

# The Quobba Blowholes

## Indigenous Recognition

### Jirderri - Lake Macleod

Wording provided by Hazel Walgar

Nyinguulu, from the top of the Northwest Cape right down to the Lake Macleod and the Blowholes has two spiritual water serpents. The freshwater serpent, Warnamangura, brings rain and runs all the way down and out to coast. He brings vital freshwater for people, plants and animals. The saltwater serpent is in the ocean and we traditional owners call him Thanardinyoongoo. The water in Lake Macleod is salty because that is where the saltwater serpent comes in and made his home. He made the Jirderri (lake), that's Lake Macleod.

That saltwater serpent he can't come any further north because our freshwater serpent is too powerful and stops him at Lake Macleod. He can only go southwest far out to sea. When the blowholes blow that's him Thanardinyoongoo telling people he angry. You notice the thanardi (sea) become angry and rough when you go stand there.

If the fresh water and saltwater spiritual serpents interact, they fight. The saltwater head straight out to sea in the deep water. Away from where the freshwater runs into the saltwater on the coast and reef. The saltwater serpent can smell the reeds in that freshwater on the coast and reef. And he stays well away, he stays out deep.

The saltwater serpent he travels along the Nyinggulu coast but far out to sea and then he returns to the home in Jirderri (Lake Macleod). He is often angry. When it blows, the sea shows us he is upset. The ocean is rough, and he is unsettled.

### About the Artwork

The Gascoyne Coast by Naomi McMahon

The sun shines bright on the turquoise blue shores of the first nation people, as the sweet scent of the yellow wattle bloom, drifts in the air. The graceful dugong glides across the waving seagrass beds. The river flows, breathing fresh life into the bay, the large tiger sharks patrol the freshwater line, feeding on the plump mangrove jacks and fresh water mullet that have been unceremoniously flushed to their waiting jaws. The giant whales slowly make their way north to the silky calm waters to frolic, birth, and mate. Seabirds dive into the plentiful bait balls in the crystal blue waters, large schools of flying fish flutter across the frosted waves. This is the Gascoyne Coast.

