

# The Australian Guest-Worker - An Easter Fairy Tale

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It's mid of March, and Easter is yet to come. As each year Easter bunny Bodo, his doe Ida and their leverets living in a cozy house on the edge of a forest are very busy with preparing a nice Easter party for the human children. Each Easter party is special. They have to pour chocolate eggs and chocolate bunnies, boil and paint chicken eggs and bake Easter lambkins of sand cake. All those delicacies have to be prepared in bulk up to Easter. Then everything must be packed into countless baskets.

But unfortunately all the hens don't lay enough eggs this year, so that bunny Bodo has to collect all the eggs also in the hen houses of the other villages each night. This takes a lot of time and energy for Bodo because crossing the very big street is very dangerous also at night. He could be overlooked and overrun by the cars. So bunny Bodo takes a very high risk night by night.

Thank goodness kangaroo Henry from Australia is going to come for a visit to Bodo and his family as a guest-worker today, and he will stay until Easter. All of their big surprise Henry has brought lots of ostrich eggs with him. And they are huge! They are as big as 12 hens eggs! The bunny family is rejoicing enormously. This year each human child doesn't only get chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies, Easter eggs and an Easter lambkin with a little gift in the basket, but also a painted ostrich egg, too! What a surprise for the human children!

The bunny family quickly starts boiling and painting the ostrich eggs. The anticipation for Easter is particularly big this year. Henry and Bodo have stipulated their nighttime tasks. While Bodo collects all the eggs in the local hen houses, Henry collects all the eggs in the other villages. Kangaroo Henry is much taller, faster and can jump much higher and further than bunny Bodo. This is a very big relief for Bodo.

It's very easy for Henry to cross the big clearway. He simply jumps over the cars passing by. The drivers frighten a little bit and don't trust their eyes, but no accident has ever happened due to this. Amusingly the drivers always duck their heads when Henry jumps over a car. The last three weeks of collecting eggs are very turbulent in the streets, because there is a rumour coming up among the people that a kangaroo had escaped out of a zoo!

Now it's Good Friday, two days up to Easter. The Easter preparations are going on well and the Easter baskets are filled more and more. All the ostrich eggs are distributed. No ostrich egg, chocolate egg, chocolate bunny or Easter lambkin is missing in any Easter basket. The very most baskets are ready for delivery. But there are still lots of baskets to be filled with chicken Easter eggs, and the hens don't lay enough eggs yet.

Henry and the bunnies get into straits and fear that they won't have enough eggs at the end and some baskets won't contain any Easter eggs. What a horrible imagination! It doesn't bear contemplating! So they think how to manage this very difficult situation best. Then they decide to collect the eggs in villages which are further away from home. Even these tasks are negotiated very quickly: doe Ida collects the eggs in the local hen houses,

Bodo and Henry jump over the clearway to collect the eggs in the nearby villages. For that Henry puts Bodo into his bumbag so that Bodo is safe when crossing the clearway this time. When jumping over a passing car Bodo watches the driver ducking deeply behind the wheel. Bodo laughs himself to tears because he has never seen something like that. At that Bodo is tickling Henry in his bumbag so much with his laughing convulsions, that even Henry is doubling up with laughter so much that he isn't able to jump anymore. He can only weave ungainly on his cannon bones instead. "I'm shown such things each night here", he laughs. That's the first outbound trip.

Along the near villages Bodo and Henry divide now and Henry jumps on to the next villages to collect the eggs. So they're independent in collecting the eggs.

Just this night up to holy Saturday Henry and Bodo have to go out to the villages three times. Bodo is always very careful when he has to cross the clearway all alone. It's being well twice. But now that Bodo has grown tired a bit he lets his guard down. He wants to take the last eggs home and crosses the street in a hurry. At that he misses a car rushing closer and frightens as soon as the light beam of the headlamps catches him. Then he runs off with all his might. He never had taken to his heels and run for his life so much! He only hears the screams of the people in the car because they don't want to run him over. They are paralised with fear but glad not having hit the bunny on the other hand. They have no idea that Easter bunny has crossed their car's way, because he doesn't look different than all the other bunnies.

On the edge of the street Bodo falls down the slope into the moat shocked. He stays lying down there. He's glad that he has made it across the street. It takes quite a while until the shock passes and Bodo wants to get up to collect the last eggs. But trying to get out of the moat he feels how much his hind legs are hurting. He pulled muscles and strings horribly on the run off the clearway. He can climb out of the moat only with difficulty and stays lying on the edge.

Henry and doe Ida have taken their third carriage of eggs home and note now that Bodo is still missing. Immediately they have a strange feeling that something could have happened to him. So Henry leaves for searching for Bodo. He doesn't need to search that long when he finds him lying on the edge of the moat. He puts him into his bumbag carefully and takes him home. There he puts Bodo into his bed carefully and his doe Ida provides him tenderly with everything he needs. Henry has left for collecting the last eggs meanwhile. He must hurry up now because the morning has already broken. But he makes it with ease.

While Bodo is lying in bed with his pulled muscles on holy Saturday and is not able to move all day long the other bunnies and Henry paint all the eggs collected at night and put them into the unfinished baskets. Have they got enough eggs now? Excitement arises. But in the evening they get relieved enormously. They have got enough eggs! There is no basket missing those popular Easter eggs anymore. They all are very happy about it. Now kangaroo Henry and the bunnies can relax and sleep in peace the next night finally. Even Bodo is proud and happy despite of his pulled muscles in his hind legs.

Easter Sunday is a very sunny and pleasant warm day. It starts excitingly. All the Easter baskets have to be distributed to those many many human children. Easter bunny Bodo's hind legs are not hurting that much anymore. His pulled muscles are healing bit by bit. He

can present the Easter baskets to the local children himself. Of course he's not able to do it as quickly as usual with his hurting hind legs, but he compensates it by starting the distribution much earlier than usual.

Henry, however, is Easter kangaroo this year. He fills his bumbag with a lot of Easter baskets and puts a very big pannier filled with many many more Easter baskets onto his back. Also Easter doe Ida and the leverets distribute the Easter baskets to the human children happily. So they manage together to prepare a very special Easter surprise to the people.

What do you think? Have the children been happy about the ostrich eggs? You seem to know it for certain....

And what happens if a human child meets Easter bunny?

Well, this is another fairy tale called "Easter Bunny's Magic Key" (Paperback book, ISBN 9 783732 291144) available in each bookshop.