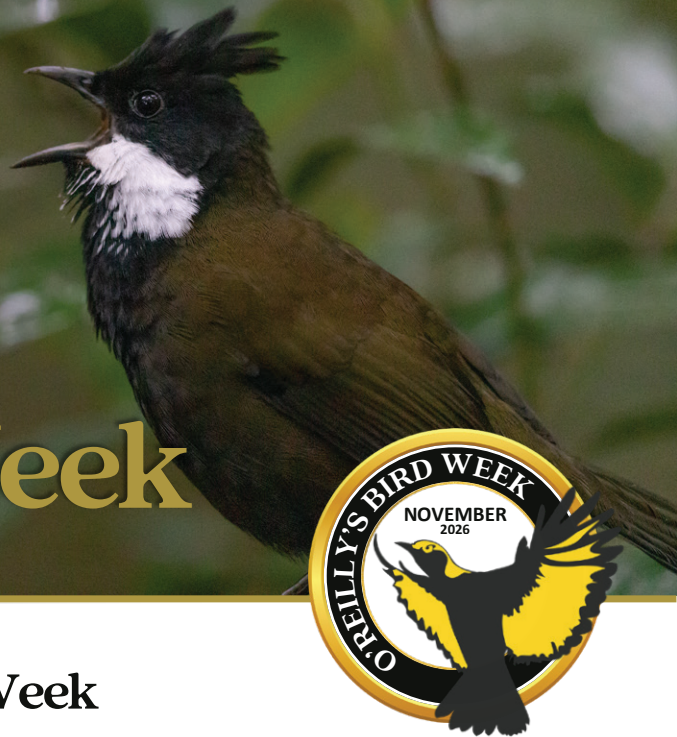




49TH ANNUAL

Bird Week

1-8 November 2026

49 Years of Bird Week 100 Years on the Mountain

Australia's Longest Running Birding Program

For almost five decades, bird lovers have travelled to O'Reilly's to walk beneath the rainforest canopy, listen for familiar calls and search for some of Australia's most remarkable birds.

This November, join our guides, researchers, photographers and fellow birders for seven extraordinary days. 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.

Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception in advance to avoid missing out on your preferred options.

Forest Weekend closes, Bird Week begins

Welcome

3pm

Shuttle buses to the Lost World Conference Centre. Please meet outside the Discovery Centre.

3:30pm

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

4:00pm

Introduction

Birds of Lamington National Park presentation. As an introduction to the birds of Lamington NP, we'll run through some images and sounds of a selection of the local species you'll encounter.

5:00pm

Welcome Drinks

6:30pm

Welcome Dinner In the Lost World Conference Centre

Bird Week begins with a relaxed welcome dinner in the Lost World Conference Centre. A chance to connect with fellow birders and meet the leaders, speakers and guides who will be sharing their knowledge throughout the week.

Enjoy a great evening of conversation, plenty of laughs and a first taste of the Bird Week community as we introduce the program ahead and get everyone ready to make the most of the days to come.



Hand in your selected field trip itinerary options to Reception

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.



Local Day Mountain birding			
6am	Local rainforest bird walk (1½ hr) Meet outside the Discovery Centre for this walk each day. Today we'll split into groups along the Border Track, Booyong Walk and main road. Back for Breakfast.		
7am	Breakfast		
9am	OPTION 1 Wishing Tree Track (1.5km downhill with bus return, some uneven surfaces, 3hr, back for lunch) Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta and a range of other rainforest species.	OPTION 2 Python Rock Lookout (3km, 3hr, back for lunch) Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk offering a chance to see Paradise Riflebird and Noisy Pitta, with eucalypt forest species near the escarpment.	OPTION 3 Duck Creek Road (3hr - Short walks near bus back for lunch.) Eucalypt forest edge, seeking Red-browed Treecreeper, Variegated Fairy-wren etc.
1pm	Lunch		
1:45pm	Group photo. Meet outside Discovery Centre		
2pm	OPTION 1 Wishing Tree Track (As above)	OPTION 2 Python Rock Lookout (As above)	OPTION 3 Duck Creek Road (As above)
6:30pm	Dinner in the Dining Room		
8pm	Night birding (2 hr). Spotlighting along Moran's Creek looking for Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth.		

