



BIRD WEEK 2016

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER

2:00 pm-Welcome and Introduction to Birdweek in the Theatre. We shall meet the leaders, introduce guest speakers and staff whom will be making this a special week. A program overview follows and how birdweek runs. A Group photo will be done shortly thereafter before heading to afternoon tea.

3:00pm-An Introduction to the Natural History of Lamington National Park. Bill Mc Donald will deliver highly informative (Powerpoint) photographic overview of the local area and its characteristics that make it such an amazing place. This will be valuable for those whom have not been to this area before and as an orientation to where field trips will be going.

3:30pm-Afternoon Tea with Damper and Billy Tea. When the billy boils meet at the campfire outside the Discovery Centre where you can meet with leaders, activities guides and meet fellow birders.

4:00pm- Bird Break-Now meet the Birds of O'Reilly's. Flock into several smaller groups for a local introductory birdwalk in the nearby area (1hr). One doesn't need to venture far to see many great birds.

5:00pm- Welcome to Birdweek with a view, enjoy sunset drinks. We shall meet at the front reception and journey by bus to the dramatic Lukes Bluff lookout. Meet fellow birders, see some more birds and toast to the sunset. (subject to weather)

7:30pm-Dinner in the Dining Room (Reminder) to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre this evening please, then advise [as soon as possible] of any changes. Some tour options will have limited numbers so changes in advance will allow for catering and any transport to be planned. Please don't always assume you are booked on a session or that it is still running!

MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER

6:00am Local Birdwalk (meet at front door reception area-1 ½ hr) Seeking nearby rainforest birds. Our leaders will take several groups out to explore the birds of the nearby surrounds. Each day will have a similar birdwalk but several during the week will be to different locations involving a short drive.

7:30am Breakfast

9:00 Wishing Tree Track walk. Downhill birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Azure Kingfisher, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit Doves. 3hrs, 1.5km, uneven surfaces, Bus return from Cedar Tree 12:30. Limited distance walkers may choose to bus in to the bottom of the track and work along Morans Creek to rejoin the group

9:00am Python Rock Lookout Track. 2 Groups will undertake slightly different routes via the main (flat) or old track (gradual downhill making a circuit). A wonderful sub tropical rainforest walk. Most rainforest species are possible along here. Potential Eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the Morans Valley escarpment at the lookout. (3-5km, 3hrs)

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm -Walking The Border Track towards Picnic Rock-More stunning rainforest country with a chance of finding Lyrebird, Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Catbird, Fruit Doves, Rose & Pale Yellow Robin and possibly hearing a Scrub Bird (up to 7km optional. 3hrs)

2:00pm Morans Falls trails. Morans Falls via Villa Track (shorter 1.5km) where we shall gradually descend the track seeking Albert's Lyrebird, Riflebird, Pitta, Pale Yellow and Rose Robin, Wompoo Pigeons, Topknot Pigeons, Grey Goshawk, Logrunners and much more. 2.5hrs. Bus return.

2:00pm Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Bel-sons Road and Kurrajong Lookout area. Seeking Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyater, Sittellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Painted Button Quail, Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Variegated Fairy Wrens, Glossy Black Cockatoo and maybe a koala. 3hrs, short walks near bus.

6:00pm Dinner in the Dining Room (1.5hrs). A quicker buffet selection tonight to ensure we have plenty of time to enjoy our talk from our guest speaker.

7:30pm Guest Speaker Steve Parish. Please gather promptly in the theatre to hear and see about the images that made Australia's most well known wildlife and wilderness photographer & publisher. Steve will present a bird photography themed session entitled 'a focus on feathers' (1.5hr with time for questions and discussion following)

TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER

6:00am Early birding-towards Centenary Track (1½ hr)

7:00am Breakfast begins

8:00am Stockyard Creek track. Full day walk (mostly downhill!) 7km. Top to bottom birding. Historical cliff track route transitioning through many subtle habitat changes. Loose underfoot, medium-high fitness. Lunch out. Bus pickup about 4pm. Seeking Raptors, White Eared Monarch, White Throated Nightjar, Sittellas, Woodswallows, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Barred Cuckoo Shrike, Rose Crowned Fruit dove, Pale Yellow Robin.

