



THE CAIRNS FROGMOUTH

*All correspondence to: cairnsbirders@yahoo.com.au
or connect with us on [Facebook](#).*

As we take our next step, let us remember the first people to walk this land.

Cairns Birders is a group of people who share common interests. We are not a club. There is no leader. Those joining in any outings/activities are expected to follow the 'common space' expectations and do so at their own risk. NO trespassing on habitat or private property.

EVENTS:

Sunday 21st June	7:30 Behana Gorge Meet cnr Bruce Hwy and Behana Gorge Rd LINK
Sunday 21st June	ECOFIESTA 10 - 4pm Munro Martin Parkland
Sunday 28th June	TBA - Winfield Park, Malanda LINK
Cairns Birders' Festival	Friday 28th August - Saturday 5th September 30th August - Michaelmas Cay - book now - see below 1st September - Daintree evening cruise - book now - see below 2nd September - Daintree morning cruise - book now - see below
Starry starry night	12 September - Tablelands - more info to come ...
Cairns Birders' Epic Excursion	October 2026 TANZANIA FULL

ONLINE SHOP

Cairns Birders merchandise

Look out for sales

All designs are available as car stickers, caps, T-shirts, cushions, aprons, telephone covers and many many other options.

All profits from sales of images displaying "Cairns Birders" go to Cairns Birders for miscellaneous expenses. [Redbubble Store](#)

Art by Yorx Trooley





CAIRNSBIRDERS.COM

IS LIVE!

Go ahead and have a look - but here's the fine print!

This is still a work in progress. There are plans for future updates and enhancements. Your comments and feedback are welcome.

One of the primary objectives has been to simplify the process of sending out 700+ emails with The Cairns Frogmouth attached. You would have noticed last week that there was no "attachment", instead there was a link, generated by this website.

Hopefully, from next week, you'll all receive a totally new look, easy to follow email from info@cairnsbirders.com (we'll transfer existing contacts over to the new domain)

Now, because it is a new email, it may end up in your *SPAM* folder - to avoid that you could add it to your "safe senders" list. Google how to do that with your particular provider eg *how to add email to a safe list for gmail - or hotmail - or ...*

HUGE thanks to **David Lyons** and **Clayton Smith** from **Kingfisher Birding**, who overheard discussions about 'the future' of Cairns Birders and have put their hands up to give back to this wonderful community. Bravo! Remember those names, they have something else up their sleeves too!!

We woke before dawn, but already the prospects were bleak. The ambient light gave a glow to the moisture in the air, and behind that, somewhere, lay the as-yet dark horizon. I'm not a coffee aficionado, but I am a fan of coffee being a part of my breakfast routine. And so it was, half an hour later on the balcony with food and coffee, that the sky began clearing. It lit up in tones of yellow and orange as the last of the waning moon, just a slither, rose in the east. Yeah, I can do this!



Sean Han

Sean and I were the first to arrive, yet we were not alone. Down on the bank of Chinaman's Creek, 50 metres away, a loud party was in full swing. The music kept us entertained while we waited for the rest of the gang. It was a good-natured gathering; they even turned the music down and exchanged friendly greetings as our group passed by.



Sacred Kingfisher

Patrick Howlett

Walking along the mangroves, we started our birding. Lots of **Brown Honeyeaters** were calling and flitting about, alongside a few **Yellow Honeyeaters**, **Mistletoebirds**, **Sahul Sunbirds**, and **Sacred Kingfishers** showing well in the sunlight.

We followed the path and crossed several bridges. A **Little Heron** down on the water's edge, while the forested banks proved to be home to **Black Butcherbirds**, **Spangled Drongos**, and **Helmeted Friarbirds**. Soon, the trees gave way to tall Gamba Grass - an introduced species, but one much loved by the local seed-eaters. Today, we only saw **Scaly-breasted Munias** taking advantage of the feast.



Brown Honeyeater

Shane Kennedy



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike Peter Manins

The stables themselves are **Rock Dove** heaven - an ethnic enclave, if you like - where other introduced species like the **Common Myna** and **House Sparrow** dominate, forcing the locals out. However, a gully running through the middle allowed some native residents to hold onto their patch, including **Australian White Ibis** and at least 18 [Radjah Shelducks](#).

