

# The Drongo

Number 175 August 2024



*Norm Rains*

O'Reilly's Bird  
Week

Ingham  
Delights

Cassowary  
News



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year the weather has impacted on many of our outings. Not only was the Lucinda Summer Shorebird Survey washed out, the Cungulla winter survey was a 'damp' affair. However the few who braved the almost constant drizzle under very grey skies had a great morning.

NQDry Tropics have been successful in getting funding for a two-year project to tackle the paragrass in the Town Common Freshwater Lagoon. Birdlife Townsville will support this project by conducting monthly surveys. The surveys will be conducted during the working week to avoid disruption by cyclists and walkers. Keep an eye on the emails when Wal Threlfall sends out a call for volunteers.

Following a positive response to Mike Griggs' survey to establish interest in campouts, he is requesting members to send him ideas for where and when. Sites with a variety of accommodation options should also be included. Send all your suggestions to Mike on [contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au](mailto:contact@birdlifetownsville.org.au).

Following a forced change to our usual Christmas get-together last year, it was decided to avoid the end of year difficulty in getting a suitable venue and have Christmas in July. It was great fun with Nina's Christmas Trivia. Of course, Nina once again came up with the most obscure trivial Christmas facts. Beth Snewin on behalf of the Afternoon Tea Group, put on a scrumptious, very Christmassy afternoon tea.

*Janet Robino*



YOUR 2024 COMMITTEE		
President:	Janet Robino	Annette Sibson
Secretary:	Wal Threlfall	Mark Horvath
Treasurer:	Nina Doyle	Warren Charlton
		Brigid Glass
		Claire Willard
		Mike Grigg

Newsletter Editor Annette Sibson [annette.sibson@bigpond.com](mailto:annette.sibson@bigpond.com)

Deadline for next Drongo is [October 30<sup>th</sup>](#). Please send articles as Word documents and photos as attachments.  
*The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Birdlife Townsville.*

## O'REILLY'S AUTUMN BIRD WEEK

We were fortunate to attend Autumn Bird Week from 3-8 March, 2024 at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in the Lamington National Park.

And what a great 5 days it was!! Roger and I were among approximately 30 birders who attended, mostly from the south east plus a few from southern states. We were the only North Queenslanders.

It was a busy week: Day 1's programme ran like this:

6.00am: Local Bird Walk

7.30am: Breakfast

9.00am: Moran's Valley (3 hr vehicle based with short walks)

12.30pm: Lunch

2.00pm: Charlies Waterhole/Kamarun Lookout Area (3hrs)

6.00pm: Dinner

8.00pm: Nocturnal Bird Spotlighting

Fortunately, it was wet, so the spotlighting was postponed until Tuesday night when we were lucky to find a Marbled Frogmouth. Once heard, one cannot forget the distinctive snap of the beak following its descending turkey-like gobble.

Each day was busy with organized walks or visits to birding sites further afield. The cost for the 5 days (approx. \$1500pp) included all tours plus our accommodation and meals which were well presented and delicious. Packed lunches, and snacks, were provided on the days we were away from O'Reilly's.



Fortunately, the weather was good overall, with some rain at night or during the days when we just happened to be travelling down the range to Kerry Valley or to the coast around Arundel.

Our guides, Glenn and Barrie are long-time residents of the area so knew where to find the birds, as well as

educating us all about the local flora and fauna. Glenn was the story teller, and kept us entertained with many humorous anecdotes over his many years guiding around O'Reilly's. One incident he related was about a Japanese birder who wanted to see a "horny hogmouth." Glenn could drop spoonerisms easily into his conversation: "we're back at the 'huest gouse', watch out for the 'begent rowerbird', and tomorrow, fellow 'wird batchers,' the bus leaves for the 'cold goast' at 8am.

