

Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Scar Trees

The Budj Bim Landscape extends from Mount Eccles National Park East of Heywood and along the associated lava flows to the coast. This is Gunditjmara country, the traditional lands of the Gunditjmara Nation. Cultural heritage and traditional ecological knowledge is very important throughout the region.

The Gunditjmara people have maintained their connection to country since European settlement. A native title claim was granted in 2007. Gunditjmara people manage ten properties in the Budj Bim area and have an integral role in managing the landscape.

The Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project has compiled examples of cultural heritage and indigenous ecological knowledge into fact sheets to share with the Gunditjmara community and the broader community. A Field Guide to Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape is also available from Gunditj Mirring offices in Heywood and Glenelg Hopkins CMA offices in Hamilton.

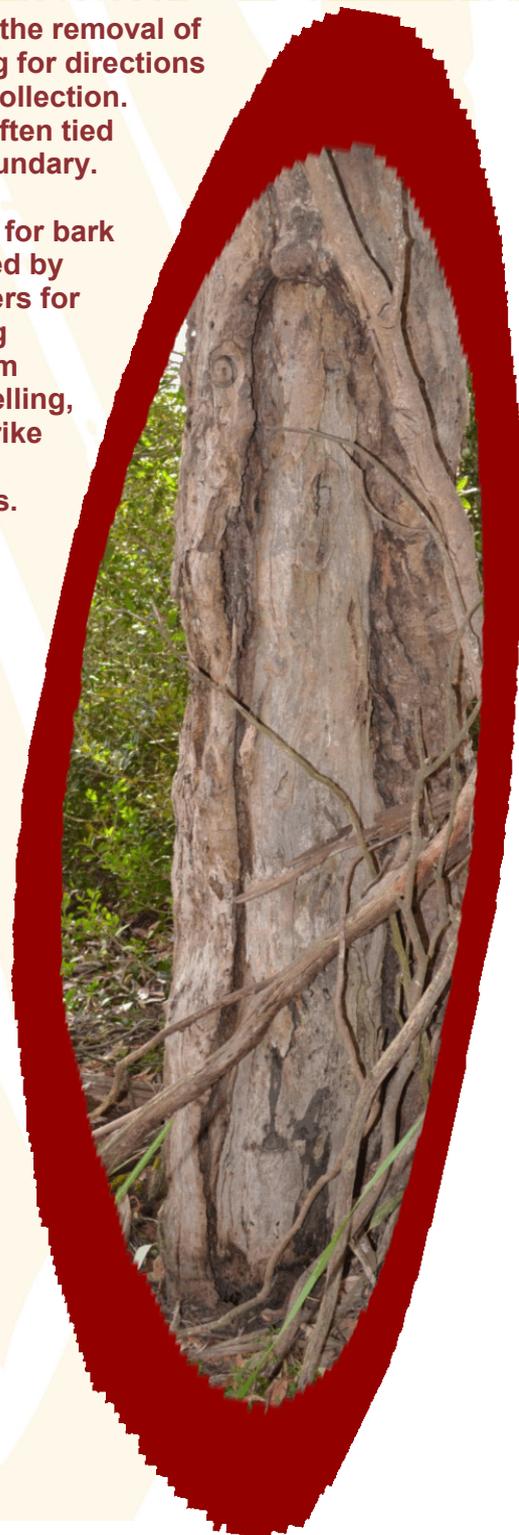
Scar trees are also known as canoe trees or shield trees. In the Budj Bim landscape, Red Gums and Stringy Barks are most often scarred. These trees are quite common and the Gunditjmara people learned how to make the best use of bark and wood.

Scar Trees are created by Aboriginal people deliberately removing bark or wood. There were many uses for bark and wood including shelter, canoe, carrying containers and plates, weapons and tools, and fighting shields.



Scarring also resulted from the removal of wood for artefacts, marking for directions or boundaries, and food collection. Sapling branches were often tied together to signify a boundary.

Aboriginal techniques for bark stripping were adopted by early European settlers for cladding and roofing buildings. Scars from machinery, timber felling, fire and lightning strike can be mistaken for Aboriginal scar trees.



Contact for more Information

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