The Australia native foods, also known as ‘bush foods’, have important cultural nutritional and medicinal importance and can provide many opportunities in future industries. Australia harbours unique biodiversity where bush foods possess favourable nutrition properties compared to Western fruits. Bush foods are nutritionally dense and provide a good source and range of micronutrients and phytochemicals, particularly phenolics and antioxidants (Richmond et al., 2019). Today where climate change threatens current food systems, it is vital to explore the role versatile and functional bush foods and native plants play in the future of food consumption and environmental sustainability (Richmond et al., 2019; Williams et al., 2024). However, these foods and plants are more than just for consumption and sustenance, they play key roles in cultural knowledge and food systems which governs Aboriginal societies.

Research which involves bush foods and Aboriginal Peoples and their knowledge systems, exploring their properties and potential uses require certain ethical considerations. In an industry where Aboriginal involvement is less than two percent, researchers have a vital role to play in how they can work alongside Aboriginal communities and businesses to achieve common goals and mutually beneficial outcomes through partnerships. Historically, traditional ecological knowledge held by Aboriginal Peoples have been exploited and profited from without involvement or benefits for those who hold that knowledge. This presentation will provide insights and reflections on Michael's research collaborations and partnerships with Aboriginal communities in the bush foods space. This work outlines how two knowledge systems can interact, overlap and add value to innovative research and future industry.

**References**

Richmond, R. et al., 2019. J. Funct. Foods. 62, 103547.

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