## **Aboriginal Use Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area**

Common Name	Scientific name	Indigenous names	Language, region or clan	Uses	
Silver Wattle	Acacia dealbata	Warrarak	Djadja wurrung	Wood used to make stone axe handles. Gum dissolved in water to make a mild sweet drink and also mixed with ash for use as resin.	
Black Wattle	Acacia mearnsii	Warrarakk Currong Garrong	Djab wurrung Lake Condah Woi wurrung	Important source of gum. Sweet drink made from gum and flower nectar when dissolved in water. Also used as resin.	
Blackwood	Acacia melanoxylon	Mootchung Burn-na-look	Djab wurrung Yarra	Bark used to treat rheumatism by heating over a fire and infusing in water. Wood used to make shields, clubs and spear-throwers.	
Golden Wattle	Acacia pycnantha	Karrank Tunline	Gunditjmara Tjapwurong	Gum eaten or used to make a sweet drink. Bark used to treat indigestion. Fibre also used to make string for bags and baskets.	
Honey Pots	Acrotriche serrulata	Burgil-burgil	Coranderrk	Nectar sucked from flowers.	
Black She-oak	Allocasuarina littoralis	Wayetuck Gneering	Woi wurrung Gunditjmara	Wood used to make boomerangs.	

Drooping She-oak	Allocasuarina verticillata	Wayetuck Gneering	Woi wurrung Gunditjmara	Wood used to make boomerangs and other implements. Young shoots and cones eaten.	
Small Vanilla Lily	Arthropodium minus			Non-starchy crisp tubers eaten raw or cooked.	
Pale Vanilla Lily	Arthropodium milleflorum			Edible tubers.	
Chocolate Lily	Arthropodium strictum			Tubers roasted before being eaten.	2
Cranberry Heath	Astroloma humifusum	Bagud	Wergaia	Small green fruits eaten.	
Coast Banksia	Banksia integrifolia	Birrna	Gunai/Kurnai	Nectar was extracted from flower heads to make a sweet drink. Often mixed with wattle gum.	
Silver Banksia	Banksia marginata			Flowers soaked in water to extract nectar and make a sweet drink.	
Common Appleberry	Billiardiera scandens	Karrawang	Coranderrk	Fuzzy oval fruits consumed after they dropped from the branches and were soft enough to eat.	
Marsh Club-rush	Bolboschoenus medianus	Woorpert	Lake Boga	Round corms collected in summer, roasted, pounded with stones and	

				then baked into flattened cakes.	
Bulbine Lily	Bulbine bulbosa	Parm Puewan Pike	Gunditjmara Djab wurrung Coranderrk	Sweet corms cooked and eaten.	
Milkmaids	Burchardia umbellata	Popoto	Lake Condah	Roots cooked before eating.	
Green-comb Spider Orchid	Caladenia dilatata	Koolin	Coranderrk	Round paired tubers eaten.	
Common Sedge	Carex tereticaulis	Bungud	Wemba Wemba	Long stems can be split into separate fibers for basket making.	
Inland Pigface	Carprobrotus modestus	Katwort Keeng-a	Gippsland Bunganditj	Sweet red fruits eaten raw. Fleshy green leaves eaten raw or cooked.	
Coastal Pigface	Carprobrotus rossii	Katwort Puuyuupkil Gadwud Keeng-a	Gippsland Gunditjmara Gunai/Kurnai Bunganditj	Fruit broken off at base and soft pulp sucked out. Green leaves eaten raw or cooked. Poultice from older plants used to treat cuts and bites.	
Old Man/Sneeze Weed	Centipedia cunninghamii	Gukwonderuk	Wotjobaluk	Leaves and stems boiled down and used for the treatment of coughs, colds and skin irritations.	
Blue Stars	Chamaescilla corymbosa	Mudrurt	Lake Condah	Elongated tubers eaten.	

