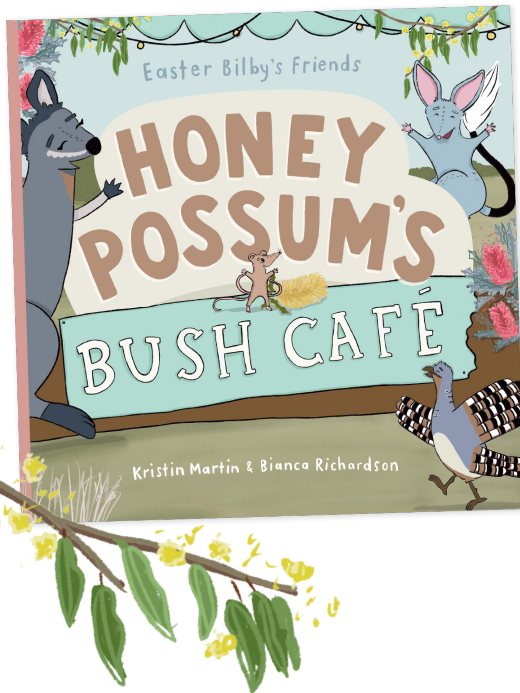


Easter Bilby's Friends HONEY POSSUM'S BUSH CAFÉ

by Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson

Teachers' Notes



About the Book

Honey Possum's Bush Café is the second book in the Easter Bilby's Friends series. Set in the Stirling Range in Western Australia, it explains to children how introduced wild rabbits affect the native plants and animals in the area and what they can do to help. The book also raises awareness of the problem of foxes and introduces the concept of wildlife corridors.

Easter Bilby delivers Easter eggs across Australia, finishing at the brand new Bush Café. He finds Honey Possum, Malleefowl and Black-gloved Wallaby busy preparing for their grand opening. But there's a problem! The animals explain that their families are not able to travel to the Bush Café. There is no food for them to eat on their journey because the wild rabbits have eaten it all. Also, there are too many scary foxes along the way. Easter Bilby helps his friends by delivering seeds and seedlings to the nearby children, who plant them so they grow into food for the travelling animals to eat. The families journey to the Bush Café and arrive in time for the grand opening.

The *Facts behind the Story* provide further information about the wild rabbit and fox problem, wildlife corridors, the character animals and some of the plants they eat.

About the Author

Kristin Martin is a poet, primary school teacher and the author of *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular* and *To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme?* She lives in Adelaide, South Australia with her family, green tree frogs, turtles and a bearded dragon named Ash.

kristinmartin.net

About the Illustrator

Bianca Richardson is a graphic designer and illustrator with a love for wonky hand drawn lines. She is the illustrator of *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular*, the first book in the Easter Bilby's Friends series. Bianca lives in the beautiful Limestone Coast region of South Australia with her husband and their two little legends.

justdrawmorebianca.com



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About the Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia

Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia is an incorporated, not-for-profit environmental charity dedicated to the control of European wild rabbits in Australia. The Foundation raises awareness of the harm caused by wild rabbits, supports ongoing research into control options, and encourages land managers in their efforts to apply best practice rabbit controls.

Themes

Conservation of plants and animals
Helping the natural environment
Animals' food and shelter
Wildlife corridors

Learning Areas

English
Science

Recommended Reading Age

4 to 9 years

Publication details

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Other books in this series

Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular

These notes were prepared by Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson.
They may be downloaded and printed for classroom use.



