



# Koa's Country Connection

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Koa, a curious child with a big smile, skipped through a sun-dappled bushland, surrounded by tall gum trees and colorful wildflowers. Playful kangaroos bounced in the distance, and bright parrots soared overhead, making the air feel alive with joy. Koa loved exploring every secret nook and cranny of this beautiful place.



Suddenly, Koa paused by a magnificent ancient gum tree, its trunk wide and textured, its branches reaching up like welcoming arms. A gentle breeze rustled its leaves, creating a soft, whispering sound that seemed to tell a story. Koa felt a special, quiet energy emanating from the old tree.



Perched on a low branch of the ancient gum tree, a wise old kookaburra with sparkling, knowing eyes watched Koa. It tilted its head, its gaze kind and full of ancient secrets. The kookaburra let out a soft, melodious chuckle, as if it understood Koa's wonder.



The kookaburra's gentle chuckle seemed to fill Koa's mind with understanding. Koa learned that this beautiful land, with its trees, rivers, and animals, has always been the cherished home of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. They have cared for this country for a very, very long time.



Koa closed their eyes, imagining Wurundjeri children playing under the same warm sun, their happy laughter echoing through the ages. They fished in the sparkling rivers and gathered food from the abundant land. Koa felt a magical connection to these children, past and present, all sharing the same earth and water.



Koa then thought about the Wurundjeri Elders, both those who walked this land long ago and those who walk it today. Their wisdom flowed like the ancient rivers, nurturing the community and protecting the country. Koa pictured their kind faces, full of stories and knowledge.



To show respect, Koa carefully picked up a smooth, river-worn stone and gently placed it at the base of the ancient gum tree. It was a small, quiet thank you to the Traditional Custodians for caring for this wonderful land. Koa felt a deep sense of gratitude.



A warm, happy feeling bloomed in Koa's heart, like a bright wildflower. Koa understood that acknowledging the Traditional Custodians helps keep their stories, their culture, and their deep connection to the land alive and strong for everyone. It was a powerful and important truth.



Later, Koa eagerly shared this newfound understanding with friends, drawing colorful pictures of the ancient gum tree, the wise kookaburra, and the Wurundjeri People. Koa explained why it's so important to respect the land and its first peoples, spreading the message of connection.



Now, Koa looked at the bushland with new eyes, a proud little guardian of its rich history and vibrant present. Koa promised to always remember and honor the Wurundjeri People's continuing connection to country, ensuring their legacy would shine brightly for generations to come.