



O'Reilly's

RAINFOREST RETREAT

41st Annual

# BIRD WEEK

## Spring 2018

From the 11th - 17th November, birders will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with some of Australia's most well-known bird researchers, authors and photographers as they spot over 200 species of the 230 varieties residing in our World Heritage listed Lamington National Park - which is home to Australia's largest collection of sub-tropical birds.

The seven day event combines insightful live presentations from Australia's most reputable bird enthusiasts plus guided bird tours throughout O'Reilly's World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, nearby Kerry Valley and Stradbroke Island.



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# BIRD WEEK LEADERS

NOV 11 - 17



## 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.



## Peter O'Reilly

As a second generation O'Reilly family member, growing up at O'Reilly's and later managing the guesthouse operations with his brother Vince, Peter has a deep knowledge of the plants and wildlife of Lamington National Park. In 2002, Peter was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his work with the Environment and Tourism.

## Dr 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 his detailed knowledge of local wildlife. Bill and Peter O'Reilly have undertaken what is believed the longest continual rainforest research study in the world. His 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.



## Dr 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 16 Bird Weeks and has previously led frog, mammal and wildlife weeks. He is involved in fieldwork 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 counts and record keeping register of Birdweek sightings.



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## 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.

## 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 Spring and Autumn Bird Weeks since 2007. Duncan guides for the O'Reilly's Activities Discovery Program on a full-time basis, including private birders sessions seeking out specific wildlife targets.



## Dave Stewart

Dave will be joining us for Birdweek as a leader and 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. 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 catalogued in natural history libraries and archives worldwide.

## 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 in 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, including trekking in Nepal. Mark will be helping with several tours, logistics and transport.

## Artist - Tamlyn Geiger

Canungra Artist Tamlyn Geiger is excited to teach this year at 2018 Birdweek. Working as an Artist and Designer in many mediums, Tamlyn is a sought after teacher in the Scenic Rim and on the Gold Coast.

Having recently moved from her studio - Red Door Studio in Appel Street, Canungra, Tamlyn is focusing on her teaching and Textile Designs.

Tamlyn hopes to attract Watercolour Artists as well as Bird Lovers to the workshop, even if they have no experience. This year's theme will be "Paint my Feathers".





# BIRD WEEK

Spring 2018



**Here's**  
what we have  
planned...

## DAY 1 - Sunday 11th November - Forest Weekend closes, Annual Birdweek begins

**4:00pm - Welcome and Introduction to 41st Birdweek in the Theatre.** We shall meet the leaders, mention special guest speakers, presenters and staff whom will be making this a special week.

**4:30pm - Birds of Lamington National Park presentation.** By popular demand Glen Threlfo will run us through many of the typical species with Dave Stewart presenting bird calls.

**5:30pm - Toast to Birdweek with a view at sunset drinks.** We shall meet at the Rainforest Retreat's South-Western Observation Deck.

**7:30pm - Dinner in the Dining Room** - There will be a Birdweek dining area section in the Dining Room most days.

*Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre this evening or tomorrow please.*

## DAY 2 - Monday 12th November - Local day mountain birding

**6:00am - Local Birdwalk Booyong and Border Track area and rainforest along the road.** Meet at front door of the reception area for this walk each day.

**7:30am - Breakfast**

**9:00am - Wishing Tree Track walk.** (1.5km), 3hrs. Subtropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta. Uneven surfaces, mostly downhill. Bus return from Cedar Tree.

**9:00am - Python Rock Lookout Track.** (3km), 3hrs. Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub tropical rainforest walk. Good nesting area. Potential Eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the Morans Valley escarpment at the lookout deck.

**1:00pm - Lunch**

**2:00pm - Walking The Border Track towards Picnic Rock.** 2hrs. More stunning subtropical rainforest with a chance of finding a Lyrebird.

