

# THE MYSTERY OF THE LOST EMU EGGS



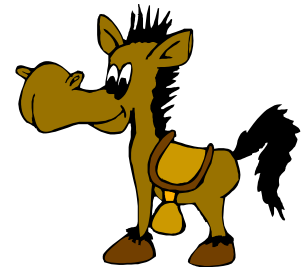
BY ELSPETH (LIZ) MILLS 1937



## The Mystery of the Lost Emu Eggs

Caroline and Flynn left their home, Yarck Station, in the Strathbogie Ranges, to check on their pet brumby, AMMO, in the homestead paddock. AMMO would be waiting by the gate for his morning feed of oats. But on their way .....

**TURN LEFT TO THE LARGE WATER TANK BY YARCK HILTON TO FIND EDWARD EMU.**



Suddenly they were surprised by a large emu sitting by the track, his feathers fluffing up as he sobbed, big tears pouring down over his beak.

Caroline asked him “Why are you crying?” EDWARD EMU told her that someone had stolen his eggs from the nest.

“I was only away a short time to get a drink and they had gone when I returned” “Sob Sob.” “I need to find them quickly before they hatch and the chicks will be cold and all alone.”

Flynn said “Don’t worry, we will help you to find them, we’ll ask the local birds and animals if they have seen them.” AMMO would have to wait for his breakfast.

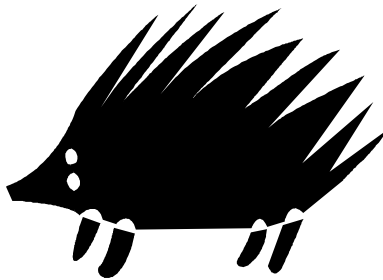


**COULD YOU HELP CAROLINE AND FLYNN FIND EDWARD EMU’S LOST EGGS? JUST FOLLOW THE CLUES WRITTEN IN RED. GO IN THE DIRECTION OF EDWARD EMU’S BEAK , SOUTH OF THE CAR RAMP, BETWEEN THE TREES TO FIND DAISY DINGO.**

Caroline & Flynn found DAISY DINGO by her den, guarding her pups, five gorgeous ginger coloured bundles of fluff. “DAISY” they called, “You wouldn’t have eaten some emu eggs last night would you? EDWARD EMU has lost his family”.

**DAISY** lifted her head and with a howl said “I promise my diet last night was only some rodents, not eggs.” “Ask **ERNEST ECHIDNA**, he may have disturbed the eggs with his long snout as he was searching for grubs”

**CONTINUE SOUTH TOWARDS NUMBER 6. KEEP LOW AS YOU SEARCH FOR ERNEST ECHIDNA IN THE UNDERGROWTH AT THE BASE OF THE GUM TREE, BEHIND THE NATIVE CHERRY TREE WITH THE LIGHT COLOURED LEAVES.**



The two children found **ERNEST ECHIDNA** snuffling around the undergrowth with his long snout foraging for ants. As they approached he rolled himself into a tight ball and peeped out to see who was following him.

“It’s only us” called the pair. “Sorry we frightened you. We are searching for **EDWARD EMU**’s eggs, have you seen them?” **ERNEST** unraveled himself and became his usual prickly self, in body and in temperament.

“No I haven’t seen the eggs” he said “Go away, I’m too busy searching for ants to be looking for emu eggs. Go and ask **PATERSON POSSUM**, he will be heading home to his nest by now and may have seen them with his large night eyes”.

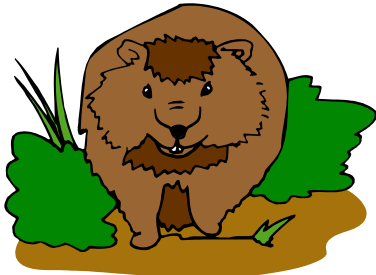
**FOLLOW ERNEST ECHIDNA’S NOSE ACROSS THE GULLY AND BACK ON THE TRACK TO NUMBER 7. TO FIND PATERSON POSSUM RETURNING HOME ALONG THE STOCKYARD FENCE.**



**PATERSON POSSUM**, was scampering along the old stock yard timbers heading for his bed looking forward to a day's sleep. Caroline and Flynn called to him "PATERSON, we have just seen **EDWARD EMU** crying, he has lost his eggs from the nest, did you happen to notice his eggs being taken last night?" PATERSON balanced on the fence and gave his reply in the form of a poem.

**"There was movement at Yarck Station for the eggs had disappeared  
Juicy fruits I sought, not eggs, so my name it must be cleared  
There was a jolly WOMBAT, the know all of the bush  
Find WILLS near his burrow, he may need a gentle push"**

So off they went taking the track towards the Long Paddock to look for **WILLS WOMBAT**, he was sure to have seen something.



