

Billie's Nest





PROLOGUE

The Southern Corroboree Frog's total population is tiny and at risk of disappearing completely. They only live in the high altitude sphagnum bogs of the northern Snowy Mountains. Melbourne Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary care for an insurance population and this year they will introduce thousands of eggs into the wild with the aim of building up the wild population so that they are no longer Critically Endangered.

Billie the Corroboree Frog is named after Billy Buttons, the native yellow flower found on Mount Kosciuszko.



It's summer on Mount Kosciuszko,
home to Billie the Corroboree Frog.
She searches for yummy insects
all through the mossy bog.



There's something Billie dreams of,
something missing in her life.
She wants to find a special place,
to bring her young to life.

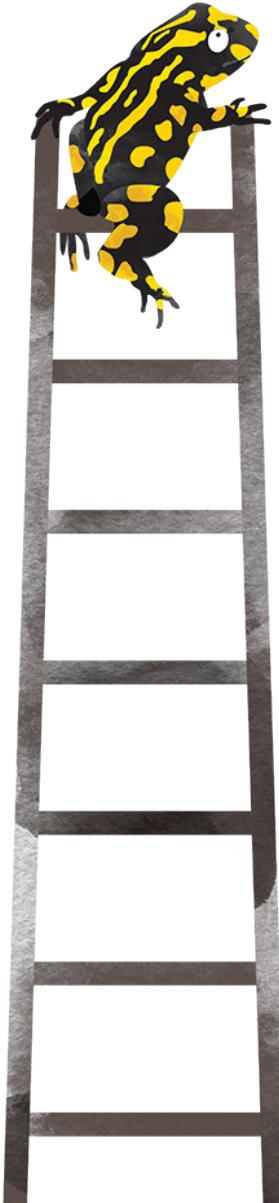
“I need a nest to lay my eggs,
somewhere safe and tucked away.
I must find a nest, a special nest,
I can't wait another day”.





Billie searched low and high
And something caught her little eye.
“Is this my nest? My special nest?
It seems too spiky but I’ll give it a test.”

“No, no,” chirped Robin.
“This is not your nest.
Please find somewhere
else to rest.”



So off crawled Billie to search some more
to find a nest that she'll adore.

"Is this my nest? My special nest?
It seems too dark but I'll give it a test."



“No, no,” growled Wombat.

“This is not your nest.

Please find somewhere else to rest.”



So off crawled Billie to search some more,
when she finds her nest she'll know for sure.
"Is this my nest? My special nest?
It seems too crowded but I'll give it a test."



“No, no,” hissed Skink.

“This is not your nest.

Please, find somewhere else to rest.”



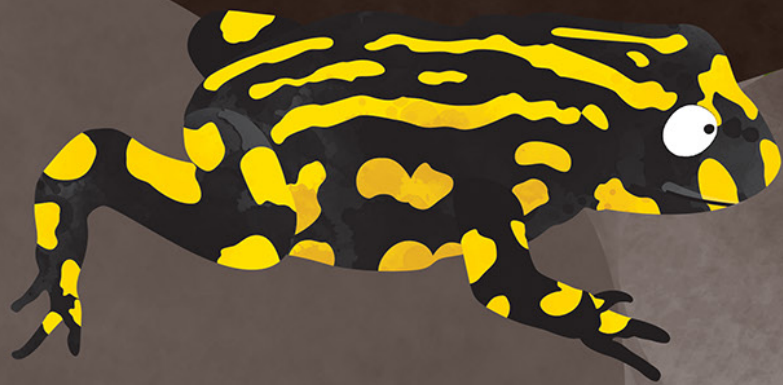
So off crawled Billie to search some more,
she had never crawled so far before.
“Is this my nest? My special nest?
It seems too rocky but I’ll give it a test.”



“No, no,” whispered Possum.

“This is not your nest.

Please, find somewhere else to rest.”



DREAM

Billie was starting to give up on her dream.
Every nest was wrong, it would seem.
“Perhaps there’s no nest out there for me.
Maybe I’ll never start my frog family.”



Just as Billie had lost all hope,
she heard an inviting froggy croak.
She followed the beautiful sound
through thick moss on the ground.



Sitting there before Billie's eyes
was a most wonderful surprise.
There was a nest! But not just any nest,
a mossy, green, cosy nest.



In that nest sat a charming frog
with a kind and welcoming grin.
He croaked his song toward her
and sweetly invited her in.

CROAK!



Billie wasted no time at all,
into that nest she quickly crawled.
At last a nest that felt so right,
her eggs would be safe, out of sight.



Billie was delighted,
at last she could rest.
She laid her precious eggs
around that mossy nest.



The autumn rains came around,
her tadpoles hatched safe and sound.
Billie's dream had come true.
She'd found her nest and family too.





CAST OF CHARACTERS

Billie and all of her friends live on the Snowy Mountains, in New South Wales, Australia.



Southern Corroboree Frogs, *Pseudophryne corroboree*, live in and around sphagnum moss at the edges of pools. Males make nest chambers in the moss and call which attracts females, who lay eggs in the nest. Tadpoles have to move through the moss to find their way to water.



Flame Robin, *Petroica phoenicea*, build a nest from grass and bark. They bind it with spider web and decorate it with lichen. Flame Robins normally build a nest in a tree cavity or in a rock crevice to lay their eggs.



Common Wombat, *Vombatus ursinu*, often dig their burrows in the areas above creeks and gullies. Burrows can be up to twenty metres long. Wombats are the world's largest burrowing animal.



Guthega Skinks, *Liopholis Guthega*, live with their family within a larger colony. Their burrow is part of a warren. Their population is endangered.



Mountain Pygmy Possum, *Burramys parvus*, eat Bogong Moths and will hibernate in their nests through the snowy winter. They build spherical nests out of moss in amongst the boulder fields. These possums are critically endangered.

EPILOGUE

I hope you have built your own cosy nest to read about Billie, the Southern Corroboree Frog sitting in her cosy little nest. Now you can tell your friends and family about Billie, the Southern Corroboree Frog too.



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