Indigenous Significance

Wongi Waterhole - Maryborough

Wongi Waterhole is of high historical and cultural significance to the Badtjala (Butchulla) people because it is an important permanent natural fresh water source and associated with other similar places on country.

Understanding Country

Place

This place holds particular meaning for Badtjala people as it is an important, spiritually protected water source on country. The stillness of the water reinforces the calm bush setting and quiet connection to surrounding country.

Badtjala recognise this area as a protected, peaceful, nurturing space and as a refreshing rest spot when travelling across country.

As a special water source it also has other qualities that link it to other similar places on country both now and when it was first created.

Gung (fresh water) has its own life energy and this is reflected in the shape, depth and feelings that people can sense standing at the water holes edge.

The water is a passage way to other places on country. It is part of the cultural fabric that connects country together. The living essence of this place is embodied in the water, the trees and the spirits who watch over it.

When people listen with their spirit at places like this, they understand that there is more to country than that which meets their eyes.



Wongi Waterhole, Maryborough

Photo: Linda Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

As a spiritually created space, this place has been sculptured into bushland north-west of Maryborough on country.

Badtjala people and members of the Indigenous community visit this place from time to time to enjoy its natural beauty and undertake family cultural activities.

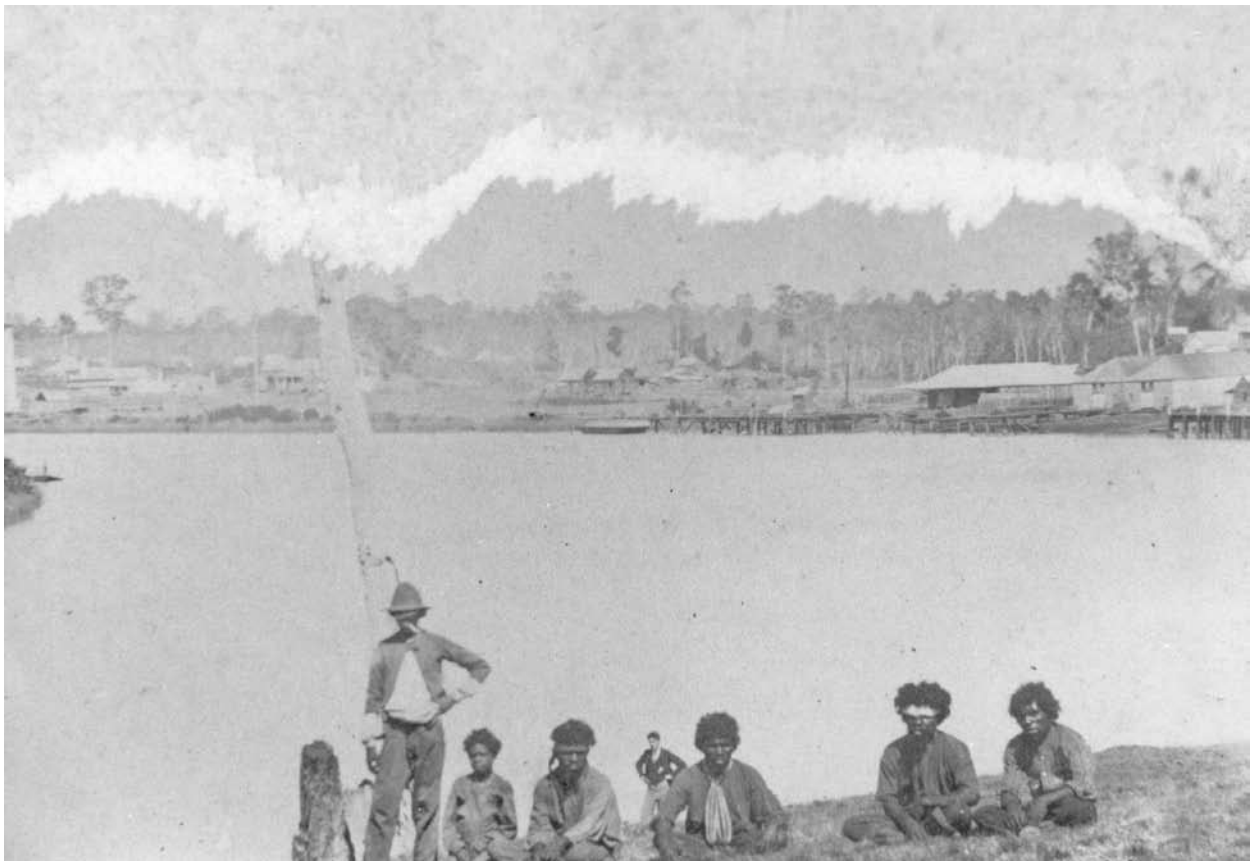
Badtjala understand that Wongi Waterhole sustains life and is a natural giving source to many native birds, plants, trees and animals. Badtjala people connect with its positive energy in many difference ways, through living experiences at place, story and in mind when thinking about it.

Gung is an extremely important resource in the life of Badtjala and the Indigenous community. It enables people and all living things to reach their full potential. It nurtures body, mind and spirit. It cools, cleans and refreshes country with new life.

With every drop of gung it is spiritually connected to the 'old people' (ancestors) and the spirits still living on country.

All gung is connected on country.

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Aboriginal people at front of Mary River, ca. 1860's, slq neg. 86358



Aboriginal people at Mary River, ca. 1869, slq neg. 34574