

RESEARCH STATEMENT

Original Creative Work

Citation:

Fredericks, Bronwyn. 2013. Trees Along Our Travelling Tracks. *About Place Journal*. Vol. 11, No.1, pp. 1-5. <http://aboutplacejournal.org/trees/bronwyn-fredericks-ii-i/>

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 Indigenous travelling practice in the contemporary world, through images and words?

Research Contribution

These images focus on a tree, which stands along my inland travelling track, near the town of Mundubbera (Mun-dub-bur-ra) on the land of the Wakka Wakka people.ⁱ It is in the region called North Burnett. When Aboriginal people use to travel (before cars & roads) we followed the river systems and looked out for distinct markers in the landscape. We can still do this and this tree is one of my markers. I know exactly where this tree is on my journey. As I travel south I acknowledge the lands of others as I move down to Booburrgan Ngmmunge (the language term used by many Aboriginal people to describe the Bunya Mountains)ⁱⁱ and beyond.

Research Significance

Research was required to find out which was the best locations for viewing the tree. I stood at a distance for one shot, and for the other laid with my head against the trunk of the tree and looked up towards the sky. I wanted to capture the essence of the tree, to show the burls and tell the story of this tree within its specific geographic landscape. These images seek to capture through still life photography the strength and power of the tree as it stands as marker to me and others who travel this track inland towards the Booburrgan Ngmmung. Through the photographs, I am reminded 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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ⁱ *Mundubbera*, Wikipedia Encyclopedia, accessed 14 January 2013 at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mundubbera

ⁱⁱ Maxwell Consulting. (2010). *Boyne Bu'ru Booburrgan Ngmmunge Bunya Mountains Aboriginal Aspirations and Caring or Country Plan*. Bunya Mountains Elders Council and Burnett Mary Regional Group: Burnett Mary Regional Group.