Indigenous Significance

Badtjala (Butchulla) Country

Badtjala (Butchulla) country (land and sea) is of very high cultural and spiritual significance to Badtjala (Butchulla) people is because it provides an important living connection and context for Badtjala cultural beliefs, heritage, language, identity, moiety, family lifestyle, living, ceremony and self-governance.

Understanding Country

Place

Badtjala traditional country includes all of K'gari (Fraser Island), north to Burrum River, west to Mount Bauple then south to Double Island Point.

There is a long-standing connection for Badtjala to country. It begins in the beginning, when all things were created by Biral (Supreme Creator Spirit).

Badtjala see country as a special belonging place--all connected-- above the land, below it and all places in between. It's a place that lives in one's heart and continues in the memories from of our ancestors and experiences upon it.

The lineage of past lifestyles, family activities, spirits and the current generation is worn in to country. Every part of country tells a story of how it has come to be, who has lived upon it, and what messages it holds for those who care to listen to it.

The importance of country for Badtjala is about recognising and respecting a very real, intangible connection to place and living within a cultural context upon this special place.

It is about understanding one's spirit – mind - body, sharing living experiences and being contented in this place we belong to.



K'gari (Fraser Island)

Photo: Shawn Wondunna-Foley

Living Connections

Country continues to provide a living cultural context for Badtjala events-from the birth of newborn Indigenous babies, the calling of spirits for guidance, to the gathering for ceremony and special functions and programs within the Indigenous community.

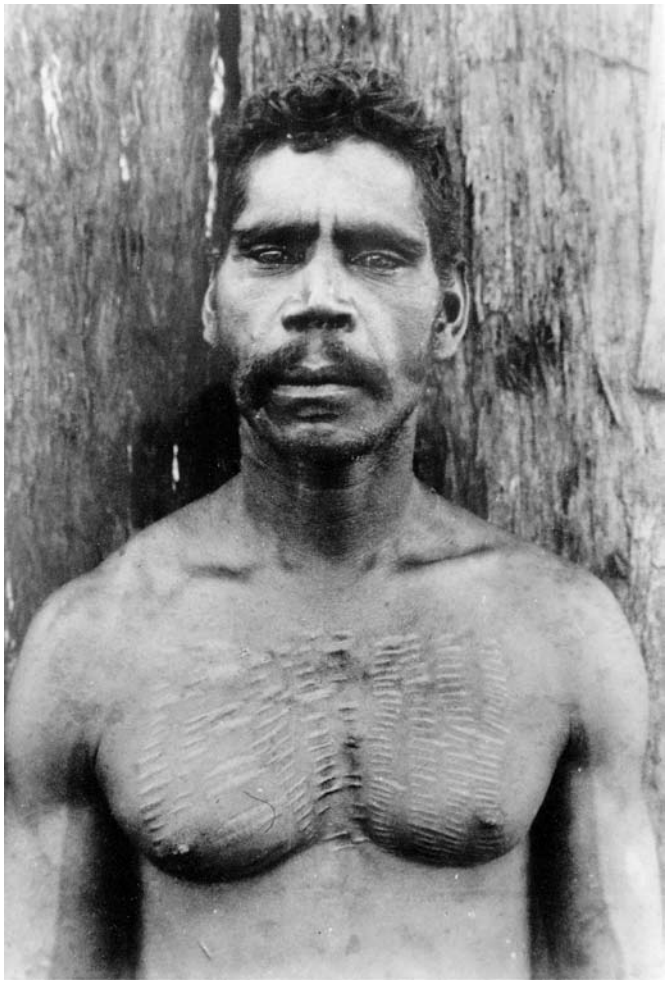
Living on country is now very much about many different shared experiences in shared spaces with a diverse range of people. Belonging places are part of the cultural landscape today, where Indigenous people find a great sense of their own place.

Each new generation explores many relationships within an Indigenous context and grows its own living memories on country.