Monday, Day 1 04/03/24

Before the 6am early morning bird walk, we had already kicked off our week's list with Brush-turkey, Crimson Rosella, King-Parrot, Red-browed Finch, Superb Fairy-wren, White-headed Pigeons and a welcome Bassian Thrush ( or was it a Russet-tailed Thrush? ) out early looking for his breakfast on the grass outside our room. Much debate arose over identifying one from the other before the photographers' photos revealed that the Bassian showed a pale wing bar in flight, absent in the smaller Russet-tailed Thrush. Both were seen regularly during our week, although perhaps not always identified correctly!



*Russet-tailed Thrush*

*Annette Sibson*

The early bird walk took us along the Tree Top walking track. The Yellow-throated and White-browed Scrubwrens kept us entertained hopping about the boardwalk in front of us, hoping for some of the walnut pieces that Glenn carried. The Large-billed Scrubwrens were also flitting about nearby.



*Yellow-throated Scrubwren*

*Mark Horvath*

Glenn has been a regular guide at O'Reilly's for over 40 years. He continued his walks during covid restrictions so that the birds wouldn't forget his perfect bird calls, and his treats. He called in a juvenile Noisy Pitta, and had an Eastern Whipbird and an Eastern Yellow Robin feeding from our hands. It was great to have good views of a female Logrunner also called in by Glenn.

Other more common rainforest sightings on Day 1 included Brown Cuckoo-Doves, Wonga Pigeon, Lewin's Honeyeater, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Spectacled Monarch, Golden Whistler, and the common Eastern Yellow Robins following our group.



Green Catbird Len Ezzy

Day 1 provided my first lifer for the trip: the Paradise Riflebird, spotted feeding young at a nest.

And we were only up to Breakfast on Day 1!! The rest of the day included the morning 3 hour vehicle based trip to Moran's Valley with various stops across diverse habitats such as regrowth rainforest, wet eucalypt forest and the escarpment, and another 3 hour bus based trip to Charlies waterhole and the Kamarun lookout area in the afternoon. We added Yellow Thornbill, Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Topknot Pigeon and Black-faced Monarch to our day's bird list.

Tuesday, Day 2 05/03/24

Today had us on a full day (8am - 5.30pm) birding trip to lower elevations of the scenic valley habitats around Beaudesert and the Kerry Valley. It was a great day out adding Plumed Whistling-Duck, Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Hardhead, Grey Teal, Crested Pigeon, Common Bronzewing, Brown Goshawk, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Brown Falcon, Australian Hobby, Purple Swamphen, Eurasian Coot, Masked Lapwing, Comb-crested Jacana, White-throated, Scarlet, Striped, Brown, Fuscous and Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Tawny Grassbird, Silvereye, Double-barred finch as well as Magpie, Pied Butcherbird, Pied Currawong, Spangled Drongo, Leaden flycatcher, Striated Pardalote, Magpie-lark, and White-throated Gerygone.

The highlight of Day 2 included another lifer for me: Speckled Warbler.

On our return, Satin Bowerbirds and the sought after Regent Bowerbird were hanging about Reception with one

of the guides feeding them. Apparently, the Regent Bowerbirds usually disappear at this time of the year - no one knows where - but, fortunately, a couple of birds were still about. Such a beautiful bird.

We had begun to voice our hopes of seeing the elusive Albert's Lyrebird during the week. They had been spotted so we had our fingers crossed - after all, it was only Tuesday!

Wednesday, Day 3 06/03/24

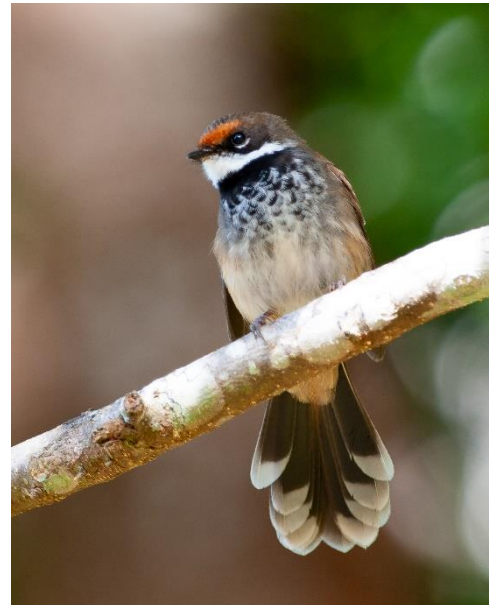
Today was a mountain based birding day visiting sites only accessible by private road, or by foot.