8:00am Kerry Valley, Beaudesert- Western Lagoons bus trip. Over 200 possible species line this classic tour of the charming, Kerry Valley and beyond. Various habitats centred around parkland, bushland, farmland, roadsides and waterholes. Seeking; Plumed/ Wandering Whistling Duck, 12 raptors, Snipe and Sharpies, Little Bronze Cuckoo, Speckled Warbler, Kingfishers, GC Babbblers, Sittellas, Parrots, Weebill, White Throated Gerygone, Jacky Winter, Bush Hen, Plum Headed Finch, Yellow Spoonbill and much more. Lunch out. (limited spaces)

8:30am Photographic Workshop with Steve Parish. Birding photography is a great challenge. Expanding on the night presentation, Steve will further explore some of the practical issues with birding photography. All levels of photography welcomed to attend to gain insights into making your wildlife pictures better. Limited spaces, 2hrs, short distances walked

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Villa Track Wishing Tree circuit. Another combination walking route Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta, Pale Yellow Robin, Grey Goshawk, Azure Kingfisher, and fruit doves. 3hrs 2.0km, uneven surfaces, up and downhill.

2:00pm Meet local artist Kathryn Castle. Showcasing artwork and styles and a behind the scenes view of her work inspired by rainforest surrounds.

6:00pm Dinner. Please keep in mind if you are going night birding you will have only 2 hours for dinner

8:00pm Night Birding. We shall explore the local area and valley to locate the mysterious Marbled Frogmouth, Sooty Owl, Owlet-nightjar or any other possibilities. Bring a torch and binoculars. 1.5 hr, possibly a tad more!

WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER

6:00am Local Birdwalk 1 ½ hrs

7:00am Breakfast begins

7:30am Bus departs for Eastern Lagoons and Eagleby Wetlands via Tamborine. Journey from the top of the range to the end of the Albert River catchment. Many birding possibilities including Jabiru, Reed Warbler, Red Necked Avocet, Kingfishers, many Raptors, Magpie Geese, Snipes, waders, waterfowl, bush birds and the 10 Duck challenge! Lunch out, full day, short walks. (limited places, bring a scope if you have one)

9:00am Vehicle based birding around Charlies Waterhole and Bell Miner Colony. See a lerp based- Bell Miner colony! Nearby waterholes, dry rainforest and Eucalypt country will keep us busy. 3hrs. (short walks around bus area). Seeking: Little Shrike Thrush, Yellow Thornbill, Owllet Nightjar, Striated Thornbill, Sittella, Wompoo Pigeon, 3 Monarchs, Variegated FairyWren, Whipe Naped Honeyeater, Brush Cuckoo, Leaden Flycatcher and Bellbirds.

9:00am Birds and Botany workshop with Bill Macdonald. Join zoologist & botany expert Dr Bill McDonald on a walk through the treetops and Mountain Gardens area to explore the intricate relationships between birds and plants. Highly informative workshop delving deeper into rainforest ecosystems. 2hrs 1km.

9:30am Painters workshop with Kathryn Castle. Showcasing artwork and styles and a behind the scenes view of artwork

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm West Cliffs/ Pats Bluff circuit. A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment seeking Lyrebird, Pitta, Riflebirds, Sittellas, Red Browed Treecreeper, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Pardalote, White Naped Honeyeater, Wompoos. Eucalypt, Farm, edge, escarpment species. 5km, ½ uphill, 3hrs.

2:00pm Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Shepards, Kerry Lookout area. Seeking Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyater, Sittellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Painted Button Quail, Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Variegated Fairy Wrens, Glossy Black Cockatoo and maybe a koala. 3hrs, short walks near bus up to 1km.

