

# The Whitsundays

THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

## Welcome to Country

In Australia, it is respectful to always acknowledge the Traditional Owners of our Beautiful Country.

By visiting The Whitsundays, you are staying on land traditionally owned and inhabited by the Gia, Giru and Ngaro People.

*"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging."*

We encourage our guests to learn more about Australia's Indigenous People. Their journey is long and interesting and deserves to be shared and respected.

The Ngaro Aboriginal People, one of the earliest recorded Indigenous groups in Australia, were seen by Captain James Cook while exploring the Whitsunday Passage. The Ngaro People lived throughout the island chain with their neighbouring tribe Gia inhabiting the coastal mainland.

Rock art and middens at Hook Island's Nara Inlet provide a record of their special way of life and there is an ancient Ngaro stone quarry on South Molle Island where tools were made.

Source: Tourism Whitsundays Visitor Guide 2019/20

The first humans inhabit Australia in the North and South East

Aboriginal people show signs of living in South Eastern Australia, around Lake Mungo

Aboriginal people have established life throughout coastal and mainland Australia and Tasmania

Land bridges between Australia and New Guinea become flooded, forming the Torres Strait Islands

Aboriginal people begin using bone tools and working with animal skins.

65,000 years ago

40,000 years ago

20,000 years ago

8,000 years ago

400 years ago

Source: teachstarter.com