The early morning walk towards the Villas didn't produce any lyrebirds although we had been told they were seen there yesterday - AND, we've all heard that before!!

After breakfast, we were bussed along Duck Creek Road and surveyed around Maries Gate, Kurrajong Lookout and Belson's Road. We were in high eucalypt forest and were excited to spot another lifer: the Red-browed Treecreeper. Very picturesque area.

In the afternoon, we did the 3klm walk to the Python Rock Lookout, and heard the story of the Sabre aircraft which, in 1971, hit two high-tension wires which were strung across the rainforest valley near Binna Burra Lodge. "One wire struck the air intake, slicing over 30cm into both sides of the fuselage before it snapped. The second cable struck the bottom of the windshield and slid upwards until it hit the canopy. The canopy disintegrated, and the wire shaved the top off the pilot's helmet." (3 Squadron RAAF Association) Fortunately, he was able to nurse the aircraft back to Amberley. The pilot lived to fly again, but the aircraft, understandably, did not.

Another lifer, the Green Catbird was spotted on our return walk. Our Paluma resident is the Spotted Catbird. Also Rufous Fantails.



Rufous Fantail Mark Horvath

We popped down the road after dinner to see the amazing Ghost Fungi (*Omphalotus nidiformis*) which only appears through February/March when humidity, rain and warm days provide favourable conditions. It only lasts about 5

days. Its bioluminescence attracts insects – and Giant Panda Snails which we observed eating the fungi.

Bird Count after dinner revealed more people had seen the elusive Lyrebird and, with two days to go, we weren't giving up hope just yet!

Thursday, Day 4, 07/03/24

Barrie took the keen "lyrebird hunters" on an extra 6am bird walk today – we all headed off on different tracks but still no luck!

Another long day, with a bus trip to the coastal areas around Coombabah, Arundel and Emerald Lakes. One has to be fit to keep up the pace with several birders choosing not to take this day trip.

We added more bird sightings to our week's list including egrets, pelicans, cormorants, Magpie geese, Dusky Moorhen.

The final species count for the week was 136 species.

For those of us still hoping to add a lyrebird to the list, Barrie kindly offered to head out AGAIN on our final morning, for those willing and wanting to go.

Friday, Day 5, 08/03/24

Our final day. And the rain came tumbling down at 3am!! NOOOOO!

However, by 6am, it was only brief showers so off we went with about five others still keen to add the endangered Albert's Lyrebird to our list.

Barrie had rounded up a few more "helpers," determined to locate this elusive bird for us. A few more showers had some turn back, but the final few followed down towards the camping grounds. Then we heard it – a loud unfamiliar call made up of different noises. Our guides indicated us to move ahead.



Albert's Lyrebird

Len Ezzy

We tiptoed along the track and spotted a female bird fluttering down from its night roost and dash across the track. A quick glimpse, and no time for a photo. We watched and waited, and carefully clambered down "off track" towards a dense vine thicket. Our patience was rewarded with further sightings as the female scratched about in the leaf litter. Finally – and another lifer!

The perfect ending to a great week at O'Reilly's.

Wendy Kaus

## INGHAM DELIGHTS

In early May, Beth and I, having decided we would enjoy a weekend away from the woes and cares of our busy lives (me visiting Doctors and Beth working her good deeds for others), headed for Ingham to add some new birds to our Quest lists. The first port of call was Jourama National Park, but apart from a plethora of Peaceful Doves, there was very little bird life showing or calling. We did manage to see a Northern Fantail, 3 Varied Trillers, a Spectacled Monarch and a Lemon-bellied Flycatcher, while enjoying the peaceful ambiance and our coffee and cake.



