



Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Basket Grass

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.

Basket Grass (*Lomandra longifolia*) is a perennial, rhizomatous herb found throughout eastern Australia. It is recognised by its tough, strappy leaves and prickly clusters of flowers. When not flowering, it can be difficult to distinguish from a grass.





It is found in many different habitats from sand dunes, open forest, creek banks to rainforest and is frost, heat and drought tolerant. The plant flowers in spring to early summer and fruiting occurs in summer.

The Gunditjmara people ground the seeds for use in making damper. Their most significant use of the leaves was for weaving. The long, flat, fibrous leaves were used for making baskets, mats and eel traps which were an important part of daily life.

The leaves were also used for binding wounds. The base of the plants stores water which could be chewed by those in danger of dehydration.

Spiny Head Mat-rush is often used to stabilise river and creek banks. It has great value as shelter for ground dwelling fauna.



Contact for more Information

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