

Artwork by Thomas Day

# Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

## Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Yam Daisy

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.

Yam Daisy Flower

Yam Daisy (*Microseris* spp.) is also known as Muurang in the Dhauwurd Wurrung language and Native Dandelion. It is native to Australia and is a perennial herb with bright yellow flowers and fleshy tubers.

The Gunditjmara people gathered Murnong roots across the Budj Bim landscape. As well as being harvested from the wild, Yam daisies were propagated and grown on mounds to ensure abundance and longer roots. It was prepared by roasting or pit baking. The taste is described as “sweet with a flavour of coconut”.

Murnong was an important staple food for Indigenous people throughout Victoria and Tasmania. It can be eaten raw or roasted. Yam Daisy was most often collected by Indigenous women and children while the men were hunting or fishing. The cooked root was called "Yuwatch".

It was once widespread and very common across the volcanic plains. The introduction of sheep and cattle resulted in the rapid destruction of vast areas of Yam Daisy. This was a terrible loss for the people who depended on it for food.

Yam Daisies are now found in small isolated remnant populations. They are a listed threatened species in Victoria.



#### Contact for more Information

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File: "GMPP 32 Fact Sheet - Yam Daisy"  
Version: 1.0 - April 2013

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