Spectacled Monarch

Mark Horvath

Masters Road – not a Duck in sight, but wait – 2 Green Pygmy-geese paddling happily in the water-lilies and Jacanas for Elna. Crimson and Chestnut-breasted Finches also showed. Turning right at the Pinnacles Road sign, we headed for The Orient. The usual cattle-studded road with a couple of very rocky crossings, provided us with 4 lovely Jabirus, a lone Pelican, Pipits, Australasian Grebes, a couple of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, various Egrets and 1 Brolga, as well as a few other common ones. We enjoyed our egg sandwiches while sitting under the shade of the gums at the end of the road, before heading into town to our Motel for a rest.

Later, having regained some energy, we walked to the Tyto Wetlands, hoping for some new species, but the only ones of interest were Brown-backed Honeyeaters, a Yellow Honeyeater, a Darter and more Green Pygmy-geese. For dinner, it was Chinese Takeaway which we enjoyed with our wine in the Motel room.

Sunday looked wet, but Broadwater National Park was on our list, so off we went. The gravel section of road closest to the Park was extremely pot-holed, rutted and wet, and we met a few campers who had decided enough rain was enough, so were heading out. It was with surprise therefore, to see the tents in the Park overflowing into the day use area, where many families with young kids were enjoying themselves in the now fine but cloudy weather. Birds were extremely scarce and we walked around for hours, peering hopefully into trees and listening intently for their presence. The best finds were Yellow-spotted and Dusky Honeyeaters, another Spectacled Monarch and a Pale-yellow Robin.

We drove back to town, and headed for Forest Beach, where a couple of Kestrels sitting on light poles and a Brown Falcon were also added to our bird lists.

On Monday morning, after eating and packing up, we went to the Tyto Information Centre walkway to find the

Yellow Orioles which were calling constantly and also found a Rufous Whistler, lots of White-gaped Honeyeaters and more Green Pygmy-geese. Of course the ubiquitous Willy-Wagtails and Forest Kingfishers adorned fences and power lines wherever we drove. Next, we drove to Taylor's Beach for one of those halcyon days with a cool breeze, bright blue sky, blue sea, no sand-flies or mosquitoes and BIRDS. At last, there were birds aplenty, with a Brahminy Kite circling, an Osprey diving successfully for a fish and a Beach Stone-curlew crossing the road from the mangroves to the beach as the tide was ripping out.



*Beach Stone-Curlew*

*Len Ezzy*

Later, with the sandbars getting exposed, we were pleased to see many Waders which had not yet returned to their nesting grounds. There were a few hundred Great Knots, Grey-tailed Tattlers, Sand-plovers, Godwits, Whimbrel and an Eastern Curlew which were the ones we could identify. The Beach Stone-curlew was also there feeding on the scabbling soldier crabs decorating the sand. What a delightful morning's birding.



*Grey-tailed Tattler*

*Annette Sibson*

However, it was time to move, so off to Lucinda for the Crested Terns, Bush Stone-curlews and a delicious feed of fish and chips from the local shop near the beach. There was nothing of interest at the Boat jetty, so we called it a day and returned to our own nests in Townsville, after what was a very pleasant and rewarding long weekend in Ingham.

*Elna Kerswell*

## COLOUR BANDING BLACK-THROATED FINCHES in the Townsville coastal plains

JCU is leading a research project to better understand the ecology of the endangered Southern Black-throated Finch in the Townsville region. Led by Lyanne Brouwer and supported by BirdLife Townsville and Birds Queensland, the project builds on the PhD research of Juliana Rechetelo which is now almost a decade old. We recently set our first mist nets, managing to capture three birds which were fitted with coloured leg bands before being released to rejoin their fellows. This ongoing work will help us better understand the distribution, habitat use, spatial requirements, and nesting ecology of these characterful birds, which have disappeared from more than 80% of their former range since the 1970s.

