History of the
Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School

Access the Beach School website to complete this page:
www.thebeachs.eq.edu.au
About Our School > History of our School

Or access the information plaque outside the Tallebudgera Beach School building.

Tallebudgera Beach School is located in a unique aquatic environment rich in indigenous history. The Yugambeh people, traditional owners of the land, gathered at Tallebudgera Creek, estuary, surf beach and Burleigh Hill in an annual celebration steeped in traditional and customs. This site was also used as a wartime rest and recreation facility for armed service personnel, and then Beach Camps for bush school children commenced in the 1950s. It has developed into Queensland's premier recreational and outdoor education venue.

Since 1966, children from all over Queensland have participated in the Tallebudgera Beach School's traditional camp program. Over 8,000 students attend 5 day camps each year at what is the best aquatic adventure site in Australia. Aquatic Adventure, Surf Safety, Personal Development, Problem Solving, Team Building, Leadership and Indigenous Culture activities dominate the “Beach School” program.

Tallebudgera Beach School, an Education Queensland Outdoor Education Centre, is the largest Surf Education School in Australia.

Did You Know?
- As well as Surf Awareness Residential Camp Programs our organisation also delivers Day Programs, 3R Student at Risk Programs, Currumbin Farm Campus Programs, and is a Registered Training Organisation.
- Over 17,000 attend our range of programs each year, supported by over 50 school staff.
6.30am Morning Beach Walk / Activities
7.15am BREAKFAST
8.30am Cabin Inspection
8.50am Morning Parade
9.30am Morning Activities
10.30am Morning Tea
12.15pm LUNCH
1.25pm Afternoon Activities
4.00pm Recreation Time
5.15pm DINNER
6.40pm Night Activities
8.30pm Supper
9.30pm Lights out and bedtime
The Compass

Compass Parts
Step 1- Draw arrows to the relevant compass part:

- **Compass Needle**: This arrow will always point to the Magnetic North and is often painted red on a compass.
- **Base Plate and Grip**: The base plate often has a ruler that can be used for determining distances on maps and is often shaped to fit in the palm of your hand.
- **Heading Arrow**: This arrow is fixed on the base plate and it should point in the direction that you are travelling, which is your destination.
- **Turnable Housing**: This top section of the compass holds the basic directions and can rotate, enabling you to align north.

Learning Place Activity

Access the Learning Place **Rainforest Use Compass Points**. On completion of this task you are required to indicate the path in which you travelled. Please draw your route in pen on the map below. Step one has been completed for you.
The History of Burleigh Mountain

Read the passage and put a line through each incorrect word.

Where is Burleigh Mountain and why is it important to the Beach School?

Burleigh Heads National Park covers 2.76 square kilometres and is 6 times the size of the Tallebudgera Beach School site. Situated at Burleigh Heads in south-east Queensland, it was gazetted as a national park in 1947 and is now the only Gold Coast rocky headland that reflects its natural state. Habitats including lowland rainforest and pandanus groves are conserved within the park. Over 8000 students from the Beach School walk the mountain annually where they can be educated about geological formations, marine studies, indigenous heritage and even take in the spectacular views at the lookout where Northern NSW is clearly visible.

How was Burleigh Mountain formed?

The formation of Burleigh headland began between 23 - 25 million years ago when a volcano in the Gold Coast hinterland erupted. The core of the volcano exists today and is known as Mount Warning, so named by Captain Cook during his early exploration of Australia. During the volcano’s eruption, molten basalt lava flowed down valleys before reaching the ocean in some cases. Rapid cooling from the ocean caused contraction of this thick lava resulting in the creation of a natural geological phenomenon, the formation of long hexagonal basaltic columns. Over millions of years wave action and rain seepage have eroded the softer underlying sedimentary rock, resulting in columns of basalt falling seaward as evidenced by the boulder strewn shoreline.
Become an Educated Basic First Aider ... it could save lives

For Strains, Sprains and Bruises ... you need the R.I.C.E.R Treatment Plan:

R: **REST** the injured area to prevent the injury from getting worse.
I: Apply **ICE** packs to the area to reduce blood flow to the injured area.
C: Apply a **compression** bandage to help limit swelling to the injured area.
E: **ELEVATE** the injured area above the level of the heart to reduce swelling.
R: **Refer** the patient on for further medical assessment.

