Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation
Curriculum Resource

Resource Title	Waang
Aboriginal Protocols	
Person	Aunty Julie McHale
Mob Group/Country	Aunty Julie is a Trawlwoolway woman of the Palawa nations.
Content Country	This resource was created on Djaara country of the Kulin nations.
Curriculum Area	• Geography VC2HG8K13
Year Levels	• 7 - 8, Secondary
Pedagogies	• The 8 Ways, Land Links
Ways of Assessing	
First Nations Education Academics that back your reasons	
Any other info / comments	

WAANG

(Sandalwood Nuts)



The tree cannot survive on its own. It is what is known as a 'hemiparasitic' plant (something like mistletoe to which it is related). The sandalwood tree feeds by attaching itself to the root systems of host plants. Just to complicate things, not one, but three are needed throughout the fifteen years it takes to bring a tree to harvesting maturity.



This is what things look like after five years or so, when the initial hosts are culled out and others take over. Three host plants are used in all.

Eventually the slow growing sandalwood reaches a trunk circumference of approximately 30 cms.

The most valuable part of the tree was its aromatic oil, which is harvested from the roots as well as the heartwood. However, it takes about 25 years before they are big enough to extract oil so alternative uses were found-the main one being the nuts which are ready for picking when the tree is only 2 years old.

"Them nuts are used for everything. For a sore, for a cut, or if you have a dog injured by an emu. Emus used to kick them. There are nuts in those berries. You can use them for curing sores."

They are also used for human consumption. They are low in saturated fats, high in mono and polyunsaturated fats and have other desirable characteristics such as high protein and dietary fibre.

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