

BIRD WEEK LEADERS FOR 2016

BIG PETE O'REILLY

Big Pete O'Reilly is the founder of Australia's longest running bird week and has attended every year since its inception in 1978. He has travelled all over the world, but Big Pete's favourite birding location is still Lamington National Park.

TIM O'REILLY

Tim is a third-generation family member, with over 20 years of guiding experience in Lamington. Tim O'Reilly's qualifications that he worked for the guesthouse for over 20 years, managed the activities department, collated the guide to birds of Lamington park guide, guided international birders to the park and surrounds over his time. Tim has been hosting and guiding birdweeks since 2000. Tim studied a double degree in Environmental science. Tim has been birding in Asia, Africa and the UK. Recently he has been involved in environmental programs through 'wild mob' and other organisations taking him to Tasmania, much of Queensland including several islands and more recently doing parrot recovery work on Norfolk Island.

Dr IAN GYNTHYER

Dr Ian Gynther is a zoologist and works as the Senior officer in the threatened species unit of the Qld Environment department. Ian is an expert on the fauna of Australia but in particular Queensland. Ian has been a leader in over 15 birdweeks and has lead frog weeks, mammal weeks and wildlife weeks. Ian co-authored the comprehensive Guide to Australian Mammals and has been regarded as knowing virtually everything that moves.

Dr BILL McDONALD

Bill is an Honorary Research Associate at the Queensland Herbarium. He is a leading authority on the flora of south-east Queensland and has co-authored several books on the identification of rainforest plants. Bill's expertise will broaden our understanding of the role of birds in the rainforest ecosystem. (Dr) Bill McDonald's experience having travelled much of the world and Australia but is also qualified in zoology. His recent travel has been in Borneo, Malaysia and will be heading off to New Zealand at the end of birdweek.

DUNCAN FOWLER

Duncan Fowler has birded around much of Australia, joined O'Reillys in 2004 and has been birding every day since! He has been involved in 10 birdweeks and most of the Autumn birdweeks. He guides for the O'Reillys discovery activity program full time including private guiding birders and wildlife enthusiasts to find what they are looking for in the area. Duncan collates the Bird sightings of O'Reillys summary every 2 months for the area and is presently co-ordinating much of the November and autumn programs.

STEPHEN PARISH

Stephen William Parish OAM is an Australian. He is a passionate photographer, naturalist, author, educator, public speaker and publisher, connecting people, especially children, to nature, through his emotive, inspirational, life-enhancing images of Australia's unique wildlife, flora, landscapes and places, presented to his audiences through workshops, public talks and publications.

GLEN THRELFO

As a guide at O'Reilly's for over 30 years, Glen has an intimate knowledge of the ecosystems of the Lamington region. He has produced numerous publications and documentaries that showcase the spectacular flora and fauna of the park. Glen has lead nearly every birdweek (Over 30 at least), guided for O'Reillys since the first birdweek. He has travelled, filmed far and wide taking him to Africa, India, Antarctica and much of Australia, particularly the top end. Glen's recent work involves filming peregrine falcons in Sydney.

SPECIAL GUESTS

A special guest artist for 2016 is Katherine Castle – Katherine will set up paintings and show her works, paint and photograph new subjects for further paintings. Katherine Castle has been creating unique works of wildlife art mainly focusing on Australian birds for over 25 years. Each artwork is filled with light and colour, capturing the atmosphere of the scene and the personality of the subject. She works in exquisite fine detail, mainly in oils as well as watercolour, pencil and pastel. Her work is published on books, cards and many other products as well as by Maxwell and Williams on to their fine bone china mugs, plates and placemats which are sold around the world.

TIM LOW

Tim Low is a biologist and best-selling author of seven books. His latest, *Where Song Began*, became the first nature book ever awarded the Australian Book Industry Award for best non-fiction of the year. An earlier book, *Feral Future*, inspired the formation of a conservation group, the Invasive Species Council. Tim has served on the Australian environment minister's advisory committee, writes a blog for Australian Geographic magazine, and has written features for a wide range of publications, including the *Weekend Australian*, *Wildlife Australia* and *Vogue*. As a teenager he discovered new lizard species, one of which (*Pygmaescincus timlowi*) was named after him.

LUKE FLETCHER

We welcome Luke to the birdweek leader team. Luke joined O'Reillys in 2014 and has lead birdweek sessions since 2015 and will be undertaking tours in the local areas where he has guided on a full time basis since starting at O'Reillys. Luke is co-presenter of O'Reillys birds of prey show and wildlife encounters and has a passion for raptors. Luke has travelled to various parts of Australia and has also previously worked at the famous Taronga zoo in Sydney. Luke also undertakes the specialised private guiding of birders during the year when they visit O'Reilly's.