

# The Legend of K'GARI

(according to the Butchulla tribe)



It was Beiral, the great god who lived in the sky, who made all the people. But the people had no land. So Yendingie, Beiral's messenger, came down from the sky and first he made the sea and then he made the land. When he reached what is now called Hervey Bay, he had a helper with him - the beautiful white spirit, called Princess K'Gari. She helped Yendingie to make everything. They made the sea shores and the mountain ranges, and all the beautiful lakes and rivers. The Princess K'Gari enjoyed what she was doing so much that she worked very hard. Yendingie told her that she should have rest otherwise she would be too tired. He suggested that she go over to some rocks and have a sleep, and she did. When Princess K'Gari awoke, she said to Yendingie, "I think this is the most beautiful place we have ever made. Please Yendingie, I would like to stay here forever". Yendingie said, "Oh no, I could not allow you to do that. You are a spirit and your place is with me". But K'Gari pleaded with him and he finally relented. But Yendingie said that he had to change her as she could not remain there in her spirit form. So he changed her into a beautiful island, and then so that she wouldn't be lonely, he made some trees and some flowers and lakes that were specially mirrored so that she could look into the sky and see what Yendingie was doing. He made beautiful creeks and laughing waters that were to become her voice. And as well as birds and animals, he made some people to keep her company. Now he told these people who they were and what they had to do. He also taught them the magic of procreation so that their children and their children's children would always be there to keep Princess K'Gari company. And she is still there today, looking up at the sky and very happy indeed.