



Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Aboriginal Mounds

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.

The Gunditjmara people have lived in the Budj Bim landscape for many thousands of years. Aboriginal mounds have been built up from long occupation. Mounds and the associated archeological items are indications of permanency in the area. They usually appear circular or oval shaped and are composed of dark, often black and sometimes greasy, soil and sediment. Mounds are mostly flattened today and are usually covered with different grasses than the surrounding paddock.





Mounds can often contain stone heat retainers, charcoal and burnt clay from cooking ovens. The mounds sometimes include Aboriginal burials. Animal bones and shells, stone tools and lithic scatters are often found in or around the mounds which are often found on rises around floodplains and the banks of watercourses.

Aboriginal people also built houses and shelters using bark and wood with heaped earth used as foundation and to strengthen and insulate the walls of structures. Fires were commonly built near or in front of shelters with wooden and stone tool artefacts made close by. Most likely the debris produced from such activities, as well as wood and bark from fires and collapsing shelters added to the build up of mounds.

Contact for more Information

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