

The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Going Bush

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:04

You come to these places and you feel so alive, you're spirit is buzzing.

00:00:09

In actual fact you're buzzing before you get out of bed in the morning because you know you're going on Country.

00:00:15

This is the natural landscape and these shelters were traditionally used by those traversing.

00:00:22

Aboriginal people whether it be from the *pallitorre* mob or it may have been Aboriginal people using it for the trade routes.

00:00:29

But these rock shelters, as you can see, they're permanently here, you don't have to make them up.

00:00:36

You put your fire down here in the right spot and before you know it you've got a nice warm living area which you could be staying in for a day or two or even just overnight while you're on a hunting trip or on a trip to the mountain.

00:00:48

We find that most of the shelters through here were used in the traversing stage of getting from the lower land up to the Central Plateau for the cider gum.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Cave Dwelling

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:02

You would have had a small family group here.

00:00:03

As you can see the shelter runs along.

00:00:05

There's a little bit more of an overhang around there.

00:00:07

A fire over here in a really good spot.

00:00:11

The hearth there would have been drawing the smoke straight past that opening here so therefore you wouldn't have been getting smoked out in there, you would have got the heat from the fire in here but the smoke would have been sucked up and taken away from us.

00:00:22

So a really good shelter.

00:00:24

Now as we know, this is a sandstone, that's what the build-up of these rock shelters is and of course once you warm sandstone it holds the heat.

00:00:27

So you get a good fire going through there, you get the warmth in here.

00:00:34

Again, you've got quite a warm, dry area to come and live in.

00:00:38

And just down over here a couple of hundred metres, there's a very big cleared plain, now that would have been burnt off, traditional Aboriginal burning methods so therefore the bush foods would have been quite close to gather, you wouldn't have had to go very far to get hold of your bush food for the day, bring them back here to your rock shelter.

00:00:56

Again, then sit around with the elders preparing that food or the grass seeds, or whatever it may be that you've collected for the day and, again, you've got your family home right here.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Holistic View

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:04

That cultural landscape, I think nowadays we tend to look at the land in patches and parcels and we forget to look at it as a holistic Aboriginal cultural landscape because in many cases we can see that...

00:00:17

Burn that off through there, we've got really clear open button grass plains, we've got great fresh water flowing through that, so we know we've got really good hunting grounds and it's that cultural landscape will tell us a story.

00:00:30

Then we know, ok, good hunting grounds.

00:00:32

On the other side on the north face there, there's some really good rock shelters so we've got permanent residency there.

00:00:37

I use it a lot I guess for my purposes teaching the younger generations about those cultural landscapes and what they mean to the people traditionally and, of course, contemporary as well.



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[The Orb](#) → [Living Cultures](#) → [Shelters](#) → [Cultural Landscape](#) → [South West Facing](#)

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:03

This one here is probably not the best of ones 'cos it's got that bit of a south, south-westerly face So if you do get the bad weather, it's going to come in and blow in on you.

00:00:08

But look it's a really great shelter to come down to, it's a great one to use for educational purposes, and, you know, have our young ones have a look at Were they family group staying in them or were they hunting groups staying in them?

00:00:21

Again that sort of stuff probably still needs to have a lot more assessment and a lot more research being done on those sites and using our technology that we have today, because we could go back onto some of those rock shoulders on the north-east face that we know have a little bit more permanency occupation in them, longer term, maybe then we could do more research and deeper digs into those sorts of shelters and caves, and that will probably tell us probably more reason as to why it was being used at that time of year or not at that time of year and so forth.

00:00:53

Because I think there's a lot for us to learn from those permanent sites.

00:00:59

Whereas, I've come to this side of the hill and I can see that I've got that south and south-west facing sort of a front, these weren't occupied for anywhere near that type of length of time.

00:01:09

They certainly didn't have the amount of people staying in them at the same amount of time.

00:01:14

So there's some really great lessons to be learned from just those two different cultural landscapes.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Pop Jittles

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:02

My pop Jittles, he came from Flinders Island and of course he was put over here, he couldn't read or write but he could really hunt really well.