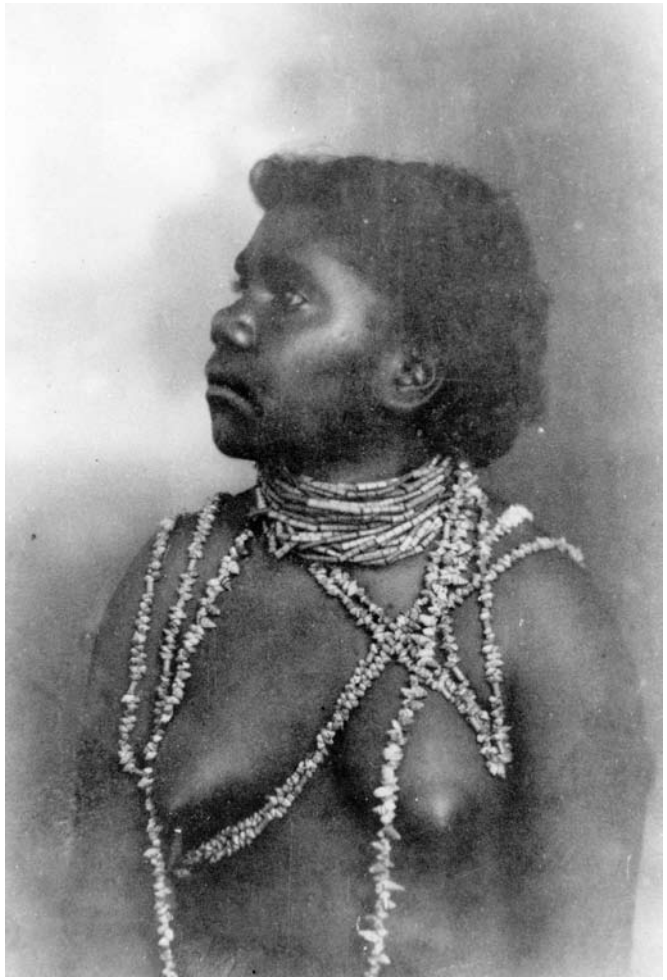
Badtjala cultural principles such as, 'what's good for the land always comes first'; 'do not touch or take anything that does not belong to you'; and 'if you have plenty you share' – provide guidance on how to live the proper way on country.

Badtjala know that being on country is understanding that you are a part of a living continuum. Relationships, responsibility and respect for people and country are integral to Indigenous wellbeing.

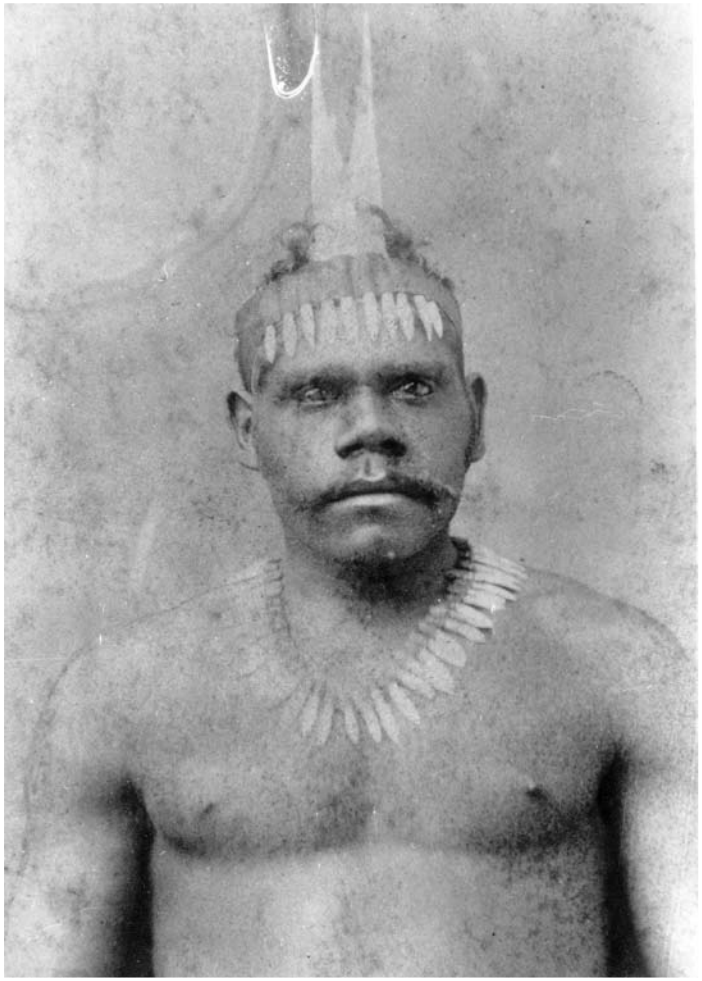
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Watamada, a Badtjala clever man well known for his special skills, slq neg.9979



Badtjala Aboriginal woman with shell necklace, slq neg. 75998



Karbunya (meaning salt water Mullet) wearing kangaroo necklace and headband, other wise known as 'Great' or Willy Wondunna. Regarded as a significant 'head man' in the local Aboriginal community, slq neg. 9980