

2. Pacific display - Competition and conflict captions

1. 33/1953/48 bark bag
2. 109/1951/6/3; 109/1951/18h; 109/1951/19/2; 109/1951/21/4 spearheads
3. 109/1951/6; 136/1993/98 spear throwers
4. 46/1960 shark-tooth sword
5. 75/1947/8 stone-headed club
6. E1609 throwing club
7. E1783 throwing stone
8. E1124 war club
9. 107/1993/3 boomerang
10. E1123 boomerang
11. 82/1996/2 boomerang
12. 89/1934/1 shield
13. 33/1953/41 spear club
14. 33/1953/27a shield
15. 33/1953/11c sword club
16. E1142 shield
17. E1909 paddle club
18. 1891/7/14 parrying shield
19. 33/1953/11d paddle club
20. 126/1935/2 spear club
21. 33/1953/2b quarter circle club
22. E2026 parrying club
23. E1910 double-crescent club
24. 38/1920/9 hockey-stick club
25. 52/1920/1 shield
26. 119/1937/59 shield
27. 1896/8/2 back-weighted hand club
28. E1633 hand club
29. E1186 hand club
30. 58/1939/1 axe haft
31. 47/2010/1 hand club
32. E2023 bird-headed club
33. 25/1986 trumpet-flared club

34. 64/1974/8 war spear
35. E1277 paddle club
36. 3/1973/3 fan-shaped club
37. 33/1953/5h
38. 38/1923/4 curved and spurred club
39. 232/1914 paddle club
40. 235/1914 star-headed pole club
41. 23/1950 sword-club
42. 119/1937/44 war shield
43. E1605 pole club
44. 51/1925/4 rootstock club
45. 51/1916/4 point-ended club
46. 88/1938/7 fan-shaped club
47. E1188 bifacial club
48. 88/1934/17 scalloped spear club
49. E1216 bifacial staff
50. E1212 bossed club
51. 64/1974/2 shield
52. 58/1928/2 war stone
53. E1783 sling

1 – 33/1953/48

Bark bag

Early 20th century

Wyndham, Kimberley, Australia

An extremely rare container for storing spearhead points. The interior contains human hair fibre which was rarely used to make string.

2

Spearheads

Early 20th century

Kimberley, Australia

These points were made from clay telegraph line components and bottle glass, then shaped by pressure flaking.

3. – 109/1951/6 & 136/1993/98

Spear throwers

19th and early-20th century

Australia

A multi-purpose tool that was used primarily for projecting spears.

4 – 46/1960

Sword

Early 20th century

Kiribati

Tooth analysis on such weapons has shown that certain shark species (e.g. Spot-tail and Dusky) are no longer found in Kiribati waters.

5 – 75/1947/8

Stone-headed club

Early 20th century

Papuan Gulf, Papua New Guinea

So-called 'pineapple clubs' reflected fruits and flowers and were produced as a valuable export.

6 – E1609

Throwing club

Made before 1845

Fiji

Observers describe the i ula drisia as a deadly weapon at point black range or when thrown.

7 – E1783

Throwing stone

Acquired 1914

Tanna Island, Vanuatu

The kawa is a missile for long-range fighting, which was made by women.

8 – E1124

War club

Donated 1868

Victoria, Australia

A decorative club (nulla nulla) that was brought to Britain by Australia's first Aboriginal cricket team.

9 – 107/1993/3

Boomerang

Early 20th century

Australia

This non-returning kylie was used in warfare and hunting game in open grassland environments.

10 – E1123

Boomerang

Donated 1868

Victoria, Australia

A returning boomerang for perfecting one's aim and throwing skill. Used by the first Aboriginal (koori) cricket team in Britain at public events.

11 – 82/1996/2

Boomerang

Made before 1926

Cape York, Queensland, Australia

A hunting kylie decorated with red and white ochre.

12 – 89/1934/1

Shield

Late-19th/ early-20th century

North Queensland, Australia

Shields were carved from the buttress roots of rainforest fig trees (*Ficus* sp.) and were painted using red and yellow ochre, white clay and charcoal.

13 – 33/1953/41

Spear club

19th century

Austral Islands

After a major break this spear club was repurposed as a billet club.

14 – 33/1953/27a

Shield

Made before 1912

Ashburton, Australia

This shield (wunda) is decorated with red and white ochre. Purchased by zoologist Paul Denys Montague.

15 – 33/1953/11c

Sword club

19th century

Buka Island, Solomon Islands

An extremely rare weapon with an ancestor carving at its handle.

16 – E1142

Shield

Donated in 1880

Western Australia

The wunda was widely traded and carved from wood (Hakea ioria or Brachychiton gregorii).

17 – E1909

Paddle club

Mid-19th century

San Cristobal, Solomon Islands

The tapering paddle club (kila) resembles the Tongan paddle club. This form was traded widely.

18 – 1891/7/14

Parrying shield

19th century

Victoria, Australia

When twisted this shield (tamarang) would have parried projectile weapons.

19 – 33/1953/11d

Paddle club

Donated 1953

Nggela Is., Solomon Islands

Over many years ceremonial 'paddles' became transformed into weapons.

20 – 126/1935/2

Spear club

Late-19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

The two-handed taiaha or hani is a modern Maori icon of political authority and masculinity.

