

# Easter Bilby's Friends **BELLE & BEA'S** BEAUTIFUL **NEW HOME**

by Kristin Martin and Bianca Richardson

## Storytime Session Themes

### Themes

Belle and Bea's Beautiful New Home is suited to Storytime sessions with the themes of:

#### **Easter:**

Easter Bilby is one of the main characters

#### **Australian animals:**

there are many native Australian animals portrayed in the story

#### **Planting seeds:**

in the story, the bilbies discuss what is needed to make plants grow



### About the Book

Belle and Bea's Beautiful New Home is the third book in the Easter Bilby's Friends series. Set in the Wild Deserts safe haven in the north-west corner of NSW, it explains to children how safe havens help the native plants and animals by keeping out introduced wild rabbits, foxes and cats. The book also explains how reintroducing bilbies to these areas helps plants to grow.

Easter Bilby takes his bilby friends, Belle and Bea, to a new home in the desert where there are no wild rabbits, wild cats or foxes. But it is not beautiful as there are hardly any plants. Belle and Bea offer to help. They do not need to plant seeds or water the seeds; they need to dig! Belle and Bea set to work, digging as they search for food, providing the perfect conditions for the seeds that are present in the soil to grow. When the rains come, the outback bursts into life.

*The Facts behind the Story* provide further information about the wild rabbit, wild cat and fox problem; safe havens; bilbies as ecological engineers and the character animals.

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## Storytime Session Outline

### Related Songs:

A Little Seed (YouTube: A Little Seed - Kids Songs and Nursery Rhymes)

Where Oh Where is the Easter Bilby (YouTube)

Little Easter Bilby had a fly upon his nose  
(to the tune of Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose)

### Reading the Story

Do not read the poem as it is too long for preschool children.

Before reading the story, introduce the animal characters and encourage the children to act out each character.

**Bilby (Easter Bilby, Belle and Bea):** use their hands as long ears and then pretend to dig with their hands.

**Bearded Dragon:** lift up their head and stick out their chin, then use their hands to pretend to puff out a beard

**Mistletoe bird:** flap their arms to fly and eat berries with a hand shaped like a beak

**Hopping mouse:** hop around

### While reading the story, encourage the children act out some of the parts:

- open a gate with a key
- put their hands up in the air and say 'Hooray' each time Hopping mouse says 'Hooray'.
- plant seeds
- water seeds
- search for food in the ground with nose and hands
- dig a burrow in the ground with hands
- rain coming down
- sun coming out
- plants growing

### Hand on Activities

[www.easterbilbysfriends.org.au](http://www.easterbilbysfriends.org.au)

Download and print the Puppets and Colour-in activity sheets for the children to colour. They will need their grown-up to help with the cutting.

For an Easter Storytime session, download and print the *Easter card* from *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular*.

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### About the Author

Kristin Martin is a poet, primary school teacher and picture book author. Her books include *Where Shall We Travel Today?* and the first two books in The Easter Bilby's Friends series. She lives in Adelaide, South Australia with her family, green tree frogs, turtles and a bearded dragon named Ash.

[kristinmartin.net](http://kristinmartin.net)



### About the Illustrator

Bianca Richardson is a graphic designer and illustrator with a love for wonky hand drawn lines. She is the illustrator of *Banjo Frog's Concert Spectacular* and *Honey Possum's Bush Café*. Bianca lives in the beautiful Limestone Coast region of South Australia with her husband and their two little legends.

[justdrawmorebianca.com](http://justdrawmorebianca.com)

### About the Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia

Foundation for Rabbit-Free Australia is an incorporated, not-for-profit environmental charity dedicated to the control of European wild rabbits in Australia. The Foundation raises awareness of the harm caused by wild rabbits, supports ongoing research into control options, and encourages land managers in their efforts to apply best practice rabbit controls.

[easterbilbysfriends.org.au](http://easterbilbysfriends.org.au)

