

Dreaming & Creation Stories

Mirrabooka (Southern Cross)

Biami the good spirit was kept very busy guarding the tribes as they roamed throughout the earth, and he was very much troubled for them. He found that he could not watch over all of them at once; he knew he must have help to keep them from harm.

Among the tribes there was a man called Mirrabooka, who was loved for his wisdom, and the way in which he looked after the welfare of his people. Biami was well pleased with Mirrabooka, and when he grew old, Biami gave him spirit form and placed him in the sky among the stars, and promised him eternal life. Biami gave Mirrabooka lights for his hands and feet and stretched him across the sky, so that he could watch forever over the tribes he loved. The tribes could look up to him from the earth and see the stars which were Mirrabooka's eye gazing down on them.

When in later times white people came from across the sea, they did not know that this group of stars across the southern sky was Mirrabooka, and they renamed them. They called Mirrabooka by the name of the Southern Cross and the eyes of Mirrabooka they called the pointers, but it is really Mirrabooka there, stretched across the sky; he will be there forever, for Biami has made it so!

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