



Artwork by Thomas Day

# Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

## Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Native Hemp

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.

Native Hemp (*Gynatrix pulchella*) also known as Hemp Bush is an open woody shrub found in riparian areas. It is an attractive fast growing plant and is very showy when in flower. The plant has small, fragrant greenish-white flowers held in a panicle arrangement. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. The leaves are heart-shaped and up to 10cm in length covered in fine hairs. The plant seeds readily in moist soil conditions.





The bark of the Hemp Bush is very fibrous and can be peeled from the shrub in long thin strips. A practiced hand could retrieve a meter or more of fine string from the plant. The string which can be used for nets and sewing.



**Contact for more Information**

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