

O'Reilly's Birdweek 2017

Leaders and Special Guests

Special Guests



Nick Leseberg

Nick is an ecologist, Wildlife Guide, Nature Photographer and Author. Nick has been a bird guide for tropical birding for 7 years leading tours across Australia, New Guinea, Asia and the Americas. He has Authored the Birds and Animals of the Top End (2015) and Co Authored the 2012 photographic guide to Australian Birds.

Nick is presently based as a researcher for the University of Queensland's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences division, undertaking researching the Night Parrot in Western Queensland due to their dramatic proliferation of discovery in recent times. There is a need for more research to be able to manage better the future of this most treasured of species.

Nick will be discussing the Night Parrot developments in what has become one of the hottest birding topics in recent times. We will be enthralled to hear more about what is known of this species.



Katherine Castle

Artist Katherine Castle will have a display of selected wildlife paintings during Birdweek. She finds the natural environment inspirational for painting and photographing new subjects for future projects. Katherine 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. You will see some of her work around the giftshop, books and information displays.



Katherine will be facilitating 3 workshops expertly assisting those whom may be looking to create their own works in a short time frame. This will be the relaxed option for some activity sessions for those whom may want a change of pace. We were very impressed what her 'students' had achieved last year.

O'Reilly's Birdweek 2017 Leaders



Leaders

Tim O'Reilly

Tim O'Reilly will be your host of November Birdweek and is a third-generation family member with over 20 years of guiding experience in Lamington. Tim's qualifications include working at the guesthouse for over 20 years, managing the activities department, collating the Mammal Guide and Guide to Birds of Lamington booklets, and guiding international birders to the park and surrounds over many years.

Tim has been hosting and guiding Birdweeks since 2000. Tim studied a double degree in Environmental Science and has been birding in Asia, Africa and the UK. Recently he has been involved in environmental programs through 'Wild Mob' and other environmental based organisations taking groups on conservation projects targeting threatened species recovery programs. Tim will be the main host, MC and leading tours. Tim will be checking final numbers for longer tours, and doing logistical support during the week.

(Big) Pete O'eilly

Peter O'Reilly OAM, is a second generation O'Reilly and was closely involved in over four decades of fulltime management of the Guesthouse as it became the successful operation we see today. He is the founder of Australia's longest running Birdweek and has attended every year since its inception in 1978. He has birded and travelled all over Australia and the world, but Big Pete's favourite birding location is still Lamington National Park.

Annette O'Reilly has long been a keen birder and will also be assisting with the program. She has been a long time resident of the region, attended most birdweeks, has a very keen observation, helpful group organisational ability and is an active and long standing member of the Gold Coast Birders. Annette and Peter O'Reilly have travelled all over Australia and the globe, birding and exploring its wildlife.

Bill McDonald

Bill has a long history of research and exploration of Lamington National Park and hence has long been a part of O'Reilly's and National Park history stretching back several decades and loves coming to the area as much as possible. Bill is a qualified Zoologist and an Honorary Research Associate at the Queensland Herbarium and has had a long career both there and in the field.

He is a leading authority on flora and in particular the flora of South East Queensland and has co-authored several books on the identification of rainforest plants. This has also led to detailed knowledge of local wildlife. Bill and Peter O'Reilly have undertaken what is believed the longest continual rainforest regeneration study in the world. Bill's expertise will broaden our understanding of the role of birds in the rainforest ecosystem and how they are related. Bill has birded, worked and travelled comprehensively around Australia and across the globe. Bill will be leading Forest Weekend events and Birdweek tours.

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Ian Gynther

Ian Gynther is a Zoologist and works as a Senior officer in the Threatened Species Unit of the Queensland Environment Department. Ian is an expert on the fauna of Australia but in particular Queensland. Ian has been a leader in well over 15 Bird Weeks and has previously led frog, mammal and wildlife weeks. Ian is involved in fieldwork still in Lamington and across Queensland. Ian co-authored the comprehensive Guide to Australian Mammals and has been regarded as knowing virtually everything that moves. Ian will be leading on most of the full day outings and facilitates the bird reviews and record keeping register of Birdweek sightings.

Dave Stewart

Dave will be gladly joining us for birdweek as an assistant leader as well as guest presenter. As a long time resident and birder of Northern NSW and SE Qld he has vast experience of the regional birdlife. Dave has been involved in birding and wildlife survey across all corners of Australia since the 1960's and more recently, internationally. David has familiarity with most Australian bird species accrued through travelling, surveying, researching, consulting and cataloguing wildlife and in particular, their calls.

Dave is THE most renowned wildlife sound recordist in Australia and has the most comprehensive collection of quality digital Australian bird recordings, exceeding 700 species. His work is also catalogued in various natural history libraries and archives worldwide. David founded naturesound (www.naturesound.com.au) providing sound services across various media. Dave has pioneered bird and frog recording (disc) series in different regions as well as all the 600 bird sound species represented on the original, groundbreaking, Micheal Morcome-Birds of Australia 'app'.

Dave will soon release a Birdcalls of Australia (call only) app spanning nearly every species as a follow up to a recent Frogs of Australia app which covers all Australian frog species. He is also presently involved in surveying the indicated decline of small 'bush bird' species in the Brisbane region. He is presently involved in projects in Papua New Guinea and South America. Dave has a long affiliation with O'Reilly's and Lamington National Park and has been involved with over 16 birdweeks at O'Reilly's, and will undoubtedly be a great asset to the week.

Glen Threlfo

Glen started working at O'Reilly's in Birdweek 40 years ago with a birdcall workshop and has been working for O'Reilly's guiding ever since. He has attended nearly all of the Birdweeks. Glen has an affection and intimate knowledge of the ecosystems of the Lamington region and is a good friend to all the birds close to the Guesthouse Retreat area!

He has produced numerous publications and documentaries that showcase the spectacular flora and fauna of the park. He has travelled and 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 nesting in Sydney and weaving a new documentary from his catalogue of amazing footage. We will hope to see some of Glen's latest work this week.

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Leaders

Duncan Fowler

Duncan Fowler is a Senior Guide at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat and has been living, working and adventuring in the region for the last 30 years. He joined O'Reilly's in 2004 and has been birding every day since! Duncan started guiding in a multitude of adventures and organisations in the region since 1987. He has worked in environmental research projects, EIS studies and rainforest regenerations projects before starting work in outdoor education, recreation and tourism.

He has been involved in leading November and Autumn Bird Weeks since 2007. He guides for the O'Reilly's Activities Discovery Program on a full-time basis, including private birders sessions seeking out specific wildlife targets. Duncan collates the local bi-monthly bird sightings report of O'Reilly's (on the website blog) and for the last few years has also been coordinating much of the November and autumn programs. When not working Duncan seeks out wildlife experiences around the local region, Australia and overseas.

Mark Watson

Mark will be assisting us this week and is an O'Reilly's Discovery program guide. He has been based in the Northern NSW Region and more recently, O'Reilly's where he has been with us over several years. Mark guides and lives on site full time becoming familiar with it's many inhabitants and has been involved all local tours including birding tours and private guiding for birders. He has travelled Australia and NZ (living there for 4 years) and visited various other countries, recently returning from trekking in Nepal. Mark will be helping with several tours, logistics and transport.