Near the entrance to the stables, we encountered light rain, which brought with it one of the most intense rainbows I have ever seen. All the colours were visible, presenting a full arc from one pot of gold to the other. Even the secondary reflection rainbow was visible, with its colours reversed. It was a little bit of magic.



Radjah Shelduck Chris Rappolt



White-throated Honeyeater Mia Morris

We walked on towards the racetrack. **Great, Plumed, and Cattle Egrets** were spread across the moist paddocks, while the trees offered excellent views of **White-throated Honeyeaters, Rainbow Lorikeets**, and a **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**.

Taking a detour up one of the creeks, Daniel caught a flash of a **Little Kingfisher**, and Chris spotted a couple of **Azure Kingfishers** darting upstream. **Australian Figbirds** and **Blue-faced Honeyeaters** were here too.

By the time we returned to the start, the party was over. Our luck might have been over too, but a pair of **Torresian Kingfishers** put on a bit of a show, and we managed to spot another **Little Kingfisher**. Kingfishers were easily the feature of the day, with six species making the list: **Laughing Kookaburra, Forest, Sacred, Azure, Little, and Torresian!**

Who'd have thought the day would pan out like this? Hmmm, is it time for another coffee?!



Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Nankeen Kestrel, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Blue-faced Honeyeater, White-throated Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Striated Pardalote, Large-billed Gerygone, Black-faced Cuckooshrike, Varied Triller, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Black Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Spangled Drongo, Magpie-lark, Welcome Swallow, Fairy Martin, Metallic Starling, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Sahul Sunbird, Scaly-breasted Munia, House Sparrow



Radjah Shelduck, Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), Spotted Dove, Peaceful Dove, Bar-shouldered Dove, Australian Swiftlet, Masked Lapwing, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Little Heron, Eastern Cattle-Egret, Great Egret, Plumed Egret, Rainbow Bee-eater, Azure Kingfisher, Little Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Forest Kingfisher, Torresian



Cairns Botanic Gardens - Tuesday's Guided Bird Walk: Shane Kennedy

*This walk is free and open to all. It is part of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens program of activities.
7:30 Tuesday mornings. [Meet near the 'Friends' office, near the Conservatory.](#)*



Sean and I arrived well ahead of time, yet we found Denis already entertaining a dozen or so people who were ready to go. They kept arriving.

"At what point," asked Denis, "do we break into two groups?"



Last night I got a message from a friend in Kenya: "Whatever happened to Kevin Mlay?"

I was introduced to Kevin back in my Kenya days in the 1990s and was asked if I could provide some encouragement. He was young, interested in birds and guiding, and a pleasure to be around. In time, he became one of the leading lights of bird tourism in Tanzania. He guided a group I took over there in 2017 and it was great to catch up with him again. A couple of years later, he was gone, taken by cancer.

Remembered, not forgotten. Here's to you, Kevin.



We set off as one group with a little over 30 people, but latecomers caught up, taking our numbers to 40. I won't mention all the names, but we had 19 locals, 15 interstate visitors and 6 from overseas. The large numbers kind of works, with the group stretching out in small clusters as we walk, like beads on an elastic string, then reforming whenever we stop along the way.



We reached the pagoda. **Rainbow Bee-eaters** flew graceful arcs over the water, **Welcome Swallows** skimmed the surface, while **Australian Swiftlets** and **White-breasted Woodswallows** owned the sky above. Behind us, in the flowering bauhinia, **Sahul Sunbirds** flashed in and out of view. Then came what we'd been waiting for: a **Little Kingfisher** that flew across the lake.

Freshwater Lake was our first significant stop. The peninsula was serving as a safe haven for a flock of **Magpie Geese**, with a **Darter** standing off to one side. Across on the island, a **Little Pied Cormorant** was drying out on the shore and a pair of **Radjah Shelducks** sat high in a paperbark. **Moriarty**, the dumped domestic duck, was on the path and uttered soft quacks as we passed. He's teamed up with a couple of **Pacific Black Ducks**, and they too sat quietly on the edge of the path, taking courage from their big friend.