**CONTINUE DOWN AND ACROSS THE LONG Paddock , VEERING LEFT TO THE BANK TO FIND WILLS WOMBAT OUTSIDE HIS BURROW.**

They found him yawning just at the entrance to his burrow and gently pushed him for information.

"WILLS, have you seen **EDWARD EMU'S** eggs?"

asked Caroline.

"Yawn." "No" said **WILLS** "I have just returned to my burrow for a sleep and I haven't seen anything all night. Try **KATHERINE KOOKABURRA**, she was up very early laughing at something, she may have spotted the eggs"

**FOLLOW WILLS WOMBAT'S NOSE ACROSS THE LONG Paddock , BACK TO THE TRACK TO FIND KATHERINE IN THE GUM TREE ON THE RIGHT OF THE TRACK.**

They looked up into the tree and there, perched amongst the branches was **KATHERINE KOOKABURRA** watching them from above. "Hello **KATHERINE**, can you tell us whether you have spotted anyone running away with **EDWARD EMU'S** eggs?"



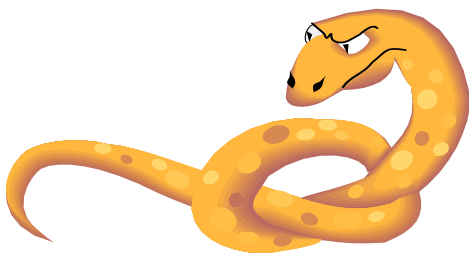
**KATHERINE laughed and laughed and told them that that was a very funny thing to have happened.”**

**Caroline was very cross with KATHERINE for laughing and said that this was no laughing matter. KATHERINE KOOKABURRA apologized and agreed it was very serious and said.**

**“I thought I saw some movement amongst the leaves near EDWARD EMU’S nest this morning, why don’t you ask SIMPSON SNAKE if he saw anything strange going on as he slithered past the nest.”**

**RUN UP THE TRACK TO THE JUNCTION TO FIND SIMPSON SNAKE CURLED UP ON A LOG. CREEP UP CAREFULLY, BUT NOT TOO CLOSE, TIGER SNAKES DON’T LIKE TO BE SURPRISED.**

**SIMPSON SNAKE was curled up fast asleep in the sun on his favorite log. “Wake up SIMPSON” they called “We need your help.” “We are very sorry to disturb you but we are searching for EDWARD EMU’S lost eggs and wondered whether you had seen anyone taking them from the nest as you slithered past this morning?”**



**SIMPSON SNAKE unraveled his long body and hissed.**

“SSSSSSSorry I didn’t SSSSSSSSSSee anyone SSSSSSSStealing the eggs, I was SSSSSSSSSnoozing in the SSSSSSSSun. Why don’t you try SSSSSSSSpeaking to KIDMAN KOALA, he has a SSSSSSSSuper view up in his eucalyptusSSSSSS tree”

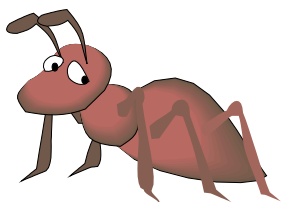
**WIGGLE YOUR WAY TO THE RIGHT, UP THE TRACK IN THE DIRECTION OF SIMPSON SNAKE’S HEAD TO FIND KIDMAN KOALA IN HIS LOFTY HOME ON THE LEFT, IN THE TREE.**

KIDMAN KOALA was munching happily on some juicy gum leaves. Flynn called, “Hi KIDMAN, with your good views from up there, have you seen any strangers hiding EDWARD EMU’S eggs? He is very upset at losing his family and we are trying to help him find them”.



“I’m afraid I haven’t seen any strangers today. “Munch Munch.” You could ask BEADELL BULL ANT, he was complaining of a large hairy creature almost jumping on him earlier, he may know something”

**FURTHER UP THE TRACK ON THE RIGHT BEADELL BULL ANT MAY BE FOUND AT THE BASE OF A LARGE TREE STUMP ABOUT TO DESCEND INTO THE ANT NEST. KNEEL DOWN CLOSE TO HEAR HIM.**

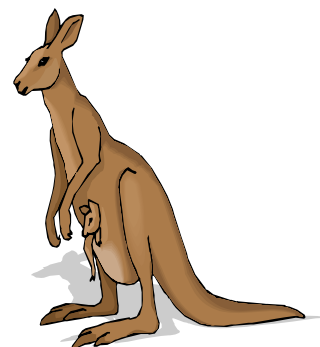


BEADELL BULL ANT was scuttling around with the rest of the bull ants about to descend into their hole. Flynn knelt down close to him and asked him “BEADELL, do you or any of your mates have any information about EDWARD EMU’S lost eggs?”

