



The Drumley Walk Returns for 2006

You are invited to join **The Drumley Walk – Beaudesert to Southport, Fri 1 Sept – Sun 3 Sept, 2006.**

The Drumley Walk is a three day walking pilgrimage honouring one of Queensland's most influential Aborigines, Billy Drumley (1853 – 1951).

The first walk of its kind, it traverses 75km through the Yugambah language region, including scenic rainforests, rolling plains and open woodlands. It follows the path Drumley took as he travelled from his home in Beaudesert to visit his sister Jenny Graham, who lived with her extensive clan beside the Nerang River during the early 1900s.



Walkers will learn about the region from an Aboriginal perspective. They will hear local traditional history, stories of bora grounds, songs, legends and food sources. They will be shown stone tools and learn basic artefact identification. Farming families who knew of Drumley have opened their properties to the walkers, and will also share their memories of the man.

The walk is open to adults and children accompanied by guardians. You can join for a single day or the entire three days. And even the least fit can join the first few hours from Beaudesert on Friday, or the final two hours from Royal Pines Resort to the finish at Southport on Sunday morning.



Your guides are Drumley's Great Grand nephews - Yugambah cousins Rory O'Connor and Hague Best. Rory is a journalist and has written books and brochures about his people. He is compiling another book based on stories gathered from the walk.

Hague Best is a very experienced hiker, a former National Parks ranger, and is now the Cultural Heritage Officer with the Gold Coast City Council.

"The Walk brings together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people," Rory said. "My Elders always spoke very highly of Drumley. I want his story to be remembered."

Hague was joined by his 13 year-old son Axel on last year's inaugural walk.

"As a father and son adventure it is unbeatable," Hague said. "It's a great way for children to be introduced to local history and culture in a meaningful and fun way."

Hague is a former restaurateur and has a special interest in traditional foods. With his wife Felicity, a chef, he is keen to provide the walkers with some local flavours and tastes.

The Walk is supported by the Beaudesert Shire Council and Gold Coast City Council, and will include representatives from Qld Police Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Natural Resources, and other groups involved in our cultural heritage.

Right - Day 2: After a latte breakfast in a Mt Tamborine coffee shop, it is a day of waterfalls, amazing birdlife, and rainforests.



Walk Itinerary & Accommodation

Day one - Friday 1 September - Beaudesert to North Tamborine

30 km, 7.30am – 4.30pm, includes send-off ceremony at Beaudesert’s War Memorial. Mostly easy walking, flat dirt roads and scenic farms outside Beaudesert. Steep rise at end of day, ascending Mt Tamborine. Overnight Panorama Lodge, Mt Tamborine Conference Centre. Beds \$20 per person in large sprawling house-style venue. Do entire day or just first few hours to enjoy the festive start.

Day Two – Saturday 2 September - North Tamborine to Nerang

30 km, 7.30am – 4pm, includes time for morning coffee in Tamborine’s Gallery Walk coffee shop precinct. Easy walking through lush Tamborine forests, then thick woodlands of Nerang State Forest, finishing by the Nerang River. Overnight Cedar Lake Resort, Advancetown. \$50 per person twin share in two bedroom self contained units.

Day Three - Sunday 3 September - Nerang to Southport

15 km, 7.30am – 12.30pm, includes breakfast by the Nerang River, hosted by local Reconciliation Association. Flat easy walking on footpaths and horsetrails. Includes refreshments at Royal Pines Resort to view Portraits of Our Elders photographic exhibition, showing many of the Elders of the region. Ends with BBQ for friends and supporters at Overall Park, Brighton Pde. Do entire day, just the breakfast, or last 90 minutes from Royal Pines to finish.

Costs & Transfers

COSTS: A registration fee of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child will be charged per day to cover incidental costs. Lunches, some meals and accommodation will also be provided at cost.

TRANSFERS: Bus transfers for walkers to and from the start and finish points arranged as required. A Sunday afternoon transfer, Southport to Beaudesert available if required.

Right - Day 2: Striding out the sandy tracks of the Nerang State Forest. Matthew O’Connor suffered blisters, but accompanied his 14 year-old son Sean, and said it was one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.



Volunteers Needed

The Drumley Walk is run on a cost-only basis, and volunteers are needed to make it a safe and sustainable event. We need drivers, general helpers, a medical advisor, graphic artist, internet designer, publicist, media coordinator, screen printer, photographer, journalist, sign writer, a person who can sew, merchandising officer, masseuse, communications officer, food preparers, fund raising officer, lollypop men and women.

We also need access to a bus and driver, portalo, and two way radios. A film crew will also be in attendance and will also need volunteers. If you can assist, please call The Drumley Walk coordinators, Rory O'Connor or Hague Best.



