

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Creative Work

Citation:

Fredericks, Bronwyn (2008) *Woppaburra*. Idiom 23, 20. NKI 4.

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 do I capture the essence of the Woppaburra Islands through poetry.

Research Contribution

The core of this poem was written at a writing workshop on Pumpkin Island - one of the smallest islands in the Keppel Island group off the Central Queensland coast. The piece was later re-worked and shared at the 'A Sense of Place' Creative Writing and the Environment Writer's Workshop Weekend, 29th April-1st May 2005 on North Keppel Island. From here I kept working on it until I submitted the finished version for publication. The Woppaburra people are the Traditional Owners of the Keppel Islands water and land. This poem is dedicated to Kate Mara Leitch, Adam Leitch and Angela Leitch

Research Significance

Research was required to find out seek to capture through poetry the strength and maginificance of the Woppaburra Islands. The islands were an Aboriginal place and still are an Aboriginal place. This is often forgotten by holiday makers, fisherman and people seeking to walk and climb. The Woppaburra Islands have often been seen as a party place for people from Rockhampton, nationally and overseas. Who can forget the 1980s 'Get wrecked on Keppel' campaign? Now there are plans to build a major tourist resort complete with golf course and new airstrip. The Woppaburra peoples remain connected to their islands as do their totems and songlines. Through the words in the poem, I try to remind people of place, people and identity, and the many connections to the past, the present and the future. They always were and they always will be.

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