21 – 33/1953/2b

Quarter circle club

Donated 1953

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

The deadly back-weighted club (tewhatewha) was also used to signal during battle.

22 – E2026

Parrying club

19th century

Makira, Solomon Islands

Called roromaraugi; this club was used to parry and deliver blows to the enemy.

23 – E1910

Double-crescent club

Acquired 1865

Vanuatu

Collected by John Gould Veitch, this club has double spurred blades to deliver a blow to an opponent.

24 – 38/1920/9

Hockey-stick club

19th century

Vanuatu

Allegedly influenced by the non-returning kylies from Queensland, Australia.

25 – 52/1920/1

Shield

19th century

Queensland, Australia

Painted with black pigment which was a combination of charcoal and human blood.

26 – 119/1937/59

Shield

Collected 1884

Northern Territory, Australia

Shield design is unique and embodies complex ideas about totems and social relationships.

27 – 1896/8/2

Bach-weighted hand club

Taken 1869

Poverty Bay, Aotearoa

A high status club (wahaika) taken at Ngatapa Pa by Sgt. Howard Strong of the Poverty Bay Volunteers.

28 – E1633

Hand club

Donated 1871

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A finely polished war club (patu onewa) of greywacke stone.

29 – E1186

Hand club

Made before 1869

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Teardrop-shaped club (patu) that gained potency in battle, Many were considered treasures (taonga).

30 – 58/1939/1

Axe haft

Late-19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

A haft (patiti) likely associated with an early metal trade blade.

31 – 47/2010/1

Hand club

19th century

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

This high status mere was acquired by RAMM through the Acceptance in Lieu scheme in 2008.

32 – E2023

Bird-headed club

Made before 1880

Kanak, New Caledonia

These rare clubs (go poropwa ra maru) have been linked with the Owlet Nightjar (*Aegotheles savesi*), a nocturnal bird associated with death.

33 – 25/1986

Trumpet-flared club

Early-20th century

East Malkula, Vanuatu

A rare four-lobed club likely acquired by Vice-Admiral Henry Leah in 1914.

34 – 64/1974/8

War spear

19th century

Fiji

"They are deadly weapons... One variety is significantly called, 'The priest is too late.'" Rev. Thomas Williams, 1884

35 – E1277

Paddle club

Donated 1868

Samoa

A broad paddle club with a tavatava decoration that is reminiscent of Fijian war clubs.

36 – 3/1973/3

Fan-shaped club

Acquired 1850 – 90

Samoa

The common name for this club type is fa'a lautaliga and is derived from similar clubs from Tonga and Fiji.

37 – 33/1953/5h

Curved and spurred club

19th century

Fiji

The waka kiakavo utilises the natural tree sapling curve to ensure a strong structure.

38 – 38/1923/4

Curved and spurred club

19th century

Fiji

Engraved with eye features, this tido-ni-gata was seen as holding a powerful spirit.

39 – 232/1914

Paddle club

Acquired 1914

Ambrym, Vanuatu

An unusual club type collected by Vice-Admiral Henry Leah on the cruiser Mildura.

40 – 235/1914

Star-headed pole club

Acquired 1914

Pentecost, Vanuatu

This was carried by men at a grade-taking ceremony.

41 – 23/1950

Sword-club

Early-20th century

Massim, Papua New Guinea

Never formally used in battle but carried daily by men to solve local issues.

42 – 119/1937/44

War shield

Collected 1884

SE Papua New Guinea

This thin wooden shield is partly covered by woven cane and decorated with tufts of red cloth and feathers.

43 – E1605

Pole club

Made before 1845

Fiji

A completely engraved one-handed club (gadi) incised with whale-tooth stars at both ends.

44 – 51/1925/4

Rootstock club

19th century

Fiji

The vunikau vividrasa would have been decorated with coconut fibre rope, pandanus strips and red trade cloth.

45 – 51/1916/4

Point-ended club

Collected 1825-8

Tonga

This collarless pakipaki is fully engraved with a tangi'akau design. Collected by George Peard on the HMS Blossom.

46 – 88/1938/7

Fan-shaped club

Made before 1938

Tonga

This tu'i is a distinctive club type decorated with whale-tooth ivory.

47 – E1188

Bifacial club

Early-19th century

Marquesas Islands

The u'u reflects the prominence of the warrior in Marquesan society who organised, undertook and reaped the social and material benefits of warfare.

48 – 88/1934/17

Scalloped spear club

19th century

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Called momore akatara, this was used in fighting between groups of warriors on canoes.

49 – E1216

Bifacial staff

Collected 1774

Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

A staff of authority (u'a) made from the scarce toromiro wood (*Sophora toromiro*). This was considered an item of great prestige.

50 – E1212

Bossed club

Collected 1773 or 1777

Tonga

This is an early form of Tongan club ('akau tau) that developed from the Fijian rootstock club.

51 – 64/1974/2

Shield

19th/ early-20th century

Gulf province, Papua New Guinea

Carried by an archer under the arm, the face design reflects the protective properties of ancestral spirits.

52 – 58/1928/2

War stone

19th century

Niue

Lemon-shaped war stones (maka) were thrown by hand in battle. These stones were found in caves and polished to shape. Carried in baskets or belts of braided hair.

53 – E1783

Sling

Made before 1872

New Caledonia

Slings were popular weapons and this example is made of plaited coconut husk fibres.