You can help us help the finches by keeping an eye out for banded birds. There will also be targeted surveys in the coming months—stay tuned. For more information and to report sightings of banded birds, please contact Claire Willard (Research Assistant): [claire.willard@my.jcu.edu.au](mailto:claire.willard@my.jcu.edu.au).



*Both photographs by Lyanne Brouwer*

## YES, THERE ARE CASSOWARIES IN PALUMA

A multi-year study of the cassowary across Paluma Range is underway and has returned some exciting early results with images of at least 7 individual birds so far. On the tail end of the Wet Tropics, the Paluma Range holds the most southern population of these iconic, cryptic, assertive and very cool birds. These ancient ratites are the original rainforest gardeners, having evolved to their current form **50 million years ago!** They have spent that valuable time in symbiosis with the rainforest, consuming the fruits and dispersing the seeds of rainforest plants. They depend on the rainforest and the rainforest depends on them.



*Southern Cassowary with 2 stripy young*

Having lost a majority of their rich fruiting lowland rainforest habitat to human endeavours, sadly, our much-loved Southern Cassowary is an endangered species. Some inhabit poorer fruiting high altitude forests and those that remain on the lowlands are susceptible to road strike, dog attack, pig competition and the challenges of habitat fragmentation.



*Two young sub-adult Southern Cassowary*

We can rejoice that cassowaries are breeding in the Paluma Range with a pair of stripy chicks accompanying their Papa in November and two young sub-adults travelling together in December 2023.

We know cassowaries here are in low density but was this always the case? More information will help us put the pieces of the jigsaw together to understand their seasonal habitat use, whether there are threats we don't understand and actions we can take to secure cassowaries for the long-term?

There's cassowaries in dem dere hills, but are they using the lowlands and coastal vine thickets? A citizen science program is calling out for any historical or current

sightings or signs of cassowaries from on, or below the Paluma Range

Please record your sightings on this URL

<https://arccg.is/1vjLaq> or by scanning the this QR code.



You are also invited to join the second Cassowary Citizen Science Survey Camp Out on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>--3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. Keep an eye on the BirdLife NQ website for a booking link.

*Wren McLean*

## BARN OWL

There was a lot of screaming and calling and flying back and forth in our court this morning. I went out to look and there were Bower birds, Magpies and Blue-faced Honeyeaters carrying on a treat. The action was in a neighbour's palm tree. I wandered down to take a look and found a Barn Owl, perched on a seed pod. He wasn't taking too much notice of his critics and just stared down at me.

I went back to the house to get the camera. When I came back out the fuss had subsided and I thought I'd missed my chance for a photograph but he was still there.



A nice visitor to have.

*Annette Sutton*

## Crossword answers

Answers to last issue crossword clues from May 2004

Reddish brown colour (6 letters) RUFIOUS

A Cuckoo is one (8 letters) PARASITE

A diving waterbird (5 letters) GREBE

I'm sure these presented no problem to any of you.

## COLLARED SPARROWHAWK STANDOFF

I was stuck at home with a foot injury and feeling a bit frustrated at not being able to get out and about. Hearing a bit of commotion in the garden, I 'hobbled' out to the backyard to investigate. Maybe the Boobook had decided to return after over a year's absence. What I did find was an army of little birds obviously trying to chase something off. There were Mistletoebirds, Olive-backed Sunbirds, Brown and White-gaped Honeyeaters, Leaden Flycatcher, Grey Fantail and surprisingly, a female Rufous Whistler – first one I've seen in the garden. The little fellows were joined by a Spangled Drongo and a Blue-faced Honeyeater.

Eventually the racket chased a Collared Sparrowhawk out of the garden and onto the power pole out the front. The assault continued for several more minutes. The Sparrowhawk sat on its perch seemingly ignoring the whole carry on. Eventually a Willy Wagtail joined in. This was the last straw for the Sparrowhawk. It took off with the persistent Willy Wagtail hot on its tail.

