

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Creative Work

Citation:

Fredericks, Bronwyn (2008). Hear My Cries... Idiom 23. Vol.20, December 2008. Rockhampton: CQUniversity Publications, p.NKI,5. AU ISSN 1032-1640.

Research Background

This work is in response to a call for creative works with a specific focus on

- Field – Indigenous Studies
- Context – Indigenous ecology
- Research Question – How can I capture an

Research Contribution

The poem is about a large cod that washed up on the beach at Keppel Sands, Central Queensland. It attempts to show how the cod is part of a broader ecological system that has been disturbed by commercial fishing in the same way animals and people on the land have been disturbed by farming and broader industry. The great cod is positioned as the teller of the story to give him voice. The cod washed up on the beach in a tide. This beach was where I lived at the time.

Research Significance

Research was required to find out how cod grow, move, and age along with how he may have died due to the condition of the body of the cod. I sought advice at the time from people in the marine sciences from CQUniversity. I assisted Dr Pamela Croft later move the cod from the beach to a resting place where it could lay in rest in a dignified manner. I was later questioned by two community members about the cod's whereabouts as one person wanted to 'mount it for his bar' and another wanted to sell/ give it 'to a museum'. In some ways this is what also used to happen to Aboriginal people (ie museum specimens). Most literary works, including poems, do not speak from the voice of the object but talk about the object. I wanted to reverse this and give the cod voice in the same way that most of my creative work gives voices to Aboriginal peoples.

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