

# Coonara Community House Edible Indigenous Garden

Willow Rd, Upper  
Ferntree Gully

Yellowstone Landscaping is passionate about giving back to community. Wanting to expand a reaching hand in the local community, Yellowstone Landscaping found Coonara Community House (CCH), nestled in the greenery suburb of Upper Ferntree Gully.

Coonara Community House is a non-profit organisation, with a vision to provide a supportive environment that inspires confidence and innovative learning, creating a resilient and inclusive community

Yellowstone Landscaping provide landscaping skills and time, to families doing it tough and community groups with a need.

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After meeting with the manager of CCH, Sandra Romero, a conversation began with how Yellowstone Landscaping could give to this inspiring place. Not long after, plans and ideas began to flow, to create a new garden space for the community.

The design for the Coonara Community House, aims to have a culturally significant food garden for the local Indigenous community. Including many varieties of traditional bush food, historically native to the area in Melbourne's East. These plants include: Murnong (yam daisy), coastal pigface, warrigal greens, spreading flax lily, Berry saltbush, native ginger and lemon myrtle.

This garden allows the local Indigenous community to reconnect with their food heritage as well as encouraging the wider community to experience new flavours and tastes. Coonara Community House aims to have Indigenous cooking classes, in their on-site community kitchen, using the plants that Yellowstone Landscaping have installed.

Featuring in this garden are timber posts with Indigenous fauna and flora carved and painted on, which were made by students of Coonara. Multiple timber posts are spread across the site at Coonara, with each post telling a different story. Implementing the timber posts into the new garden corner makes this space ultimately combine with the rest of the gardens at Coonara.

The overall project was designed by a landscape architect within the Yellowstone Landscaping team. After liaising with the community house, working around existing trees and environmental planning, the plan came together focusing on theme of Indigenous culture. Despite the actual project being small in size, the planning and strategic advice has developed a cultural significant garden space. The consideration behind the appropriate chosen plants, considering how it is beneficial to the community, involved planning of how the garden will develop.

