

Wilutti – transcript

Wilto, the eagle, also lives above in the sky country and also below on country. The constellation Crux represents the foot of the eagle, but this also represents the fire and men who are the guardians of the celestial plains that bring the spirits up to Purle Womma to join their ancestors and continue their lives with their people along Wodliparri, the Hut River.

Pundonya, the sand goanna, is an important part of the cultural story from this place. The goanna no longer lives here. Stories are still told of how they used to be giants full of poison and ruled over many of the other animals, but also how the animals worked out how to steal their poison, which made them shrink over generations.

Karlabarti, a native bee who lives in the stems of the grass tree, is the keeper of the knowledge of the fire. This Bree brought knowledge of fire-making a long time ago. The stems of the grass tree were used as spear shafts and the yellow flower was a source of tiwa mai – honey food.

Kawarpa, the native water rat, is still here in her stick houses along the river banks. She has managed to adapt to the changes of the river. If you sit near the banks of the river at night, you might see her searching for food as she swims across the water.

Nakirra, the platypus, used to live here in this river not too long ago. They once thrived in these waters when they were clean and fresh. There were plenty of river mussels and worms back then when the river was free, but sadly this has all changed now.