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THE BAMA WAY

Story-lines and story-telling

Aboriginal people in the past used stories to explain things. These stories can be likened to fairy tales, or fables which carry a message. Some stories have mythical or spiritual beings in them. In every case, behind the story is an explanation or a message, often about Aboriginal lore and laws.

The Rainbow Serpent - ('Yirmbal' in both the Kuku Yalanji and Guugu Yimithirr language) - is a mythical being that takes care of all Mother Nature. Rainbows are a symbol of light and water, which combine to create life. In Aboriginal legend, the Rainbow Serpent lives at a waterfall, as shown by the rainbow which can always be seen there. Aboriginal people therefore regard waterfalls as sacred places to be treated with great respect, and do not like people who are not from their clan to visit them unaccompanied.



1 **Cape Bedford & Elim (Dhiidhaarr)**

This is the original location of the Lutheran Mission which was founded in 1876. It is a very beautiful area, and today many Hope Vale people have a shack here and go fishing at weekends, catching mud crabs, lobsters, reef fish, turtles, stingrays, oysters and mussels.

Point Lookout

2 **Hope Vale (Dyuubi)**

Hope Vale was built in the late 1940s, and today has a population of about 1,500 people. It was originally a Mission run by the Lutheran Church, who brought in people from all over Australia, so we have a mixture of languages and culture.

GUURRBI TOURS

3 **Nugal**

Gapul da Guthay, Gaanhaal and Nugal are three of the landmarks which form the boundaries of the Nugal clan lands. When looked at from above, the table-top mountain **Nugal** is in the shape of a footprint. In Guugu Yimithirr the word Nugal (pronounced Nu-kal) means ankle, which creates the footprint, and is how our clan got its name.

4 **Wangaar-Wuri**

The Nugal rock art sites are in an area now known as **Wangaar-Wuri**, which means *White Person Playing*. The story goes that my clan, the Nugal-warra, found a young white girl who was lost and alone. She was brought into the Nugal-warra clan and taken care of for many years, living with my people in the area we now call Wangaar-Wuri.

5 **Cooktown (Gunggarra or Gungardie)**

There are several names for the Cooktown area. Some clans refer to it as **Gunggarra**, or *Place to the North*; others call it **Gungardie**, after the word *gun-gaar* - a type of crystal quartz found in the area which was used for cutting the chest skin for initiations.

6 **The Border of Two Nations**

The River Annan marks the boundary of two Aboriginal nations. The Guugu Yimithirr tribal lands lie to the north of the river, and the Kuku Yalanji to the south. Each tribal group has its distinct language, culture, bush foods, medicines and history.

The tribal lands are made up of family groups, or clans. Willie Gordon is a Nugal-warra man; the Walker Family are Nyungkul-warra, and the Walker Brothers Kubirri-warra.

7 **Black Mountain (Kalkajaka)**

This amazing rock formation is the symbol for the dreamtime story of the Flying Fox (Kambi). It's a special men's story, so can't be told here.

8 **Helenvale (Warrkin), Rossville (Bindamuji)**

This is an area of the Nyungkul clan.

9 **Russell Creek (Ngarriilmuril)**

Ngarriilmuril stretches all the way to south of the Annan River, and is the border boundary of the Nyungkul clan. In the early days Yalanji men and women used to work on the sugar cane here, and in the mill.

10 **Ayton (Jajikal)**

In the early days a lot of Nyungkal people were removed from their traditional homelands around Rossville and Helenvale to settle here at Jajikal.

WALKER FAMILY TOURS

11 **Wujal Wujal**

Wujal Wujal Community was established in 1960, initially under the control of the Lutheran Church. It has a population of around 600 people. Although it has modern infrastructure now, the Yalanji lores and customs are still practised.

12 **Thompson Creek (Dikarrba)**

Until the mid 1880s, this area was the location of the main camp for many Yalanji people. Then people were removed by the Lutheran Church and taken to the Bloomfield Mission at Wujal Wujal.

13 **Cape Tribulation (Kulki)**

In Kulki many Yalanji used to work the lugger boats hauling in the beche de mer, and some worked for the white settlers clearing scrub. There are many sacred sites in this area.

14 **Daintree River**

The Daintree River is home to the Julaymba Clan of the Kuku Yalanji Bama people. The saltwater crocodile and the barramundi are also associated to this river: they are its protectors, and their connection to this country is as strong as that of the bama people from here.

This great serpent of water is a special meeting and trading place for those in the area. It has connected people since the beginning of time, and continues to do so today.

KUKU YALANJI CULTURAL HABITAT TOURS

15 **Cooya Beach (Kuyu Kuyu)**

This unique coastal place has three diverse ecosystems - beach, mangroves and coastal reef - that are connected to each other by the ever-changing mudflats and tidal lagoons. This diversity attracts and supports many different marine species from the fish that use the area as a nursery, to sea turtles and dugong who feed on the sea grass beds that grow here.

This special place is a traditional fishing ground of the Kuku Yalanji bama. As the Kuku Yalanji Kubirri Warra clan travel along the rivers and coastline, they interact with the wildlife and continue their cultural connections to the land, and the neighbouring families from the Kuku Yalanji clans and the Djabukai people. So this place not only provides our traditional foods, but also teaches us about our connection to each other and to the environment.

16 **Mossman Gorge**

In the Kuku Yalanji language the word for 'rainforest' is *Marjanga*, but Bama regard the rainforest as 'The Boss'. For many thousands of years these rainforests provided for the Kuku Yalanji Kubbirri Warra clan and visitors to the area.

Approximate Scale



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