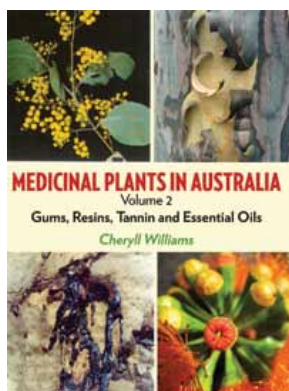


PENNY ROBERTSHAW

Medicinal Plants in Australia Volume 2: Gums, Resins, Tannin and Essential Oils



Medicinal Plants in Australia: Gums, Resins, Tannin and Essential Oils is the second of four volumes in the study of Australian plants. It highlights the potential of Australia's rich natural plant resources and the long-standing conflict that occurs between using trees for timber and conserving them for their medicinal value.

With the advent of antibiotics, medicinal plants became undervalued in many societies; but with rising incidences of drug-resistant bacteria, viruses and fungi, plant-based medicines are once again gaining their place as effective remedies. As a result, research into these remedies has taken on greater significance and this book follows the developing expansion of knowledge in this area.

The ten chapters in this book cover in detail the chemical constituents, medicinal applications and growth patterns of species such as *Melaleuca*, *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea*, *Canarium* and *Araucaria*. Of particular note is Chapter 2 which investigates the healing potential of resins

such as those that seep from the trunk of the River Red Gum; and Chapter 4, which considers the screening of native pines for their possible anti-cancer compounds.

There is a visual feast of colour photographs peppered throughout the text as well as enlightening extracts from keen observers of the Australian landscape—some date back to colonial times; others are more recent but no less revealing in their insights. Textual references and a vast list of resources at the end of the volume emphasise the depth and breadth of research that has gone into this work. An index is provided.