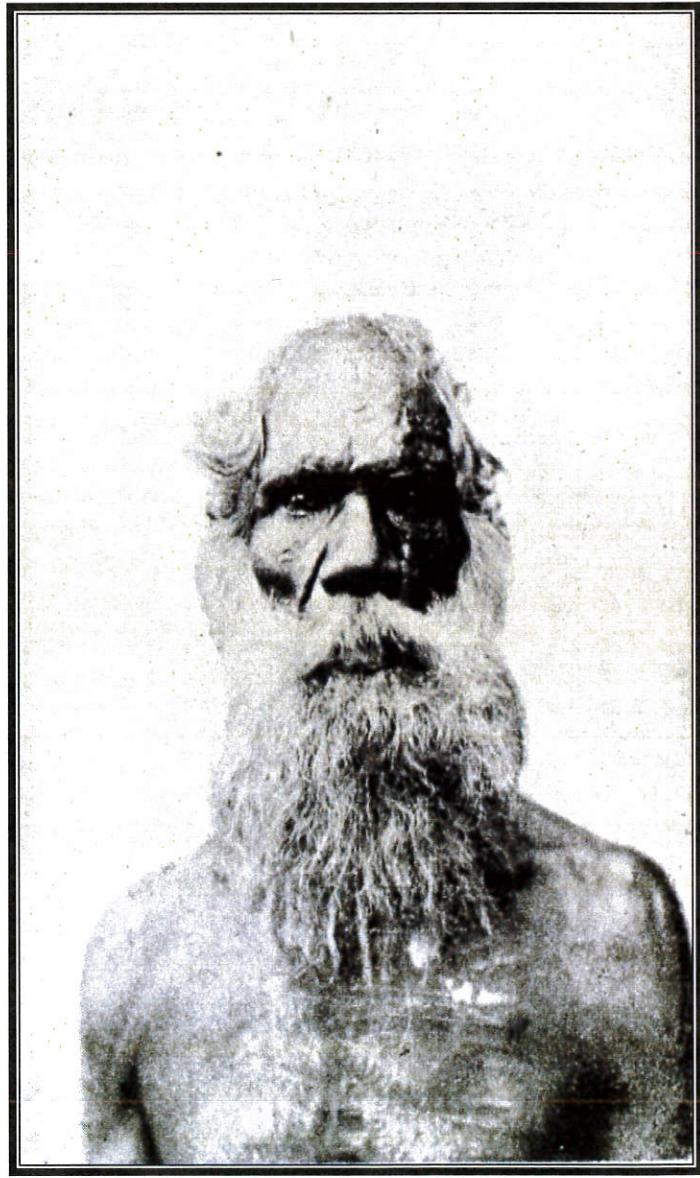


11/1/2016

Brisbane Meeanjin Traditional Owner Protocol Document (Yuggera Peoples)



1. Brief History

1.1 Aboriginal people have lived in this country for thousands of years. Aboriginal people have a long history and a very rich and ancient culture. Many years ago prior to colonisation there is believe to have been around 3000 or more aboriginal people occupying the country belonging to the Yuggera peoples. The following sub clans are a part of the Yuggera language speakers including, Cooparoojargin from South Brisbane, Goobanbul from South Brisbane to Oxley Creek along to the Cleveland area, Boondaperra from Enogera to Caboolture River, Turrabul from north Brisbane, Ngunda from Toorbul point along the coastline to Wynnum, Chepara from Browns Plains area, Gnoolongpin from Lytton/Wynnum area. These clans are classed as the Eastern Yuggera. The Eastern Yuggera boundaries cover from Goodna in the West to Logan River in the South up to Caboolture River in the North. Warpai from Ipswich, Cateebil from West of Woogaroo Creek near Goodna, Ugarapul from South West of Ipswich and Gatabeel from Laidley to the range and the Jagera. These are classed as Western Yuggera. The Western Yuggera area covers from Woogaroo Creek at Goodna to the Great Dividing Range.

The country that the Yuggera Language speakers associated with are from the mouth of the Brisbane River, down to the Logan River, across to the foothills of the Great Dividing Range near Warwick and Toowoomba, up to Esk and north to Caboolture River. Each clan had their own boundaries, Lores and protocols that was adhered to and respected by their neighbours. Each group did not cross cultural boundaries unless invited and permission given.

Yuggera culture was of oral tradition and verbal agreements were made but in the present era Yuggera Lore has been either misunderstood or disrespected and disregarded by many indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

This document will cover Eastern Yuggera boundaries

The official Brisbane Meeanjin Traditional Owners Protocols Document is compiled in this country which is inclusive in the boundaries of the Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council, Redlands Shire Council, Pine Rivers Shire Council and Caboolture Shire Council.

2.

Respecting Traditional Custodian

2.1 Traditional Custodians

Traditional custodians is the term used to describe the original Aboriginal people who inhabited an area. Traditional custodians today are the descendants of these original inhabitants and have ongoing spiritual and cultural ties to the land and waterways where their ancestors lived. The tradition custodians of the areas already stipulated are known as the Yuggera/Yagara Language speakers.

2.2 Elders

In traditional Aboriginal culture, Elders are custodians of traditional knowledge and customs and are charged with the responsibility of providing guidance to the community on cultural matters. It is the Elders who hold the Traditional history, know the culture and pass on laws that govern the community on which they are traditionally bloodline to.

The term Elder is used to describe people who have knowledge, wisdom and the respect of their community. An Elder is not necessarily an older person, but must have the trust and respect of their community and be recognised as a cultural knowledge keeper.