Coastal waders tour & mountain birding			
6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Botanic Gardens		
6am	Early breakfast for guests joining the Coastal Waders Tour.		
6:30am	Coastal Waders Tour (approx 10 hours, spaces limited) Targeting birds we can find in coastal habitats at the northern end of the Gold Coast and south Stradbroke Island. Includes a boat tour which requires exiting the boat through shallow water. Lunch out – all lunches will be packed onto the bus prior to departure so there is no need for participants to collect them.		
7am	Breakfast		
9am	OPTION 1 Birds and Botany walk with Bill McDonald (1-2km, 3hr, back for lunch) Enjoy a local stroll with Bill for a closer look at the rainforest surrounding O'Reilly's and the birds that call it home.	OPTION 2 Moran's Falls (2.5km downhill, bus return, 3 hr, back for lunch). Downhill rainforest walk with a chance of Noisy Pitta and Pale-yellow Robin and eucalypt forest species near the escarpment. Easy grade with some short sections of steps.	
1pm	Lunch <i>Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception</i>		
2pm	OPTION 1 Birding on Lamington National Park Road (3hr, bus-based tour with short nearby walks). Several stops in rainforest, rainforest edge and eucalypt forest. You would have passed through this country on your drive up but not stopped to seek out its birds.	OPTION 2 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 eastern side of the ridge below O'Reilly's.	OPTION 3 From Beak to Brush Art workshop with Tamlyn Geiger. Explore bird anatomy, sketch simple forms and bring your birds to life with vibrant colour and personality.
6:30pm	Dinner in the Dining Room		
8pm	Guest Speakers: Nikolas Haass and Raja Stephenson Real birds eat squid! Nikolas explores the biology, distribution and identification of Australia's east coast seabirds, focusing on albatrosses, shearwaters, petrels and storm-petrels, with photography predominantly by Raja.		

Stockyard Creek walk, Kerry Valley area bus and local excursions

3:30am	Dawn chorus (2hr) Meet at front of reception and bring a torch, as we'll do a five-minute walk along the Booyong Walk to our gathering spot to welcome in the day with the birds.	
6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Centenary Track	
7am	Breakfast	
8am	OPTION 1 Stockyard Creek track (10km, 8hr) Steep downhill sections and very loose underfoot, demanding medium fitness required but main requirement is good stability on rough, unstable ground. This track was the original access to O'Reilly's for guests and supplies. Seeking eucalypt forest birds on the descent including Glossy Black-Cockatoo and lowland rainforest species around Stockyard Creek such as White-eared Monarch and fruit-doves. Lunch out – walkers to collect individual packed lunches from Discovery Centre. Take plenty of water as it can be hot. Travel home by bus.	OPTION 2 Beaudesert, Western Lagoons and Kerry Valley bus trip (8 – 9 hr, stopping at several waterhole or woodland areas with short walks). This tour targets lowland species in the farmland and drier woodland areas around Canungra and Beaudesert as well as waterbirds at numerous wetlands in the area. Birding is from the bus and on short nearby walks. Lunch out – all lunches will be packed onto the bus.
9am	OPTION 3 Moran's Valley (3 hr, back for lunch - vehicle based, short nearby walks). Various stops across diverse habitats such as regrowth rainforest at the Cedar Tree and eucalypt forest and escarpment at Balancing Rock and Moran's Falls.	OPTION 4 From Beak to Brush Art workshop with Tamlyn Geiger. Explore bird anatomy, sketch simple forms and bring your birds to life with vibrant colour and personality.
1pm	Lunch <i>Those not going on full day trips can collect a packed lunch from Reception</i>	
2pm	OPTION 1 Luke's Bluff and Marie's Gate (3hr) A mix of rainforest and edges, eucalypt forest and escarpment country. Great scenery, with several nearby sites visited, and a chance of seeing raptors.	OPTION 2 From Beak to Brush Art workshop with Tamlyn Geiger. Explore bird anatomy, sketch simple forms and bring your birds to life with vibrant colour and personality.
6:30pm	Bird Count. Meet in the Theatrette to review the bird species spotted so far this week.	
7pm	Dinner in the Dining Room	

