



46TH ANNUAL BIRD WEEK

FLOCK TO O'REILLY'S - NOV 5 - 12, 2023

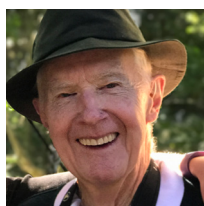


JOIN BIRD LOVERS FOR AUSTRALIA'S LONGEST RUNNING BIRDING PROGRAM

From the 5th to 12th of November, 2023 – 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 the World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park – 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 World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park, nearby Kerry Valley, Stradbroke Island.

If interested to share your photos, be sure and tag **#oreillysbirdweek** for the chance to get your images posted on our social media channels with credit to you.



Peter O'Reilly - Host

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 - Leader

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 - Leader

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.

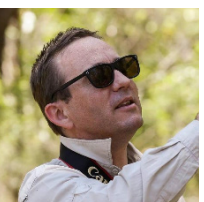
Ian has been a leader in over 20 Birdweeks and has previously led frog, mammal and wildlife weeks.

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.

Barry Davies - Leader

Barry Davies owns and operates Gondwana Guides and is one of Australia's most experienced guides and the only person to twice be named Australian EcoGuide of the Year by Ecotourism Australia.

He is based at Beechmont on the edge of World Heritage listed Lamington National Park and provides a range of birding services in Australia and overseas. He has extensive knowledge of Lamington National Park and it's surrounds.



Todd Burrows - Leader

Todd Burrows is an ecologist and wildlife photographer, with a special interest in birds. Since 2012 he has been with the City of Gold Coast as a Senior Conservation Partnerships Officer working with private landholders across the city to help conserve and enhance biodiversity. Prior to this, he worked for a decade as an Environment Guide at Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke Island and enjoyed leading the early morning bird walks.

Todd's interest in the bird life of Australia was sparked at a young age during family trips to O'Reilly's which led to a passion for bird watching and wildlife photography. Todd's photos have been published in several magazines and field guides and appear on park signage throughout the Gold Coast and further afield. Todd is also a keen user of eBird and iNaturalist and volunteers as an eBird reviewer for the Gold Coast LGA.





Glen Threlfo - Leader

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 traveled 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.

Matthew Kelly - Leader

Matthew Kelly originated from the Northern Beaches in Sydney. He has worked as a guide in Waratah National Park, near Sydney, Kakadu in the Northern Territory and El Questro in the Kimberly.

Matt became a guide at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in August 2010. He is part of the O'Reilly's Discovery Team and is our resident Stinson Trek Guide. He also guides birding groups during the year.



He is passionate about our wildlife, rainforest and natural surroundings and enjoys being able to educate and show people from all over the world a place he loves. Matt has been slowly finding sites where our difficult rare birds have been hiding out. This should be of interest during Birdweek.



Tamlyn Geiger - Australian Textile Designer and Artist

This is Tamlyn's 6th year at the Annual Bird Week teaching art. Over the last five years, topics have included mixed media, watercolor techniques and design.

This year we will add a little live bird sketching to warm up and to also use in our artworks. Working to a plan to produce colorful abstract birds and pictures with movement and line. All equipment is supplied, all you need to bring is an apron and any of your own bird photographs (or use mine).

Watercolor mixing is an additional bonus, Tamlyn will teach the art of mixing colors and color matching while working on designs. Please visit Tamlyn at www.tamlyng.com.au to view her work.

For the students - Fun with sketching to warm up with live birds and formation to get you thinking! Then onto condensing line and creating movement that we will simplify to create patterns. All equipment is included, please bring your own bird photographs and reference work (or use mine). This workshop is aimed for fun and nurturing the creative you! No need to do every day, but bookings are required.

