

Nundah/Turrbul History



Reconciliation
Booklet

As an act of recognition of the original peoples of Nundah and North Brisbane, CLA has gathered together the accompanying documentation of occupation of the Nundah and North Brisbane area by its first inhabitants. This documentation also records first contact between the original inhabitants and European colonists.

This documentation is, of course, incomplete and as it is derived from European colonial records will be inaccurate in its depiction of the original inhabitants. We apologise for any inaccuracy and invite people to point these out to us. CLA will continue to update and add to this documentation as information becomes available to us.

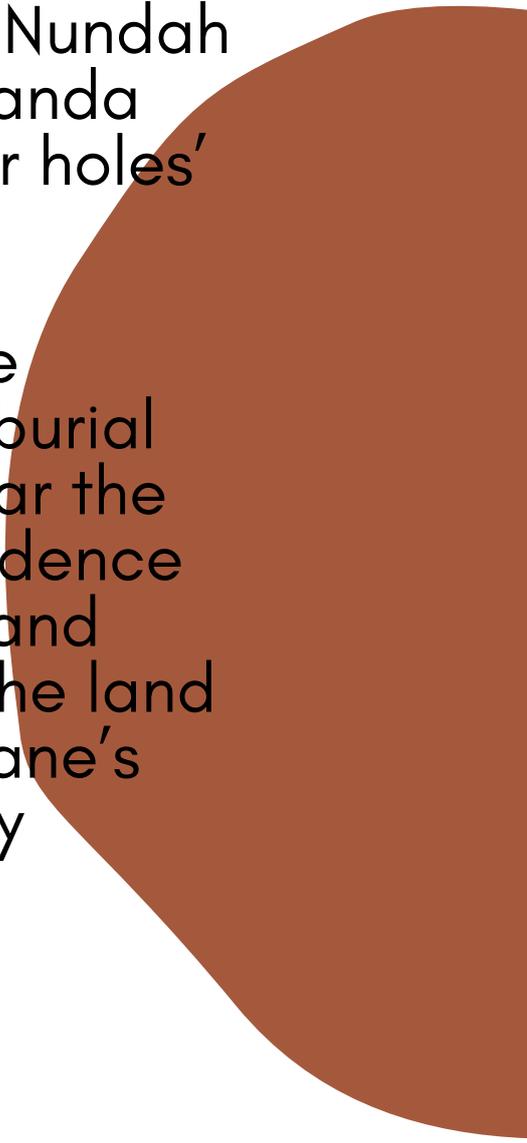


The Turrbal people are the traditional custodians of the North Brisbane area (Hall-Downs, 2010; Steel, 1983).

Language Group - Yuggera (Hall-Downs, 2010). The Yuggera language is spoken as far inland as Moggill, as far North as North Pine and South to Logan (Buchanan, 1999; Steel, 1983).

In the Yuggera language, Nundah translates as Nyanda or Nanda and means 'chain of water holes' (Steel, 1983).

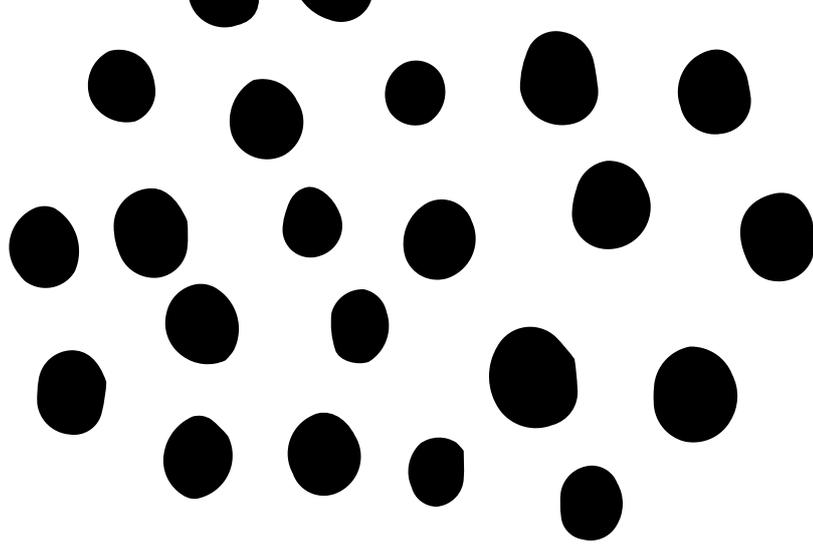
A Bora Ring at the Nudgee Waterholes and a sacred burial ground at Dinah Island near the Boondall Wetlands are evidence of Aboriginal occupation and continued connection to the land (Cultural learning at Brisbane's Environment Centres; Early History).



