Indigenous Significance

Tooan Tooan Creek - Pialba

Tooan Tooan Creek is of very high cultural and spiritual significance to Badtjala (Butchulla) people because it one of the areas associated with Giraman (flying fox) story place.

Understanding Country

Place

This place is an important cultural area as it affirms the 'Giraman' (flying fox) story place as part of Badtjala cultural beliefs.

Badtjala see this area as a living space for Giraman and as a source point for the teachings of Yindinji (carpet snake).

This place is special as Giraman provide evidence of Yindinji's spiritual power. Yindinji changed Giraman into the current bat because it did not listen to Yindinji when it should have.

Giraman owes its unique ability to hang up side down and fly when black fills the night sky due to being physically changed by Yindinji in 'the Beginning'.

The location's significance may transit to other areas upon country depending on the Giraman colony. The physical evidence and spiritual power of Yindinji resides in the living essence of Giraman.

Giraman are a sign to others to do the right thing and listen to Yindinji's spiritual messages.



Tooan Tooan Creek, Pialba

Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

This place located adjacent to Tooan Tooan Creek is midway along the beach on a beautiful coastal strip of country.

It is where a noisy and active Giraman colony rest, play and raise their young.

Badtjala people and other members of the Indigenous community, pass this area on a daily basis.

The Badtjala use of Giraman as a traditional food source and the use of their bones for fishing spear prongs have significantly diminished.

The evening sky is an ideal time for Badtjala and the Indigenous community to look upwards and be reminded by Giraman to listen to spirit and to follow a spiritual way in life as they pass overhead to feed at night.

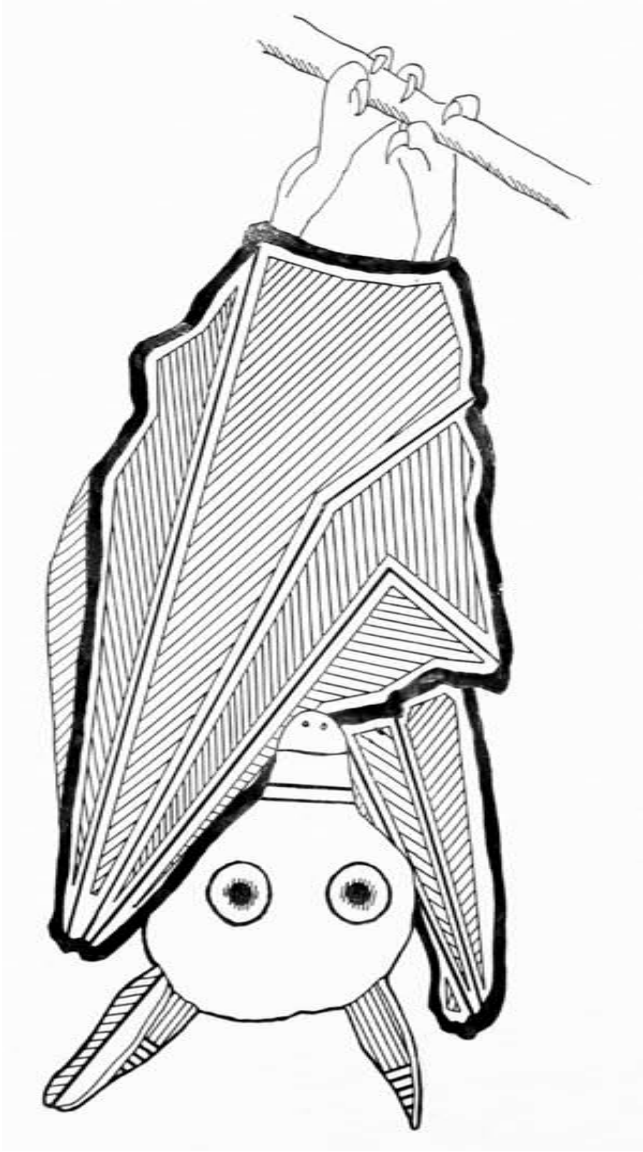
When the black leaves the night sky, in the early hours of the morning, Giraman return to rest.

As we rise with the sun, this is the time we look towards a new day. It is also, an opportunity to invite a spirit of open-mindedness and helpful cooperation in the living experiences we share with one another—life is short.

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Goanna on country, by Shawn Wondunna-Foley,
ink on paper



Giraman (Flying fox), by Shawn Wondunna-
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