

The Roo bears All

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*The Australian version of The Bull bears All. Good for the little ones,
or as a reader for grade two and three.*

One day a big red kangaroo was hopping across the outback. By and by he met an emu.

“G’day, big roo,” said the emu, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the emu hopped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a dingo.

“G’day, big roo,” said the dingo, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the dingo jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a wombat.

“G’day, big roo,” said the wombat, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the wombat jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a koala.

“G’day, big roo,” said the koala, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the koala jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a platypus.

“G’day, big roo,” said the platypus, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the platypus jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a Tasmanian devil.

“G’day, big roo,” said the devil, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the devil jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a bandicoot.

“G’day, big roo,” said the bandicoot, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on,” said the roo, and the bandicoot jumped onto the roo’s dinkum tail.

By and by they met a sulfur-crested cockatoo.

“G’day, big roo,” said the too, “your tail is a beaut!”

“Jump on, too” said the roo, and the cockatoo flew onto the tip of the roo’s dinkum tail and off they sped across the outback. But the other animals blocked the cockatoo’s view and he didn’t like this at all. He thought himself a great rip snorter and the best of the mob.

“Squawk! Squawk! Squawk!” screeched the ‘too, telling them to get out of his way. “Get down! Get down! Lemme see! The biggest and boldest must have a view!”

All the cockatoos in Australia heard him squawking and thought, “That’s impossible! He can’t be the biggest! I’m the biggest and boldest bird in Oz!” and in a moment they were squawking and piling on top of the red roo’s tail by the thousands.

“Holy dooley, what a noise!” exclaimed the bandicoot, cross as a frog in a sock. So he nipped the devil to show how unhappy he was.

“Nash!” said the devil and bit the platypus.

“Quack!” said the platypus, (though he couldn’t quack at all), and slapped the koala across the noggin with his tail.

“Bellow!” grunted the koala in a deep-throated roar and swiped the wombat.

“Dig!” said the wombat and rummaged the dingo.

“Ahroooo!” howled the dingo and frightened the emu.

“Flap!” said the emu, trying to fly, but when he couldn’t, he pecked the roo on the head instead.

“Well,” said the big red kangaroo, “if that’s how you thank me, then off you go!” and he bounced higher and higher until they all fell off, and never did he let them ride on his tail again.