



Multuggerah

Warrior Strategist Diplomat

Queensland History Week
23 - 27 May 2022



QUEENSLAND
HISTORY WEEK
23-27 MAY 2022

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY
QUEENSLAND HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



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Above:

Image: Vincent SERICO / Toowoomba I 1994 / acrylic on canvas / 91 x 123cm / Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery – Toowoomba City Collection 286 / © Vincent Serico courtesy FireWorks Gallery

Right:

Image: Me-e-wah (Kerkhove, 2016)

Reference list:

- Kerkhove, R. (2016) Multuggerah and Multuggerah Way.
https://www.academia.edu/29387762/Multuggerah_and_Multuggerah_Way
- Marr, D. (15 September, 2019) Battle of One Tree Hill: remembering an Indigenous victory and a warrior who routed the whites.
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/sep/15/battle-of-one-tree-hill-cutting-through-silence-to-remember-a-warrior-who-routed-the-whites>



Stories of Queensland - Multuggerah

In 1843 a First Nations warrior, strategist and diplomat led the Jagera Nation in taking a stand. His name was Multuggerah.

Pastoralists had moved into the Lockyer Valley and Somerset regions (inland from Ipswich and the Sunshine Coast) and were determined to secure land for sheep and cattle farming. The First Nations people who had lived with this land for thousands of years resisted. They set fires, organised raids of hundreds of attacking warriors, and killed introduced livestock.

The pastoralists responded with more violence. Multuggerah's brother and father were killed in revenge attacks. In 1942, between fifty and sixty First Nations people were deliberately poisoned by arsenic laced flour at Kilcoy Station.

Multuggerah realised that the greatest weakness of the pastoralists was their need to receive supplies from the city, and to send wool to sell in the markets. To do this they had bullock teams hauling carts along tracks that wound their way through the valleys and mountains to Brisbane. Organising warriors to build barricades to stop the carts, was the first part of Multuggerah's plan. Once stopped they would be vulnerable, and the attack would begin. This began to place pressure on the pastoralists and supplies were urgently needed.

On 13 September 1843, Multuggerah and his companions stopped the carts again. The pastoralists responded with a counterattack. Fleeing up a nearby mountain, Multuggerah and his warriors made their stand. Commonly referred to today as Tabletop Mountain (once known as One Tree Hill). The Jagera name is Me-e-wah (place of eyes, as the hill was a regular lookout spot) or Gergel- gergel(nosebone). The warriors threw spears, stones and boulders from the slopes and several pastoralists were severely wounded.

While several First Nations people were killed and wounded, this is a battle of importance. Newspaper reports from the time describe Multuggerah and his fellow warriors as showing great strategy, genius and causing a significant setback to the pastoralists in the region. The events have been recorded in artworks, song and story.

Thinking Activity

- Know – what is familiar about this story? What do you already know about Queensland history that you recognise in this story?
- New – what is new about this story? What is something that you did not already know?
- Question – what are you curious about? What question do you now have?

Extra for experts

- Research the Kilcoy Massacre
- Go to the Colonial Frontier Massacres Map and explore your region. What evidence is there of the Frontier Wars near your part of Queensland?

<https://c21ch.newcastle.edu.au/colonialmassacres/map.php>