

HOW WANBERR GOT HIS RED LEGS AND TCHALLINGMER HIS UGLY WALK

In Yamminga time Wanberr the Crane was a Pindana womba and Tchallingmer the Pelican a Koojangooroo womba. One day they went out together to catch fish and when Wanberr got a big king fish he broke it in two and put it in a place where Tchallingmer could not see it. Later on he put it in his jaggurda (bag made of spinifex fibres) and was taking it away pindana with him when Tchallingmer saw the full bag and he said, "What have you got in your jaggurda?" "Only a little fish," said Wanberr. But Tchallingmer saw that it was a big fish, and he said to himself, "Wanberr is a greedy fellow and wants to keep that big fish for himself."

They each made his own fire, Wanberr on the Pindana side, and Tchallingmer on the Koojangooroo side, and both sat down and camped for a while. Wanberr had made a big fire and he put his big fish on the fire to cook. He thought Tchallingmer didn't see him, because when womba make different fires and camp by them they turn their backs to each other. But Tchallingmer knew he was cooking the big fish, so while it was still in the ashes, he called to Wanberr, "Let us make a nooloo (dance)." Wanberr said, "Ngowai," ("All right") and Tchallingmer called to the little koonguru or jeeoo, a womba Yamminga time, but now a bird living in the mangrove swamps. Tchallingmer said to Koonguru, "You sing for our nooloo."

Koonguru was Tchallingmer's "mate", so he sang the song and Tchallingmer and Wanberr were dancing, when Koonguru heard the fish make a noise in the fire. Koonguru stopped singing and said, "Koo" to Wanberr but Wanberr went on dancing and took no notice. By and by they finished the nooloo and Tchallingmer said, "That was not a little fish you had, it was a big fish. Let us fight now with our firesticks," and Tchallingmer picked up a firestick from his koojangooroo fire and threw it at Wanberr and burned his legs and that is why Wanberr's legs are now red.

They were not red when he was a womba in Yamminga time.

Wanberr ran to his own fire and picked up a big firestick and threw it at Tchallingmer, breaking his thighs, and now Tchallingmer can never walk very fast and his walk is ugly like a lame man. Wanberr was so angry with Koonguru for calling out "Koo" to him and letting Tchallingmer know that a big fish was cooking, that he hit Koonguru and broke his arm and now Koonguru can never go into deep water, but must always remain in shallow water by the mangrove swamps.

#### North of Roeburne district Version

Tchallingmer and Wanberr were maiago (men) and one day they had a great fight. Wanberr had a spear and Tchallingmer had a firestick. Wanberr speared Tchallingmer in the thighs and that is why Tchallingmer waddle. Tchallingmer hit Wanberr with his firestick and now all Wanberr are the colour of ashes.

Tchallingmer then sang :

Kandi ngarreemaa bularaa  
(Leave alone the spear)

Kallanga boojur maree  
(Fight with firesticks)

Tchallingmer is now the totem of all Kainera and Boorong maiago  
and Wanberr is the totem of all Banaka and Paljeri maiago.