Day 3: Four generations and 70 years after Drumley's last Walk, Sean O'Connor and Axel Best hoist the Australian and Aboriginal flags by the Nerang River, at Brighton Parade Southport, where the walk concludes.



Day 3: Gold Coast City Council cultural officer Corey O'Malley explains how he completed the entire journey barefoot. The midday Sunday barbeque marked the end of the journey. The Beaudesert Shire Council also sent a representative on the walk.

Day 1: At the start of the journey, Beaudesert locals recall stories about Drumley and how he was respected by both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community alike.



Billy Drumley



Left: Billy Drumley, wife Mary-Ann and daughter Ida, around 1890.

Billy Drumley lived to be almost 100. He survived times of enormous cultural change. He died in 1951, but his memory is still strong amongst the Elders of the Yugambeh people and general community of Beaudesert. Yugambeh Elder Patricia O'Connor recalls he was still completing his walk when he was 86 years old.

The following excerpt is from BILLY DRUMLEY IS DEAD, Beaudesert Times, 1951;

“Billy was born on a hill near Nerang, where his mother’s tribe was camped at that time. As a young man, he was well-known through the South Coast area, as an athlete of outstanding ability. He played cricket with skill and won many trophies for boxing and running.

With the broadaxe he was an artist, and old hands say there has never been a man to touch him. Throughout the district today will be found examples of his work with the broad axe. And the timber is as smooth as if it had been machine planed.”

Billy was indeed an artist with the broadaxe and his work can be seen in the churches, bridges and homesteads around Beaudesert. He also carved the main flagpole at the Beaudesert WWI war memorial. It is still used to this day. A plaque on the bottom of the flagpole reads:

“This flagpole was fashioned and hand-hewn entirely with the use of a broadaxe by the talented local axeman, Billy (Con) Drumley (probably in 1918). And it is testament to his unique skill.”



The Walk stirred memories for many Elders. Drumley’s great grand-daughter Aunty Mununjahli recalls her childhood living in the (Drumley) Lane with Billy Drumley and his family. For her it was a magic time.

The Drumley Walk 2006
Walker registration

I wish to participate in The Drumley Walk for 2006.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

(bus hours)

(after hours)

Email:

Date of birth:

..... / /

Are you

Female

Male

Do you have a medical condition we should know about? (eg asthma, epilepsy, diabetes)

Yes

.....
 No

Do you have any dietary requirements we should know about? Please advise of any allergies, intolerances or preferences eg vegan, vegetarian.

Yes

.....
 No

Emergency contact

Name:

Address:

Phone:

(bus hours)

(after hours)

Do you plan on completing the entire journey

Yes

No,

from.....

Do you need accommodation?

Pre-walk (Beaudesert)

Yes No

Day 1 (Tamborine)

Yes No

Day 2 (Nerang)

Yes No

Are you of Aboriginal descent?

Yes No

Deadline for registration is Friday 27 July 2006

Please send your application to Drumley Walk Coordinator, Yugambah Museum, 2 Plantation Road, Beenleigh Qld 4207. For more information contact Rory O'Connor on mobile 0413 732 529 or email roryoconnor154@hotmail.com.

About your host – The Yugambeh Museum

The Yugambeh Museum is dedicated to the ongoing research and preservation of the traditions and cultural heritage of our Yugambeh Elders.

The Yugambeh language region stretches from the Tweed River in the South, the Logan River in the north and west to Beaudesert.

Some of the Yugambeh Museum's projects include:

- DVD: Borobi and Friends. To teach children Yugambeh language names for animals. Narrated in language by Axel Best (released 2005)
- Book: Yugambeh Talga – Music Traditions of the Yugambeh People. Co-authored by Patricia O'Connor, Ysola Best and Candice Levinge. A look at Yugambeh music traditions. (released 2005)
- Event: Yugambeh War Memorial Day. Join us Sunday August 13, 2006 at the Burleigh Head Jebbribillum Bora Ground for our annual memorial ceremony to honour indigenous service men and women who have served in defence of their country. This year gives pays special tribute to the 40 anniversary of the battle of Long Tan, a defining battle for Australian forces in Vietnam.
- Exhibition: Birthing Circle. This powerful display about Yugambeh History from the female perspective is currently on show at the Queensland Museum. A joint project of the Yugambeh Museum and the Queensland Museum.
- Book: Yugambeh – In Defence of our Country. Edited Rory O'Connor. Interviews with Yugambeh Aboriginal war veterans. (First published 1991)
- Book: The Kombumerri – Aboriginal People of the Gold Coast. By Rory O'Connor. A comprehensive look at the culture of the Kombumerri and Yugambeh people. (Published 1997)

The Drumley Walk 2006

A project of the Yugambeh Museum.

Assisted by the Beaudesert Shire Council & Gold Coast City Council.

Contact the Yugambeh Museum

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