



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

26 August 2016

Queensland's 19th Century Indigenous history and culture.

Guest speaker at Noosa Parks Association's Friday Environment Forum on August 26 will be Dr Ray Kerkhove, a professional historian and researcher who specialises in studying Queensland's 19th Century Indigenous history and culture.



Waterhole at former Victoria Park campsite in Brisbane

Dr Kerkhove has located over eighty historic campsites in the Brisbane area, many of which are described as periodically having between 200 and 700 inhabitants. Even more surprising, he found that most camping grounds continued to be used as late as the 1890s to 1910s, with some used up to the 1950s.

For almost a century, historians have assumed that once European settlement began in Queensland, Aboriginal sites became irrelevant with little or no significance in shaping local or regional history.

Camps were regarded as transient fringe settlements, however recent archaeological surveys in south east Queensland reveal a different story. Finds from these surveys suggest that Aboriginal people were keeping their traditional cultural landscapes and patterns of movement intact for as long as they could.

This fascinating talk will give an overview of the structure and function of Aboriginal sites in south east Queensland and their role in shaping local history and suburban landscapes. As well as Brisbane sites, Dr Kerkhove will discuss Indigenous land use, camps and other sites of the Sunshine Coast including Noosa

Join the audience at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville on 26th August to learn more about this long forgotten history. Those interested in further reading on the subject may wish to purchase a copy of Dr Kerkhove's recently published book, *Aboriginal Campsites of Greater Brisbane*. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am although everyone is welcome to arrive at 10am when coffee and chat are on offer. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.



Dr Ray Kerkhove.

All welcome.