

## From humble beginnings ...



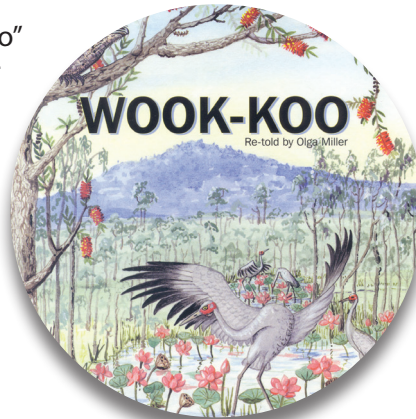
In 2001, the then Woocoo Shire Council's Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee received funding from Arts Queensland to print a book written by Butchulla elder Olga Miller. The book tells the legend of Wook-koo and the birth of the echidna.

Seeking a creative way to bring the book to life, the RADF committee successfully sought further Arts Queensland funding, and in 2002 the Story Walk was created to tell the legend.

The Walk has been incorporated into the existing park, which features mature trees and a beautiful lake system.

## "Wook-koo" - the story ...

The book "Wook-koo" has eight full colour pages of paintings, and identifies and provides information on more than 50 local plant and animal species.



## For more information ...

For more information about Wook-koo Park and Story Walk contact the Fraser Coast Visitor Information Centres at:

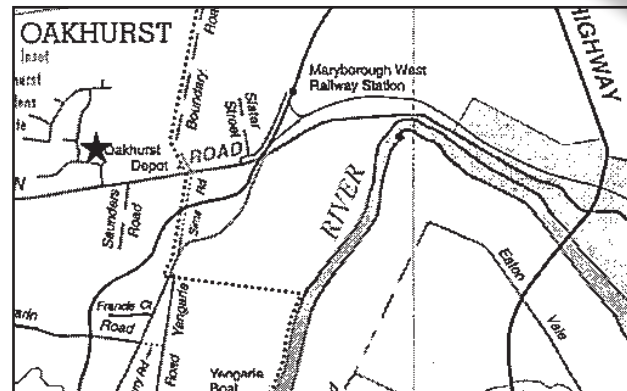
- City Hall, Kent Street, Maryborough  
Phone: 1800 214 789
- 227 Maryborough - Hervey Bay Road, Hervey Bay  
Phone: 1800 811 728
- Hervey Bay Airport, Don Adams Dv, Urangan  
Phone: 07 4197 4730
- Mayne Street, Tiaro  
Phone: 07 4129 2599

## Finding Wook-koo Park ...

Wook-koo Park is situated 9 kilometres west of Maryborough on the Maryborough - Biggenden Road.

From Maryborough-Biggenden Road, turn right into Woocoo Drive and then immediately left into the carpark adjacent to the Oakhurst Community Hall.

Wook-koo Park is located at the back of the hall.



# WOOK-KOO PARK and Story Walk

Come along and see the sculptures, water feature and many other unique artworks, all created by local residents.

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
**- OPEN EVERY DAY -**

## The legend explained ...

*"Way, way back in the First Time, the Wise Man was choosing families to go to different parts of Butchulla land, to care for it and report on any visitors or strangers, he chose Wook-koo and his family to go to Yerra."*



Wook-koo and his family left Fraser Island and followed Moonaboola (Mary River) to Mt Woocoo where he decided it would be a fine place to live. Unfortunately Wook-koo had forgotten that this mountain was part of a free-way - an area immediately outside a nation's land where outsiders could travel.

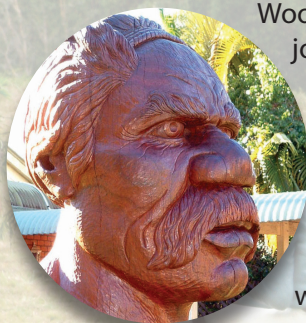
The family was suddenly surrounded by strangers from the west, who were enemies of the Butchulla people. These strangers were looking for the gateway to Butchulla country and when Wook-koo would not reveal the secret, he and his family were speared.

*"As the angry strangers left, and Wook-koo and his family lay dying on this beautiful mountain, the gods took pity on them, and although it was too late to restore them to their former selves, they did something else ... as the forms of Wook-koo and his family faded away, a strange thing happened. Small animals appeared where the others had fallen, but they were different in appearance. The animals were covered with a coat of very strong quills. Later the Butchulla people were convinced that these quills were spears."*



## Artworks along the walk ...

### Wook-koo



Wook-koo stands at the start of his journey looking in the direction of Mt Woocoo. The large bust of Wook-koo is carved from a grey ironbark tree from the western part of the Woocoo region. It took 180 hours to complete and was made by local woodcraftsman, Kevin Banting.

Follow the 'river path' and see the animals and plants that Wook-koo saw on his walk. Along the path are stencils of crocodiles, tortoises and crabs created by Kevin Revill.



### Fettlers and settlers

Across the bridge you will find the second stage of the Wook-Koo Walk, "Fettlers and Settlers". This section of the walk depicts the arrival of women and their families and later the fettlers who worked on the railway line. After the line was finished in 1887, many of these men took up land in the Woocoo area and became the first farmers.

The life-size animals and people are created from "ciment fondu", a cement based product layered onto metal frames.



### Water feature and echidna

The water lily inspired water feature and echidna were created by a local metal fabricator from stainless steel. The echidna covers the pump which is used to operate the water feature.



### Mosaics

A combined effort by Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Committee members and interested locals, the designs were the winning entries in the 2003 Woocoo Shire Council Junior Bursary competition.



### Bench seats



The ends of the bench seats were sculpted by local artist Monica Bayer and moulded by Matilda Foundry. They feature a broilga and her chicks.

### Other Features

Also located in Wook-koo Park are floodlit tennis courts (one with basketball facilities), children's playground, electric barbeques and a covered picnic area.