There are many Elders within the Traditional areas of Yuggera were brought to the area through unforseen means including past Acts and legislation relating to Aboriginal people. Although many of these Elders have great Cultural knowledge, we must still remember that the Traditional Custodians must always be consulted.

3. Significant Ceremonies

3.1 Welcome to Country

A 'Welcome to Country' or 'Traditional Welcome' is where the traditional Aboriginal owners welcome people to their land at the beginning of a meeting, event or ceremony. The following is a procedure in which must be followed:

- (a) Welcome to Country and or Traditional Welcome or Opening speeches in Yuggera Country must be conducted by a Bloodline descendant of the Yuggera Traditional Owners and must be recognised. At no time will a member of your organisation conduct a 'Welcome to Country speech'

because they are of Aboriginal descent. This does not mean they are traditional owners or have the mandate to proceed with the speech.

3.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgment of Country is where other people acknowledge and show respect for the Traditional Owners of the land on which the event is taking place.

- (a) This acknowledgement is a sign of respect and should be conducted only after the recognised Yuggera Traditional Owner has given the Welcome to Country.
- (b) Under no circumstances is an Acknowledgement to be replaced for a Welcome to Country by a Traditional Owner Elder unless prior permission is given by the authorised Yuggera peoples.

3.2 Traditional Dancing and Cultural Performances

The Cultural knowledge passed down to the descendants of the Yuggera peoples is still very rich and active. We consider our culture to be a living culture and will continue to pass down to generations to come.

- (a) Traditional Welcome to Country performances through song and dance, didgeridoo playing, smoking ceremonies and welcome songs can only be conducted by the authorised persons. At no time will a selected group or member from your organisation/group conduct a 'Welcome to Country', Cultural performance or Opening in the form Song, dance, didgeridoo or smoking ceremony or any other form of cultural performance.
- (b) We understand that the Yuggera culture needs to be maintained and Elders, Performance Groups and artists can perform only after approved Yuggera people conduct Ceremony first. Other groups and individuals will then be invited to speak by a Traditional Owner.
- (c) In the past many other dance groups have performed on our country without the prior consensus of the Yuggera people's permission. Further, particular dance groups and performers have not only been disrespectful by doing this, but have performed culture within our country under the influence of Drugs and Alcohol. This will definitely not be tolerated.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1** There is an understanding of the struggle that Aboriginal people have experienced in the past and respect all Elders, Tribal/Clans groups and peoples.

We would like to take this opportunity in thanking you for your understanding respect and abiding by the Lores enforced by the Yuggera traditional owners their traditional homelands.

For any further information on Welcome to Country, Dance and cultural performances and Acknowledgements please contact the authorised Brisbane Meeanjin traditional owners:

Eddie Ruska or Leanne - 0438 772 199

Email: admin@nunukulyuggera.com.au

Protocols

- Under no circumstances is anyone to be under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol whilst conducting Culture or sitting at Cultural performance areas.
- Definitely no drugs or alcohol to be consumed around the place where culture is be conducted.
- Respect should always be given whilst performing.
- Respect is to be given to Yuggera Traditional Custodians and members of the Brisbane Meeanjin Aboriginal Traditional owners.
- All issues with another person or group is to be left outside.
- All must give respect to the homelands of the Traditional Custodians.

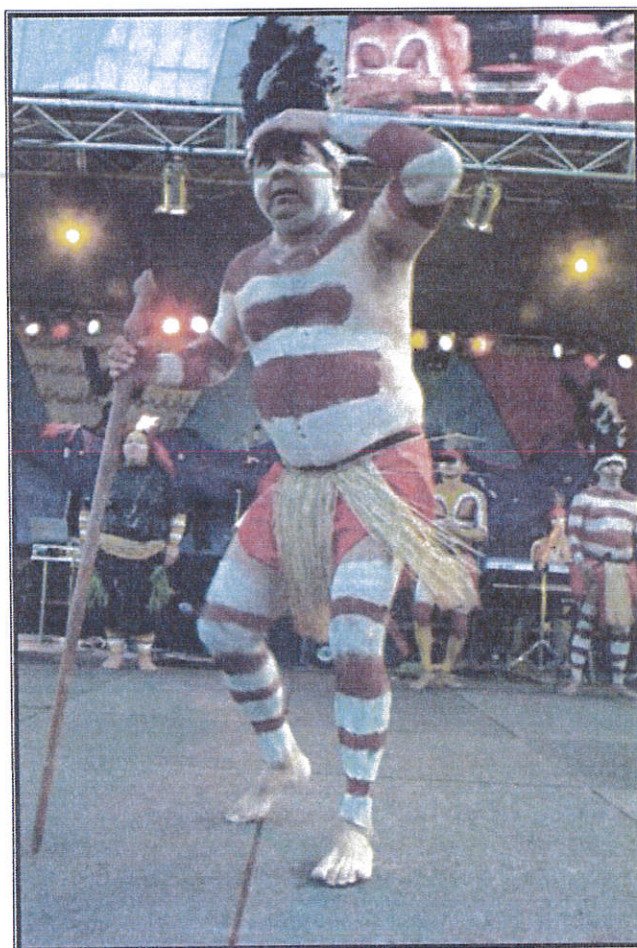
Once again, we would like to take this opportunity in thanking you for your understanding.

Yuggera/Turabul Endorsed and Authorised Name: Uncle Eddie Ruska

Sign: 

Jagera Endorsed and Authorised Name: Madonna Thomson

Sign: 



Picture front page: Kerwalli AKA King Sandy of Brisbane

Picture above: Great Great Great Grandson of Kerwalli Uncle Eddie Ruska Yuggera/Turabul Custodian and Elder of Brisbane