Down at the lake's overflow there was a **Little Heron**, a **Great Egret** and two **Nankeen Night Herons** positioned to take advantage of anything the "sushi train" had to offer. This can be a real hotspot and today it was Jake's turn to strike gold, managing to see an **Azure Kingfisher** as well.

On the other side of Saltwater Creek, Lois and I inspected the fig tree. Plenty of fruit, but no birds - until a pair of **Double-eyed Fig-Parrots** flew out. How do they do that? Sit in a tree eating and yet remain completely hidden? Nearby, in the mangroves, a **Large-billed Gerygone** sang continuously. It wouldn't sit still but popped in and out of view.

There was a dearth of honeyeaters at *Lerp Lane*, but we had good views of **Green Orioles** and glimpses of **Sahul Cicadabirds**. Our local cicadabirds make a call like a reversing truck, but these sounded more like the rasping calls of birds on the Tablelands. Perhaps they are visitors.

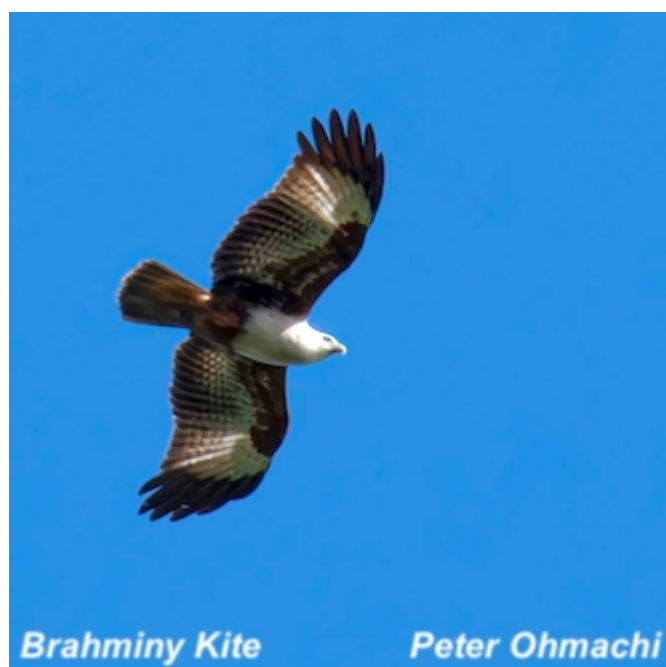
Down at the White Cedar were a **Sacred Kingfisher** and a **Mistletoebird**, and while we were watching them a **Brahminy Kite** flew overhead. Peter O got the shot!



We ended up with 45 species for the day, some heard only, so it was quite a good morning. And yes, we were a large group, which is always challenging for birding, but more visitors than ever before made a point of coming up afterwards and expressing their thanks.

We must be doing something right.

Kevin would have approved.



Magpie Goose, Pacific Black Duck, Muscovy Duck x Mallard (hybrid), Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Megapode, Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Sahul Brush Cuckoo, Australian Swiftlet, Bush Stone-curlew, Masked Lapwing, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis, Nankeen Night Heron, Little Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, Pacific Baza, Brahminy Kite, Rainbow Bee-eater, Azure Kingfisher, Little Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, Large-billed Gerygone, Varied Triller, Sahul Cicadabird, Green aka Yellow Oriole, Australasian Figbird, White-breasted Woodswallow, Black Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Spangled Drongo, Magpie-lark, Leaden Flycatcher, Welcome Swallow, Metallic Starling, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Sahul Sunbird

Mareeba is one of those places where you can head out at almost any time of day and still find something incredible. We regularly come across amazing wildlife, but this trip was something special.

Within the first hour of our birding adventure, we had already recorded more than 15 species along a single road. Highlights included a **Blue-winged Kookaburra**, and my very first **Wedge-tailed Eagle**. What made the sighting even more memorable was when a second Wedge-tailed Eagle appeared, turning the encounter into an aerial showdown. Watching two of Australia's largest raptors interacting high above us was truly breathtaking and felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

*Wedge-tailed Eagle**Mia Morriss**Blue-winged Kookaburra**Mia Morriss*

Along with Three **Australian Bustards** that seemed more than happy to pose for the camera. It felt as though every turn revealed another memorable encounter, making the day even more rewarding.