Small-leaved Clematis	Clematis microphylla	Tarook	Gunditjmara, Djab wurrung	Roots cooked in baskets, pounded and kneaded into a dough. Leaves crushed and inhaled to treat headaches.	
Australian Bindweed	Convolvulus erubescens	Tarook	Gunditjmara, Djab wurrung	Roots cooked, kneaded into dough and eaten.	
Prickly Currant Bush	Coprosma quadrifida	Morr	Coranderrk	Edible, sweet currant-like fruits ripen in summer.	
Spreading Flax Lily	Dianella revoluta	Murmbal	Gunditjmara	Leaves split down the midrib and rolled to make string. Blue berries eaten and made into a dye.	
Tasman Flax Lily	Dianella tasmanica	Murmbal	Gunditjmara	Edible roots and blue berries. Leaves split and twisted into ties.	
Soft Tree-fern	Dicksonia antarctica	Combadik Garag Kum-ba-da Wonon tulong	Coranderrk Gunai/Kurai Woi wurrung Djab wurrung	Soft, starchy pith scooped out from the top of the stem and eaten raw or cooked.	
Hyacinth orchid	Dipodium punctatum			The tubers which are large, long and soft were eaten.	
Ruby Salt-bush	Enchylaena tomentosa	Gurgudj	Wemba Wemba	Red button-shaped berries picked and eaten.	

River Red Gum	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Be-al Peeal Ta'art Dharnya Moolerr Biel Bial Beeul	Woi wurrung Djab wurrung Gunditjmara Yorta Yorta Wimmera Wemba Wemba Gunditjmara Lake Boga	Canoes made from large sheets of bark. Bark also used to make shelters, shields and containers. Sap used to seal burns and mixed with water to treat diarrhoea. Leaves were used in aromatic steam baths as a remedy for a range of ailments.	
Yellow Gum	Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp.connata	Tarrk	Djadja wurrung	Oil from leaves used to treat colds and chest complaints. Nectar was collected from the flowers. Wood was used to craft weapons and tools.	
Messmate	Eucalyptus obliqua	Wangnarra Warngar	Woi wurrung Djab wurrung	Outer bark powdered and used as tinder for fire making. Inner bark used to make coarse string for bags and fishing nets.	
Red Ironbark	Eucalyptus tricarpa	Yerrip	Djadja wurrung	Wood used for making weapons and tools.	
Manna Gum	Eucalyptus viminalis	Binnap Yulong	Yarra Djab wurrung	Sugary white extrusions on leaves (manna) gathered from the ground and eaten. Wood used to make shields and water containers. Smoke produced from burning the long, thin older leaves belied to reduce fever.	
Cherry Ballart	Exocarpos cupressiformis	Palatt, Ballot Pul-loitch	Lake Condah Jajowerong	Red fruits enjoyed as a springtime snack. The wood was used to make spearthrowers.	
Pale-fruit Ballart Austral Crane's Bill	Exocarpos strictus Geranium solanderi	Terrat  Kullumkulkeetch Kawurn- kallumbarrant	Woi wurrung Coranderrk Djab wurrung Gunditjmara	Whitish fruits are edible.  Tuberous roots used as treatment for diarrhoea. These were pounded before being cooked and eaten.	
Austral Mulberry	Hedycarya angustifolia	Djelwuck	Woi wurrung	Smooth, straight stems used to make fire by rapidly spinning in a hole in a flat wooden base such as the dry flower stalk of a Grass-tree.	

Running Postman	Kennedia prostrata	Nall Kabin	Gunditjmara Coranderrk	Nectar sucked from red pea flowers. Trailing stems used as ties.	
Wooly Tea-tree	Leptospermum lanigerum	Balung	Gunai/Kurnai	Twigs and branches used for spears and digging sticks. Leaves used as a treatment for scabies as well as medicine for breathing difficulties.	
Native Flax	Linum marginale			Oily seeds are edible. Stems beaten and stripped to make string. No confirmed use by Victorian Aborigines.	
Spiny-headed Mat-rush	Lomandra longifolia	Karawun	Woi wurrung	Leaves woven into bags, baskets and mats.	
Common Nardoo	Marsilea drumondii	Dullum Dullum	Wemba Wemba	Roots ground into a dough and cooked. Spores roasted and ground up into flour which is mixed with water to make a dough. This is then baked and eaten. Toxic levels of thiaminase unless treated properly.	
River Mint	Mentha australis	Poang-gurk	Djab wurrung	Plant crushed and inhaled to treat coughs and colds. Flavoring for cooked food.	
Yam Daisy	Microseris lanceolata	Murnong Pun'yin Muurang	Woi wurrung, Wathaurong Djab wurrung Gunditjmara	Tubers roasted or cooked in baskets and eaten. Tubers can also be eaten raw.	
Climbing Lignum	Muehlenbeckia adpressa	Karren	Wemba Wemba	Fruit ground into flour.	
Boot-lace Bush	Pimelea axiflora			Fine fibre extracted from the outside	

