

## **Old Man Emu**

By John Williamson & Illustrated by Simon McLean

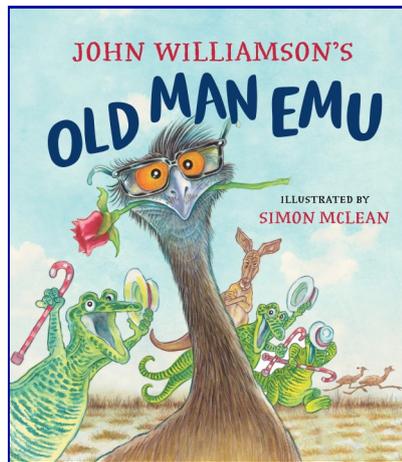
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\$19.99

A new picture book adaptation of John Williamson's first and now legendary hit song, 'Old Man Emu', to celebrate John's 50th year of performing and the song's 50th anniversary in 2020.

This iconic Australian song tells the very funny tale of the emu and its many traits – good and bad: He can't fly, but I'm telling you, he can run the pants off a kangaroo! The story compares the emu to lots of other Australian birds (galah, cockatoo, wedge-tail eagle, kookaburra) and of course to the kangaroo, providing wonderful opportunities for hilarious illustrations.



### **Themes:**

- Emu's
- Australian culture
- Australian animals
- Legendary songs

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Have you ever heard the song Old Man Emu?
- It was written by a famous Australian musician, John Williamson. Do you know any other songs that he has written or sung?
- Are there any uniquely Australian words in this book? If so, what do you think they are?
- 'He's got a beak and feathers and things, but the poor old fella ain't got no wings'. Did you know that emus do not have wings? How unusual is this for a bird?
- Do you know any other birds that don't have wings? If you don't, find out how many more species of birds there are that don't have wings.
- 'I can't fly, but I'm telling you, I can run the pants off a kangaroo'. Research how fast an emu can actually run. Compare this to other animals.
- What other Australian animals are in the story/song?

### **Activities:**

- Have a class sing along to the song, using one of the numerous different recordings/videos that are available online.
- Draw your favourite picture of Old Man Emu from the story.