“Well, as a matter of fact I may be able to help”. “A large hairy creature almost jumped on me this morning. I think it was KIMBERLEY KANGAROO.” “She was stuffing some large objects into her pouch and proceeded to bounce on up the hill.” “She went that way.” “Tell her I will bite her if she jumps on me again”

**HOP UP THE HILL. CAN YOU SEE KIMBERLEY KANGAROO ON THE LEFT OF THE TRACK?**

Caroline and Flynn bounced up the hill to find KIMBERLEY KANGAROO



scratching behind her ears and chewing on some grass. “G’day KIMBERLEY”.  
“BEADELL BULL ANT saw you stuffing some large objects into your pouch this morning, did you steal EDWARD EMU’S eggs?” “He is crying and needs to find his children”

“Oh hop and skip” said KIMBERLEY “I do have the eggs, I saw them in the nest, all alone, getting cold and I thought I would put them in my pouch to keep them warm.” “I am so sorry to have upset EDWARD EMU, I will bounce back to his nest and keep the eggs warm until he returns” So off she hopped and gently placed the eggs back into the nest.

**HOP ALONG UP THE TRACK TO THE BEND TO EDWARD EMUS’S NEST ON THE RIGHT BETWEEN THE GUM TREES. HOW MANY EGGS ARE IN THE NEST? WHAT COLOUR ARE THEY?**



Caroline and Flynn ran as fast as they could to tell EDWARD EMU the good news. EDWARD was delighted. He thanked the children and raced back to the nest to sit on the eggs until they hatched. The children continued back up the track to find AMMO, their brumby, waiting patiently for his breakfast.

**RETURN TO AMMO AND REPLACE THE STORY BOOK IN THE BOX**

Back at Yarck Station they couldn’t wait to tell their parents about their adventure and how they had promised to visit EDWARD EMU the next day to see his new born chicks. **THE END**

## **CHARACTERS IN THE STORY NAMED AFTER:**

### **Caroline**

**Caroline Chisholm (Humanitarian)**

**1808 – 1877 Known as the “Emigrants Friend” she worked with poor migrants, many being women.**

### **Flynn**

**John Flynn (Founder RFDS)**

**1880 – 1951 Reverend John Flynn lived in the outback for most of his life. Founder of the Aerial Medical Service, later to become the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The first flight was on 17.05.1928. He is depicted on the \$20 note.**

### **Ammo**

**Ammo (Horse that opened the Sydney Olympics)**

**The lone, dark brown 7 year old Australian stock horse that opened the Sydney Olympic Ceremony. Hours of training were involved by his owner and trainer Steven Jefferys.**

### **Edward**

**Edward Eyre (Explorer)**

**1815 – 1901 Edward Eyre explored the interior of South Australia and inland New South Wales. He was the first European to traverse the Great Australian Bight.**

### **Daisy**

**Daisy Bates (Friend to the Aborigine)**

**1859 – 1951 Daisy Bates devoted more than 35 years to studying Aboriginal life, history and customs. Living in a tent at Ooldea, South Australia, she worked for Aboriginal welfare to feed, clothe and nurse the transient population.**

### **Paterson**

**Andrew B (Banjo) Paterson (Poet)**

**1864 – 1941 “Banjo” Paterson was an Australian bush poet, journalist and author. His more notable poems include “Waltzing Matilda”, “The Man From Snowy River” and “Clancy of the Overflow” He is depicted on the \$10 note.**



## **Wills**

**William Wills (Explorer)**

**1834 – 1861 Explorer and astronomer. He was given the position of astronomer and surveyor with the expedition led by Robert O’Hara Burke to explore Australia. They reached the Gulf of Carpentaria but he died on the return journey.**

## **Katherine**

**Katherine (Town in N.T.)**

**A town on the banks of the Katherine River in the Northern Territory. Also famous for the world renowned Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk National Park).**

## **Simpson**

**John Simpson (Simpson & his donkey)**

**1892 – 1915 Private Simpson landed at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, in 1915 where he carried wounded soldiers on a donkey, day and night, back to the beach with no regard to his own safety.**

## **Kidman**

**Sir Sydney Kidman (Cattle King)**

**1857 – 1935 Kidman left his Adelaide home at the age of 13. He worked as a drover and stockman eventually to build up a huge pastoral business with over a hundred cattle stations covering a total area of more than 3% of Australia.**

## **Beadell**

**Len Beadell (Surveyor)**

**1923 – 1995 Surveyor, road builder, bushman, artist and author. He was responsible for surveying the sites for Woomera, Emu and Maralinga for weapon testing. He built the Gunbarrel Highway and many other roads across the interior of Australia.**

## **Kimberley**

**The Kimberley (Area of W.A.)**

**One of the remotest, wildest and most beautiful regions of Australia and on earth.**