00:00:10

So way back in those days, late 40s, early 1950s, the skin trade was massive.

00:00:10

So coming out to the bush and snaring those kangaroos, possums and wallabies and all that, he was able to sell the skins.

00:00:23

So what we would do was stay in here, bring his food to here, then he would come off the Central Plateau and he would come down to here with all the skins and we would then take the rest of those skins back home and prepare them ready to be sold at the skin merchants.

00:00:37

And he would be up on the mountain for anything up to three months of the year.

00:00:40

So we spent many a night in here, not because we wanted to, because we had to because he needed his food and he had to get the skins back down to the markets down in Launceston to be sold.

00:00:50

There was no pension back them days, there was no unemployment so you had to find a way to feed your family and of course he had brilliant skills as hunting and living off the land so to be able to transfer that over here to getting those skins and then selling them in at the markets, he was able to provide quite a good living and feed his family and house his family.

00:01:10

So out of necessity, he had to do it and of course later on as we got older, we started realising how hard he was doing it and what he was actually doing up here.

00:01:19

He wasn't using it for the same traditional purposes that would have been used 250 years ago, but he was still using it for his traditional purposes in the fact he was hunter and gathering off the Country up here and, of course, he used these rock shelters to keep him dry, get him warm.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Short Term Dwelling

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:02

The more permanent shelters are certainly on the north-east face, the northern edge of the mountainside or the cliff faces.

00:00:09

When you look at the archaeological evidence, the scientific evidence there, it shows that they didn't just come in and have one feed and light the fire tonight and gone tomorrow, which is what we find in a lot of these shelters, that they are only just that one off.

00:00:23

The permanent shelters show that that ash build up is a lot more prominent and, of course, then you can start looking at different seasons that they were there because of the different food matter that you're finding within that fireplace or the hearth.

00:00:33

You maybe finding seal bones or mutton bird bones or swan bones or possum or kangaroo or whatever.

00:00:46

So those permanent shelters show us a lot more of that, whereas these shelters that we've found through here, show us that they aren't used for a long-term purpose so if you were traversing or you were going to stay overnight and gone the next day, these shelters are made really good for that sort of a purpose.

00:01:01

If I do need to get to that Central Plateau or I'm coming back from the Central Plateau with some of my cider gum, I need somewhere to stay for the day or the night, I've got these shelters that can be utilised.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Cultural Landscape → Connecting and Sharing

Video Transcript

Hank Horton

00:00:03

I guess for me it's been brilliant because I can bring my grandchildren here and show them but more to that, I can reach out to the rest of the Aboriginal community now and they can come out and visit me and come and see these contrasting cultural landscapes.

00:00:14

Many of our community members today live in cities and don't get the opportunity like I do to live in the Country, so it's great to be able to let them come out from the city and then I can bring them into a place like this where they can really connect to their culture.

00:00:30

Then you just sit back in there and lay back on the ground and listen to the spirits speak to you.

00:00:34

People say, 'oh the bush doesn't talk'.

00:00:36

Yes it does.

00:00:37

It's got a lot of great messages out there and if we can get back on our Country, connect to that land and listen to that story that the bush has got to tell us the spirits are speaking to us and for an Aboriginal person it's probably no better day out than being on Country.

00:00:53

It makes you so happy and you go home feeling just revitalised and ready to go again the next day.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Gathering

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:05

We're in Orford.

00:00:06

It's on the East Coast.

00:00:08

It's an area known to have ten tribes in this area or ten bands in that one tribal area.

00:00:14

Today it was just more around being on a Country site that would have utilised the lean-to huts, bringing the kids along to share that bit of knowledge with them.

00:00:26

When we build a hut we're going to have this long piece of wood; that's the big tree that's fallen down.

00:00:31

We need bits of wood from in here that we can lie down like this.

00:00:34

We can then put our pieces of bark like so and they will sit on top of these bits of wood, that way it won't fall through, and we will just layer and layer the bark over the top of each other like so and then that will stop the wind from blowing it.

00:00:49

So, let's go jump in here and have a look.