By the end of it all, I could confidently call the trip a success. Days like this are a wonderful reminder of why Mareeba is such a special destination for birdwatching and wildlife photography.

*Pale-headed Rosella**Mia Morriss*

CATTANA WETLANDS



TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Saturday 20th June, 9am

A smorgasbord of information presented by specialist Jabiru guides. Your tour includes evolution, history and management of the Wetlands; viewing 'possum boxes' with a pole camera and bird watching with a telescope from our jetty. Return via the boardwalk through the Feather Palm Forest.

Meet in the carpark at 9am

Wear good walking shoes and bring bug spray!

Festival: Daintree River Boatman 1st AND 2nd September

Daintree River Boatman

- 1st September 4pm evening cruise - 9 people (4 available)
- 2nd September 7am dawn cruise - 9 people (only 2 available)
- **Book Direct - text or email - 0417 651 929 - <https://www.daintreerivertours.com.au/>**
- Cairns Birders special price of \$60/person is extended to all other cruises during the festival, just mention "Cairns Birders Festival" when booking.

Festival: Michaelmas Cay Cruise Sunday 30th August

Seastar is hosting another Birders Only Michaelmas Cay cruise. Must book and pay before Sunday, July 26. As we cater for a small group of 36 passengers we do recommend booking ahead to save disappointment. (13 of 36 already booked)

Full Day at Michaelmas - Included in your day is:

- Unlimited island time
- Island circumnavigation depends on weather and tides.
- Morning and afternoon tea, Lunch
- Glass Bottom boat tour
- Snorkel equipment
- Guided snorkel tour

All for the special price of \$228 per person.

We are seeking expressions of interest of any who would like to travel. To book please phone us with payment by Visa or MasterCard on (07) 4041 6218.

We require Full Names, Email Address and phone number of all passengers.

ECOFIESTA 21st June 2026 @ Munro Martin Parklands, Cairns

ECOFIESTA			
Set up 8:30 - 10:00	Paul Fisk, set up	Shane Kennedy	Denis Moeser
10:00 - 11:00	Peter Manins	Vishy, Ceri Pearce	Denis Moeser
11:00 - 12:00	Peter Manins	Tricia, Ceri Pearce	Denis Moeser
12:00 - 14:00	Scott Ritchie	Tricia Gates	Denis Moeser
14:00 - 15:30	Denis Walls		Denis Moeser
Packing up 15:30 -	Paul Fisk	Shane Kennedy	Denis Moeser

Contact Denis W on 0434 279 552 if you'd like to volunteer for more info.

Rowdy's Ramblings:

Bird song and music: [The Woody Woodpecker Song](#)

Cairns Birders' Archives are now available for a mere \$5 each including postage. The flash-drive contains more than **830 newsletters** and related articles going back some **27 years** and you can update it yourself as each new newsletter appears. Simply SMS your postal address to Rowdy B on 0406 068 295 and promise to buy him a beer someday. Remember, if you want to contribute to Cairns Birders funds, consider taking your cans and bottles to a recycling point near you and direct the funds to the account below. Alternatively, meet us on our **'first outing of the month' Centenary Lakes or Cattana Wetlands** and **hand over your empties to Rowdy.** CAIRNS BIRDERS Containers for Change Account C10211514.

Letters:

Dear Birders

Are there any of you interested in crows, especially anyone caring for one.

I am keen to befriend them in the wild

Cheers from Kamerunga Bruce Zell

Thanks for another jam-packed issue! I had no prob clicking on THE LINK.

Will you continue to offer this click-on thing? (Yes, the link will remain a feature) Or must I cut & paste onto a web browser??? I don't think I have a web browser. I don't know what a web browser looks like or where I'd find it. Any hints??? (ahhh, That link above will open the document in a browser automatically. Google is a popular browser.) Jeanette McInnes

Thanks for the past emails with the newsletter attached. The link in the email for the newsletter worked and I have already downloaded it.

Many thanks. Linda.

Extra Extra - read all about it!

Incredibly simple tip to prevent birds flying into window [LINK](#)

Editor's tip: consider black lines, less visible for us.

Which of these is the
Western Yellow Robin?



Last week's quiz:

- A) Eastern Spinebill
- B) Western Spinebill



Norty Corner

