Indigenous Significance

Lake Allom – K'gari (Fraser Island)

Lake Allom on K'gari (Fraser Island) is of high cultural significance to Badtjala (Butchulla) people because it is an important focal point for the collection of bark to provide shelter on K'gari (Fraser Island) and an important natural fresh water source on country.

Understanding Country

Place

This place is an important natural fresh water source and a bark collection point for the making of camp shelters. Its quiet relaxed fit upon country enhances its native beauty and refreshing natural essence.

Badtjala see this area as a resource for the collection of bush material, bush tucker and as a travel rest spot when walking across K'gari.

This place is recognised as a living space for fresh water turtle; and Indigenous medicine plants are located in the surrounding rainforest. An external modification—the scarred trees—surround the lake. A defining cut in local trees, shaped into an upside down 'u' is distinctly unique to this area.

These living spirit trees are the keepers of local life stories about people, place and country. Their spirits are memory-keepers of living events. It is, also, an example of local Indigenous people using country to support each other, their families and the community.

Watchful spirits live on today in these trees, looking on as people go about their business at this place.

Living Connections

This place, with its perched lake, is surrounded by rainforest and located midway between the eastern and western beaches of K'gari.

Badtjala people visit the area on regular occasions and undertake Indigenous cultural activities.

The impressive stands of tall rainforest trees, leafy green and dappled shady bark colours, and the naturally cool forest floor provide a source of inspiration and wellbeing for Badtjala.

The journey to this place brings one closer to the spirits who call this place home. The calm rainforest silence is occasionally broken by bird song alerting others to human presence and the movement of light through the canopy overhead.

Partially soaked reeds at the waters edge sway gentle to the caresses of Yarrilli (the south wind), as it brushes its artistic ripples across the lake to let you know it is there. Gigum (sulpha-crested white cockatoos) fly, squawk and play in the treetops around the lake.

'Old people' spirits can be felt watching on as we go about our business.



Lake Allom, K'gari (Fraser Island)



"Ganya" scar Tree

Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

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