00:00:52

Now, before we go on I want you two to remember that we're on very special Aboriginal ground.

Manala

00:00:56

Yeah.

Danny Gardner

00:00:57

and we must be very respectful when we walk on their Country.

00:01:01

Would you like to teach Wesley how we do our acknowledgment?

Manala

00:01:03

Yeah.

Danny Gardner

00:01:04

We say, Father Spirit

Manala

00:01:06

Father Spirit

Danny Gardner

00:01:07

and Mother Earth

Manala

00:01:08

Mother Earth

Danny Gardner

00:01:09

acknowledge me

Manala

00:01:10

acknowledge me

Danny Gardner

00:01:12

as I walk on this Aboriginal land.

Manala

00:01:14

I walk on this Aboriginal...

Danny Gardner

00:01:17

Acknowledge me as an Aboriginal man

Wesley

00:01:20

as an Aboriginal man

Danny Gardner

00:01:22

walking on this sacred land.

Wesley

00:01:25

walking on this sacred land.

Danny Gardner

00:01:28

It is real.

00:01:29

This is very real.

00:01:31

It's very real.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Teaching

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:00

I think there's some straight stuff - Look here.

00:00:03

I can see a young Gum tree straight down there and it doesn't have many...see,

00:00:03

we can't just go cut these ones 'cos they're all growing really healthy, see.

00:00:10

If I went and cut this down I'm killing the tree and that's no good.

00:00:15

So, down here I see one we can cut and we can probably make two or three lengths out of him just with one branch.

00:00:22

All your bark comes off your trees, you see.

00:00:25

Are you right, mate?

00:00:27

No, no, let him go at his own pace; he's a bit smaller than us.

00:00:33

And if we rush him he might hurt himself.

00:00:36

See how he's only got a tiny little bit of leaves left on him?

00:00:40

Yeah I don't think he's going to live for very long, so this is the one we're going to take.

00:00:45

So, I think we can use just this one tree and we won't have to cut any more because it's really long, so we're probably only going to go to about here.

00:01:05

Timber!

00:01:07

All right, there's our first one.

00:01:12

So, this is what you've got to look for, these.

00:01:14

See how it's cracked in the middle?

00:01:15 That tells you the tree is going to die.

00:01:20 So, we haven't just killed a tree; this has already died.

00:01:33 If you get tired have a rest.

00:01:38 Well done.

00:01:39 And I'll try to do this one.

00:01:41 Stop Maybe not.

00:01:42 Good boy for listening.

00:01:45 And here now.

00:01:48 Come this way.

00:01:49 Now, this is cutting grass, mate, this is the stuff that cuts you.

00:01:53 So, when you walk, walk over the top, right, lift your legs up.

00:02:00 Keep going.

00:02:05 You're doing a good job, Wesley, I'm really proud of your mate.

00:02:10 I know your mum and dad would be proud of you.

00:02:12 Our people never had vehicles.

00:02:13 They couldn't drive to where they needed to go.

00:02:18 And our people didn't have axes and knives.

00:02:20 We'll go up here and we'll turn around, okay?



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Location

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:02

Being not far from the East Coast it was really just a matter of coming out and having a look.

00:00:07

So, we came out yesterday and walked up and down the beach and tried to think, 'Okay, if I was looking for a place to make some shelter where would it be?'

00:00:15

And this was the best location we found.

00:00:17

There was another one further down which had a nice, big fallen log but too open for other people to be around.

00:00:24

You kind of want to have a little bit of privacy.

00:00:28

You're practicing a part of our culture that's been practiced in this area before and with this environment I can also show the kids the midden sites, talk about the trading routes, Maria Island, Bruny Island.

00:00:43

So, the location it suits because there's so much cultural knowledge and stuff to talk about.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Preparation

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:01

Yeah, well, see today what I wanted to do was to build a quick lean-to hut.

00:00:06

The lean-to huts were more designed for a really quick use.

00:00:09

They would build them in areas where it had lots of wind.

00:00:13

If they were travelling from one area to another it would take too much time to build an actual live-in hut, so it's the simple structure of finding a piece of wood that's already fallen.

