

Barn-Barn Barlala

This is the Dreaming story called 'Barn-Barn Barlala' (say *Barn-barn-bar-la-la*, 'bellbird' in English), The Bush Trickster' from the Wongutha (say *Wong-u-tha*) people of the Eastern Goldfields area of Western Australia.

When the children saw that the barrga-barrga (say *barr-ga-barr-ga*, roll 'rrs', 'wild mistletoe berries' in English) were ripe they rushed to pick the berries before the birds ate them all. The birds became worried that the children would eat all the fruit and leave none for them. Barn-Barn Barlala offered to help by tricking the children to follow him away from the trees.

He hid in the trees and called out to the children. When they heard Barn-Barn Barlala's call the children remembered their gabarli's (say *ga-barl-i* – grandmother in English) warning not to listen to the bird's song and to run away. But two children forgot the warning and followed the Barn-Barn Barlala's call into the bush.

The Barn-Barn Barlala tricked the children into getting lost. Just in time, they remembered what their gabarli had said and what they had been taught by their family to keep themselves safe in the bush. They quickly followed their tracks back through the bush. When they heard the bird song this time they did not stop and listen to it.

When the children found their family and friends who had come out to look for them, they said 'We must never let Barn-Barn Barlala trick us again'.