Rahula Perera - Guest Speaker

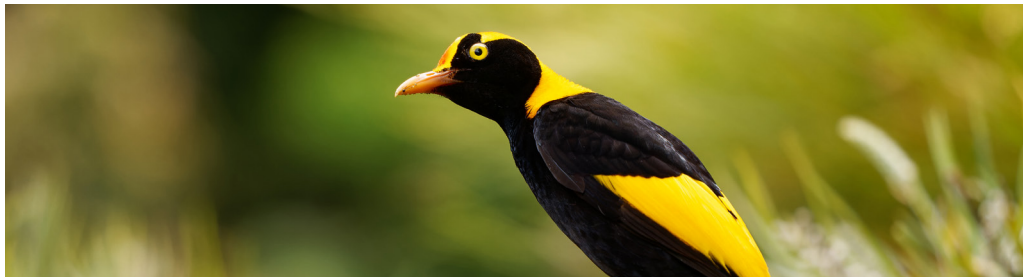
Rahula Perera is a biologist from Sri Lanka. Currently working as a storyteller in Australia. He is a certified Ecoguide and accredited Savannah Guide in Australia. Rahula as a member of Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (local BirdLife International partner) works closely with BirdLife Asia, and BirdLife international for promoting and planning bird tourism in the region.



He has first-hand experience in studying Mixed Species foraging flocks in Gondwana rainforest in Sri Lanka; lowland Sub-mountain and Mountain forests, collaborating with the other scientists in the country which resulted in numerous scientific publications.

Mixed-species foraging flocks tend to form around a "nuclear" species. Researchers believe nuclear species both stimulate the formation of a mixed-species flock and maintain the cohesion between bird species.





DAY 1 - SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER FOREST WEEKEND ENDS, BIRD WEEK BEGINS

3pm - 3:50pm - Shuttle buses to the Lost World Conference Centre
Please meet outside the Discovery Centre.

4:00pm - Welcome and Introduction to Bird Week in the Lost World Conference Centre
Meet the leaders and hear a brief overview of the program.

4:30pm - Birds of Lamington National Park presentation As an introduction to the birds of O'Reilly's, we'll run through some images and sounds of several of the local species you'll encounter.

5:30pm - Welcome Drinks

6:30pm - Shuttle buses to Reception

7:00pm - Dinner in the Dining Room

Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception this evening or tomorrow please, then advise as soon as possible for any future changes.

Some tour options will have limited numbers so changes in advance will allow for leaders, logistics, catering and transport to be planned.

Please check the Notice Board in the Discovery Centre for tour lists, information and changes.

DAY 2 - MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER LOCAL DAY MOUNTAIN BIRDING

Notice: Reminder to hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception by this morning.

6:00am - Local Rainforest Bird Walk (1.5 hr) - Meet at front door of the reception area for this walk each day. Today we'll split into groups along the Border Track, Booyong Walk and main road.

7:30am - Breakfast

9:00am - Wishing Tree Walk (1.5km, 3 hr) - Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking *Paradise Riflebird*, *Noisy Pitta*. Downhill, some uneven surfaces - bus return from Cedar Tree.

9:00am - Python Rock Lookout (3km, 3 hr) - Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk, possibilities including *Paradise Riflebird* and *Noisy Pitta*, with potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck.

9:00am - Duck Creek Road (3 hr) - Eucalypt forest edge, seeking *Red Browed Treecreeper*, *Variegated Fairy-wren* etc. Short walks near bus.

1:00pm - Lunch

1:45pm - Group Photo - meet outside the Discovery Centre





BIRD WEEK

46th Annual



DAY 2 - MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER - CONTINUED

2:00pm - Wishing Tree Walk (1.5km, 3 hr) - Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking *Paradise Riflebird*, *Noisy Pitta*. Downhill, some uneven surfaces - bus return from Cedar Tree.

2:00pm - Python Rock Lookout (3km, 3 hr) - Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk, possibilities including *Paradise Riflebird* and *Noisy Pitta*, with potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck.

2:00pm - Duck Creek Road (3 hr) - Eucalypt forest edge, seeking *Red Browed Treecreeper*, *Variegated Fairy-wren* etc. Short walks near bus.

5:30pm - Guest Speaker - We are very pleased to welcome Rahula Perera as our guest speaker.

7:00pm - Dinner

8:30pm - Night Birding (2 hr) - We shall explore a few sites along the main road in search of the *Sooty Owl* and *Marbled Frogmouth*. Bring a torch and binoculars.