00:00:23

This one we had to move to here but generally you'll find a lot of fallen trees ready to go.

00:00:29

And they're really simple, really quick to make.

00:00:31

So, I've just got to clear this out, boys, so we can chill-out here.

00:00:38

This here is only going to be here for temporary use.

00:00:42

You know if we're lucky it might stand here for another week or so, if not the weather will destroy it.

00:00:48

So, with today we don't have a very large breeze but generally in this area your breeze will come from the coast.

00:00:53

If it come this direction we've got this mound and a windbreak here so we're quite sheltered.

00:00:59

So, the reason I wanted to do it here is generally you would have a lot of wind coming at our face.

00:01:05

We would use the big sheets of stringy bark just like a big sheet of tin roofing iron and that is our windbreak.

00:01:10

So, it's enough space in there just to probably get out of the breeze, have a sit-down for an hour or two, wait for the weather to change and then begin their journey on again.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Construction

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:07

See, Wesley, normally we can tie these down, mate, but we're going to need to.

00:00:15

This one's not very wide but what we can do is we can split him so now we've got that piece.

00:00:23

All this is all bits that is not really good for us to use because it's not wide but we don't throw it away because we can make rope from that by stringing it.

00:00:32

So, if we've got to tie any of this down we can use this bark to make simple rope.

00:00:38

This one's a bit dry though; see how it breaks really easily.

00:00:41

And see, with having our sticks like this it stops the bark sagging like that.

00:00:45

All right, now you layer and layer and layer, so half on the last piece and half off.

00:00:52

Now, listen to me, I want you to put it on there how I told you.

00:00:56

Remember to lay it over the top not next to each other.

00:00:58

About here.

Wesley

00:01:00

Yeah.

Danny Gardner

00:01:01

Watch out, Manala.

00:01:02

Now we're going to lean that up on that.

00:01:07

Remember, lay them over.

00:01:09 Hold that.

00:01:10 All right, see how we're getting smaller layers?

00:01:13 All right, what we'll do is we'll take those out because they're a bit flimsy.

00:01:17 This one's nice and thick, see.

00:01:21 All right.

00:01:23 All this leftover stuff we can use to burn if we need to get a fire going but what I want to do is keep piling it up in here like this.

00:01:31 So, let's say we lay down here and got some shelter out of the wind, and then the wind dropped off and we got hungry, we want to go catch some fish or some shellfish, we need to cook them, don't we?

Wesley
00:01:44 Mm-hmm.

Danny Gardner
00:01:45 So, this could be our fire-starter.

00:01:47 We've got lots of dry wood around us and to make it nice and comfy we put our skins in there, mate, okay?

00:01:56 I think I'm missing one of my big skins.

00:02:01 Which is a bit upsetting.

00:02:07 All right, I've finished.

00:02:12 Thanks very much, Wes.

00:02:13 So, now I'm going to sleep.

00:02:17 All right, you're not going to live under this for a long time; this is only going to be for the day.

00:02:23 You hope out and I'll hop out and then you and Wes get in.

00:02:27 Yeah, jump out.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Story Time

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:02

So, once upon a time, a long, long time ago before man walked the land and it was just the birds and animals, all the plants, the rivers, the oceans, the rocks; everything you see is all part of our culture and was all created.

00:00:18

And one day our good spirit, *poomlee* - I mean you can see him; he's a star.

00:00:22

It's actually a planet called Jupiter and we call that star our spirit.

00:00:27

And the spirit created *palawa* man but he didn't want *palawa* man to walk on the land just yet; he wanted him to learn.

00:00:34

And so, what he did is he made *palawa* man in the image of a kangaroo, so he had a big long tail, he had no knees, and what he had to do, he had to learn the landscape but he had to do it on his own; he had to figure it out for himself.

00:00:48

So, what he did he hopped all around the land.

00:00:51

He learned what plants he could eat, he learned what plants other animals eat, he learned things that were bad, he learned which way was an easy direction to a waterhole.

