

Australia's Cultural Heritage, old and new.

Welcome to Country



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The traditional custodians of Jiigurru (Lizard Island)

The Dingaal Indigenous people, have lived in this area for tens of thousands of years. Their occupation has spanned times of lower sea levels when the islands were connected to the mainland by grassy plains.

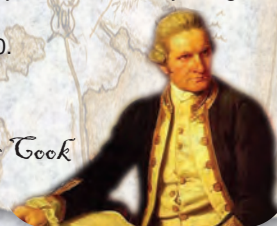
The Dingaal people have been active in assisting the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) in the conservation and management of Lizard Island National Park. They have generously allowed the use of some traditional information so that visitors may share their appreciation for this special place.

Jiigurru is a sacred place for the Dingaal people. It was here that young boys were brought for initiation and that important meetings between Elders of neighbouring tribes were held. These islands also provided a base for collecting shellfish, fish, turtles and dugong.

"The introduction to the Great Barrier Reef came with a timber-shredding crunch in 1770. Captain Cook, on his epic voyage of discovery, had found a tiny corner of a vast kingdom built by the mighty and humble polyp, and it had minced the soft belly of his great ship, the HMS Endeavor" Ty Sawyer. He named the reef 'Endeavour', the adjacent cape 'Tribulation' and the mountain behind it 'Sorrow'. Cook made his repairs in the Endeavour River at Cooktown. "The danger of navigating unknown parts of this ocean was now greatly increased by our having a disabled ship and being short of provisions and every other necessity; yet the distinction of a first discover made us cheerfully encounter every danger".

Journal Entry, August 1770.

Captain James Cook



Possible sightings over sand and reef top.



Manta Ray



Dugong



Minke Whale



Eagle Ray



Turtle