*Janet Robino*

## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RED-BACKED FAIRY-WREN

This local breeding resident, is a member of the Maluridae family of small insectivorous passerines endemic to Australia and New Guinea, composed of fairy-wrens, emuwrens and grasswrens. With a mass of 6-10 grams (a few crumbs short of half an Arnott's Scotch Finger biscuit), the Red-backed Fairy-wren is the smallest in the Maluridae family. The name being derived from the Greek *malos*, meaning 'soft or delicate', which, when combined with the Greek *oura* (meaning 'tail'), makes the literal translation 'soft/delicate-tailed (family)'. There are 24 species in this family in Australia, organized into three genera: *Malurus* which contains the Fairy-wrens; *Stipiturus* which contains the Emuwrens and *Amytornis* which contains the Grasswrens.



The Red-backed Fairy-wren's binominal name is *Malurus melanocephalus*, pronounced mal-OO-rus me-la-no-SE-fa-lus.

The genus name *Malurus* has the same roots as the family name (as described above), with the specific name having its origin in the Greek word *melanocephalos*, itself derived from two Greek words *mela* 'black' and *kephale*, 'head'. The resultant literal English translation of the scientific name is therefore Black-headed (bird) with a delicate tail. The official common name for this bird is the Red-backed Fairy-wren, because most breeding males have an obvious red, crimson or sometimes orangey mid-body saddle almost entirely hidden by the mainly jet black (or in some cases, dark brown) wing and body feathers. You will note that there is no mention of the coloured 'saddle' (Red-backed) in the scientific name of this bird. The bright saddle of the male is exposed and fluffed up during his vigorous shivering courtship display aimed at impressing the females.

As a general rule, especially in the breeding season, pairs, families, parties and companies (up to 40 individuals recorded) frequently contain a mixture of black and red adult males together with an array of light brown birds, the maturity and gender of which may be difficult to determine at first glance, because of their similarity of appearance. Included in this light-brown group are both immature and adult females as well as immature males, and surprisingly, males capable of breeding in spite of not transitioning to the common black/red combination described above. Breeding males of this light-brown class usually develop black beaks which is a quick way of separating the sexes within this group. Apparently, all other non-breeding light brown birds, regardless of gender, act as helpers to the breeding pairs in the breeding season.



*Annette Sibson*

Males moult prior to the breeding season (November to March locally) to transition to the black/red plumage we have come to know so well, and also back to the eclipse plumage at the end of the season, where they take on the same light brown appearance as the females. Sometimes males may be seen during their moult looking quite 'moth-eaten', with splashes of red/black either replacing or giving way to the pale brown of the dull eclipse plumage, depending on the time of year. Obviously, the plumage colouration of these birds can be confusing in that not all breeding males are black and red and not all light brown birds are females. Incidentally, research into the breeding habits of these birds reveals that both sexes are highly promiscuous.



Earlier this year I was lucky enough to experience two rewarding close encounters with Red-backed Fairy-wrens. The first was at Cromarty Siding Road in company with my birding mate Pete Johnson. The initial sighting was of a lone male bird in full black/red breeding regalia posing nicely on a gate post about two metres distant. Within a few seconds a single female appeared but unfortunately for us, she quickly dropped into the grass and was not seen again on that occasion. The male bird obliged us by quite unhurriedly moving around the site, posing in various stances but gradually drawing us away from where we first saw the pair near the gate post. After capturing some 'keeper' images we quietly left the scene, agreeing that there may have been a nest nearby, as this event occurred in the breeding season.

The male's behaviour was similar to that of other species, that try to lure interlopers away from nesting sites using this ruse or others such as the tried and true 'broken-wing' trick.

