

Mona Mona Descendants

The last 40 years of the nineteenth century saw the **Frontier Wars** in Queensland which Indigenous people (or Bama) called the '**killing times**'. From the coast to the tablelands the Bama experienced diseases, massacres and poisonings. Their population was reduced to only hundreds, and the survivors were then forcibly removed from their homelands and incarcerated in Aboriginal Missions at Yarrabah 1893 and Mona Mona in 1913.



From 1913 **Mona Mona Mission**, situated on Flaggy Creek, north of Kuranda, became the home to people from neighbouring tribes such as the **Kuku Yalanji, Djabugay, Muluridgi, Buluwai, Yirrgay, Gunggay, Yidindji, Ngadjan, Mbabaram, Djirubal, Ewamin** and **Wakaman** tribes, as well as survivors from tribes further up the cape. The location of Mona Mona is on Djabugay country, but the tribes were glossed as 'Djabugay' when they were really a variety of tribes. The Indigenous who survived the killing times were to be at Mona Mona Mission for the next 49 years and later became known as *Mona Mona Descendants*.

In 1962 the **State Government** wanted the land for a dam and so, in accordance with the then current thinking of 'assimilation', the residents were relocated to Kuranda, Mantaka, Top Kowrowa, Bottom Kowrowa, Koah, Mareeba, Cairns and further afield. When the mission closed, the generational dislocation and disruption of Bama families and tribal cultural practices was catastrophic. However, the remnants managed to give life in times of hardship to their families and still reside within the traditional lands of their forebears.

Edited by FNQ historian Dr Timothy Bottoms, 2020

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Special thank you to FNQ historian Dr Timothy Bottoms for preserving extensive Bama history in books, maps, videos and interviews. www.cairnshistory.com.au



Mona Mona Descendants is part of the series Aboriginal Rainforest Peoples History Project.

Please email buluwai.corp@gmail.com for enquiries, suggestions, corrections or further information.

We wish to advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers that this material contains images of people who are deceased. Buluwai Indigenous Corporation (BIC) respectfully acknowledges the First Peoples' and Custodians of the lands, waters and seas on which we work and live.