

The Roche Percée*1's legend

There was once a group of turtles that was used to lay their eggs on the Roche Percée's beach, not far from Bourail*2.

But every time they came there, they were attacked by birds that liked to pick them with their beaks on the tender flesh of the turtles' back.

And one day, they were fed up with this situation. In the evening, the Council of the turtles decided they wouldn't return anymore to lay on the Roche Percée's beach.

The "Bonhomme" of Bourail heard this conversation and decided to find a solution so that the turtles continue to come to this beach. He took a piece of stone from his thigh to make a shield for the turtles' back. He worked all night.

In the morning, he proposed this shield to the Council of turtles. The Council accepted his offer.

It's since that day that the turtles have a carapace that protects them.

And thanks to the "Bonhomme" of Bourail, the turtles continued to come and lay on this Roche Percée's beach.

*1: The pierced rock (situated in Bourail) is a famous landscape in New Caledonia.

*2: Bourail is the biggest village of New Caledonia and it's situated about 2hours from Nouméa, the capital and the biggest city.



Le Bonhomme de Bourail et la Roche Percée

The coral dam

Once upon a time, there was a sea snake called “Tricot Rayé” who was fed up to see the waves damaging his island, New Caledonia.

He decided that was enough! He had to find an idea to separate his island from the ocean.

He travelled all around the world: Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa, and America. When he arrived to Canada, he saw the WAC Bennett hydraulic dam upon the Peace River. Suddenly, he had an idea.

Once back on his island, he told his sea friends what he had seen and he explained his idea. His friends were overjoyed and they all decided to build a coral dam all around the island. Since that day, the waves of the Pacific Ocean don't damage the island anymore and the sea snake is an emblem of New Caledonia.



Le Rocher à la voile *1

Once upon a time, there was a young man named Téo. Since he was 18 years old, he believed he was allowed to do everything. He respected nothing, neither people nor Nature. But one must be careful because his misfortune proved it.

Téo, the young Caledonian decided to go fishing in a quiet place. He prepared his case and his canoe; he took a packet of crisps and embarked.

He noticed a quiet place without anybody or activity and decided to go there. He didn't know this place was "tabou"*2 and sacred.

Téo fished something pink and sticky: a jellyfish .He grabbed several of them and put them in a plastic bag. He threw one of these bags in the water because it was damaged and would have been of no use.

When the hunger was felt, he opened his packet of crisps but as they were no longer good, he also threw them, and the packet, into the sea. The sea rebelled and moved violently like storm, to the point of swallowing Téo, but he narrowly escaped.

Returning to the beach, he visited his friend Pierre Jean-Pierre to sell his fishing, that was, in fact, the children of the Sea.

Too late! Téo counted his money on the beach but an old lady called him and told him that he "went too far". She stared at him and he suddenly petrified into a rock!

Since that day he watches the sea in order to avoid anybody to reproduce his mistake.

*1 A famous landscape in Noumea, between Anse Vata and Baie des Citrons' beaches.

*2 Forbidden access



Le Rocher à la voile

Bulime*¹ and sea snake

Once upon a time a snail named Bulime lived in the Isle of Pines*². But as he had become big and strong, people of Pine Island wanted to eat him. So he decided to leave his island. He built a raft with banana tree leaves and went away on the lagoon. After a few days he was hungry and started to eat his raft. As his raft got smaller he called for help. A seagull was flying above him. He knew it wanted to eat him. He hid into his shell and waited.



When the seagull was gone, he called again for help. A moray eel went out of the sea and wanted to eat him. He hid again into his shell and waited.

Suddenly a striped sea snake appeared and scared the moray eel away.

The sea snake asked: "What are you doing here?". Bulime answered: "I left my island because I didn't want to be eaten by the humans. But the sea is much more dangerous". I want to go home", cried Bulime.

The sea snake told him: "Jump on my back. I will take you home".

Once arrived on the island, the sea snake and Bulime became very good friends. From this moment, the sea snake always protected Bulime against the humans.

*¹The bulime is a terrestrial snail found in the Isle of Pines

*² Ile des Pins: Small island situated in the south of New Caledonia main land



Ile des Pins