Antarctic Beech forest & local trips <i>seeking Rufous Scrub-bird and Olive Whistler</i>			
6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Upper Wishing Tree Track		
7am	Breakfast		
8am	OPTION 1 Border Track to Antarctic Beech forest (13 – 16 km return, approx. 6 – 8 hr). Search the ancient Antarctic Beech forest for the elusive Rufous Scrub-bird and Olive Whistler. Many rainforest species likely to be found along the way. Lunch out – walkers to collect individual packed lunches from Discovery Centre.		
9am	OPTION 2 Bus to Charlie’s Waterhole (3½ hr, back for lunch). This trip will stop along the way in drier rainforest areas with chances of White-eared Monarch and Little Shrike-thrush before making a number of stops in the eucalypt forest around Charlie’s Waterhole.	OPTION 3 West Cliffs/ Pat’s Bluff circuit (5km, 3½ hr, back for lunch) Rough underfoot in places with some uphill sections). A variety of habitats towards the western escarpment including rainforest, eucalypts and spectacular escarpment that is home to the Peregrine Falcon.	OPTION 4 From Beak to Brush Art workshop with Tamlyn Geiger. Explore bird anatomy, sketch simple forms and bring your birds to life with vibrant colour and personality.
1pm	Lunch		
2pm	OPTION 1 Walk from Moonlight Crag to O’Reilly’s (4km, 3hr) Loose underfoot, uphill sections, medium fitness required) Scenic views over Lost World, with a mix of sclerophyll forest, open country and rainforest.	OPTION 2 Session on wildlife photography with Glen Threlfo. Meet in the Theatrette.	OPTION 3 Booyong Walk to Border Track circuit (1.5km, 2.5 hr, optional extension along the Border Track). Enjoy taking time in one of the productive areas near O’Reilly’s.
6:30pm	Dinner in the Dining Room		
8pm	Night birding (2 hr). Spotlighting around the upper sections of Duck Creek Road looking for Sooty Owl and Marbled Frogmouth.		

Lower Cainbale Creek valley and mountain birding	
6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Villa track area/ campground
7am	Breakfast
8am	Walk down Heartbreaker spur (10km, 8hr. Steep downhill sections and very loose underfoot with rockhopping along Cainbale Creek, high fitness required, travel home by bus). This follows the original route that was used to access the mountain by the O'Reilly family, however there is now no track present. The ridge on the descent consists of dry sclerophyll forest and is a known nesting spot for White-throated Nightjar. Regrowth rainforest with occasional large figs is prevalent along Cainbale Creek, where White-eared Monarch and Little Shrike-thrush are possibilities and Wompoo Fruit-Dove and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove may also be present. Lunch out – walkers to collect individual packed lunches from Discovery Centre.
9am	OPTION 1 Walking the Border Track towards Picnic Rock (3½ hr, up to 4.5km, back for lunch). Beautiful rainforest walk featuring Antarctic Beech and Brush Box with the potential for most local specialities, including Albert's Lyrebird. We return via the same track so you can turn around whenever you want. OPTION 2 Birds and Botany walk with Bill McDonald (1-2km, 3hr, back for lunch) Enjoy a local stroll with Bill for a closer look at the rainforest surrounding O'Reilly's and the birds that call it home.
1pm	Lunch
2pm	OPTION 1 Python Rock Lookout (3km, 3hr, back for lunch) Vehicle drop off and pick up at track start. A wonderful sub-tropical rainforest walk offering a chance to see Paradise Riflebird and Noisy Pitta, with eucalypt forest species near the escarpment. OPTION 2 Duck Creek Road - Shepard's and Kerry Lookout areas (2½ hr, short walks near bus). Seeking eucalypt forest birds such as Red-browed Treecreeper, Varied Sittella, fairy-wrens and a range of other eucalypt-dwelling species.
6:30pm	Bird Count. Meet in the Theatrette to review the bird species spotted during the last two days.
7pm	Dinner in the Dining Room

