

DJARMU and WODBA

Djarmu, the jabiru bird, had a private water hole at Djadjameri, full of fish. But he had no way to catch so many fish so he went to Larrman, to collect some sticks from the poison tree, nguru, to poison the water. He cut down the tree and when he had enough he carried the sticks back to Djadjameri. As he approached, he noticed smoke coming from a fire near the water hole. He looked down and saw Wodba, the grey crane, stealing his fish and cooking them on the fire. He dropped his bundle of poison sticks and they became the pile of stones you see at Djadjameri today.

Djarmu flew down to challenge Wodba. An argument followed and they had a great fight. Wodba grew wild and picked up a burning stick from the fire and hit Djarmu across the legs and all over his body. Today, Djarmu has red legs and a black body. Djarmu in turn picked up another stick and poked Wodba in the eyes. Now the grey crane has yellow eyes.

Djarmu beat Wodba in the fight. He took his stick and started to dig in the ground, until the water came up. He dug so far that eventually he carved out the course of the whole Forrest River and the Cambridge Gulf. He tried to drown Wodba but the crane flew off, calling out "Oh, my eye!" (The word for 'eye' was 'umbul'). The country since became known as Oombulgurri.