My second recent notable encounter with Red-backed Fairy-wrens occurred along Gunnado Rd, Woodstock, where the unmown roadside grass seedheads were taller than most property fences. Cruising slowly along this area I noticed a lone male Red-backed Fairy-wren on the top wire of a fence. I stopped, retrieved my camera from the passenger seat and fired off a few shots, unfortunately the results marred by focus problems resulting from the stiff breeze movement of the tall seedheads.



After a few seconds a female appeared and sidled up to the male which immediately commenced to peck softly at her neck. The effect was immediate and interesting as she puffed up her head feathers and began to softly peck at the males neck in response. This canoodling went on for some seconds after which the male went into full display mode, vibrating his body to show off the red saddle to best advantage. The courtship display came to an end shortly after, when both birds dropped suddenly down into the grass for some other secret private business no doubt.

Up until this last breeding season (ending in March 2024), I was under the false impression that the males reached breeding maturity on obtaining their characteristic Black/red plumage and remained so for the rest of their lives. Not only that, but I also believed that all of the little brown birds of this species were females. After perusing and hopefully absorbing the results of research kindly provided by BirdLife Townsville's Mike Grigg, I now

have a greater understanding of the biology of this species and a greater appreciation of another of nature's wonders, the Red-backed Fairy-wren.

*Norm Rains*

## THE KITE AND THE EGG

During the April Ross River Dam Survey, we spotted a Whistling Kite eating something on the ground. As we approached it was clear it was an egg. After a lot of discussion, we all decided that it was most likely a Magpie Goose egg. Scattered nearby was the remnants of several other eggs. As we were trying to work out just how the Kite managed to carry the egg from the nest, Mark spotted a Torresian Crow flying overhead with a large egg in its mouth. Did the Crow drop the egg or did the Kite win the battle to get the egg?



*Janet Robino*

## BIRDS WITH ALTITUDE

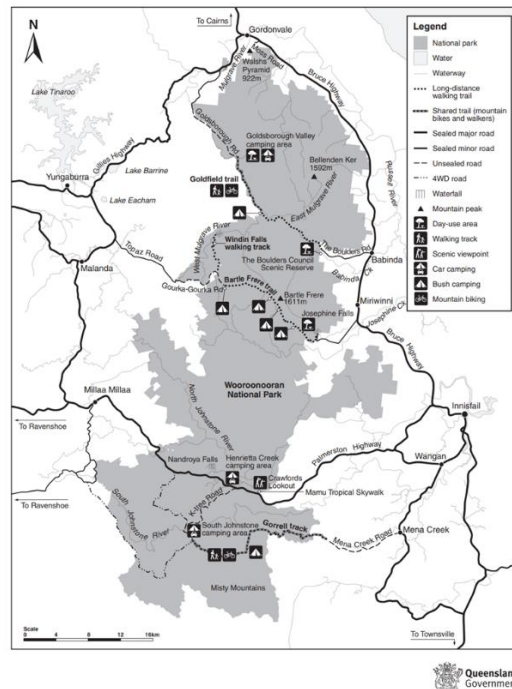
### Campout Weekend Friday 23 - Sunday 25 August 2024

**When:** 23-25 August 2024

**Where:** South Johnstone Forestry Camp, Misty Mountains section of Wooroonooran National Park.

**Directions:** K Tree Road off the Palmerston Highway is about 25km from Millaa Millaa or 30km from the junction of the Palmerston and Bruce Highways, near Innisfail (see map below). Turn into K Tree Road and travel for 12.3 km to reach the campground.

Wooroonooran National Park map



**To register for the campout or if you would like further information,** contact Ceri by phone (0488 131 581) or via email (ceridwen.pearce@bigpond.com).

#### Further information

As the name suggests, South Johnstone Forestry Camp is next to the picturesque South Johnstone River. The campground includes three sheltered picnic tables and two compost toilets. We will also have access to the small screened forestry hut which has bench tables and chairs, and amenities (toilet and cold shower). There is no electricity.