				of stems used for making nets.	
Prickly Geebung	Persoonia			The green fruits were an important	
	juniperina			Aboriginal food.	
Common Reed	Phragmites	Djarg	Wemba Wemba	Crisp, non-starchy root eaten.	
	australis		Wergaia	Sections of reed strung into necklaces	
		Jaark	Lake Boga	and used as nose ornaments. Straight	
		Kaerk	Djab wurrung	stems also used as spear shafts.	
		Taark, Taerk	Gunditjmara	Leaves were twisted into rope for	
		Tark, Tark-korn	Wathaurong	making baskets. In Gippsland, sharp	
		Kowat	Gunai/Kurnai	edges of cane were used as knives for	
		Charr-ak	Jajowerong	skinning animals.	
Large Tussock Grass	Poa labillardieri	Bobat	Woi wurrung	String for nets, bags, baskets and mats.	
Austral Bracken	Pteridium	Makkitch	Gunditjmara	Starchy roots gathered and roasted in	
	esculentum	Muulaa	Djab wurrung	hot ashes before being beaten into a	
		Geewan	Gippsland	paste with water and baked. Roots	
		Mukine,	Lake Condah	must be treated in this way before	
		Mawkum		being eaten.	
Native Raspberry	Rubus parvifolius	Eepaeep Barring-gootch	Coranderrk Djab wurrung	Red berries collected and eaten.	
Large Kangaroo Apple	Solanum laciniatum	Mookitch, Mayakitch	Gunditjmara	Dark orange fruit eaten only when very ripe. Poisonous at other times.	
Warrigal Spinach	Tetragonia tetragonioides			Leaves eaten as a raw salad although cooking is recommended before consumption.	
Kangaroo Grass	Themeda triandra	Wuulot Wuuloitch	Gunditjmara Djab wurrung	String from leaves and stem to make bags and fishing nets. Seeds ground into flour.	

Twining Fringe Lily	Thysanotus patersonii			White, watery tubers cooked before being eaten.	
Common Fringe Lily	Thysanotus tuberosus			Tubers cooked before eating.	
Water Ribbons	Triglochin procera	Ngareli Pol-an-go	Wemba Wemba Wathaurong	Tubers collected and cooked in ground ovens.	
Cumbungi	Typha domingenis	Poorteetch	Gunditjmara	New shoots eaten raw. Roots roasted and peeled before being eaten. Remaining root fibers used to make string.	
Native violet	Viola hederacea			Flowers can be eaten raw. No confirmed use by Victorian Aborigines.	
Early Nancy	Wurmbea dioica			Small, starchy underground corm eaten.	Ale .
Austral Grass-tree	Xanthorrhoea australis	Bukkup Kawee Baggup	Gunditjmara Djab wurrung Woi wurrung	Nectar from flowers. Roots eaten as well as soft young leaves. Waterproof resin used to fasten axe heads and stone flakes. Dried flower stalk used as a base for making fire with a drilling stick.	

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	Item	Indigenous name	Language,	Plants used	Use	

		region or clan			
Reed necklace	Kourn bert	Yarra	Common Reed [Phragmites australis]	Necklaces strung from sections of hollow stems worn by both sexes.	
Reed spear	Chaark	Djab wurrung	Common Reed [Phragmites australis]	Propelled with a throwing stick to kill smaller animals such as ducks, geese, swans, pigeons and wallabies.	
String bag	Ballang-cowat	Woi wurrung	Spiny-headed Mat- rush [Lomandra longifolia]	Collecting food items such as roots and tubers or transporting personal belongings.	

## References:

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