

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

This path crosses Country that is of special significance for Aboriginal people. Places along the Ballina coastline are connected by the Goanna and the Snake cultural story.

Today this area is important to Aboriginal people for learning about traditional culture and maintaining a connection to Country.

Local keepers of cultural knowledge have shared some stories and memories through the signage that can be viewed when visiting the East Ballina Aboriginal Place.

The material gathered and presented is a result of a collaboration between the local Aboriginal community, Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council, Ballina Shire Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

EAST BALLINA ABORIGINAL PLACE

The Coastal Recreational Path runs along the Ballina Shire coastline from Ballina to Skennars Head.

This place contains a landscape of extensive cultural features and natural resources, including former wetlands and coastal ecosystems, that provide a continuing teaching resource for current and future generations.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage 2012 declaration of the East Ballina Aboriginal Place formally recognises the historic and contemporary cultural values of this land.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

Before you visit the path, we recommend that you download a QR code scanner app. This can be done simply by visiting your smart phone's app store.

Along the path you will see QR codes displayed on the signs. When scanned by your smartphone, the QR codes will provide you with additional background information and video content.



ACCESSING THE PATH

The majority of the signage is located between Flat Rock Tent Park carpark and Angels Beach carpark. Both of these carparks can be accessed from The Coast Road. See the map overpage.

MORE INFORMATION

For further information about the cultural material telephone Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council Ballina 02 6686 7055.

For directions on the Coastal Recreational Path telephone the Ballina Visitor Information Centre 1800 777 666.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that these displays and associated digital links contain images and voices of people who have passed away.

PROJECT PARTNERS:



Local Aboriginal heritage at the East Ballina Aboriginal Place



ballina
coast & hinterland

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO LAND



ABORIGINAL CULTURAL WAYS

The numbers illustrated on the map to the left, show the location of signage. These themes listed below, provide opportunity for quiet reflection of the history, recollections and stories shared.

1

Welcome to Country
History of the East Ballina Aboriginal Place
The 1850s East Ballina Massacre
Adapting to Change

2

The Three Brothers | cultural story
The Sand Piper | cultural story

3

Aboriginal sites of significance
Coastcare in action

4

Using natural resources
Natural abundance sustains life

5

Camping on the Coast

6

Guided by the seasons

7

Sharing knowledge | connecting people to Country
Bundjalung - Yugambeh | an ancient language
How dolphins came about | cultural story
What's this picture | Imagining how it was...

8

The Goanna and the Snake | cultural story

9

The man who killed the porpoise | cultural story

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO LAND

There are many layers of meaning connecting Aboriginal people to the land. Some are ancient links, explaining the creation of the landscape and how people were taught to care for their Country. Others are modern connections and memories.

Aboriginal people decided on the information that has been shared here and the manner in which this could be communicated. This is reflected in the diversity of material provided on the Cultural Ways signage which helps give some insight into the cultural significance and meanings associated with the landscapes traversed by The Coastal Recreational Path.

CREATING THE SIGNAGE

Interpreting and understanding Aboriginal belief systems and the unique perspective of belonging to 'Country' requires careful consideration and explanation. A respectful approach is to ask the people who know, the people who have always lived in the place.

This is the process that was followed in developing the content for the Aboriginal Cultural Ways signage on the path at East Ballina Aboriginal Place.



Digby Moran Cultural Ways Theme for Coastal Track 2015

Digby Moran describes this artwork as ... "representing the track along the Ballina Coast with its scattering of pipis and stones. The lines can represent the flow of water and waves but also have significant cultural meaning for Aboriginal people of the local area."