Yugambeh Nation

Name: _____

Date: _____

AGES 13 TO 16 · HISTORY

The Broadbeach Burial Ground

Content note. This sheet discusses the disturbance of an Aboriginal burial ground and the return of ancestral remains. It does not show any remains.



Kombumerri Park today.

Did you know that every week hundreds of Gold Coasters come together to play sport, make merry, and laugh atop the graves of over 150 local Aboriginal men, women, and children from the Kombumerri clan? This is the story of one of the Gold Coast's forgotten ungazetted cemeteries...

In November 1965, human bones started appearing in people's front yards in Broadbeach, in soil a local contractor had dug up from a nearby wetland. It was soon discovered that wetland area was a significant Indigenous burial ground containing the remains of more than 150 people.

This was a proper cemetery where people had come back over generations and cared for their dead. Its usage had been dated back over 1000 years.

The remains were taken to the University of Queensland, and in 1988, after years of lobbying the university by local Kombumerri people, the excavated remains were returned to them and reinterred about 300 metres from the original site in what is now known as Kombumerri Park.

Questions

1. What did people start finding in their front yards in Broadbeach, and where had the soil come from?

2. Where were the remains taken, and why did it take until 1988 for them to come home?

3. Why do you think the Reading calls it a "forgotten ungazetted cemetery"? (An ungazetted cemetery is one that was never officially recorded.)

4. How do you think people should behave at Kombumerri Park, knowing its history?

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Reading: Yugambeh Nation, 3 June 2023; sign: Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture