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Medicinal Plants in Australia Volume 1: Bush Pharmacy

Medicinal Plants in Australia: Bush Remedies is the first of four volumes in the study of Australian plants. It follows the story of early European settlers to Australia and their quest to discover the potential of the unfamiliar native flora of its vast land. Original quotes from these explorers' journals unveil the determined and at times courageous experiments they conducted with the available vegetation—experiments that were integral to the survival of the new colony.

The nineteenth century saw many new remedies being discovered from natural sources in Australia. Knowledge of many of these remedies was already established in the Aboriginal population and much of what became known about Australian bush remedies can be attributed to their contribution. Over time however, carefully written and illustrated documentation allowed specific knowledge to become more widely available.

As readers, we make our own discoveries about how the now well-known Australian plant remedies extracted from plants such as Eucalyptus, Tea Tree and Lemon Myrtle became recognised. But perhaps more intriguingly, the histories of lesser-known remedies such as those extracted from native orchids, banksias and grass trees are also brought alive in this text.

The book is extensive in its coverage of Australian flora and its uses as medicine. It is also abundantly illustrated with colour photographs of various plants, insects and extracts from early records. Break-out boxes offer supportive information to the main text and tables summarise details for easy reference. Furthermore, textual references are provided throughout and there is also a list of resources and an index at the end of the volume.

