

Forest Weekend

El Nino & the Lamington Rainforest

Leader – Dr Bill McDonald

Bill is an Honorary Research Associate at the Queensland Herbarium, where he spent most of his career before retiring in 2012. One of his first professional tasks, in 1975, was to map the plant communities of the Gold Coast hinterland, which led to a lifelong interest in rainforest floristics and ecology.

He has co-authored a series of publications on rainforest plant identification, culminating in the publication of a digital interactive key to the trees, shrubs and climbers of eastern Australian rainforests. He hopes to provide a deeper understanding of the plant and animal habitats of Lamington National Park and adjacent World Heritage reserves.



Guest Speaker – Ms Melanie Venz

Melanie has been a zoologist with the Queensland Government for almost 30 years, working primarily on projects focusing on biodiversity in relation to habitat condition. With expertise in mammals, reptiles and amphibians, Melanie has also spent time volunteering in PNG and South Africa, and counts helping to shoot a segment of Life in Cold Blood with the incomparable Sir David Attenborough among her career highlights.

She has had a long-term involvement with Green Mountains, serving as a leader at Mammal Weeks and later Wildlife Weeks for 20 years. More recently, she has undertaken threatened reptile research and monitoring projects on the mountain, which will be the focus of Melanie's talk.





Forest Weekend

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Friday 30th October

6pm - Talk by Melanie Venz – Hidden lives of Lamington's lizards”

7pm - Dinner and Welcome to Forest Weekend

Saturday 31st October

9am – Wishing Tree Trail to Moran’s Creek – with Bill McDonald and Melanie Venz – introduction to the cool subtropical rainforest

Introduction to the cool subtropical rainforest.

12:30pm - Bus to Moonlight Crag for Lunch.

Views of upper Albert River (East Branch) and the McPherson Range.

2pm - 5pm - Return to Guest House via Morans Falls Lookout.
Morans Falls Track and the Centenary Track.

7pm - Dinner

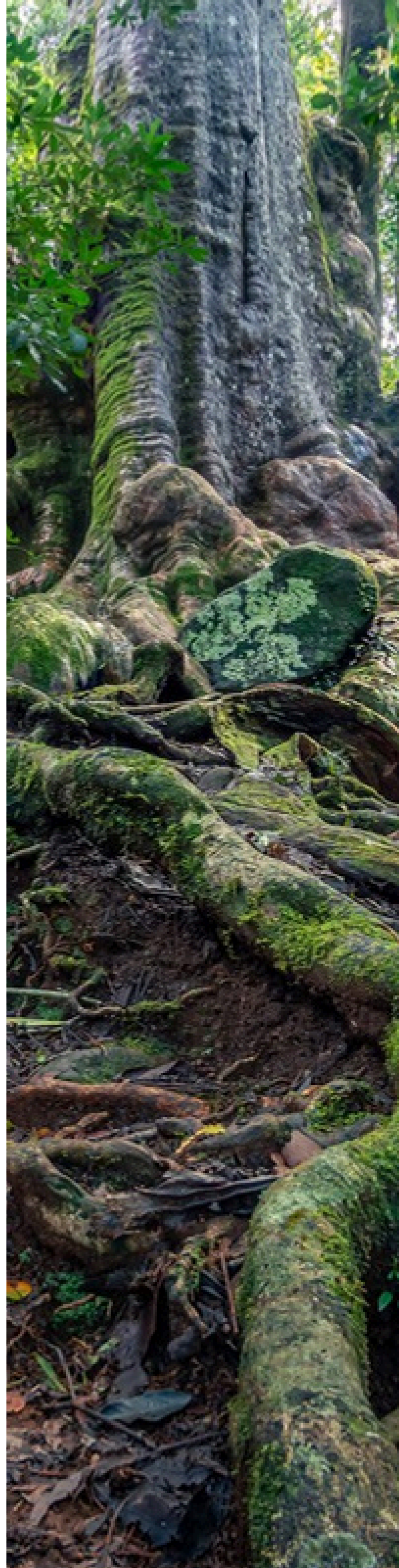
Sunday 1st November

9am - Bus trip along Duck Creek Road to Kurrajong Lookout.
Includes Luke’s Farm and at the boundary between rainforest and eucalypt open forest. Views of Border Ranges, Mt Lindesay and Mt Barney (the Focal Peak volcano).

12:30pm - Lunch

1:30pm – Introduction to identification of rainforest trees, shrubs and climbers.

3pm - Forest Weekend concludes



Forest Weekend

Special Guest Speaker

Ms Melanie Venz

Friday 30th October

@ 6pm

Hidden lives of Lamington's lizards

Special Guest Speaker - Ms Melanie Venz

Lamington National Park is home to more than 50 species of reptiles, including five threatened species. Join us for a glimpse into the secret lives of some of the park's most remarkable and rarely seen skinks. We'll take a shallow dive beneath the leaf litter to uncover what researchers are learning about the elusive three-toed snake-tooth skink (*Coeranoscincus reticulatus*), one of Australia's most cryptic reptiles.

Through time lapse footage and camera trap imagery, we'll also explore the busy world of the forest floor and discover what these technologies reveal about the daily life of Tryon's skink (*Karma tryoni*), a high-altitude specialist found in the Border Ranges. This talk will highlight how modern field techniques are helping us understand and conserve some of Lamington's hidden reptile treasures.