00:01:01

And at the end of time *poomlee* realised that *palawa*, the kangaroo, had all this knowledge but he had no way of teaching it.

00:01:09

So, they sat him down and they chopped his tail off and they said, 'You no longer need your tail; we'll give you knees so you don't have to hop, you can walk, you can dance and you can sit!'

00:01:20

All right?

00:01:21

And then they said, 'We're going to give you a voice because you've got so much knowledge we want you to be able to talk and teach your knowledge to all the people!'

00:01:29

And that is how *palawa* man was created.

00:01:34

And so, when we did our story-telling that was around making sure kids your age, and these two boys, they had lots of knowledge and if, let's say, God forbid, something happened and mum and dad weren't there to help you out, how are you going to look after yourself?

00:01:47

How are you going to know what to eat?

00:01:49

And instead of me catching fish for you I can teach you how to fish and you could feed yourself for a lifetime.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Knowledge

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:00

Go in there.

00:00:02

Can you lie down?

Manala

00:00:05

Yeah.

Danny Gardner

00:00:06

So, just imagine going for a swim, getting really hot and want to get out of the sun, perfect example.

00:00:13

Plus if it's getting cold you've got kangaroo skins to keep you warm, windbreak from the wind and some shade.

00:00:20

All you need is some food and water, don't you, mate?

00:00:23

You know, we're a race of people, we're all about sharing.

00:00:25

Like I'm all about sharing my culture with anyone.

00:00:28

Just like your son coming along; I was happy to share any bit of any knowledge I have because I'm like a custodian of it and I don't own it, I'm just a caretaker, I just look after it.

00:00:39

And my job is to make sure it is continued on, so for Wesley and Manala when they grow old and they can tell their children about all our culture or all the stuff I've taught them.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Light and Shade → Lesson

Video Transcript

Danny Gardner

00:00:00

Building this structure was really quick and easy; didn't need to look anything flash if you've got kangaroo skins to lay down a bit more comfortable to lay on, but the structures weren't needed to be really sturdy or to last a long time.

00:00:13

It took us under an hour and that's basically with just a couple of little kids.

00:00:18

But gathering materials though, like you'd probably spend a day or so to get it all.

00:00:22

Location was always important, where to pick it at.

00:00:24

They'd think 'Well, we need to stop up there, that's where that natural resource is and it's easier to build there than to gather from there and cart it all back' because the bark, you know you carry enough it has a bit of weight to it and if you're travelling over sand it just becomes a bit harder for the body.

00:00:40

We roamed along the beach a bit to find this spot and we've got a little bit of a windbreak from the dead trees here.

00:00:47

We've got a backdrop from the road so we're not getting spotted by anyone on the other side.

00:00:52

If the wind changes you've got the little bank here to break.

00:00:55

But this is our windbreak here and this'll serve its purpose for the time we're here and then if we have to move to a next area and if that was windy there we'd build another one or it could be a rock shelter or some hollow tree.

00:01:10

It's just trying to utilise your environment as best you can and adapt and survive.

00:01:19

What do you think, Manala; is it nice in there?

00:01:20

Are you warm?

00:01:22

I can't hear you.

Manala

Yes.

00:01:23

Danny Gardner

Nice and loud.

00:01:24

00:01:25

Is it warm?

Manala

Yes!

00:01:26

Danny Gardner

Are you in the shade?

00:01:27

Manala

Yes!

00:01:29

Danny Gardner

Is the wind getting you?

00:01:30

Manala

No!

00:01:31

Danny Gardner

Good.

00:01:32

00:01:33

So, it works then?

Manala

Yes!

00:01:34

Danny Gardner

I've got the approval of a four-year-old so I've done all right.

00:01:35



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Welcome

Video Transcript

unnamed

00:00:03

Dave Gough

00:00:03

Welcome gathering here, *munginabitta's* Country, *panatana* Country, *punnilerpanner* Country, welcome.

00:00:13

[singing welcoming and cleansing ceremony in language]



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Country

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:02

My family has had a strong connection to this part of country here through the period of colonisation up until today.

