



WHY NATIVE GARDENS MATTER

By Melanie Kemp

A Free Guide to Understanding the Heart of Country

Long before gardens were designed for looks, they were places of survival, learning, healing and ceremony. For my people the First Nations people, the land was never something to be owned or controlled. Throughout history we have been the caretakers, our responsibility was to listen to Country, observe its signals and respond with care.

Everything in the environment belongs together plants, animals, water, insects, natural elements, soil and people are all connected. No one element is more important than another, balance is created through respect, not dominance.

Growing native is not about recreating the past, it is about remembering how to listen again.

The full eBook, “Native Gardens of Yuwi Country,” expands on these ideas – showing how plant stories can shape your garden design and transform your space into a living connection to Country.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR – MELANIE KEMP



Melanie Kemp is a proud Yuwi and Ghungalu descendant, educator and cultural knowledge holder from Mackay, Queensland. She is the Founder and Director of Younga Yarns and Director of Yarbun Creations, two First Nations owned businesses grounded in cultural education, truth telling and intergenerational knowledge sharing.

Melanie comes from generations of people who lived in close relationship with the land. Her ancestors understood that humans were only one part of the environment, not above it. Plants were teachers, animals were guides and Country was respected as a living being.

Because Every Garden Tells a Story

When you plant something native, you are continuing a story that began long before you arrived. First Nations people listened to plants to understand seasonal change, when trees flowered, seasons shifted. When grasses seeded, animals moved, this knowledge came from generations of observation.

The full eBook, “Native Gardens of Yuwi Country,” explores how native species regenerate the environment – and how schools, councils, and families can use native gardens to promote wellbeing, mindfulness, and community connection.

Because They Heal More Than Soil

Native gardens restore balance, we always say that the trees live in families of their own some giving the soil the nutrients that the tree next to it needs making healthy soil, when soil is healthy, water flows properly. When plants thrive, animals return. When Country is healthy, people are healthy.

In a Native Garden Consultation, Melanie helps schools, councils, and community groups weave these lessons into everyday spaces – designing gardens that preserve cultural memory and inspire learning across generations.

Because They Keep Knowledge Alive

Every native plant carries knowledge and has a reason for being. Native gardens keep this knowledge alive by teaching patience responsibility and respect.

The full eBook, “Native Gardens of Yuwi Country,” shares real examples of community transformation through native planting – and explains how collective care builds resilience, biodiversity, and belonging



Because Native Gardens Care for Our Animals Too



Native animals rely on native plants for food, shelter and medicine. Animals instinctively know which plants help them heal and learn which are the ones to eat and keep them thriving.

Even the goanna seeks out a special plant to protect itself against the venom of the brown snake. This knowledge exists within the environment and has been observed by First Nations people for generations.

By planting native species, we help animals survive, heal and thrive.

Through her Native Garden Consultations, Melanie Kemp guides individuals, schools, and communities through this process – helping them move from intention to meaningful action, so their gardens reflect both the spirit and science of Country.

Because Caring for Country Begins at Home

Caring for Country begins where you live, when you plant native, you step into the role of caretaker, continuing an ancient responsibility.

Grow with Culture. Care with Purpose. Learn from Country.

Your Next Step

This free guide is just the beginning of your journey.

To deepen your understanding and bring your vision to life, explore:

- **The full eBook:**

Native Gardens of Yuwi Country - Growing with Culture, Caring for Country

Discover the stories, plant knowledge, and design principles that transform outdoor spaces into living connections to Country.

- **A Native Garden Consultation with Melanie Kemp:**

Yuwi Ghungalu descendant, educator, and founder of Yarbun Creations.

Melanie works directly with schools, councils, and families to design sustainable, culturally meaningful native gardens – where every plant holds purpose and every space tells a story