DAY 3 - TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER COASTAL TOUR OR SEARCHING FOR MOUNTAIN SPECIES

6:00am - Local Bird walk - Tree Top Walk and Botanic Gardens.

6:00am or 7:30am - Breakfast

6:30am - Coastal Waders tour. See what birds we can find at the nearby coastal habitats at the coastal extremity of the local river catchment area where the waders gather. Depart for Gold Coast, including boat charter. Full day, packed lunch out. Spaces limited.

9:00am - Walking the Border Track towards Picnic Rock (2½ hr, up to 4.5 km – turn around whenever you want) More stunning subtropical rainforest with a chance of finding a *Lyrebird*.

9:00am - Birds and Botany Walk with Bill Macdonald (3hr)

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm - West Cliffs/Pats Bluff circuit (5km, 3 hr, rough underfoot with some uphill sections). A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment including rainforest, eucalypts and spectacular escarpment that is home to *Peregrine Falcon*.

2:00pm - Charlies Waterhole (2½ hr) Vehicle based birding and a short walk to a *Bell Miner* colony. Mix of dry rainforest and eucalypt forest birds.





**BIRD
WEEK**
46th Annual



DAY 3 - TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER - CONTINUED

2.00pm - Painters Workshop with Tamlyn Geiger - This year's theme will be "Colour in Flight". You will be guided and encouraged to produce your own work of art. This workshop is designed for all levels. You are encouraged to bring your own bird photos or use supplied photos. By placing your bird in a bright setting that you will design in watercolour and acrylic. It's all about the colours and technique! You may be surprised what you can do. Meet at the Pavilion.

6.30pm - Bird Count

7.00pm - Dinner

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER HISTORIC TRACK & VALLEY BIRDING WITH LOCAL OPTIONS

3:30am - Dawn chorus

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

7:00am - Breakfast

8:00am - Stockyard Creek track - Full day walk (mostly downhill!) 7km, 8hr. This track was the original access to O'Reilly's for guests and supplies. Steep edges, loose underfoot medium-high fitness. Lunch out and remember to take extra water. Top to bottom birding, seeking eucalypt forest birds such as *Glossy Black-Cockatoo* and lowland rainforest species such as *White-eared Monarch* and fruit-doves. Travel home by bus. Packed lunches.

8:00am - Beaudesert, Western Lagoons and Kerry Valley bus trip - This tour targets lowland species in the farmland, parkland and drier woodland areas around Canungra and Beaudesert as well as waterbirds at numerous dams in the area. Birding is from the bus and on short nearby walks. Packed lunches.

9:00am - Moran's Valley (3 hr, back for lunch - vehicle based, short nearby walks). Various stops across diverse habitats such as regrowth rainforest, wet eucalypt forest and escarpment. Stopping at the Flying Fox, Moran's clearing and Balancing Rock.

Lunch - those not going on full day trips can collect their packed lunch from Reception.

2:00pm - Luke's Bluff and Marie's Gate (3 hr) - A mix of rainforest and edges, eucalypt forest and escarpment. Great scenery, several nearby sites visited, chance of seeing raptors.

2.00pm - Painters Workshop with Tamlyn Geiger

6.30pm - Mid-week Bird Count

7.00pm - Dinner





BIRD WEEK

46th Annual



DAY 5 - THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER LOCAL AREAS AND TOP OF THE RANGE TREK, THE SCRUB BIRD AND OLIVE WHISTLER CHALLENGE

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

7:00am - Breakfast

8:00am - Border Track to Antarctic Beech forest (13 – 16 km return). Search among the ancient Antarctic for the elusive Rufous Scrub Bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species will be found along the way. Lunch out.

9:00am - Moran's Falls (2.3km downhill, bus return, 2½ hr). Rainforest walk ending at eucalypt forest and escarpment, chance of *Noisy Pitta*, *Red-browed Treecreeper*.

9:00am - Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek Road, Shepard's, Kerry Lookout area (3hr) Seeking open forest birds. Short walks near bus up to 1km.

Lunch – those not going on full day trips can collect their packed lunch from Reception.

