Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation
Curriculum Resource

Resource Title	Bunya Bunya
Aboriginal Protocols	
Person	Aunty Julie McHale
Mob Group/Country	Aunty Julie is a Trawlwoolway woman of the Palawa nations.
Content Country	This content was created based on South East Queensland Nations Country.
Curriculum Area	• Geography VC2HG6K04
Year Levels	• Primary, 5 - 6
Pedagogies	• The 8 Ways, Land Links
Ways of Assessing	
First Nations Education Academics that back your reasons	
Any other info / comments	

BUNYA BUNYA

(Bunya Pine)



DISTRIBUTION

The bunya-bunya pine is found throughout the south east Queensland coastal ranges and rainforests.

DESCRIPTION

It is a large, majestic, erect, evergreen tree, 30 to 50 m tall and 10 to 20 m wide. The tree has a straight trunk with black/brown bark, and dark, glossy-green, stiff leaves, 1cm to 5cm by 0.5cm to 1 cm, ending with a sharp point. The tree bears large, dark green cones, 20cm to 30cm long, by 15cm to 20cn wide. The cones resemble green pineapples, and contain numerous seeds up to 2.5cm long.

The tree often looks like a giant arrowhead or domed 'beehive'. Both male and female comes are borne on a single tree but only female cones contain the edible nut. Some trees take at least ten years to set cones.

Cones are usually set triennially, but annual setting is aided by planting more than one tree. The cones can weigh up to 10 kg each, with each scale bearing a single egg-shaped seed. Each seed weighs 15g. Because of its importance to the Australian Aborigines' diet, it was once illegal to cut the tree. Now, unfortunately, it is logged.

CULTIVATION

Bunya-bunya pines are cool-tolerant and very hardy trees (frost tolerant to about -8°C). The trees are not suitable for home gardens because of their size and the potential health hazard when they drop their cones in autumn.

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PROPAGATION

Propagation is either from seeds or cuttings.

CULINARY

The seeds are eaten raw or roasted. They are very tasty (much like chestnuts with a slight pine flavour) and nutritious. They are packed with protein, carbohydrates, potassium, magnesium, calcium, iron, sodium, fibre and fat. They can be boiled and eaten hot.



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