Indigenous Significance

Man-making Ceremony Places

These places are of very high cultural and spiritual significance to Badtjala (Butchulla) people because they are limited, unique Badtjala man-making ceremony areas, important places associated with Yindinji's giving of important knowledge for country and men's business rights, roles and responsibilities.

Understanding Country

Place

This place is about focusing on and celebrating Badtjala men's business through ceremony. It is a dedicated, secluded area especially set aside for the 'making of' young boys into initiated Indigenous men.

Looking through Badtjala eyes, it is a place that speaks of strong messages affirming belongingness and spiritual connection to country.

The honoured status of an initiated Indigenous man comes with great responsibilities to self, family and country. It is an important position in the fabric of Indigenous society. The inclusion of the newly initiated within a cultural circle of trust is intended to go beyond the ceremonial ground and positively influence individual and family wellbeing, community lifestyle and self-governance.

This place highlights and strongly validates the importance of Indigenous men's role within the fabric of Indigenous society and on country.

Yindinji's spirit is strong here and it is an important place associated with Yindinji's giving of knowledge to men for country. In addition, it presents us with the reality that every generation is part of the lives of the current generation and that all is connected to 'Creation Time' or 'the Beginning'.



Man-making Ceremony Place, Hervey Bay

Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

These places are situated on particular parts of country, K'gari (Fraser Island), Hervey Bay, Tin Can Bay and their locations are known only by a few Badtjala people.

The individual areas are unique and each has its own distinct feeling of place on country. Badtjala people see these places as highly significant cultural spaces both in time and in place. They are as much part of today's important places on country as they have ever been.

These men's business places give important insight into the giving of information, understanding of knowledge and sharing of wisdom with the next generation of Indigenous young men.

The living ceremonial tree stands strong and silent, scarred and weathered by the process of cultural change. The earth circle is hardened by dance and the wind echoes with the voices of senior men singing and welcoming good spirits at this place of significance.

This place has strong energy for Badtjala people, its spirits and 'old people' ever present for men's business.

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Men's business ceremonial tree, 2007, Hervey Bay Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley