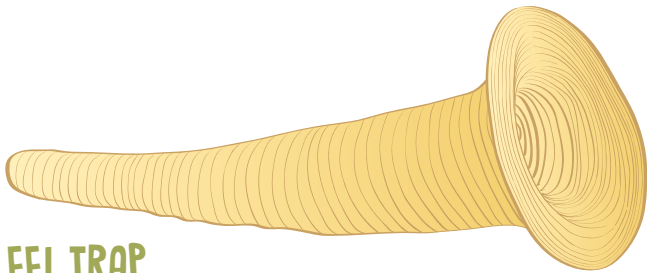


DRAWING THE BUSH

NGV

First Nations people use plants in many different ways. Plants can be used for food, medicine, art or buildings and shelters! Kokatha and Nukunu artist Yhonnie Scarce often creates glass yams for her works of art. These yams come from a native plant called murnong daisy. Yhonnie has made hundreds of black, glossy glass yams for her installation *In Absence*, 2019, in collaboration with Edition Office. You can see Yhonnie's artwork in the garden at the NGV and online at [ngv.melbourne/collection](https://www.ngv.melbourne/collection).

Let's learn about the murnong daisy and other Australian native plants.



EEL TRAP

Woven eel traps are usually made from dried native grasses and other plant materials. They are shaped like funnels, which you might use in your sandpit to pour water. Eels can't swim backwards, so when they swim through the wider end, they can't get back out! But don't worry, there's a small opening at the other end so that baby eels can still swim out! You can see some eel traps online at [ngv.melbourne/collection](https://www.ngv.melbourne/collection).



MURNONG DAISY

Many First Nations people grew large crops of murnong daisies for food, but today there are not many of this plant left in the bush. The root of the plant is a vegetable called a yam. It's starchy like a potato and tastes a bit like coconut! Yum!



KANGAROO GRASS

The seeds of kangaroo grass can be dried, ground into a powder and then mixed with water to make a type of bread. You can find this grass in different parts of Australia! If you look closely, you might see some growing at your local park. Can you see how the grass looks like the paw of a kangaroo?

Let's draw some plants to add to this bushland. You may like to think about what plants you see in your garden and in your local playground or park. See if you can find murnong daisies, kangaroo grass and the eel trap!



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