6:00pm- Dinner in the dining room

7:30pm Guest Speaker Tim Low. Please gather promptly in the theatre to hear from prominent consultant, author & ecologist Tim Low. Tim is the Author of the widely acclaimed book "where song began" and he will discuss many related subjects to expand our knowledge of just how amazing Australia birds and their environment really is! Not to be missed (1hr, questions and book signing following may go a little while after)

THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER

5:30am Breakfast begins for coastal wader group

6:00am Birding Bus to Bradfield's Farm area 1 ½hrs

6:30am Coastal Waders tour. See what birds we can find at the nearby coastal habitats. Depart for Gold Coast and Stradbroke Island inter tidal and bushland areas, including boat charter. Full day, lunch out. Seeking Beach/ Bush Stone Curlew, Eastern Curlew, Godwits, Whimbrel, (any waders); Terns, Raptors, Mangrove Kingfisher/ Honeyeater, Sandpipers, Stints, waterfowl, bushbirds and shorebirds. Prepare for possible wind, rainy or hot conditions (20 person limit)

7:00am Breakfast

9:00am O'Reilly's to Morans Falls walk with Tim Low. Join Author and Ecologist, Tim Low on an un-missable (gradual) walk, mostly downhill along the graded track 2km to Morans Falls showcasing the origins of Gondwana's plant and avifauna. 2.5hrs

NEW

9:00am Main road birding middle Lamington National Park Road. (4hr Bus based tour-short walks nearby). You would have already passed this country but not stopped to seek out its birds. Seeking out Cicadabird, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Painted Button Quail, Striated and Buff Rumped Thornbills, Sittellas, 3 Fairywrens, White-Naped Honeyeater, Spotted Quail Thrush (worked last year!) and more.

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm Python Rock Lookout Track main track. A wonderful sub tropical rainforest walk. Most rainforest species are possible along here. Potential Eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the Morans Valley escarpment at the lookout. (3km, 3hrs)

2:00pm Walking Moonlight Crag to O'Reilly's via Lyrebird Lookout. 3.5hr, 7km, loose underfoot. Less used trail to Old Forestry camp through rainforest habitat. Return via Border Track. Chance of sighting Owllet Nightjar, Lyrebird, Rufous Scrub Bird, Riflebird and rainforest regulars. Medium to high fitness, under and over trees.

6:00pm Dinner in dining room

8:00pm Guest Speaker Cat Davidson. Promptly gather in the theatre for a 1hr presentation by freelance speaker Cat Davidson on birding and other related subjects from the Falkland Islands. A Photographic lecture on the outstanding flora, fauna and birdlife of the sub-Antarctic Falkland Islands. Cat's images of her life on a tiny, remote island in the archipelago will immerse you in the windswept beauty, unique history and breathtaking wildlife of this incredible corner of the world

FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER

6:00 Local Birding-1 ½ hr-main road

7:00 Breakfast

8:00am Walk the iconic Border Track to higher altitude Cool Temperate Beech forests. Search the ancient and mysterious domain of the elusive Rufous Scrub Bird and potential Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species will be found along the way. Up to 16km return towards Mt Wanungra. Lunch out. Medium to high fitness recommended. Cool/ wet weather clothing and pack needed. All walkers carry own packed lunch. Same route out and back so go as far as you can capably return.

9:00am Birding bus to Charlies Waterhole and beyond, Bell Miner Colony and Lake Cainbale. Some often busy watering sites. Searching for Bell Miner, Owllet Nightjar, Cicadabird, Glossy Black Cockatoo, 3 Monarchs, 3 Thornbills, Wompoo Pigeon and Brush Cuckoo. 3hrs

NEW

9:30am Meet local artist Kathryn Castle. Showcasing artwork and styles and a behind the scenes view of her work inspired by rainforest surrounds.

1:00pm Lunch

2:01pm Glens Threlfo audio visual workshop. Join legendary cinematographer Glen Threlfo in a session to showcase some of Glenn's Threlfo's latest achievements in filming, wildlife and any other must see footage. Great for those not wanting to wander very far or in weather! Fascination and a few laughs very likely. May involve a short walk.

