

MAKING PITCH FROM IRONBARK ROOTS

GAMBARR BALGANHU BINIIRRNGANH

GUUGU-YIMIDHIRR PEOPLE TRADITIONALLY USED A BLACK, STICKY TAR, MADE FROM THE BARK OF THE ROOTS OF THE IRONBARK TREE, FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SPEARS, SPEAR-THROWERS, AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS. ONLY A HANDFUL OF OLDER MEN STILL KNOW HOW TO MAKE THIS TAR, CALLED GAMBARR OR GALBUUR. HERE, BILLY MUUNDU JACKO, AND JACK McIVOR, BOTH NOW DECEASED, DEMONSTRATE VARIOUS STAGES OF THE PROCESS OF MAKING GAMBARR. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION IN BOTH GUUGU YIMIDHIRR AND ENGLISH, WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO A SMALL BOOKLET TO HELP PRESERVE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS NOW-ENDANGERED SKILL.











































