

'Pawpaw, not <u>papaya</u>'



Walk 2— Mapping Edges: Marrickville

'I eat a lot of the leaf, so I grow the <u>papaya</u> every year.'

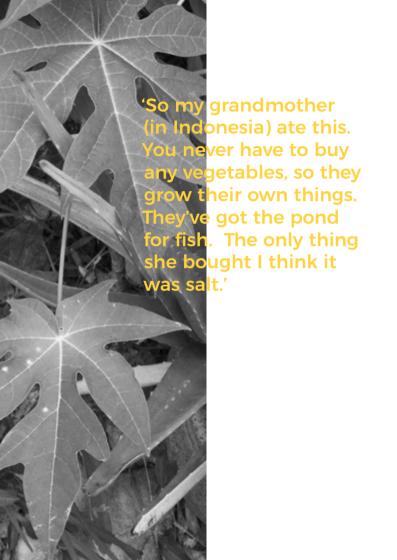
The fruits of papaya are delicious but can be hard to reach

Walk 2: Papayas

Papayas originated in Mexico and are one of those edible species, like chillis and lemongrass, ubiquitous in suburbs which are, or have been, home to Southeast Asian communities. Sydney is home to Australia's largest Vietnamese community. Arriving as refugees and family reunion migrants in the mid 1970s, many settled in Marrickville and probably began cultivating papayas, or at least eating them and spitting out the seeds at the edges of their properties.









There are as many stories as there are now papaya trees.

During one of our interviews, the papaya tree was one of our first talking points' when the gardener we were visiting corrected our identification. 'Pawpaw, not papaya', she said very pleased as, she explained pawpaw and mango do Papaya trees often appear in gutters and cracks in the pavement

not grow in Pescara, one the east coast of Italy, where she is originally from (whether picked green or ripe, papaya, pawpaw, or papaw are all from the same plant, Carica papaya. In Australia the red-fleshed fruit from hermaphrodite trees is labeled as papaya and the larger yellow-fleshed fruit from dioecious trees as pawpaw). The papaya tree came out of her compost, which means that she or one of her children probably made the choice to eat a papaya before she chose to grow it. It's not just humans putting the seeds in their compost heaps: papayas also collaborate with other species. Bats and birds, for instance, help papayas to move across the urban landscape.



Papaya plants like abundant water so often flourish around drains.

'This <u>papaya</u> came up because I buried the food scraps just in holes in the garden.' 'Oh I grow them from seed but I transferred this one, because this is full sun here.'



<u> Mapping Edges –</u> Marrickville

Mapping Edges is a transdisciplinary research studio at The University of Technology Sydney. Dr Ilaria Vanni Accarigi is in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Dr Alexandra Crosby is in the Faculty of Design Architecture and Building. More information at www.mappingedges.org

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