

Artwork by Thomas Day

# Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

## Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Lilies and Orchids

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.

Many species of orchids and lilies have a small bulb full of nutritious carbohydrates. Gunditjmara women and children would spend much of their day digging for bulbs and roots to supplement the meat and fish brought to camp by the men.





Examples of bulbs used for food by the Gunditjmara include Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium stricta*), Yellow Lily (*Burchardia umbelata*), Greenhood orchid (*Pterostylus nutans*) and many more.

The bulbs are generally small and many were collected each day. The bulbs were washed and placed in specially made woven baskets. The baskets were placed in a camp oven to cook. Other Lilies and orchids were used for medicinal purposes.

Collection of roots and tubers was done at particular times for different species when the tuberous root systems had multiplied. Tuberous plant species were actively cultivated for future use.



#### Contact for more Information

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