

# Basic Detail Report

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**00000449**

**Title**

Mandjabu - Barramundi Fish Trap

**Date**

c 1985

**Primary Maker**

Anchor Kulunda

**Medium**

Milil vine and manben (wood)

**Dimensions**

Overall: 500 x 2420 x 500 mm Display Dimensions: 2770 x 600 x 600 mm

**Name**

Fish trap

**History**

On the plains country between the Liverpool and Tomkinson Rivers are several meandering shallow creeks that in places spread out into quite wide pools. In the upper reaches are large areas of mangulaidj reeds, which support a big fish population until they dry up about the middle of the year. It is on the lower tidal parts of the creeks that mandjabu are used, with tremendous effect in harvesting barramundi. The richness of the traditional area brought people from as far away as Gotjanjinjirra on the Cadell River to join in the feast in the early dry or 'cold weather time'. Most of the population from Mormega outstation move to Bulgai and Mimumya each year to trap and spear barramundi. To make mandjabu a thin vine called milil is used with another small tree used to make the hoops. A fence of stakes, paperbark, reeds and grass is made on a narrow, tidal section of the creek. An opening is left for the barramundi to travel up with the tide. When the tide turns, the manjabu is put into place. When the manjabu fills, the opening is blocked and the trap removed and untied at the back for the fish to be removed.