

Artwork by Thomas Day

Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project

Cultural Features of the Budj Bim Landscape Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

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.



In full flight

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 Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*) is a common sight around the Budj Bim landscape. They are a large, mostly black cockatoo, 55 to 65cm in length, with yellow tail panels and a yellow patch behind their ears.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo roosting



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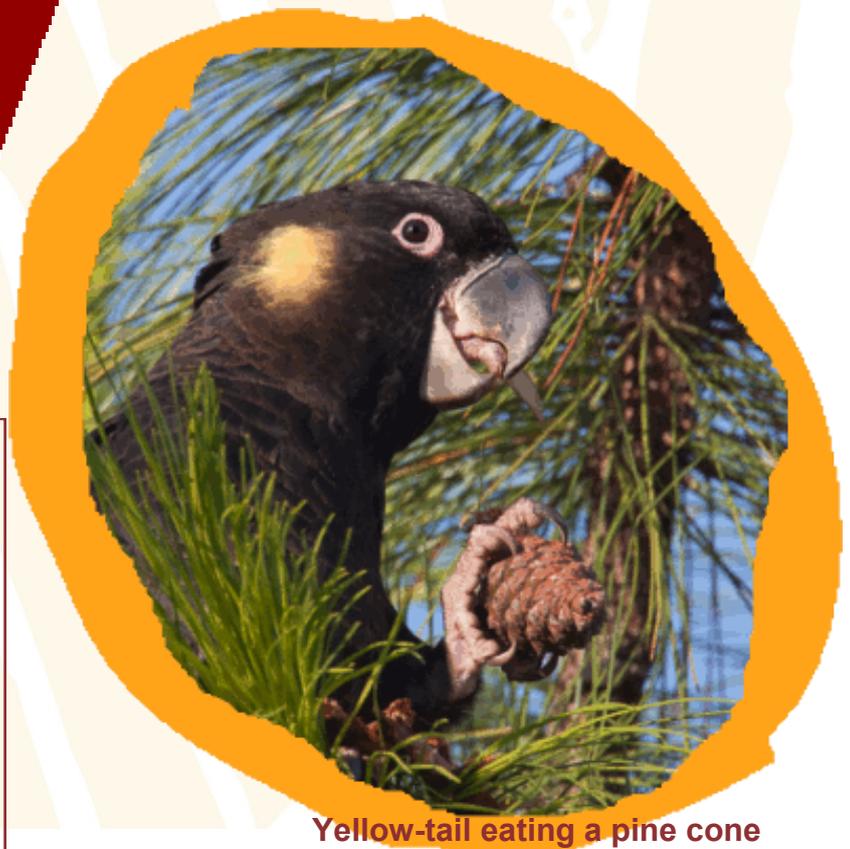
They eat seeds from She-oak, Eucalyptus, Acacia and Banksia. They are often found in coastal areas, eucalyptus woodlands, pine plantations, orchards and farmland.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos in flight.

The Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is known as ‘Willan’ or ‘Kappatj’ in the Dhauwurd Wurrung language of the Gunditjmara. It is an important animal for the Gunditjmara people. It has a special significance as a guiding spirit and warns of any danger. In return the Gunditjmara respect it and refrain from injuring it. The Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoo links the Gunditjmara with the dreamtime, it provides assurances as well as sanctions for present actions. In the social context it gives the Gunditjmara an enduring sense of unity and a sign and reminder of duties both social and ceremonial.

While the Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo is a relatively common species in south-eastern Australia, it is in decline due to the loss of habitat including both food sources and nesting sites.



Yellow-tail eating a pine cone

Contact for more Information

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