**2:00pm - Duck Creek Road.** 2hrs. Eucalypt Forest edge. Seeking Red Browed Treecreeper. Short walks near bus.

## DAY 2 - continued

**2:00pm - Painters workshop with Tamlyn Geiger.** This year's theme will be "PAINT MY FEATHERS". You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. You may be surprised what you can do. Meet at the Pavillion

**4:30pm - Guest Speaker - Professor Richard Fuller, School of Biological Sciences at Queensland University** Gather in the theatre promptly please.

**6:30pm Dinner in the Dining Room.**

*Notice: Full day tours commence tomorrow. Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to the Discovery Centre.*

## DAY 3 - Tuesday, 13th November - Coastal Tour or searching for mountain species

**6:00am - Local Birdwalk.** Towards Villa Track campground area

**6:30am - Coastal Waders tour.** Depart for Gold Coast, including boat charter. Full day, packed lunch out. Spaces limited.

**7:00am - Breakfast**

**9:00am - Birds and Botany walk with Bill Macdonald.**

**9:00am - Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek Road-Shephards, Kerry Lookout area.** Seeking open forest birds - short walks near bus up to 1km.

**1:00pm - Lunch**

**2:00pm - Painters workshop with Tamlyn Geiger.** This year's theme will be "PAINT MY FEATHERS" You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. You may be surprised what you can do. Meet at the Pavillion.

**2:00pm - West Cliffs/Pats Bluff circuit.** A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment. Eucalypt, Farm, edge, escarpment species. Views to the west. 5km, ½ uphill, 3hrs.

**2:00pm - Vehicle based birding around Charlie's Waterhole**

**7:00pm - Dinner in Dining Room**







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**Here's**  
what we have  
planned...

## DAY 4 - Wednesday 14th November - Mountain to valley day (note: there are always local options each day)

6:00am - Early birding walk - Local tracks

7:00am - Breakfast

8:00am **Stockyard Creek track.** Full day walk (mostly downhill!) 7km, 8hr. This track was the only access to O'Reilly's for guests and supplies for 15 years. Steep edges, loose underfoot medium-high fitness. Lunch out and remember to take extra water. Top to bottom birding. Seeking birds of the valley. Travel home by bus. Packed lunches.

8:00am - **Beauesert - Western Lagoons and Kerry Valley bus trip.** Starting from below the Canungra valley, over 200 possible species line this classic tour of the charming Beauesert and Kerry Valley. Various habitats centred around parklands, bushland, farmland, roadsides and waterholes. Packed lunches out.

9:00am - **Morans Valley.** Vehicle based, short walks, 3hrs. Various stops across diverse habitats such as regrowth rainforest, open areas, escarpment. Stopping at flying fox, Morans clearing and towards Moonlight Crag

12:30pm - Lunch

2:00pm - **Villa Track - Wishing Tree circuit.** (3hrs 2.0km). Another combination walking track route .

2:00pm - **Painters workshop with Tamlyn Geiger.** This year's theme will be "PAINT MY FEATHERS". You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. You may be surprised what you can do. Meet at the Pavillion.

6:00pm - Bird Count before Dinner.

6:30pm - Dinner in the Dining Room.

8:00pm - **Night Birding.** We shall explore the local area and Morans valley to locate the mysterious Marbled Frogmouth, Sooty Owl, Owlet-Nightjar or any other possibilities. Bring a torch and binoculars - 2 hrs duration.

## DAY 5 - Thursday 15th November - Eastern Lagoons, Eagleby and Mountain birding

6:00am - Birding Locally Border Track and Booyong areas.

7:00am - Breakfast

7:30am - Bus departs for Eastern Lagoons and wetlands via Oxenford. Lunch out, full day, short walks. Bring a scope if you have one.

## DAY 5 - continued

9:00am - **Python Rock Lookout Track.** A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk.

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.

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm - **Wishing Tree Track walk.** 3hrs. Downhill birding at a relaxed pace. 3hrs, 1.5km, uneven surfaces, Bus return from Cedar Tree area.

