

Profile

Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre M&GSQ Standards Program 2008



Artwork by an Aboriginal stockman from Beaudesert, 1903. Work commissioned by Catholic Priest Father Enright as gift to a parishioner. Represents a traditional artform adapted using non-traditional symbols.



Pearl-shell carved by Yugambeh fisherman, 2005. Represents 'Gwonda' the white-finned dolphin - hunter of fish.



Grindstone from the Yugambeh archaeological collection

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**Hours: Monday to Friday
10.00am – 3.00pm**

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Presented by Museum & Gallery
Services Queensland in
partnership with Yugambeh
Museum, Heritage & Language
Research Centre
Images courtesy of Rory O'Connor

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum & its collection

- ◆ Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre runs cultural heritage induction courses, called *Protecting Our Heritage*, to educate those working on development sites about important Yugambeh sites and materials they might come across in their work. These include ceremonial places, scarred or carved trees, burials, fish traps and weirs, occupation sites, quarries and artefact scatters, grinding groves (where food processing activities have left shallow circular depressions in rock surfaces), contact sites (such as Aboriginal missions, native mounted police barracks and historical camping sites), wells and other landscape features that may have cultural heritage significance.
- ◆ The Yugambeh Cultural Landscape Garden, under construction at the Yugambeh Museum site, will feature aspects of Yugambeh language, history and culture including a story circle, native plants, and a sun marker. There are plans for an archaeological dig area, and tours of the Garden will be presented by young people from the community. The Garden is due to open mid-2009.
- ◆ Yugambeh Museum has in its collection 12 000+ artefacts such as stone and wooden tools and weapons, from pre-European and historical times, gathered from archaeological sites and open landscape areas across traditional Yugambeh land and neighbouring regions. A large number of the artefacts were collected by the Scout Movement in the 1960s, apparently for scientific research.

Our Profile

The Yugambeh Museum is committed to the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the traditional Aboriginal people of the Yugambeh Language Region. The region extends from the Tweed River in the south to the Logan River in the north and west.

The museum's collections include ancient and contemporary artefacts, art pieces, family histories, archival records and photographs and an extensive library of books, audio and video tapes and CDs relating to the shared Aboriginal and European history of the region. Great emphasis has been given to the collection of records relating to Yugambeh and other languages of southeast Queensland. It prides itself on being a keeping place for information relating to the local Yugam language, which Museum founders have gathered since it was thought extinct in the 1980s.

Research by the museum's founders has also led to the establishment of a number of "modern" traditions including an annual Black Diggers Remembrance Ceremony honouring Aboriginal men and women from the frontier wars of the 1800s to Australian military service in world wars and overseas campaigns since the Boer War. The Drumley Walk is another major event for the Museum. This three day walking pilgrimage through the traditional lands of the Yugambeh Aboriginal peoples includes story-telling and interpretive guiding. Participants in 2008 reached into the hundreds. See <http://www.thedrumleywalk.com> for further information.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Museum Management

The Standards Program brought home to us the importance of formal guidelines for management. The Yugambeh Museum will regularly review and update its Policies and Procedures Manual and ensure it is readily accessible to all staff.

Significance Assessment

We have realised that the significance of an object can be greatly enhanced by the addition of relevant data eg provenance, type of material, ownership, age etc. In the future the Yugambeh Museum will ensure that all known information about an object is recorded on the database for curator use.