00:00:12

It's in an area they call now today, Port Sorell, and it's on what they call here Rubicon Estuary but we call the whole area *panatana*.

00:00:26

munginabitta's country and there's stories and journals of my family swimming across the estuary from Squeaking Point to this land here with one of my great grandmothers as a baby and a skin bag on her back.

00:00:43

Not only have you got the oysters that are in the estuary, you've got fresh water and fresh water creeks that run through the property to a big soak in the middle.

00:00:55

You've got ducks and swans and eggs and through the creeks you would have had burrowing crayfish all through here as well.

00:01:02

Burning amongst the property would have encouraged more of a grass growth into the centre where the soak is, but there is a grassy area in there where the paddy melons and small wallabies get in there and feed.

00:01:16

There's a lot of resources through the tea tree along the water's edge there for making spears and building materials for your huts so there's a huge amount of resources in a well sheltered, protected area.

00:01:29

You can live all year round, so that's why it's so special.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Living Site

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:05

If we burnt this property now you would see there'd be a lot of shelved sites, a lot of midden sites they call them today, which shows a lot of moving and living all over this property around these hills.

00:00:19

So there is a living site just in here amongst these grass trees.

00:00:23

I don't really like to refer to them as midden sites, I'd rather call them living sites because this is where people lived and these are the remains of foods that they ate, but also around this area there would have been babies born onto this country and old people passed away and buried on this country.

00:00:42

So that's why I'd rather be calling them living sites than a midden site.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Depression

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:01

The majority of what's here are the oysters which are out of the estuary there and there are bits of core stones from stone knapping and making tools as well in amongst all of this and over under this grass tree here we've got a depression.

00:00:21

So this is a dugout depression, it would have been dug out by even using some of the Casuarina, She-oak, into a hardened digging stick and digging this whole area out into the size of a hut that you want to be staying in and then you'd be using the resources around you to build a hut over the top of this.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Dugout

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:00

This has been caved in a bit over the years.

00:00:00

Obviously it would have been a lot bigger and some of the depressions that I've been to around our coastlines are quite deep as well because you want to be down below wind as well so you're getting yourself already down halfway protected before you're even building the hut over the top.

00:00:20

And also it means that you don't have to build such a high-topped hut as well.

00:00:24

So when you start bending material, tying and making a frame, it can be a lot lower because you're climbing down into it so you're already down in under the weather, that's why they're dug out.

00:00:34

As you were digging down here, you're putting the dirt up on the sides but it gave you a mound that if you did have a small little central fire, just a very small little fire going, which they did have in different parts, you could be lying near the fire up on the edge of the mound.

00:00:54

So in positioning yourself you're quite comfortable and you can have a few people lying around like that around a very small fire.

00:01:00

I mean some of our huts were very large, up to 15 people in them, and some of them were small with just a couple of people in them so it all varied.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Organic Living

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:01

Once you move away from this site, you come back, you can just rebuild it and refix it.

00:00:07

Your huts have become organic, they're just like you.

00:00:10

So while you're in them and living in them, you're maintaining them.

00:00:14

Rebuild it, restuff it, reline it with the grasses or whatever you're using, they're very comfortable.

00:00:20

So once this is all dug out and you've built your frame and your hut on top of this, you line all the floor with skins and if it is cold, because there's a lot of birds and a lot of ducks down through here, you're eating a lot of birds, you'd be collecting a lot of feathers so you're tucking feathers into the roof on the inside and you use tea tree strips and bark around the walls on the inside.

00:00:43

So it gives you like a three-layer construction, which gives you a lot of strength, a lot of wind protection and insulation as well.

00:00:52

Instead of having carpet on the floor in your bedroom, you've got skins.

00:00:56

Insulation in your roof, you've got the feathers and around the walls you've got bark and drawings so people did quite intricate hunting scene drawings and drawings of family out of charcoal and ochres on the inside of huts as well.

00:01:08

So they were very comfortable, they weren't just a whacked together shelter.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Resources

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:01

You you governed by what's on the landscape.

