

## 20 - DUNWICH: Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery

<b>Street Address</b>	Dickson Way, Dunwich (Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery)
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Lot 171 on SL12421
<b>Place Type</b>	Landscape



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery (AHS, 2017.)

<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Integrity</b>	Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	17/01/2017		

### Historical Context

The Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery is located on East Coast Road, north of Dunwich and was associated with the Myora Mission that was established in 1892. Until its closure in 1941, the mission functioned as a small, close knit community rather than a state sponsored mission, particularly in comparison to places such as Barambah (Cherbourg).[1] The government designated name for the mission was Myora but the Indigenous populations who were long associated with this site knew it as 'Moongalba'.[2]

The cemetery is located on the hill to the north of the mission itself. While the coffins were supplied by the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, the mission residents looked after their own deceased.[3] Former Moongalba resident, Peggy, recalled tending to the graves with her brother and grandmother every Sunday after lunch, where they would take flowers and buckets of water to the burial sites.[4] After the mission closed and people moved away from Myora, some still chose Moongalba as a burial place.[5] A grave register has been recently drawn up, listing the names of the deceased, published in "Moongalba (Myora) Sitting Down Place".[6]

A 1961 Parish Cadastral Map reportedly lists the graves sites incorrectly. With assistance from the Redland Shire Council and the Lands Department, a new survey of the area was completed in 1988 with the corrected grave sites.[7] From 1982 the Friends of the Myora Aboriginal Cemetery have cared for the cemetery, with the assistance of descendants and Island organisations such as the Minjerribah-Moorgumpin Elders in Council and the Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC).[8]

The Friends of the Myora Aboriginal Cemetery group successfully applied for the cemetery to be listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1986. Members of the group held fundraisers to erect plaques and commemorative marking on the grave sites, assisted financially by the Archaeology Branch of the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Advancement, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Associated Minerals Consolidated Ltd.[9]

### Physical Description

The cemetery is accessed on a rough vehicle track from Dickson Way via Mungal Nature Refuge, which bounds the cemetery on the north, east, and west, and is surrounded by bush. The cemetery is believed to contain about 50 graves with about 46 marked. The markers comprise some headstones, and about nineteen coral and shell markers.

### Statement of Significance

The Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery is a site of local heritage significance which holds both historical and social value as the main cemetery used by residents of the Myora mission, and for its continued use by Stradbroke Island's Indigenous community. The cemetery has a strong social value to the descendants of those buried here and the wider community.

<b>Criteria A</b>	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
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The Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery is historically significant as surviving evidence of the Moongalba/Myora Aboriginal Mission, in which there are few surviving elements.

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<b>Criteria G</b>	The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.
The Moongalba Aboriginal Cemetery has a long association with the Indigenous community of Stradbroke Island and has particular significance to the descendants of those buried in the cemetery past and present.	

Primary Themes	
1.0 Peopling Places	1.01 The first inhabitants
6.0 Buildings, Settlements, Towns, Cities and Dwellings	6.01 Establishing settlements and towns

References
<p>[1]: Faith Walker, "A Very Different Mission: The Myora Aboriginal Mission on Stradbroke Island, 1892-1940," Honours Thesis, The University of Queensland, 1996, p. 1.</p> <p>[2] Ellie Durbidge and Jenny Cooke-Bramley (eds.), <i>Moongalba (Myora) Sitting Down Place</i>, Point Lookout: North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association, 1997, p. 9.</p> <p>[3] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 16.</p> <p>[4] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 20.</p> <p>[5] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 12.</p> <p>[6] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 16.</p> <p>[7] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 17.</p> <p>[8] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 19.</p> <p>[9] <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 18.</p>



*View of Myora Mission, North Stradbroke Island, 1906 (SLQ).*



*Myora Mission at Stradbroke Island, ca. 1891 (SLQ).*