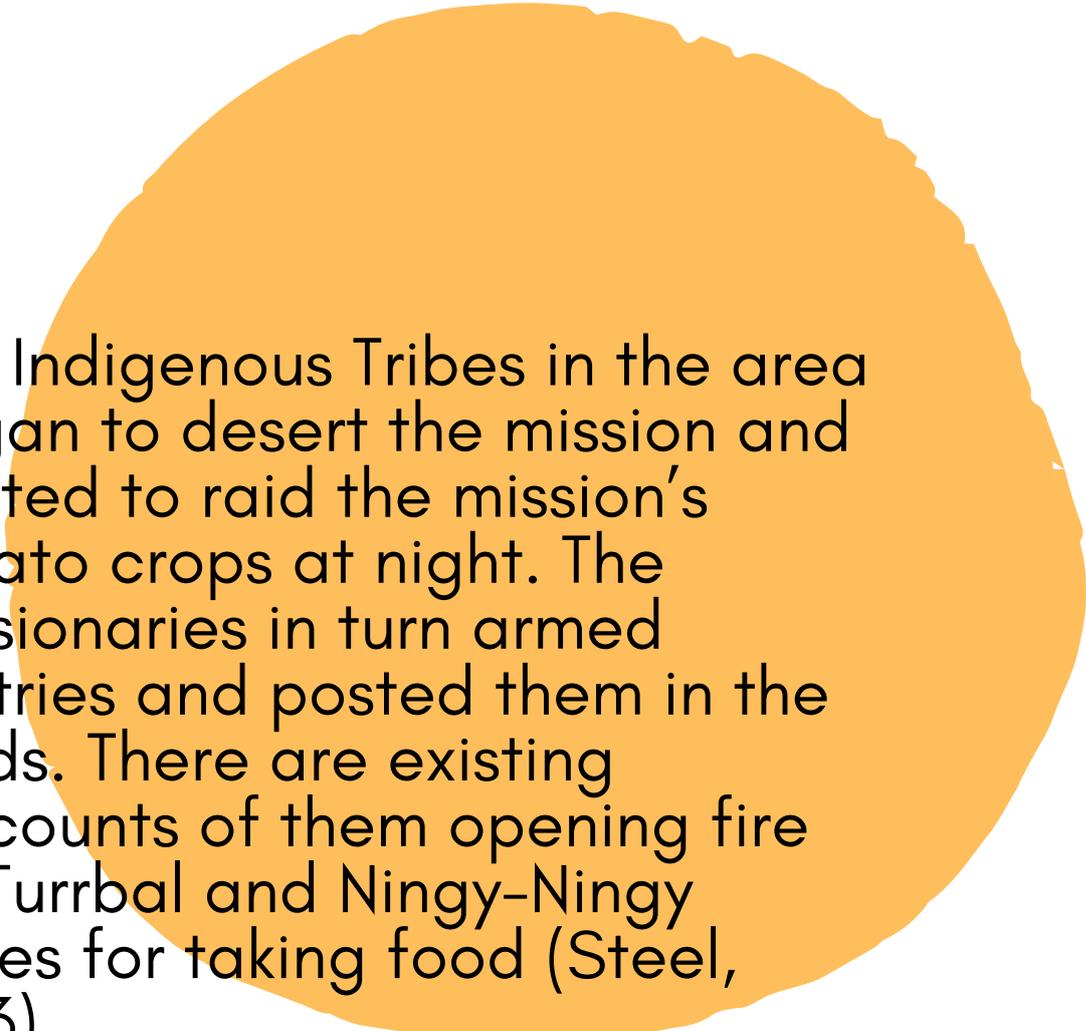


There were a number of Bora Rings or Bools in the Nundah area pre-colonisation. This indicated a dense Indigenous population. Bora Rings are initiation sites where Indigenous males are welcomed into manhood through traditional ceremonious rituals such as circumcision, scarification, the learning of sacred songs, stories, dance and traditional law (Steel, 1983).

There was a well known North Brisbane Turrbal Tribe situated at Yorks Hollow. Yorks Hollow was a gully that passed through Victoria Park and the RNA Showgrounds. This Indigenous campsite was traditionally known as Barrambin and was famously known and nicknamed by European missionaries/settlers as the Duke of Yorks Clan (Steel, 1983). Duke Street and York Street in Nundah are connected to this campsite.



Lutheran German Missionaries known as the Gossner Missionaries settled in Nundah in 1838. This was the first free European settlement in Queensland and was called German Station. They later renamed the area Zion Hill (Early History). They established their mission close to major Indigenous pathways in order to convert the Aboriginal people to Christianity. The Missionaries attempted to break down these Indigenous tribes' nomadic habits and instil in them their faith, values and agricultural principles (Early History; Steel, 1983).



The Indigenous Tribes in the area began to desert the mission and started to raid the mission's potato crops at night. The Missionaries in turn armed sentries and posted them in the fields. There are existing accounts of them opening fire on Turrbal and Ningy-Ningy Tribes for taking food (Steel, 1983).

In 1844 the mission was closed as Christianity had not been successfully received by the local Indigenous population. The Missionaries accused Indigenous people of being too interested in the "Dreamtime than in God" (Steel, 1983).

References

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