



The Story of the Bilbies Tail

Long, long, ago, in the dreamtime, a Great Painter God called kampanmali had only created the sea and the land; he said to himself 'I need some living things in this empty world'. So he moved across the land to find a perfect place to make living things.

The Great Painter kampanmali got out his magical paint brush which was made out of a small stick with strands of his hair on the tip of it. He dipped his paint brush into a clear blue river called pingapi, and the Great Painter painted a blue tounge lizard. Then kampanmali dipped his paint brush into wet red sand and painted a kangaroo. It took many hours, days, weeks, months and years to make all of the Australian animals.

But when it came to his last animal called the bilby, kampanmali gave it big ears, a long snout, and a small body but when it came to the animal's tail he just couldn't think of a good unique tail to give it.

He said 'Maybe I should give it a strong long tail'.

'No then it would be like my strong long tail' disagreed the kangaroo.

'Then maybe I should give it a curly springy tail' he suggested.

'No shrieked' the possum 'then it will be like my curly springy tail'.

He thought about giving it a feathered tail but no the cockatoo already had that.

'Oh what about no tail at all' the Great Painter suggested.

'But you can't do that, and then it would be like the wombats' the other animals protested.

They all sat and thought for ages. But what nobody noticed was that the Great Painter actually was holding the paint brush on the bilbies back for so long that it got stuck there and now the bilby had a tail it became alive. 'Look look' shouted the numbat, 'the brush is stuck'.

The Great Painter stared at the bilby as it looked up to all the other animals and then it hopped away into the bushes.

And so the brush connected to the bilby and this is why bilbies have long tails with a white fluffy tip at the end of them.