11:00am - Painters workshop with Tamlyn Geiger

2:00pm - Main road birding Lamington National Park Road - (3hr, bus-based tour with short nearby walks). You would have already passed this country but not stopped to seek out its birds.

2:00pm - Wishing Tree Walk (1.5km, 3hr) Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta. Downhill, some uneven surfaces. Bus return from Cedar Tree.

6:00pm - Bird Count

6:30pm - Dinner in the Dining Room

8:00pm - Night Birding (2 hr). We shall explore a few sites along the main road in search of the Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth. Bring a torch and binoculars.

DAY 6 - FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER EASTERN LAGOONS AND MOUNTAIN BIRDING

6:00am - Bird walk - Border Track and Booyong Walk

7:00am - Breakfast

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





DAY 6 - FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER - CONTINUED

9:00am - West Canungra Creek Track (3hr, up to 5km, turn around whenever you want, gradual ascent on the way home). Lovely sub-tropical rainforest on the descent towards West Canungra Creek.

9:00am - Birds and Botany Walk with Bill Macdonald (3hr)

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm - Session on Wildlife Photography with Glen Threlfo

2:00pm - Python Rock Lookout (2½ hr). Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk, possibilities including *Paradise Riflebird* and *Noisy Pitta*, with potential eucalypt species and raptor sightings along the escarpment from the lookout deck.

2:00pm - Walking Moonlight Crag to O'Reilly's (3hr. 4 km, loose underfoot, some uphill sections). Scenic views over Lost World, a mix of rainforest, wet eucalypt and escarpment habitat. Medium fitness required.

6.30pm - Bird Count

7.00pm - Dinner

DAY 7 - SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER TOP TO BOTTOM AND ALL AROUND -THE LAST CHANCE 'CLEAN-UP DAY' TO BOOST THE SPECIES SIGHTINGS

6:00am - Local Bird Walk - (1 ½ hr) Villa Track area/Campground

6:00am - Early Breakfast begins for those on the Canungra Valley bus.

7:00am - Canungra Valley and Beyond Bus - The valley 'clean-up bus' targeting birds we may have missed in the valley. Time is of the essence on this tour so will be prioritising target species. Packed lunches

9:00am - Bus drop off departs for (Upper) Cainbale Falls off track walk - 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 Belson's Ridge for return transport. Drier rainforest, eucalypt and escarpment habitats will be encountered. Packed lunches, rough underfoot with some steep sections, medium to high fitness required.

9:00am - Eucalypt forest bus to Duck Creek Road-Shepard's, Kerry Lookout, Belsen's Road area (3hr) Seeking open forest birds. Short walks near bus up to 1km.

1:00pm - Lunch

2:00pm - Villa Trail (shortcut) to Moran's Falls, Centenary Track Circuit (4.5km, 2½ hr - rough underfoot in places, gradual ascent on the way home) Interesting circuit combining rainforest, rainforest edge and escarpment.



DAY 7 - SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER - CONTINUED

2.00pm - West Cliffs/ Pats Bluff circuit (5km, 3 hr, rough underfoot with some uphill sections). A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment including rainforest, eucalypts and spectacular escarpment that is home to Peregrine Falcon.

6:30pm - Bird Week Final Dinner. BBQ Dinner in Pavillion. Speeches, reflections and presentation of the prestigious Bird Week Awards. Final Celebration of the 46th Annual Bird Week.

Thank you everyone for being part of a great week!

DAY 8 - SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER - DEPARTURE DAY THANK YOU ALL AND TRAVEL WELL

Please Note:

* The program is subject to change at short notice. Changes to the program are covered during dinner, so please attend to stay in the loop. Information will also be on the notice board in the Discovery Centre.

* All activities are optional. Please feel free to be involved day and night or as casual as you wish. No one is obliged to attend all activities on the program. If, however, any activities on the regular Discovery Centre program (reduced for Birdweek) also take your fancy please book and attend for these. Be sure to keep a track of your bird sightings for the bird call 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 safely accessible due to damage, roughness, difficulty from the road condition. Tours will avoid descent below John Shepard Lookout and all valley tours will travel via Canungra main road unless conditions dramatically improve.

