



A Brief History

The site now occupied by PepperGreen Farm was originally established in 1859 by Chinese Settlers as a brickworks. In 2005, as part of a Melbourne University archaeological dig, a rare Chinese brick kiln was unearthed and excavated and then reburied for its protection. During the 1880's, Chinese market gardens were planted and apart from a period during the late 20th century, farms and commercial nurseries have been in operation since.

The site was also closely linked to the nearby Chinese settlement at Emu Point (across the road from PepperGreen Farm), where the Joss House still stands. The Chinese grew a variety of produce in their market gardens, which sustained the early miners. The market gardens, Emu Point and kiln all merge to create a historically significant site for Bendigo, which visitors continue to appreciate.

The Dja Dja Wurrung have ancestors tracing back thousands of years. PepperGreen Farm is working closely with our local Aboriginal community to raise cultural awareness among the broader community.

Today PepperGreen Farm is a social enterprise division of Access Australia Group (AAG) a not-for-profit organisation that supports people through targeted education, employment, social inclusion and social enterprises. PepperGreen Farm has been developed as a tourist, education and employment precinct, providing tourist attractions and experiences to visitors and the community, school and community workshops and programs on environmental practices, horticulture and biodiversity.



Access Australia Group has three Social Enterprise divisions – PepperGreen Farm, Access Employment Enterprises, and PepperGreen Farm Catering. We currently provide supported employment and skills training for people with disability or disadvantage. The Farm is fostering skills development in micro-business, horticulture, retail, tourism, hospitality, and creative manufacturing. Programs offered can improve participants knowledge, physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing, while providing volunteer and employment opportunities for community members, staff and supported employees. Every purchase made helps AAG to employ and provide services to a person with disability or disadvantage.



Access Australia Group acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

PepperGreen Farm

Where food & heritage collide



Opening Hours

9am - 4pm Monday to Friday

10am - 2pm Saturday

Phone: (03) 5445 9888

44 Thunder Street, North Bendigo

www.peppergreenfarm.com.au

Facebook: AccessAustraliaGroup



PepperGreen Farm is a
Social Enterprise of
Access Australia Group



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What's on offer at the Farm:

- school educational programs
- artisan studios and displays
- cafe tram
- retail shop including local produce and gifts
- farm kitchen including farm made meals and treats
- workshops and activities
- home to the Deaf and hard of hearing Hub
- 'pick and pay' fresh garden produce
- Eco Pod room hire
- recycled and up-cycled items
- custom order products
- plant nursery
- monthly themed markets
- therapeutic horticulture program
- environmental and biodiversity projects
- heritage tours
- private events - bookings for large groups essential
- supported employment
- volunteer opportunities
- garden displays
- employment enterprise services
- home to the oldest Chinese kiln outside of Asia



Farm Kitchen, retail space, gardens and fresh produce

Tourists and community members who visit PepperGreen Farm will be able to enjoy the gardens which provide a place for connectedness to the site's history and creation. The theme of the garden setting stems from the history of the site, which is reflected in the design and aesthetics. All produce grown at the Farm is herbicide and pesticide free and can be picked fresh from the garden for purchase with a range of seasonal produce available. Ingredients used in the Farm Kitchen include produce from the Farm and local suppliers offering a range of meals and snacks including vegan and gluten free options. Visitors can enjoy their meal or coffee inside, outside in the garden space or on our heritage restaurant tram for something a little different. The retail space has a range of PepperGreen Farm products including a variety of giftware, crafts, fresh honey and relishes, produce from the Farm and local producers, recycled and up-cycled products and a nursery.

Biodiversity and environmental projects

AAG strive for environmentally responsible practices at PGF which provide beneficial land care management, environmental solutions and sustainable horticultural initiatives, this includes waste and water management and biodiversity. The Farm provides solutions and alternative methods to address environmental and horticulture issues with the waste reduction, composting, therapeutic gardening techniques and biodiversity learnings able to be applied in the community setting. The range of projects include worm farms, a garden waste compost, the up-cycling of products available for purchase, ground to plate food cycle, Bio Char production, a permaculture chook pen, workshops, markets and school programs to provide education on environmental initiatives and much more.

Artisan Studios

Regional artists, makers and AAG program participants, as part of our Artisan Program, use these light-filled spaces to develop and exhibit their work in a supportive community setting offering visitors the chance to see 'art in progress', as well as purchase directly from the artist.

