

Steel Axes for Stone-Age Australians

“The steel axe, shifting hopelessly between one clan and the other, is not only replacing the stone axe physically, but it is hacking at the supports of the entire cultural system.”

Lauriston Sharp (1952)

European missionaries and cattle ranchers move into Yir Yoront area.

Former superordinate kinship lost.

Stone axe was a symbol of masculinity.

Only males can own stone axes.

People connected with environment.

Missionaries gave steel axes to every one of the Yir Yoront as gifts.

Yir Yoront lose totem faith.

