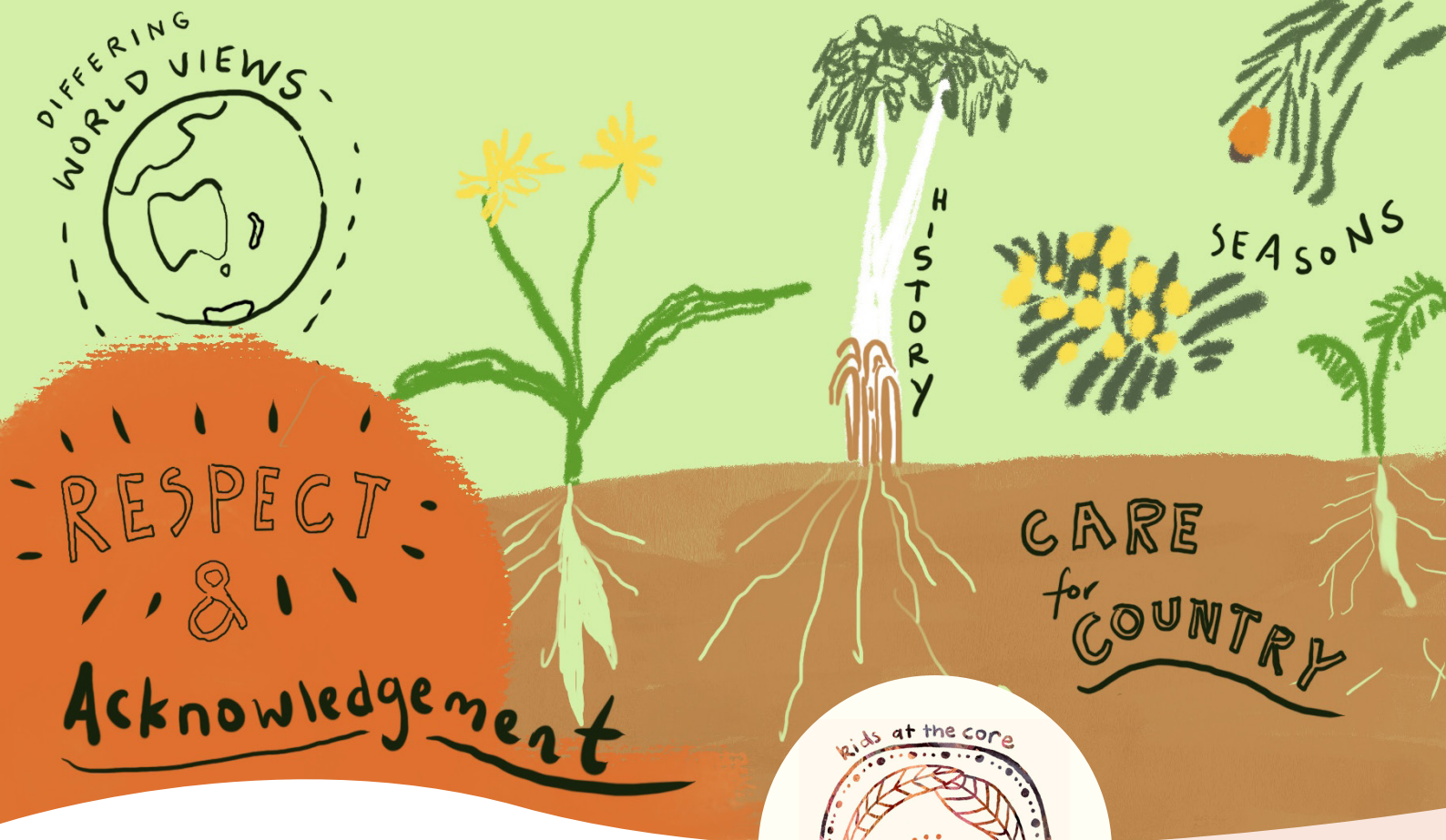




Introducing an online course in First Nations Education and Introduction to Bush Foods:

A Journey of Learning & Reflection

The Introduction to Bush Foods project began as a collaboration between Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation and Bendigo Tech School. Together, we sought to create an engaging online microcredential that would introduce students to bush foods through the lens of First Nations peoples.

Developed through a process of two-way learning and co-creation, the course drew on the guidance, knowledge and creative contributions of Elders, First Nations young people, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living and working on Djaara Country at Me-Mandook Galk Bush Tucker Farm, at the foothills of Liyanganyuk Banyul.

The original course consisted of a 90-minute self-directed online learning experience for students, supported by a 15-minute teacher guide.

Through four learning topics, students explored the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews, including how to Acknowledge Country. They studied how to respect Country by understanding the seasons and our shared history. They learnt about the origins and uses of bush foods and finally, they explored the future of bush foods.

Students were also encouraged to develop their own Acknowledgement of Country, introduce themselves through a Indigenous worldview, and learn more about the Traditional Owners and First Nations communities and the bush foods local to them by going out on Country.

We acknowledge
Djaara Country and the
Elders past, present
and our future
generations.



When the course was piloted with educators, their feedback highlighted both the strengths of the resource and the responsibilities that come with sharing Indigenous knowledge. Teachers recognised that the learning was most meaningful when it was guided by an educator who could facilitate discussion, encourage reflection, and help students engage respectfully with the cultural perspectives being presented.

This feedback led to a significant shift in the project's direction. Rather than continuing as a self-directed student microcredential, Nalderun chose to reposition the materials as educator resources designed for classroom use. The focus moved from students independently completing an online course to educators leading learning experiences that are responsive to their students and local contexts.

Alongside the educator resources, Nalderun developed a dedicated version of the Introduction to Bush Foods course for First Nations youth participating in the Gurri Rangers program. Created specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, the course builds on the original learning while providing a culturally grounded experience that supports identity, connection to Country and leadership.

This adaptation of the course demonstrates the flexibility of the resource and Nalderun's commitment to ensuring that learning is relevant, meaningful and led by mob.

Today, access to the resources is linked to participation in face-to-face Indigenous Worldviews training with Kath Coff. This reflects Nalderun's commitment to ensuring that educators have the cultural understanding and grounding needed to use the resources respectfully and effectively. What began as an online course has evolved into a relationship-based learning model that honours Indigenous knowledge, supports teachers, and promotes deeper engagement with Country and community.

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