as a ground cover to promote soil stabilisation near beach areas and other areas subject to erosion.

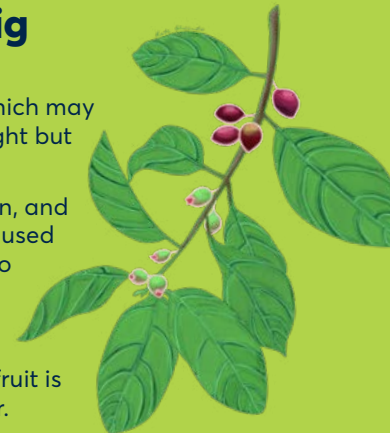


Sandpaper fig

Ficus coronata

Usually a small tree which may reach 12 metres in height but is often smaller.

The trunk is dark brown, and the rough leaves were used by Aboriginal People to smooth and polish weaponry. The bark was used to make string, and the edible fruit is a delicious bush tucker.



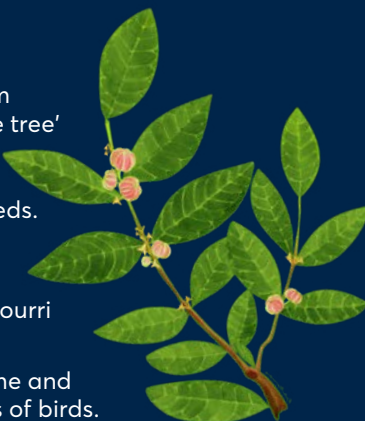
Cheese tree

Glochidion ferdinandi

A species of small to medium sized tree. The name 'cheese tree' comes from its cheese shaped fruit which burst open to reveal bright red seeds.

The dried fruits, which resemble miniature pumpkins, are found in potpourri and sold as 'putka pods'.

Cheese trees are both a home and food source to many species of birds.



Silky hakea

Hakea sericea

Hakeas are often referred to as needle bush due to the cylindrical sharp leaves that are up to 6 cm long.

Silky hakea is a large spreading, bushy shrub up to 4 metres high.

The species name 'sericea' refers to the tiny silky hairs on young growth.



Spiny-head mat-rush

Lomandra longifolia

Lomandra is common around Sydney and its use by Aboriginal People dates back thousands of years.

Much of the plant is edible and the ground seeds are used in damper.

The long, flat, fibrous leaves were used for weaving eel and fish traps, baskets, and mats. The base of the leaves contain water and was chewed by those in danger of dehydration.

