

Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Tupong

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.

Tupong (*Pseudaphritis urvilli*) is also known as Congoli, sand trout and many other names. It is a relatively small freshwater and estuarine fish commonly around 100-200 mm in length and can grow to over 350 mm.



Tupong were known as “Tuupuurn” to the Gunditjmara people and were an important source of protein. At certain times of the year, Tupong were caught in the fish trap systems near Lake Condah. The plentiful numbers made for a bountiful harvest and they were considered a great delicacy.

Due to its small size, Tupong are not well known to anglers. In fact, larger specimens can be found throughout the Budj Bim landscape. They are described as excellent eating which may be why they were a part of the traditional Gunditjmara diet.

It is a quite common fish in South-western Victoria and other parts of Australia. It can be found in estuarine and river systems in the Glenelg Hopkins region. It tends to live amongst the debris on the bed of slower moving streams. It will bury itself in the substrate, waiting to pounce on suitable prey.

Contact for more Information

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