Indigenous Significance

Living Beachscape – Hervey Bay

This place is of high historical, cultural and spiritual significance to Badtjala (Butchulla) people because it is integral to the many diverse Indigenous living experiences on country and the natural beauty of the area has been shaped by Biral (Supreme Creator Spirit).

Understanding Country

Place

This place is filled with lots of different Badtjala and Indigenous community living activities, family life stories and perspectives about connections to areas of interest on country.

Badtjala recognise that they have an unbroken connection to this sandy beachscape, sea country and adjacent mangroves.

Many, many generations of Indigenous people have walked, sat, fished for sea tucker and played at the waters edge. Dirum (sun), yarilli (south wind) and tingera (sea) are the constant companions of day visitor to this place.

If the tide is out, it creates a sandy easy-way track for people to travel up and down the beach to other places on country. The beachscape is also known as an area to seek shelter from dirum underneath the trees, create a living home camp and where Indigenous babies were born.

The living beachscape is a place on country that gently washes your senses with the changing tidal patterns, sandy colours and salty sea sway breezes.



Urangan, Hervey Bay

Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

The beachscape is a place that shares sea country on one side and country on the other.

Beachscape experiences mean different things to many people.

Badtjala people and members of the Indigenous community continue to enjoy a variety of family cultural activities along the beachscape as they have always done.

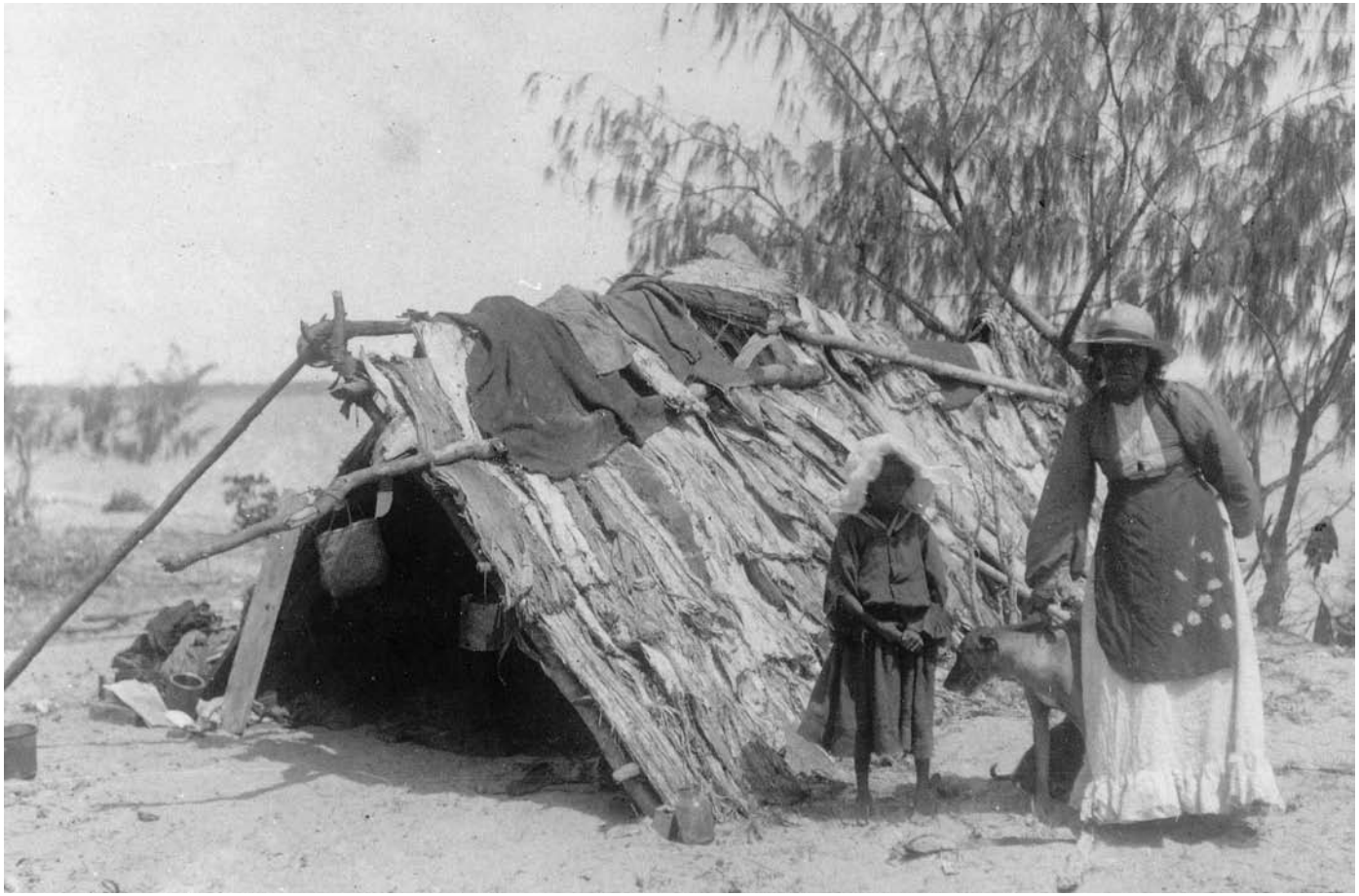
Badtjala have long used this place to support sustainable living practices, raise family members and as a source point for the collection of natural resources like fish; bush tucker; and the making of string, fishing nets and fishing spears.

The beachscape is an extremely important place in the life of Badtjala people and the Indigenous community. It brings people together and opens up the chance of shared experiences on country.

As we stand on beachscape and look towards a star filled night sky, it invites us to question our place in the universe.

With every grain of sand, every footprint, every place — we walk on country.

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Aboriginal humpy and camp site at Torquay Beach, 1910, slq neg 145093