



Building 3 Rooftop Community Garden

Overview

Mirvac have engaged newly formed Indigenous group, Yerrabingin, to manage and operate the community rooftop garden space on Level 04 of Building 3. Yerrabingin have a strong community focus, ranging from indigenous community employment opportunities through to community education activities to be run at the garden. The garden has a focus on permaculture, including edible native plants.

Yerrabingin was founded by Christian Hampson and Clarence Slockee, who both have extensive experience in Indigenous cultural heritage, education, horticulture and mentoring.

Through operating the community rooftop garden, Yerrabingin's aim is to deliver an opportunity for community and tenants to share in cultural and environmental knowledge from the oldest living culture of the world.

The space will also create an opportunity for the local community to connect with and enjoy the precinct and its cultural values. Yerrabingin will partner with Job Active service providers to employ local Aboriginal community on a casual and permanent basis.

Yerrabingin is strongly committed to this enterprise as the first step in a collaborative relationship with Mirvac and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia that will create shared benefit and enhanced value.



How will the space be used?

Yerrabingin will combine the principles of permaculture, indigenous knowledge and design thinking to prototype an urban native food production farm. The farm will operate in the following ways, all of which will be open for the community to participate in:

1. Aboriginal Cultural workshops and demonstrations

Workshops will include bush food experiences including tastings, classes for utilising native products in everyday cooking, demonstrations such as paperbark and clay cooking methods. Yerrabingin have formed collaboration experiences with some of the nations top Indigenous chefs and premium suppliers. Cultural practice such as art, weaving, stone and wooded tool production, utilising natural dyes, native skin cloak and blanket production, dance, music, language and gunyah building. Additionally, the space will host Living Libraries, bringing several key speakers together to share their personal stories on a collaborative subject such as Aboriginal civil rights, traditional society and practice and Aboriginal business. Finally, Aboriginal astronomy evenings will educate the community on the Indigenous community's view of the stars, stories and significance to Aboriginal culture.

2. Native permaculture and environmental sustainability practices

Permaculture workshops including introduction to permaculture concepts and principles, garden design and maintenance, composting and soil building, propagation and seed collection, cultivation, preservation and fermentation. Workshops focusing more broadly on environmentally sustainable practice including organic pest control, backyard conservation and making eco friendly household products.

These workshops are aimed at community members who would like to adopt Yerrabingin's practices in their own home or gardens.

3. Physical and mental health workshops

Yerrabingin will host physical and mental health workshops within the Pavilion space. These will include practices such as Yoga, mindfulness, meditation, Tai Chi and Wayapa Wuurk (a form of Aboriginal meditation and Yoga).

4. Aboriginal Heritage Tours and Garden open days

Yerrabingin will develop tourism programs including digital products to provide an authentic experience to visitors to the garden and the broader precinct. This will provide insight into the layers of history contained within Redfern and the examples of cultural knowledge and heritage within the garden.

5. Education

Yerrabingin have 15 years' experience in the development and delivery of Aboriginal education programs linked to the NSW syllabus. With extensive existing networks including the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). Yerrabingin will ensure a high quality curriculum linked education program that creates shared understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and constructs linked to the garden and the broader ATP precinct.

6. On-going mentoring

To ensure the ongoing success of the rooftop farm and its programs, Yerrabingin will employee staff to be on-site on a full time basis. Yerrabingin will seek to employ local

Aboriginal community members to support operations and contribute to the Redfern community. Potential candidates for mentee or traineeship programs can also be identified via local Aboriginal community organisations and services such as the Tribal Warrior Association. Cultural awareness and community outreach is key to Yerrabingin's proposal. Yerrabingin will establish collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal community organisations in Redfern and look to support local community programs through its operations.

7. Private Events

To ensure a self-sustainable business model, Yerrabingin will offer the rooftop garden space and pavilion to be booked for private events and workshops. This is restricted to a maximum of 40% of all events held, with the remaining 60% dedicated to community focused programs.



How will the space be managed?

Yerrabingin employees will be based on site 9am to 5pm, 6 days a week to facilitate workshops, tours, community access and ongoing farm maintenance. There will be some additional workshops and events held outside of general operating hours (9am-5pm) to suit seasonal and specific program requirements

The space will be available to the community via an online booking function on the Yerrabingin website. Alternatively, members of the community are able to casually visit or volunteer, by calling Yerrabingin and arranging access to Level 04 of Building 03.

What are the benefits of operators Yerrabingin?

Yerrabingin will deliver the first Indigenous rooftop garden in Sydney. The space will operate as a produce creating farm, a space for relaxation and mindfulness and for education and mentorship. Yerrabingin's offering is extremely diverse, providing a wide range of workshops and activities accessible to the community, staff and tenants at the ATP site.

