



Port Essington Indigenous Bark Canoe

Vessel number

HV000163

Description

This Indigenous canoe is constructed as a single piece of unidentified bark which is formed into a relatively deep and rounded cross section shape. The parallel sides are supported on the top edges with branches secured to the bark, and held apart with four branches to form beams. These beams are secured to the side branches with bark string and have further woven material around them for additional reinforcement. The ends are sewn together with bark string. One end is higher than the other, and it shows a distinct rake to the profile as well. The depth and

length of this craft suggests it was capable of carrying a modest load and was also able to be used in choppy water on the bay at Port Essington or around the adjacent coastline. This vessel is currently on display in the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery, South Australian Museum.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 4.74 m x 0.65 m (15.55 ft x 2.13 ft)