2:00pm Raptor Watch-Maries Gate, Lukes Farm, Lukes Bluff. A chance at trying to locate any birds of prey. Many other possibilities. Great scenery assured.

6:00pm Dinner in Dining Room

8:00pm Night Birding main road (weather permitting). A drive, spotlight and playback mission for night birds. Target species; Sooty Owl, Owllet Nightjar, Marbled Frogmouth and Boobook Owl. Wear warm/ wet weather clothes, binoculars and torch. May be out a couple hours.

SATURDAY 19th NOVEMBER

6:00am Local Birdwalk 1 ½ hr-villa track circuit, campground

7:00am Breakfast begins

8:00am Canungra Valley Bus-The valley 'clean up bus' seeking the things we often miss-Emerald Dove, Koel, Brush Cuckoo, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Spotted Quail Thrush, Grey Crowned Babbler, Wandering Whistling Duck, Snipe, Black Falcon. Bus trip, back for a late lunch 5hrs

8:30am Bus departs for (Upper) Cainbale Falls walk-Take an off-track trek along the old riding route down to Cainbale falls-and take all day! Starting at Lukes Farm down a Hoop pine forest ridge to Cainbale Creek and then out to Duck Creek Road at Belsons ridge. Drier rainforest, riparian, Eucalypt and escarpment habitats will be encountered. Usually a half day walk 7km but a bit more time to seek out: Noisy Pitta, Little Shrike Thrush, Brush Cuckoo, Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo, Wompoo and Rose Crowned Fruit Doves, Sooty Owl, Pale Yellow Robin, Monarchs, Sittellas, Red Browed Treecreeper, Painted Button Quail. Interesting country with views along escarpment. Lunch out. 7hrs, high fitness, rough underfoot.

NEW

9:00am West Canungra Creek track walk towards the Darraboola Falls. It is 2km down the West Canungra Circuit to the minor Darraboola falls. A less travelled and lower elevation gives birders a greater chance of Rose Crowned Dove, Paradise riflebird, Lyrebird, Pale Yellow Robin, Rose Robin, with a descent into the valley sides.

1:00pm Lunch.

2:00pm Villa Trail (shortcut) to Morans Falls, Centenary Track Circuit Walk. Another rainforest birdwalk seeking fruit doves, Riflebird, Pale Yellow Robin and eucalypt species. Bus return option from falls, 3km in 3hrs, many stairs but gradual ascent. New trail back.

2:00pm Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Kerry Lookout area. Seeking the Cainbale walkers! and Red Browed Treecreeper, White Naped Honeyeater, Sittellas, Collared Sparrowhawk, Painted Button Quail, 3 Thornbills, Pardalotes, Cicadabird, Leaden Flycatcher, Fairy Wrens and Glossy Black Cockatoo. 3hrs

6:00pm Birdweek Final Count. BBQ Dinner in Pavillion, speeches, reflections and THE prestigious Birdweek Awards ceremony.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

(Reminder) to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre this evening please, then advise [as soon as possible] for any changes. Some tour options will have limited numbers so changes in advance will allow for catering, transport to be planned etc. Please don't always assume you are booked on a session or that it is still running!

*Please Note-program may be changed at short notice. Changes to the program are covered in bird call day end reviews or often during dinner so please attend to be up with the latest.

* All activities are optional. You can be involved day and night or as casual as you wish. No one is obliged to attend everything. If any activities on the regular Discovery Centre program take your fancy please book and attend for these but keep a track of your bird sightings for the bird call reviews. Some birders don't have the luxury of time and will be attending single sessions, single days, several days or the whole week. Please make them feel welcome too.

*Lower Duck Creek Road is not accessible for O'Reilly's vehicles presently due to roughness, difficulty, risk and damage from the road condition. Tours will avoid descent below John Sheppards Lookout mainly for safety reasons and go to valleys via Canungra main road until conditions improve.