

Port George ^{IV} Presbyterian Mission

via BROOME.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

April 10 1915.

Dear Mr. Alexander

By same mail I forward a few implements of the Wororra tribe of aboriginals who inhabit this country addressed "The Curator, Museum, Perth."

Nos. 1 & 2. "Chomba" are Kangaroo bones for making spear heads. A piece of suitable stone being found, it is held in one hand and knocked with a small stone held in the other hand till it assumes the shape of the half-finished spear-head seen

Then the edges are flaked away by pressing with the larger Kangaroo bone, or a sharpened stick, the spear-head being held on a piece of paper-bark laid on a stone. The bark deadens concussion and prevents the spear-head from cracking.

Finally the serrated edges are made with the small Kangaroo bone. The two latter operations are done only by pressing flake from the edges of the stone. The only knocking done is in the first stage.

"Murihu" is the general term for spear-head. Each spear head has its distinctive name, according to the stone from which it is made.

The body-belt ("wudbin") of Kangaroo fur string is worn with shell ornament at back (as in specimen sent), with tassel in front, or merely plain. Except in such cases as the wudbin has frontal tassel, no pubic cover is worn. Wudbin is worn by men or women.

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The Chogula or shell ornament is worn as a pendant suspended round the neck, the shell hanging down the back.

This tribe is very primitive, I think probably one of the most primitive of Australian tribes.

Body ornaments are few. The Chogula - a very plain variety - being the only manufactured personal ornament (excluding the symbolic corroboree dresses).

Through the nose, the septum of which is often, but not universally pierced, is worn a plain bone, hide, stick, grass, or the furry centre of bauksia flower.

The physique of this tribe is magnificent, exception even among Australian tribes.

When next I visit Perth I hope to bring down to the Museum some of the larger implements which cannot be conveniently sent by post.

Faithfully yours

J. R. B. Dove