

IRONBARK PRESS

Bilba and the Last Desert

A note for grown-ups

Bilba's final adventure carries the biggest heart of all. Here is the true story of the bilby — what was lost, what is being saved, and the wonderful things your child can do to help.

They were once everywhere

Bilbies once lived across around 70% of mainland Australia — from deserts to grasslands. Today they live in less than 20% of that range. Just like the empty burrows Bilba found.

What happened to them

Introduced animals are the main reason. Foxes and feral cats hunt bilbies, and rabbits compete for their food and burrows. The world changed faster than bilbies could.

Safe havens — the good news!

Across Australia, conservation groups have built huge predator-free sanctuaries where bilbies live and breed in safety. In these places, bilby numbers are growing again.

Great travellers

Bilbies really do roam widely across their range, digging new burrows as they go — which is exactly why Bilba's journey across the country is true to life.

One was already lost

There were once two kinds: the Greater Bilby and the Lesser Bilby. The Lesser Bilby is extinct. The Greater Bilby survives — and that is why protecting it matters so much.

Hope is real

Every child who learns to love the bilby becomes part of the reason it will survive. By reading this book, your child has already started helping.

Talking points for after the story

- Bilba felt like just “one small bilby” — but she did wonderful things. What small thing could YOU do to help an animal?
- Why do you think it matters that people learn about bilbies?

Learn more and help: savethebilby.com.au

- At Easter, would you choose a chocolate bilby? Many help save the real ones!

ironbarkpress.com.au • ironbarkpress@outlook.com • (07) 3062-7450

© Ironbark Press 2026 • One Small Bilby series