Clean-up day for missed species sightings and also local options		
6am	Local bird walk (1½ hr) Border Track	
6am	Early Breakfast begins for those on the Canungra Valley bus	
7am	Canungra Valley and beyond bus (approx 9hr, stopping at several waterhole or woodland areas with short walks). The valley ‘clean-up bus’ targeting birds we may have missed in the lowlands. Time is of the essence on this tour so will be prioritising target species. Lunch out – all lunches will be packed onto the bus prior to departure so there is no need for participants to collect them.	
7am	Breakfast	
9am	OPTION 1 Bus departure for Upper Cainbale Falls off-track walk (9km, 8hr; rough terrain, some steep sections, medium fitness required). Follow an old horse-riding trail from Luke’s Farm through Hoop Pine forest to Cainbale Falls, often with little or no water. Traverse eucalypt forest with northerly views, climbing steep sections and crossing rainforest via Belsen’s Ridge to Duck Creek Road for a bus return. Discover varied habitats and birds in a rarely visited part of Lamington. Lunch out: Collect your packed lunch from the Discovery Centre.	OPTION 2 Tree-top Walk and botanic gardens (3hr, back for lunch) Spend some time on the iconic Tree-top Walk and in the regrowth rainforest in the botanic gardens, which offer good viewing conditions with a low and open canopy.
1pm	Lunch	
2pm	OPTION 1 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 habitats.	OPTION 2 Wishing Tree Track (1.5km downhill with bus return, some uneven surfaces, 3hr) Sub-tropical rainforest birding at a relaxed pace. Seeking Paradise Riflebird, Noisy Pitta and a range of other rainforest species.
6:30pm	BBQ Dinner in Pavilion	
	BBQ Dinner in the Pavilion, with final bird count, speeches, reflections and presentation of the prestigious Bird Week Awards. Thank you everyone for being part of a great week!	

Sunday 8th November

Day8

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 any activities on the regular Discovery Centre program take your fancy, please book and attend for these. Be sure to keep a track of your bird sightings for the bird counts.*



50th

Bird Week Celebration

Will you be part of it?

For fifty years, O'Reilly's Bird Week has brought together people who don't just love birds, they care deeply about the forests, habitats and wild places that give them a future. Every call from the canopy, every elusive sighting and every shared discovery is a reminder of how extraordinary these environments are, and how important they are to protect.

In 2027, the O'Reilly family invites you to join us in celebrating 50 remarkable years of Bird Week. Honouring the guides, researchers, guests and birders who have helped shape its story, while looking ahead to the generations who will carry that passion forward.

Be among the first to get notified about the 50th Bird Week Early Bird offer, including a complimentary commemorative Goodie Bag when your package is booked by 30 April 2027.



**Come back to the mountain.
Join the flock. Be part of the 50th.
Register your interest today**





LEADERS & SPEAKERS

1-8 November 2026



Tim O'Reilly
Host

A third-generation family member with over 21 years of guiding experience in Lamington. His 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 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. He will be the main host, MC and leader checking final numbers for all tours during the week.



Dr Ian Gynther
Leader

Ian Gynther is a zoologist and Principal Conservation Officer in the Threatened Species Unit of the Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. He brings extensive knowledge of Australia's vertebrate fauna, particularly Queensland's, informed by fieldwork in Lamington National Park and across the state.

A familiar face at O'Reilly's, Ian has been a leader for 26 Bird Weeks and has also led Frog, Mammal and Wildlife Weeks. He co-edited the fourth edition of *Strahan's Mammals of Australia* and is valued for his remarkable wildlife knowledge.

This year, Ian will share his expertise on selected outings and facilitate the bird counts, maintaining the record of species spotted throughout Bird Week.



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. He 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 and digital resources 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 to be 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. Bill has led numerous Forest Week and Forest Weekend events at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat.



**Professor
Nikolas Haass**
Special Guest Speaker

An experienced pelagic trip leader, he brings a wealth of knowledge about seabird biology, distribution and identification. Alongside his work as Professor of Cutaneous Oncology at the University of Queensland, Nikolas serves on Australian and Queensland bird rarities committees.



LEADERS & SPEAKERS

1-8 November 2026



Glen Threlfo
Guide

Glen started working at O'Reilly's in Bird Week 40 years ago with a bird call workshop and has been working for O'Reilly's as a guide ever since. He has attended nearly all of the Bird Weeks. 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, including much of Australia (particularly the Top End of the Northern Territory) but also Africa, India and Antarctica. Glen's recent work involves filming Peregrine Falcons nesting in Sydney and weaving a new documentary from his catalogue of amazing footage. We hope to see Glen's latest work this week!



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.



Matthew Kelly
Guide

Matthew Kelly originated from the Northern Beaches of Sydney. He has worked as a guide in Waratah National Park near Sydney, Kakadu in the Northern Territory and El Questro in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Matt first became a guide at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in August 2010. He is part of the O'Reilly's Discovery Team as a part-time guide and is our resident e-Bike Guide. He also guides birding groups throughout 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 and cares deeply about. Matt has been slowly discovering sites where our difficult-to-find rarer birds have been hiding out. This should be of interest during Bird Week.



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 Parks and surrounds.