



The Indigenous Garden: a tribute to Kulin country



The Indigenous Garden at ANSTO's Australian Synchrotron was conceived by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and, in particular, Stephanie Xoueisomphong in 2019. Support and funding from the management team at the Synchrotron enabled the group to purchase plants and materials for the project.

The garden is a place where Synchrotron staff and visitors from across Australia and internationally can acknowledge Boonwurrung, part of Kulin Nation, as the Traditional Owners of the land and be 'on country', at least for a short time.

It is a welcoming space for people to reflect, connect with each other and the land, and to promote regeneration and restoration of native wildlife.

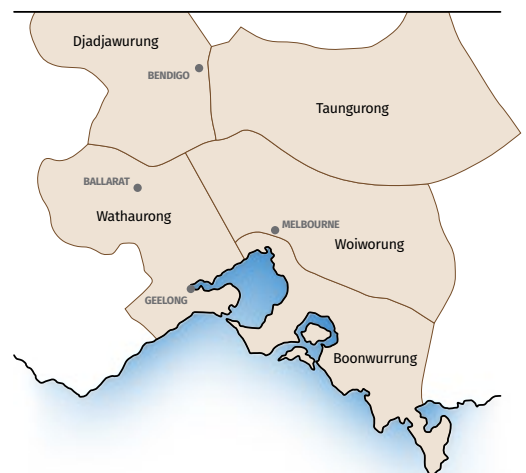
The Synchrotron is built on Boonwurrung land, but staff live and travel from across Kulin Nation country, which spans greater Melbourne from the coasts to the Alpine mountains, the gold fields region, and western plains.

With advice from the Monash Gardens for Wildlife program at Monash Council, a selection of more than 100 plant species were sourced from the wider geographical area of the Kulin Nation, and arranged to reflect these diverse landscapes and vegetation types.

Many of the endemic trees and plants have cultural significance for Kulin people, and have uses from weaving to bread making and other edibles.



Kulin nation language groups



We celebrate and acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land where the Australian Synchrotron is located, the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present and we embrace their continuing connections to this land.

The five language groups are Boonwurrung, Woiwurrung, Taungwurrung, Djadjawurrung and Wadawurrung. A recent agreement between the Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung clans has clarified borders between the two and has clarified that the Synchrotron is on Boonwurrung land.

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Stage 1

The garden was completed in September 2020, which involved installation of the new footpaths, creek crossing, and meeting circle area.

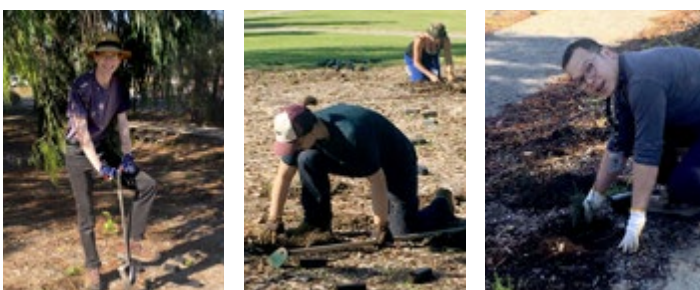


The Meeting Circle can be used by staff as a meeting space.

Stage 2

This stage involved about 35 staff volunteers, who put in almost 3000 plants on a planting day held in April.

Paths lead from the National Centre for Synchrotron Science Centre building to a bridge across a waterway, then meander through the garden area to a stone Meeting Circle symbolising the coming together of five different clans of the Kulin Nation.



PLANTS

An example of some of the plants to be found in the garden include:



INDIGENOUS NAME

morr

Woiwurrung language

COMMON NAME

Prickly currant bush

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Coprosmo quadrifida

An edible intricate shrub with spectacular sweet orange berries.



INDIGENOUS NAME

taaruuk

Djadjawurrung language

COMMON NAME

Pink bindweed

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Convovulvus angustissimus

An edible low creeper with pink flowers.



INDIGENOUS NAME

puewan

Djadjawurrung language

COMMON NAME

Bulbine lily

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Bulbine bulbosa

Fragrant flowering plant whose plump, round corms were traditionally eaten.



INDIGENOUS NAME

karawun

Woiwurrung language

COMMON NAME

Spiny-headed mat-rush

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Lomandra longifolia

A plant used for weaving cultural items, food and medicinal purposes.



INDIGENOUS NAME

bobat

Woiwurrung language

COMMON NAME

Common Tussock grass

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Poa labillardieri

The grass is used for weaving nets and bags, baskets and mats.

Hollow-rich logs have been added to provide valuable habitat to house local insects and small wildlife.