Yugambeh Nation

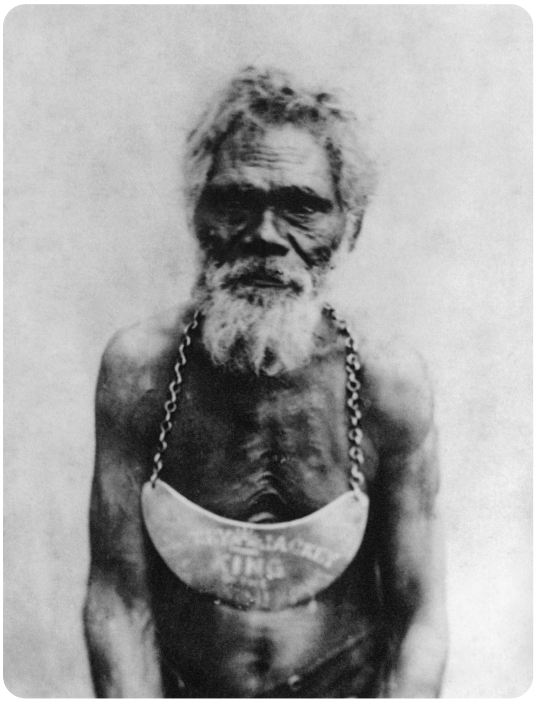
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AGES 10 TO 14 · LEADER AND DIPLOMAT

Bilin Bilin

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this sheet contains the name and images of a person who has died.



Bilin Bilin wearing his king plate.

Who was Bilin Bilin?

Bilin Bilin, whose name means ‘many parrots’, was born in the early 1800s. He was also known as Jackey Jackey, Kawae Kawae and Jack Logan.

He became a leader of the Yugambeh people in about 1863. In 1875 he was given a king plate naming him ‘King of the Logan and Pimpama’.

Bilin Bilin was a diplomat. He demanded equality of wages for his people and fair terms of trade, and he is credited with aiding the survival of the early explorers and settlers of the Logan district.

At the Bethesda Mission on the Albert River at Eagleby, Pastor Gottfried Haussmann taught Bilin Bilin to read and write. Haussmann hoped Bilin Bilin would become the first baptismal candidate in Queensland.

Bilin Bilin set his own terms with the newcomers. He charged Haussmann 5 shillings a week to sit and discuss religion with the tribe, and his people cleared 10 acres of land at £1 an acre. Surveyor Roberts had to plead for extra funding because he had to pay Bilin Bilin’s people to carry his supplies over Tamborine Mountain.



Look closely

1. What is Bilin Bilin wearing around his neck in both photographs?

   _____

2. What words can you read on the plate in the first photograph?

   _____

3. What is he holding in the second photograph? What can you see behind him?

   _____

   _____

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AGES 10 TO 14

Bilin Bilin: Questions

Questions

1. What does the name Bilin Bilin mean, and what other names was he known by?

2. When did Bilin Bilin become a leader, and what did his king plate say?

3. What two things did Bilin Bilin demand for his people?

4. Who taught Bilin Bilin to read and write, and where?

5. Why do you think Bilin Bilin charged Pastor Haussmann to sit and discuss religion?

Money maths

In those days there were 20 shillings in £1.

1. Bilin Bilin's people cleared 10 acres of land at £1 an acre. How much were they paid?

2. Pastor Haussmann paid 5 shillings a week. How many shillings is that over 4 weeks? How many pounds?

Speak like a diplomat

Imagine you are Bilin Bilin meeting Surveyor Roberts, who needs your people to carry his supplies over Tamborine Mountain. Write what you would say to make sure your people are paid fairly.

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