

GATHERING INDIGENOUS CULTURAL RESOURCES

A professional resource for Darling Downs educators

The Indigenous tribes which have called the Darling Downs region their home for over 60 000 years are the Jagera, Giabal and Jarowair peoples. The Toowoomba area is recognised historically as a meeting place between tribes due to its close proximity to the Bunya Mountains; the location of bunya nut festivals which would take place one every few years (Driveinland Committee, 2017).

RECONCILIATION

Being well informed of local Indigenous histories and cultural practices is essential for educators as it promotes reconciliation between non-Indigenous and Indigenous Australians (Hunt, 2013). Actively encouraging reconciliation within the classroom allows non-Indigenous children to be culturally informed while also enabling Indigenous children to feel recognised and accepted in their environment (Hunt, 2013). Additionally, gaining credible resources can also be beneficial for an educator in creating a Reconciliation Action Plan, an essential aspect of promoting reconciliation in schools.



Adam Jones
Yugambeh
Aboriginal Girl
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Source: Driveinland.com.au

WHERE/HOW TO GATHER MEANINGFUL RESOURCES

It is important that educators obtain and teach information which is relevant, accurate and meaningful in order to promote reconciliation (Reconciliation Australia, 2017). They can receive these resources through:

Contacting and meeting with Jagera, Giabal or Jarowair Elders

Retrieving information directly from elders in the community is respectful because it simulates traditional actions which sees elders passing down information to those in the younger generations. This practice also allows relationships to form between schools and their local indigenous community.

Attending Festivals or Visiting Sites

Immersing oneself in activities and locations which recognise and promote Indigenous culture and practice allows educators to gain understandings. Some of these can include but are not limited to:

- Yearly Bunya Festival - March at Cicada Womens Site
- Gumbi Gumbi Gardens - University of Southern Queensland
- J.E. Duggan Park Lookout (Meewah)

Researching Online

Reputable information regarding Indigenous histories can be found via websites such as:

- Narragunnawali - <https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/>
- Toowoomba Region - <http://www.tr.qld.gov.au>
- Drive Inland - <https://driveinland.com.au/>

References

- Driveinland Committee. (2017). Experiencing Aboriginal culture and heritage in the Toowoomba region. Retrieved August 8, 2020, from <https://driveinland.com.au/experience-aboriginal-culture-and-heritage-in-the-toowoomba-region/>
- Hunt, J. (2013). Engaging with Indigenous Australia- Exploring the conditions for effective relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/7d54eac8-4c95-4de1-91bb-0d6b1cf348e2/ctgc-ip05.pdf.aspx?inline=true>
- Reconciliation Australia. (2017). The state of reconciliation in Australia: Our history, our story, our future. https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/The-State-of-Reconciliation-report_FULL_WR.pdf