



NARROMINE HIGH SCHOOL: NATIVE GARDEN

Indigenous Girls & Women in STEM & Entrepreneurship

BACKGROUND

Australia's Native Ag+Food industry is enjoying increasing success but despite being fundamental to Indigenous culture and identity, <2% of participants are Indigenous.

Food Futures Company has developed the Indigenous Women in Entrepreneurship & STEM Pathways Program to facilitate increased participation by First Nations people in the native ag+food sector.

Implementation of the program includes initiatives developed and delivered via five Regional Hubs across Australia, including one in Central NSW which has established collaborative networks and a track record of connecting education, community, and industry to deliver educational outcomes, particularly at the secondary school level.



Mentoring our students at a young age will provide them with the ability to develop employability skills, as well as teach them to create businesses of their own"

Crystal Donnelly
*Aboriginal Education Officer,
Narromine High School*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Narromine High School students, along with Pathways Together Aboriginal Corporation (ICAN Nursery) are constructing a native food garden that can be used as a teaching space across several high school subjects, including but not limited to Design & Technology, Agriculture, Science, Business Studies, Food Technology and Hospitality.

Native beehives or bee hotels are incorporated into the garden to re-establish native bees in the Narromine area. Narromine is derived from a Wiradjuri term meaning 'honey people'. The students will also establish a business to sell products made from produce grown in the garden.

JOURNEY

The local Junior AECG group is overseeing the garden building and ongoing activity, including the business the school will create to sell native food products. The students have attended workshops at Narromine High School to introduce the program, discuss the garden location and its purpose.

The students attended a second workshop held at ICAN Nursery in Dubbo and were introduced to a range of native food and medicine plants that will be used in the garden. The students are learning how to start a business and develop entrepreneurial, and work on their own personal employability goals and skills in a range of workshops run by school staff, EM-power Foundation and Pathways Together Aboriginal Corporation.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The group of students will continue with garden construction in 2023, as well as business and entrepreneur workshops for students involved in Junior AECG group .

Food Futures Company will continue to support the school and teaching staff in aligning garden functions across school curriculum, engaging strategic partners and industry experts.

Stakeholders will engage with local Native Bee experts to determine requirements for successful bee program, and how to maintain the beehives during all parts of the school year.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