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**Surf Awareness Crossword**

Across
1. These must be used outside the patrolled swimming area.
7. You can ride this craft between the flags.
8. These provide information about the beach and conditions.
14. Plunging waves are also called this.
15. Applied every 3 hours to protect skin from harmful UV rays.
16. If caught in a rip you must remain ____ and signal for help.

Down
2. NE winds will wash these nasty creatures onto the beach.
3. Strong current of water moving away from the beach.
4. At the beach know your limits, take care and play ______.

5. Never swim or surf ______.
6. Red flags indicate that the surf is this.
9. These waves are fun and safe for riding.
10. ________ can lead to serious problems later on in life.
11. A wave that has no white water & has not broken.
12. A volunteer person trained to keep the beach safe.
13. Always swim between these types of flags.
Tallebudgera Creek’s stream network is a staggering 219 km in length and the catchment covers a total area of 110 km².

The mouth of the Tallebudgera Creek is stabilised by a rockwall which was established in 1976.

The four dominant land uses in the Tallebudgera Creek are: native bush, suburban, grazing, intensive agriculture.

Rural Residential areas are where the mid reaches of the creek flows through.

The headwaters, or upper reaches, of the Tallebudgera Creek commence in the pristine areas of the McPherson Ranges near the QLD – NSW borders.

Tallebudgera Creek is positioned in and supported by the Gold Coast City Council area.

In 2010 the health rating of the Tallebudgera Estuary was B which rates the waterway as being in Good condition.
Be Surf Smart

Please circle the appropriate answer:

1. A sweep is something the lifeguard does to clean the beach.  
   
   False  

2. Spilling waves are the safest waves for body surfing.  
   
   True  

3. To attract attention, wave both arms in the air.  
   
   False  

4. If caught in a rip you should swim straight into the beach.  
   
   False  

5. The Recovery Position helps to maintain a clear airway.  
   
   True  

6. You should ring 911 to get emergency assistance.  
   
   False  

7. The red and yellow flags show the safest part of the beach for swimming.  
   
   True  

8. A red flag on the beach means it is safe to swim but only with a friend.  
   
   False  

9. Hot water should never be used to ease the pain of a bluebottle sting.  
   
   False  

10. On discovering an unconscious patient, checking the pulse is the first priority.  
    
    False  

Healthy Waterways Activity

My actions will have impacts on waterways, wildlife, animal habitats and environments around the world.

So be the Solution and prevent Water Pollution.
What did Burleigh Mountain mean and why is it important to the Aboriginal people?

Burleigh Mountain is referred to as **Jellurgal** by the Kombumerri people, who belong to the **Yugambeh** language group. Jellurgal was a focal point in the lives of the Kombumerri people and a sacred place protected by powerful spirits. Jellurgal was formed a long, long time ago by **Jabreen**, the Creation Spirit. The Yugambeh legend tells that Jabreen slept after feeding on honey from stingless native bees (sugarbag). As he awoke he stretched his arms skywards. The land followed his fingers upwards to cover him and create the existing Burleigh Mountain. His giant rocky **fingers** can still be seen today stretching out from the easterly section of the headland.

What evidence tells us that Aboriginal people frequented this area?

Evidence of fish traps built by Aborigines still exist although partially covered by sand on the southern shores of **Tallebudgera** Creek. The park also contains significant shell **mounds**: these are known by the aboriginal people as **midden** sites. There were 2 of these rubbish dumping sites on the mountain, where after a feast the bones, shells, etc. were carefully placed in specific areas. If they looked after and respected the land by not discarding **rubbish** everywhere the good spirit Biami would reward their hunters by keeping **wildlife** in their area. Kombumerri people deliberately lit fires to clear out the undergrowth but despite this the south eastern corner of the land has remained relatively barren and sparse.

If the Mountain was so important to them why would they light fires?

Fire stick farming was done seasonally by the Kombumerri people to improve the **usefulness** of the land. As many native plants would not **germinate** unless fired, the fires actually started new plant life which in turn benefited hunting by attracting more **animals**. By clearing out the undergrowth, woodland hunting with a **spear** was easier.