Indigenous Significance

Indigenous Outlook

Indigenous people have long understood and acknowledged that we are all spiritual beings having physical experiences on country. Our journey is an integral part of our place in the universe. Our living experiences are shaped by our choices about self, belonging and place, and direction and meaning. Every day we choose how we live and best fit along a dynamic spectrum of traditional to contemporary living cultures.

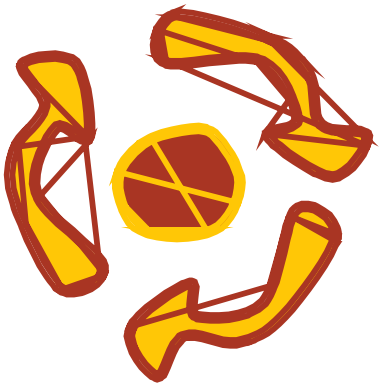
Understanding Indigenous Self-Concept

Sense of Direction and Meaning

Living
Which way am I going?
Who and what am I helping?
How am I living my life with meaning?

I create:

- being ways (inner balance of mind, body and spirit)
- doing ways (outward connection with/to people and places)
- living ways (connective lifestyles as expressed through a living culture/s).



Sense of Self

Looking
How do I identify the person that I am?

I choose the following to create myself:

- 7 basic needs (survival, power self management, love, belonging, fun, freedom and understanding)
- skills (for work, play and living)
- inner qualities (values/virtues, attitudes and perceptions, beliefs, life principles, ego/spirit centeredness).

Sense of Belonging and Place

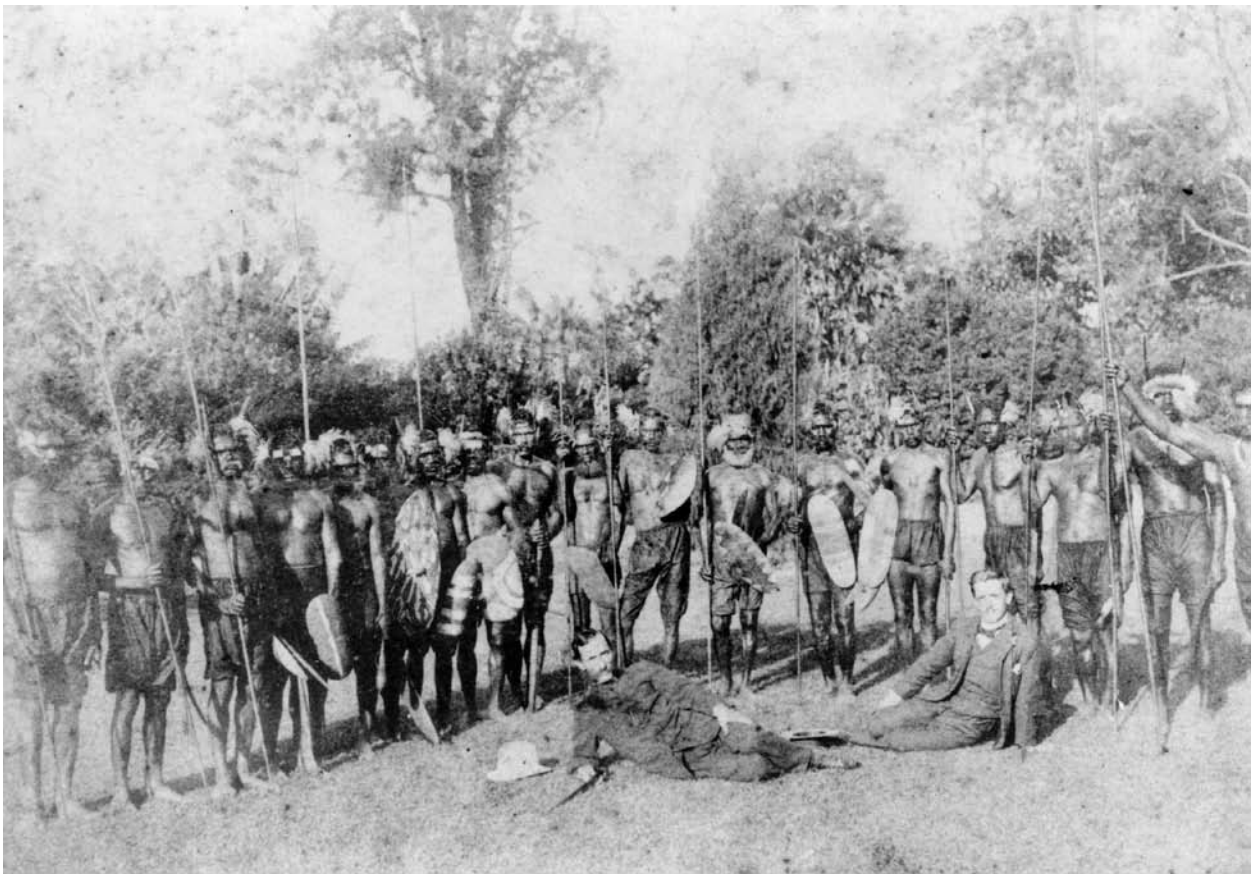
Belonging
Who do I belong to? (People)
I form connections when I connect with/to:

- look up to people (for inspiration and living wisdom)
- go to people (for support and information)
- walk with people (for positive encouragement along the way).

Place
Where do I belong? (Place)
I connect with/to:

- wellbeing places (for healing, caring and nurturing mind, body and spirit experiences)
- belonging places (for family lifestyle experiences)
- get-together places (for social and community experiences).

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Aboriginal group with Archibald Meston and son, slq neg. 196967



Aboriginal group near later site of Queens Park in Maryborough, ca. 1870's, slq neg 69224