

Undanbi Natural Resources

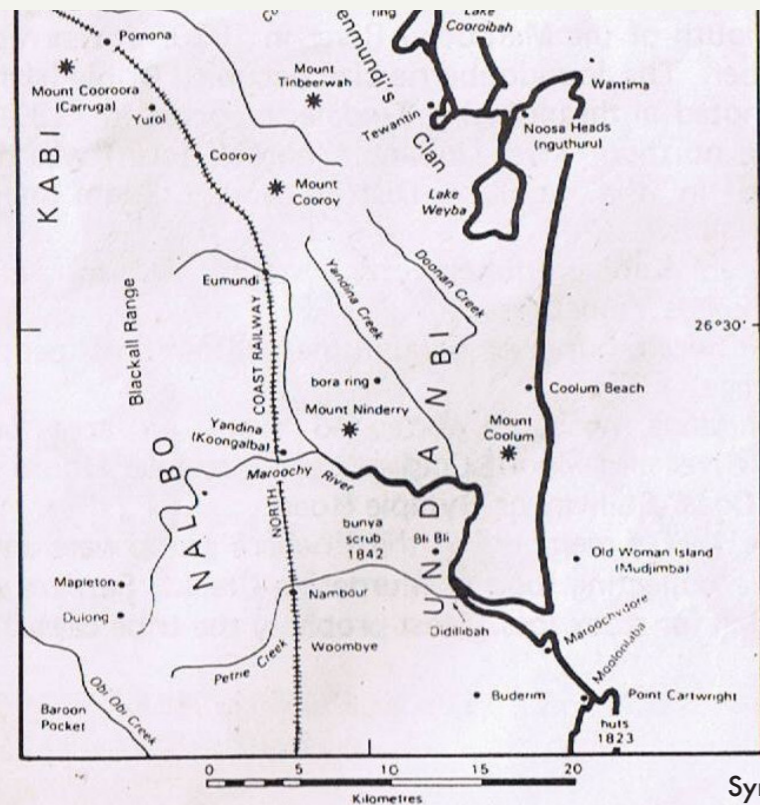
7.4 Social and Historical Context

The first people of the Coolum area belonged to a rich landscape and culture of the Undanbi sub-group within the larger Kabi language group, that extended from the coastal strip along Coolum Beach, South to the Brisbane River and inland to the Mary River catchment area.

Lost within acquisition, power and shame the record of this long history is limited and present day Coolum has no connection and memory of the life and journey of the traditional Aboriginal inhabitants.

The local group inhabited an area bountiful with plant and animal food resources and therefore had much time for social and artistic pursuits, story telling and Corroboree in particular.

The artist and community workshops resounded a strong desire for the knowledge of the Undanbi people and place memory to be reconnected within the present visual landscape. It is important that these stories and knowledge are available for all to enjoy and debate, as all history serves to do.



Symons, K and S (1989)

Map of the Sunshine Coast from Mooloolaba to Noosa, and part of Cooloolaba.

7.5 Key stories-metaphor for art framework

Bora rings are sacred places central to the initiation of the Gubbi Gubbi people and were constructed in groups of three and found only in South east Queensland and in northern New South Wales.

It is understood that the Bora ring (boorl or buhl) was highly significant in the daily and spiritual lives of Aboriginal people.

Each Bora Ring was connected by pathways, a smaller ring for male initiation rites and a larger ring was more closely associated with large social gatherings, including the performance of corroborees, increase rites and the meeting of the Bora Council. As with the Bunya festivals, bora ring ceremonies lasted for several weeks and involved the gathering of a number of Aboriginal groups, many of who travelled great distances (Petrie, 1904).

'smaller ring and larger; flanked by carved trees, ground drawings and other devices used to illustrate stories about mythical beings which embodied the laws of the tribe.'

These sacred places were constructed only in southeast Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Local Bora Ring locations - west of Mt Ninderry, near Yandina Creek and Mt Coolum Golf Course

The land is an essential part of aboriginal life and landmarks were of particular importance.

There is the opportunity in the urban design master plan and placemaking initiatives of Coolum, to embrace and re-establish the local indigenous knowledge of plants, animal and marine life, including the natural signs, paths and stories that illustrate the natural understanding and wisdom about the place.



Mt. Coolum

Paths have always been important to connect people and place