00:00:04

And you don't want to be carrying materials from too far away so in this area you would be even using it using bracken So you'd be even breaking off the bracken into bunches, putting them up on the outside, using Lomandra string to tie the bracken down on the outside.

00:00:22

Everybody in the world traditionally would have made huts or lived in caves and done the same thing.

00:00:27

It's just my ancestors did it up until a couple hundred years ago.

00:00:27

Some people did a thousands of years ago.

00:00:32

And you did it by what's around you, and thinking about that and practice.

00:00:36

So as you're building something, 'Oh, well that didn't work too well', well over thousands of years and the knowing your resources you get really good at making things strong and workable.

00:00:48

So yeah, you're governed by the landscape around you on my on you on your huts and your shelters.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Teamwork

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:00

With a few people it wouldn't take too long to make a hut.

00:00:05

Within a day, maybe into the next day, you've got a good structure coming along and, like I said, as you're living in it, you're repairing it, you're adding to it, you're fixing it up.

00:00:15

When you're walking through the bush here and if the weather's changing and you haven't built a hut, you quite often will see a big branch that's come off a tree, you'll strip that down and you'll lay bark along that and you'll make like a tent, a temporary shelter, and while you're in there out of the weather you can be building and making a better hut.

00:00:33

And what I've read it was families together.

00:00:35

You're gathering materials together, you're working as a team so it shouldn't take you too long.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Types of Shelter

Video Transcript

unnamed

00:00:00

Dave Gough

00:00:06

Huts did vary as far as what was the materials on the landscape and how much protection you needed and how cold it is.

00:00:14

In here there might have been full domes or some of them might have been half-dome huts depending on where the weather was and how cold it is and, like I said, you are quite protected in this area.

00:00:24

The ones that we're seeing were quite decent sized large dome huts.

00:00:27

The majority of those were sort of up on the West coast.

00:00:31

People would say that up on the East Coast, which is my traditional Country, that was seen as the holiday resort of our Country so people had more lean-to shelters and not so much fully enclosed.

00:00:43

This area here, a depression like this and dug out, there would be several of these sites all over this property.

00:00:50

They were pretty permanent.

00:00:51

They were basically living in villages on this property and people living around the fire and sharing and caring in well-built constructed huts.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Museum

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:01

We've come from *munginabitta's* Country to the Stony Creek Nation and I'm part of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee at this museum so I'm very proud of the space that we have here because people get to learn about our cultural heritage in this space and this museum has a lot of our artefacts and a lot of our history.

00:00:21

The materials for the hut were collected from the parts of Country that I wanted to represent.

00:00:27

It's a three-layer construction, you've got the frame, you've got the grass and the bark on the interior.

00:00:34

People that looked in some of the huts on the West Coast saw those layers of construction, saw the feather lining in the roof and also saw charcoal and bark intricate hunting scenes.

00:00:45

That was recorded in their diaries.

00:00:47

So that's what I've done in there.

00:00:50

And the floor is lined with wallaby skins and there is a small fire in the centre, just a simmering little fire in the middle of that.

00:00:59

They were seen as smoke just drifting out the top of the doors like a flue.

00:01:04

So I really wanted to build it as what I'd read in those journals.

00:01:09

When I read that years ago it really impressed me.

00:01:11

It made me think, wow, there's a lot more to this than just whacking together a shelter to keep dry.



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The Orb → Living Cultures → Shelters → Living Site → Intelligent Design

Video Transcript

Dave Gough

00:00:03

The tea tree isn't just bent over, it's done in a hoop design.

00:00:07

I saw that design through a drawing that George Augustus Robinson did on a sketch of a frame that wasn't completed and we looked at that design and started to bend the hoops that particular way and look at it and the architecture school looked at it and said that's intelligent design and it's got structural integrity.

00:00:26

The words they were using was just making my heart sing because that's many, many years of trial and error to understand that that's the best methods of doing that.

00:00:35

The more I do, I'm sure I'll find even better ways.

00:00:39

It certainly has structural integrity and I know it works.

00:00:42

I think I've heard a lot of people look at that saying, 'jeez, I'd get in there for the night, it looks pretty comfortable!'



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