Indigenous Significance

Mount Bauple — Tiaro

The Mount Bauple National Park area is of very high cultural and spiritual significance to the Badtjala (Butchulla) people because it is an important western boundary marker for traditional country and one of the places associated with a Melong (Darkness Spirit) story and the Yindinji (Carpet Snake) creation story.

Understanding Country

Place

This place is a strong guide to visitors both Indigenous and non-Indigenous to Badtjala country.

Its sentinel presence in the landscape is a silent message for all visitors to country. It is a message of respect, that you are now entering a new belonging place.

This is a place where Indigenous salt-water people live and of those who belong to this country. As does their unique Aboriginal language, moiety system, kinship networks, local customs and protocols, creation story places and cultural practices.

This area is an important place for Badtjala people, because it is an important western boundary marker for traditional country and one of the places associated with a Melong (Darkness Spirit) story and the Yindinji (Carpet Snake) creation story.

Melong (Darkness Spirit) lived on the top of Mount Bauple in a cave. Its business was about responding to all who disrespected others and country.

Melong and Yindinji's strong spiritual energy at place continues to live on in country, long after completing their creation business.



Bauple Mountain (view from River Heads) Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

Badtjala people see the raised connecting landscape surrounding Mount Bauple as one. Together it all forms an impressive living spiritual, cultural and natural presence on country.

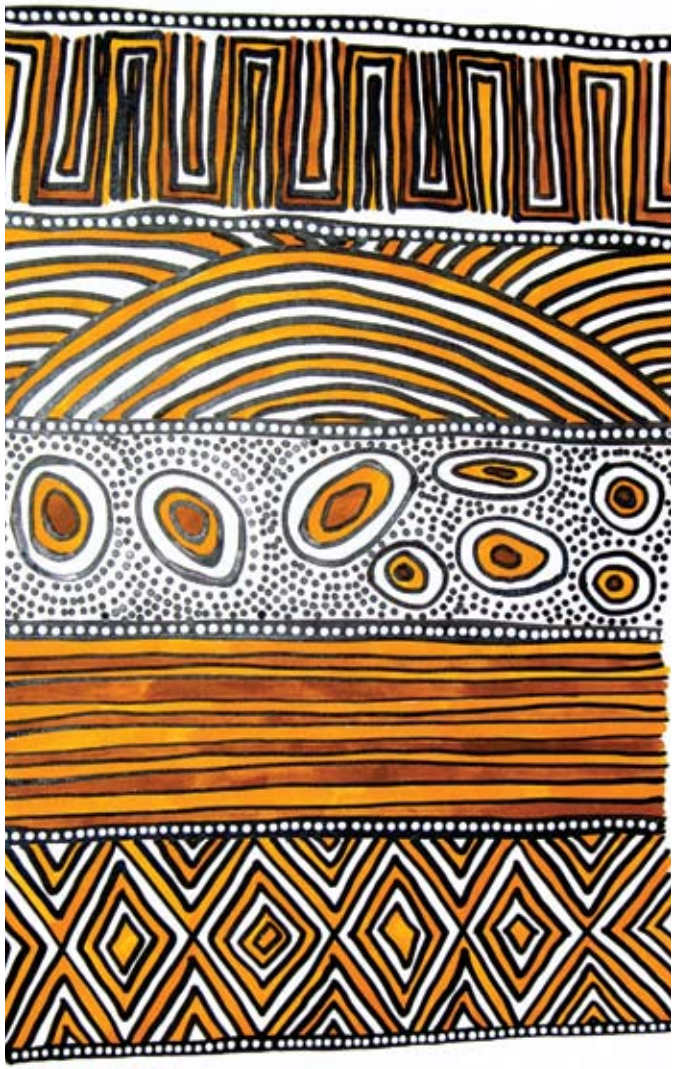
As a distinctive boundary marker that defines traditional country, it also invites an opportunity for visitors at place, to pay respects to country and the 'old people' through personal recognition and acknowledgement.

The area contrasts and complements the natural bushland with its own special landscape signature as seen from other lookouts and viewing points including those on K'gari (Fraser Island).

In addition, the area acts as a location and spiritual guide for Badtjala when travelling across country. Melong and Yindinji's creation story place is affirmed in country, as evident by the special radiance of the area and is a constant living reminder to new generations of Indigenous people of the importance of spiritual beings' impact upon country and in our lives—ever present, living and meaningful.

Respecting traditional boundaries is an important part of how we respect each other.

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