

The Drumley Walk: Promoting Health through Poems and Songs that Remember Yugambeh Aboriginal Leaders and Languages

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The Drumley Walk is an annual three-day walking pilgrimage from Beaudesert, south of Brisbane, to Southport on the Gold Coast. The 65 kilometre journey follows the footsteps of Beaudesert Aboriginal identity Billy Drumley. In the early 1900s he trekked through farmland and bush to visit his sister Jenny Graham who lived at Southport with her many children and grandchildren.

Rory O'Connor, the Walk Director states the aim of the Drumley Walk is "to honour Aboriginal Elders of yesteryear, for their resilience and courage to keep living on their traditional lands."

The event which is run by Drumley's descendants also remembers other local leaders whose stories form an integral part of today's community of people associated with the Yugambeh language region.



The Drumley Walkers arrive at Southport after a 3 day journey

Caring for Country: Keeping Culture Strong

Ethnographic Research: Narratives, Songs and Poems

The Walk is continually evolving, so ethnographic writing and performance of newly composed song and dance is encouraged as part of the walkers' creative activities and reflection on their journey.

My ethnographic description of the Walk relates to my perspective as an occupational therapist and ethnomusicologist. I analyse how the songs and poems created for the walk promote resilience in the face of societal, economic, political and environmental change.

The discussion highlights how songs and poems safeguard remnants of traditional Yugambeh language and reveal a continuous transmission of Caring for the Country values through to the present day. Health promotion opportunities:

- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Keeping culture strong, yarning
- Social relationships & social inclusion
- Language maintenance
- Safeguarding culture
- Creating new songs and dance
- Storytelling performances give people a voice
- Environmental protection
- Cultural Tourism
- Building capacity for understanding spirituality
- Education in Indigenous knowledges, art/craft
- Sensory appreciation of Country, flora, fauna

DANCING ON THE BREEZE: THE BALLAD OF BILLY DRUMLEY

GARY WILLIAMS (LYRICS) SANDRA KIRKWOOD (MUSIC)

1 ALLEGRO F

VOICE

VERSE

A MAS-TER OF THE BOAD ANE DRUM-LEY CARVED THE BEAMS WITH SKILL OF
AND DRUM LEY WALKED TO SOUTH PORT - TO VI - SIT FAM - I - LY, FROM
AND NOW IN DRUM-LEY'S ME - MORE - BY WE WALK THE TRACKS TO - DAY, AND

6

VOICE

CHURCHES AND THE HOU-BES' ROUND THE TOWN, AND HIS FLAG POLE AT THE CEN-O-TAPH IS STAND-ING
BEAU DES - ERT HE OSTRIDE A-ROUND THE RIDGE, ACROSS THE AL - BERT OI - VER AND OI-VER MOUNTTAM - BOLD-
VISIT HOME - STEADS HE PASSED A - LONG THE WAY, LUD - WIGS, ING - LIS, PEA - BEGS, T - AH - LA IS ON THE

12

VOICE

STILL HE WAS A BOX - EG, SUN - NER, CRICK - E - TER RE - NOWN, YAN - BE - LI - LA LET'S GO WALK - ING

Nali yanbellila Yugambeh Jagun

Let's go walking in Yugambeh country,
Jingeri jingeri all my friends,
Let's start at *Yilbagan*, known as Beaudesert,
We'll gather and have a good feed.
When all of you come back in the morning, say
Minyahgu, (Hello), *Jingi Wahlu* (How are you)?
Say *Yawu*, *bugal ngay* if you are well today,
Or *Yugam*, *yilyal ngay* if you are feeling unwell.
Nali yanbellila Yugambeh Jagun,
(Let's go walking in Yugambeh country),
Billabira - It's a fine day; or I see *Duban* (fog), and
Jugun (clouds) today,
Yanbellila bugal, Good walking!