2:00pm - **Walking Moonlight Crag to O'Reilly's.** 3hrs. Vehicle drop off. Walk 4km back. Some loose underfoot sections. Scenic views over; Lost World, Morans Valley and the Scenic Rim. Medium fitness.

6:00pm - **Bird Count and Glen Threlfo's audio visual.** (Theatrette).

7:30pm - Dinner in dining room.

## DAY 6 - Friday 16th November - Local areas and Top of the range trek, the Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler challenge

6:00am - Local Birding - 1 ½ hr-down the main road

7:00am - Breakfast

8:00am - **Border Track to higher altitude Cool Temperate Antarctic Beech forests.** Search among the ancient Antarctic for the elusive Rufous Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species will be found along the way. Up to 16km (return) towards Mt Wanungra. Lunch out.

9:00am - **Birding bus to Charlies Waterhole and beyond,** Good water hole for many species. 3hrs

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm - **Raptor Watch - Marie's Gate, Luke's Bluff and Kurrajong.** Approximately 2hrs. A chance at trying to locate any birds of prey however many other possibilities along the way. Great scenery assured, several nearby sites visited. Bring a scope if you have one!

6:00pm Dinner in Dining Room.





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what we have  
planned...

## DAY 6 - continued

**8:00pm Night Birding main road** (weather permitting). A drive and spotlight mission for night birds. Target species: ANY! - such as: Sooty Owl, Owlet Nightjar, Marbled Frogmouth. Wear warm/wet weather clothes, binoculars and bring a torch. May be out a couple of hours. Sometimes a local check around the Guesthouse environs reveals these species too.

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## DAY 7 - Saturday 17th November - Top to bottom and all around-the last chance 'clean up day' to boost the species sightings

**6:00am - Local Birdwalk.** 1 ½ hr-villa track area/campground

**6:00am - Early Breakfast begins**

**7:00am - Canungra Valley and Beyond Bus** - The valley 'clean up bus' targeting the many other things we somehow can miss - Time is of the essence on this tour so will be prioritising target species. Back for lunch in 6 hrs.

**9:00am - Bus drop off departs for (Upper) Cainbale Falls off track walk** - Bus to Belsen's Lookout. Take a trek along the old horse riding route down to Cainbale falls - and take all day! Starting at Luke's Farm we trek 4km down a Hoop pine forest ridge to Cainbale Creek Falls. Then a 2km gradual uphill journey to Duck Creek Road at Belsens Ridge for return transport. Drier rainforest, riparian sections, Eucalypt and escarpment habitats will be encountered. Usually a half day walk 6km but a bit more time today to seek out varies birds. Interesting country with views along escarpment. Lunch out. 7hrs, high fitness, rough underfoot.

**9:00am - West Canungra Creek track walk and Picnic Rock.**

**1:00pm - Lunch**

**2:00pm - Villa Trail (shortcut) to Morans Falls, Centenary Track Circuit Walk.** Distance 4.5km in 3hrs - 100 stairs returning but gradual ascent. Take new Centenary Track back.

**2:00pm - Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek road-Kerry Lookout area** - 3 hrs duration.

**6:30pm - Birdweek Final Count.** BBQ Dinner in Pavillion, speeches, reflections and THE prestigious Birdweek Awards ceremony. The final event of Birdweek. Thank you everyone for a great week!

## DAY 8 - Sunday 18th November - Departure Day

Thank you for your company and please travel home safely.

### Please Note:

*\* You will be notified of any program changes which are mainly due to changes in weather. Changes to the program are covered in bird call reviews at day's end or often during dinner.*

*\* All activities are optional - it is your choice on how many events you attend. Be sure to keep track of your bird sightings for the daily bird count reviews.*

*\* Some birders don't have a luxury of time and will be attending single sessions, single days or several days. Of course, please make them feel welcome too.*

*\* Lower Duck Creek Road may not be accessible due to cyclone damage. Valley tours will travel via Canungra.*

*\* Please wear your name tags throughout the week.*

