# Country Handle with Care

# Episode 2 – Community transcript

Dirtgirl: At the edge of our land, hearts and hands One shared mission, the vision is clear, right there. Handle country with care.

Costa: In the trails beyond, a unifying bond. Our eyes as one. Prepare to handle country with care.

Scrapboy: Look out for the danger of the not so welcome strangers. Weeds and pests and creatures galore. By wind and water set to explore. Many eyes needed to see pests like

Dirtgirl: Asian honey bees

Costa: electric ants.

Dirtgirl: Visitors.

Costa: Farmers.

Scrapboy: Community.

Dirtgirl: One planet we share. Handle country with care.

Title map: Malak Markets, Darwin, Northern Territory

Market Stall Holder 1: I think that people like to visit the real locals market. The one hidden away in the suburbs and that’s us.

Market Stall Holder 2: I basically make all sorts of jams, preserves, relishes and chutneys.

Market Stall Holder 3: So many people coming down with huge big baskets to get their weekly grocery shopping. It’s just fantastic.

Market Stall Holder 4: It's a community. We’ve got an awesome community here in this market. Its heaps of fun working here.

Market Stall Holder 2: I like to know where it’s grown, but more importantly, I like to know how it’s grown.

Market Stall Holder 5: What I cook and what I put on the plate is hugely important to me.

Market Stall Holder 6: Without the most amazing country, we’re not farmers. Like, that’s what we do, that’s our number one, is to look after the country.

Market Stall Holder 7: We handle our country with care through the use of organic produce and also all our biodegradable packaging.

Market Stall Holder 8: Go to the markets. Buy fresh. Make sure you ask the grower whether it’s from here.

Market Stall Holder 3: Buy direct from the people who are growing your food who are actually on the country, looking after it.

Market Stall Holder 8: So, buy local. I think every class room in Australia should have a garden. End of story. Kids need to handle some dirt. Yeah.

Dirtgirl: Bycera tryconi.

Costa: Trysara trioni.

Scrapboy: Back row sarah what?

Costa: Tyranny!

Entomologist: bactrocera tryoni

Dirtgirl: The Queensland fruit fly.

Costa: That’s it! The Queensland fruit fly. Huh.

Dirtgirl: The adult is wasp-like.

Scrapboy: Is about 8mm long. Red brown, with yellow marks.

Dirtgirl: Fruit flies hold their wings stretched out

Costa: in a horizontal position.

Dirtgirl: In a horizontal position when walking.

Scrapboy: The female stings maturing fruit.

Dirtgirl: Just like us, the fruit fly waits until the fruit is truly delicious. When it’s ripe.

Scrapboy: She lays white banana-like eggs just below the surface.

Dirtgirl: After two or three days they hatch into white carrot-shaped maggots.

Scrapboy: That tunnel in the flesh.

The fruit rots and falls to the ground.

Dirtgirl: The maggots bury themselves in the soil and pupate.

Scrapboy: After ten days they emerge as adult flies. The whole thing takes about two and a half weeks.

Dirtgirl: Queensland fruit fly affects both indigenous and introduced fruits.

Mango. Passionfruit. Papaya. Avocados.

Costa: How can we gardeners help stop Queensland fruit fly in its tracks? Well, here’s a few simple tips.

Number one. Collect any fruit that has been stung or that has fallen to the ground.

Put it in a container and solarise it. Leave it out in the sun for three to five days so it gets really hot and that will kill any of the eggs and the larvae. And then, you can dispose of it.

Title map: Horn Island, Torres Strait

Biosecurity Officer 1: Up here in Torres Strait we have the fruit fly monitoring program.

Dirtgirl: Awesome.

Biosecurity Officer 1: So on each of the islands there are heaps of traps that we have just like these ones hanging around under mango trees or any trees that bear fruit.

Dirtgirl: So how do these fruit fly traps work?

Biosecurity Officer 1: The fruit fly trap has a lure that sends out a scent.

Dirtgirl: So it doesn't attract other insects?

Biosecurity Officer 1: No, just three types of fly that we are trying to stop from coming into the country. There’s like fruit flies that are native to Australia, but the ones they have the problems with is the oriental fruit fly, the New Guinea fruit fly and the melon fruit fly.

Dirtgirl: So they’re the three fruit flies. So not all fruit fly are pests?

Biosecurity Officer 1: Yeah.

Dirtgirl: Some are indigenous.

Biosecurity Officer 1: Yeah, that are part of the eco system.

Dirtgirl: Ok, cool.

Biosecurity Officer 1: Hey dirtgirl, one thing you could do to help the community, is if you see any fruit lying around, just pick them up, bag them, so it doesn't provide a home where the fruit flies can breed.

Dirtgirl: So pick up the fruit off the ground.

Biosecurity Officer 1: Yep.

Dirtgirl: Can do.

Biosecurity Officer 1Cheers, thank you.

Title map: Waiben (Thursday) Island, Torres Strait

Costa: Dirtgirl, did I tell you a project that I visited in Cairns recently?

Dirtgirl: I don’t think so.

Costa: Well, it’s called the Indigenous Food Forest, and the Rangers over there are growing all these local, edible foods. Let’s have a look, hey. Have a look here.

Dirtgirl: Cool.

Indigenous Ranger 1: You have the fig, the ducal and the cycad. So bread, butter and sweet.

Costa: it’s sort of like a community garden but it’s different because they invite people to come like you visit a restaurant and you can have a meal that’s prepared by one of the top chefs who uses all of these foods in new and exciting ways.

Dirtgirl: that is amazing.

Indigenous Ranger 1: the species is Acacia flavescens and we actually use it in our coffee and for a damper to give our dampers a bit of flavour.

Costa: it’s like working with country in a wonderful way because it’s educating people on all these different foods.

Indigenous Ranger 2: sharing our story is really important because it gets handed on to future generations but educating everybody in a broader sense because it’s all our responsibility to look after the environment.

Costa: dirtgirl, you know, community gardens like this, are a really great way that everyone can get involved with growing food.

Dirtgirl: yeah, because it means that no matter what type of house or home you have you can get involved too. And it means that you can learn from each other. Learn ideas about how to grow things, if you’ve never grown something before, you can ask your neighbour and you can share the produce.

Costa: and speaking of sharing, on the other side of the garden bed, we have to understand that we can also share problems in a community garden.

Dirtgirl: yeah absolutely. Like. Pests coming in. now, if we just leave fruit laying around, whether it’s out on the street, or at home or at a community garden, fruit fly can really take off, and not in a good way.

Costa: if we all understand our role and don’t provide homes for insects

Dirtgirl: that are not native

Costa: to multiply

Dirtgirl: that’s right

Costa: we prevent it from becoming a problem, outside a community garden into other people’s gardens, into our market gardens and into our farms.

Dirtgirl: exactly. And then we are all helping to protect food production and to care for country.

Dirtgirl: We are Vectors

Intersectors

Pathways

And super highways

for pests and disease

So Please

Stop and connect

With country

Know

And then care

It's only fair

To protect the plants, the birds, the fish

The marine life, all creatures of the sea

Those on land that you see

And those you won't

So don't

Think it's no big deal.

But do

Be Brave

And connect with country with your heart

And see the beauty of the land

on which we stand

Understand

The traditions and culture

Bring nothing

Take nothing

See and feel everything

Ask for guidance

Listen

Ask if you don’t know

And explore with respect

And always be willing to connect

And care

For country

Yeah

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Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

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