#### Self sufficiency

There is no power, and the nearest petrol station or shop is about 40km away, so please come fuelled up, prepared to camp and to be totally self-sufficient - shelter (tent, car etc), food, cooking, lighting, protective clothing, medications, first aid, etc - the usual requirements for bush camping.

The Misty Mountains is a lush area of Wooroonooran National Park, so be prepared for rain (just in case). When the sun comes out it is glorious.

#### Birdata BWA surveys

If you would like to participate in the Birds With Altitude (BWA) Challenge Competition or just survey recording, then this campout is your opportunity. One person per survey will record the survey data into Birdata. This can be rotated to ensure everyone has an opportunity if they wish it. But to participate, you must have downloaded Birdata onto your phone and set it up before you come, there is little phone coverage in the Misty Mountains. Go to Birdata at <http://birdata.birdlife.org.au>. Don't forget a battery pack to charge up your phones.

#### Phone coverage

Phone coverage is absent to poor in most of the Misty Mountains area.

**Access**

Four wheel drive is required to access some high altitude sites. We will carpool to access those sites. Access to the campground and other survey sites is possible in 2WD vehicles with care.

**Entry and exit**

Entry to and exit from the campground is via K Tree Road.

Bora Ground Road and Maalan Track (see map) remain closed to the public. We have been granted access to safe areas on these roads, as well as the high altitude sites. Since various gates need to be unlocked and relocked, we will coordinate entry and exit, so please register to attend so we can include you in our access plans.

**Draft Plan**

Date	Time	Activity
Friday 23 August	Around midday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet at South Johnstone Forestry Camp, set up camp, lunch and relax</li> </ul>
	2 - 5 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group briefing followed by birding and BWA surveys.</li> </ul>
August	After 5 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return to base. Enjoy a relaxing evening drink by the river, and then dinner (self catered) at the forestry hut.</li> </ul>
Saturday 24 August	Times and locations tba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latecomers join us at South Johnstone Campground and set up camp, explore and bird locally, until the team returns.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social evening (self catered), and the join us for a fun Trivia night</li> </ul>
Sunday 25 August	7 - 7.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birding and BWA surveys in the morning.</li> <li>Then pack up camp and travel home at your leisure.</li> </ul>

**Key Contact**

To register attendance at the campout or if you would like further information don't hesitate to call Ceri by phone (0488 131 581) or contact via email ([ceridwen.pearce@bigpond.com](mailto:ceridwen.pearce@bigpond.com)).

**Risk assessment**

All participants are advised to review the risk assessment. See the Birds With Altitude Manual:

[https://www.birdlifeng.org/files/ugd/003377\\_217b0b81f3184cb48b8d55ecfafacd36.pdf](https://www.birdlifeng.org/files/ugd/003377_217b0b81f3184cb48b8d55ecfafacd36.pdf)

**More resources for background**

- Birds With Altitude presentation: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/161jVfskftz8Qdzls79hRrNUCbWqsScv-/view>

Images of South Johnstone Forestry Camp and local access road.



## Quest as at August 10 2024

Mark Hovarth	291	17/10/2024
Pat Charlton	224	11/08/2024
Warren Charlton	219	6/08/2024
Wal Threlfall	226	13/08/2024
Annette Sibson	206	24/07/2024
Jill Staunton	85	25/03/2024
Janet Robino	266	22/09/2024
Annette Sutton	85	25/03/2024
Elna Kerswell	234	21/08/2024
Wendy Kaus	233	20/08/2024
Anne Lawrance	282	8/10/2024
Mike Grigg	308	3/11/2024
Chris Corbett	224	11/08/2024
Barbara Reidy	182	30/06/2024
Brigid Glass	130	9/05/2024
Julie Goldsbury	58	27/02/2024
Ian Leach	172	20/06/2024
Colton Tinkey	80	20/03/2024
Norm Rains	106	15/04/2024
Beth Snewin	241	28/08/2024
Marlene Acton	79	19/03/2024



Albert's Lyrebird

Len Ezzy



Albert's Lyrebird

Len Ezzy