

Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Hunting Implements

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 were traditionally fine hunters and fierce warriors. The spear is the most important tool for the men. The construction of spears varied depending on their use. Different types of spears are recorded for war (longer and heavier) and for hunting (shorter and lighter).



Ornamental spears made from a rare wood were highly valued and never used for hunting or fighting.

Most hunting spears used a lighter butt piece to provide balance. A hole in the butt piece suited a spear thrower (woomera) which added speed and distance to the spear throw. For fighting, both light (for warding off spears) and heavy (close quarters) shields were made. Heavy clubs were used in close combat.

The liangle is a heavy weapon with a sharp pointed bend. Close combat would involve trying to strike the opponent on the back with the pointed end by reaching over the opponent's shoulder.

Another iconic weapon was the boomerang used equally for hunting and fighting.



Contact for more Information

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