Easter Bilby's Friends
HONEY POSSUM'S
BUSH CAFÉ

Foundation/ Year 1

English

1. Listen to the poem at the beginning of the book which tells the back-story of Easter Bilby.
Identify the pairs of rhyming words in the poem.
What does the poem tell us about Easter Bilby?
2. Listen to the picture book.
Identify the characters. Identify the main events.
What is the problem in the story? How is the problem solved?
Draw your favourite character and write some adjectives around the picture to describe the character.
Many picture books include poetic features such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and repetition.
Find examples of each in the book.
3. Download the finger puppet template from the website, www.easterbilbysfriends.org.au
Colour in the puppets and cut them out.
Using the finger puppets, act out parts of the story with a partner or a small group, or make up your own story with the characters.
4. Download the *Who Am I?* activity sheet from the website.
Listen to each *Who Am I?* poem and identify which character it describes.
Write your own *Who Am I?* about an animal of your choice. Your *Who Am I* does not need to rhyme.

Science (biological sciences)

1. Listen to the story.
Identify and discuss the story's problem.
Identify how the problem was solved in the story.
Identify an area where you can plant native plants to help animals.
2. Listen to the animal descriptions in *The facts behind the story* at the back of the book.
Identify the food and/ or shelter requirements for each animal in the story.
Choose an animal. Draw and label a diagram showing the features of that animal.

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Year 2/ Year 3

English

1. Listen to the poem at the beginning of the story.

Identify the rhythm of the poem (there is a beat on every second syllable) and the rhyme pattern (the rhyme is at the end of each second line).

Read the poem together as a class.

Discuss what the poem adds to the picture book. Why do you think the author included it?

2. Read the picture book.

Describe the characters.

Identify the orientation, complication and resolution of the story.

Identify examples of poetic features of the book including rhyme, repetition, alliteration and onomatopoeia.

Re-write the story in your own words.

3. Rabbits and foxes are not shown in the story, except as simple sketches in the signs on the fence. Also, rabbits are always referred to as wild rabbits rather than simply rabbits. Why do you think the author and illustrator chose to do this?

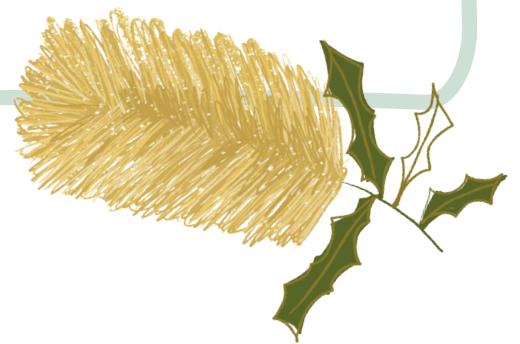
4. Download the finger puppet template from the website, www.easterbilbysfriends.org.au

Make the finger puppets and use them to act out the story. Record your performance.

5. Download the *Who Am I?* activity sheet from the website.

Listen to each *Who Am I?* poem and identify which character it describes. What further information does the poem tell you about the characters?

Write your own *Who Am I?* about an animal of your choice.



Easter Bilby's Friends
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Year 2/ Year 3

Science (biological sciences)

1. Read the story.

Discuss the story's problem.

Identify how the problem was solved in the story.

Why do you think animals need to travel between different areas?

Read the information about wildlife corridors in *The facts behind the story* at the back of the book.

Identify areas where you could plant seedling to help the native animals. What species of plants would you choose? Why?

2. Read the information about the character animals in *The facts behind the story* at the back of the book.

Classify the animals in the story (mammal/ bird).

Explain how the character animals are similar and different to each other.

3. Present the students with the following questions and ask them to put their hands on their heads if they think the answer is a), hands on shoulders if b), and hands in lap if c).

1. When did rabbits first come to Australia?

- a.) They've always been here.
- b.) With the First Fleet in 1788. (*correct answer*)
- c.) In the 1800's.

2. By 1920 there were approximately how many wild rabbits in Australia?

- a.) 1 million
- b.) 1 billion
- c.) 10 billion (*correct answer*)

3. Now there are approximately how many wild rabbits in Australia?

- a.) 2 million
- b.) 200 million (*correct answer*)
- c.) 2 billion

4. Rabbits and bilbies are both mammals.

Research these animals and describe their similarities and their differences.