



THE CAIRNS FROGMOUTH

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

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 12th July	7:30 Redden Island Meet at the end of bitumen, Cinderella St, Machans Beach
Sunday 19th July	7:30 Little Mulgrave Turn onto Little Mulgrave Rd, meet by the river 200m in. LINK
Cairns Birders' Festival	Friday 28th August - Saturday 5th September 30th August - Michaelmas Cay - book now - see below 1st September - Daintree evening cruise - FULL 2nd September - Daintree morning cruise - FULL
Starry starry night	12 September - Tablelands - see below for details
Cairns Birders' Epic Excursion	October 2026 TANZANIA FULL

ONLINE SHOP

Cairns Birders merchandise

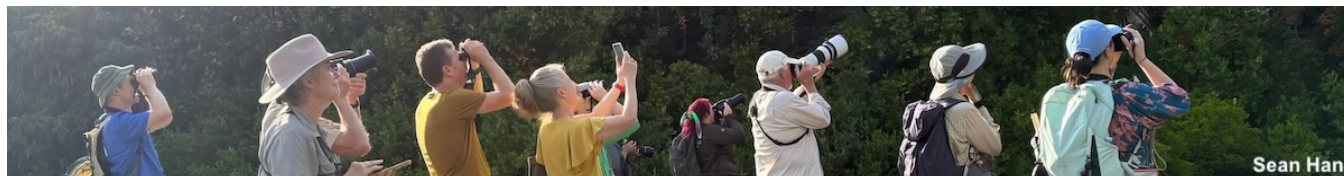
40% off atm.

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

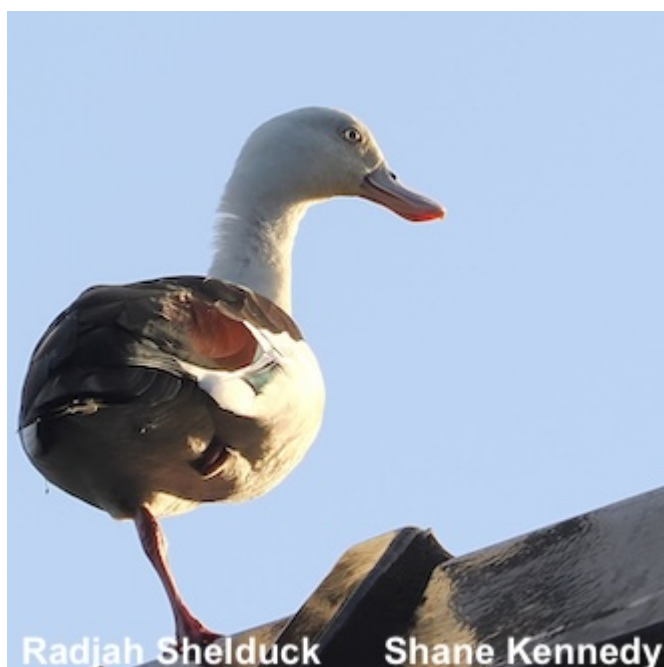
All profits from sales of images displaying "Cairns Birders" go to Cairns Birders for miscellaneous expenses. [Redbubble Store](#)

Art by Yorz Trooley





Sean Han



Radjah Shelduck Shane Kennedy

39 people fronted up for today's walk around Centenary Lakes, including a bunch from Victoria. That's a great turn up for this inner Cairns hot spot. One of our return visitors, who make contact with birding groups around Australia as they travel, made a point of coming up and declaring us "the best" by far in our friendliness and the sharing of local knowledge. Hats off to you Cairns Birders! That was before we kicked off, no pressure . . . fortunately we were all in for a treat!

First up we had a lone **Radjah Shelduck** standing sentinel atop the pagoda with the sun hitting it just so.

"Turn your head around the other way" demanded Scott. It did, eventually.

And then I spotted a rare visitor to Freshwater Lake, an **Australasian Grebe** off towards the *Western Finger* with **Moriarty** (the dumped duck). We would make our way around the Nipa palms soon to get better views, with the light behind us, but, before we could make the move, Jake pointed out the **Little Kingfisher** of the far side of the Lake, its back towards us and in the shade, but it was tickable and a highlight.

Just as we were getting binos focused on that bird, Sean says

"Patrick's got another one, out on a stick!"

I rally the troops and we head back the path we'd just come down. Wow! This **Little Kingfisher** was a stunner. Sitting out in the open, bobbing its head up n down, turning this way and that, catching fish, flying off, flying back . . . *I'm ready for my close-up Mr DeMille*



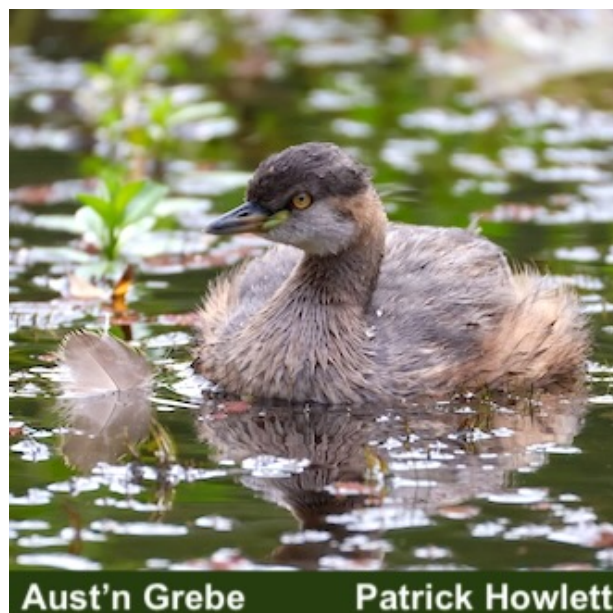
Little Kingfisher Geneviève Vallée

We did get away, and made our way to find the **Australasian Grebe** in just the right spot. Not the same star quality especially for our visitors who see them all the time, but here, Freshwater Lake in particular, and on the Cairns coastal belt more generally, this is not a common bird.

All this while, with the Kingfisher and Grebe stealing the limelight, we were being serenaded with the descending call of a **Sahul Brush-cuckoo**. My own poor rendition had it fly overhead from one hidey-hole to another from where it continued to call, and continued to elude.

“Too-ee too-ee too-ee too-ee too-ee too-ee too-ee” it mocked, as we gave up and made our way to the *Sushi Train*. Here, in the dark of the mangrove roots, was an adult **Nankeen Night Heron**. Much more cooperative.

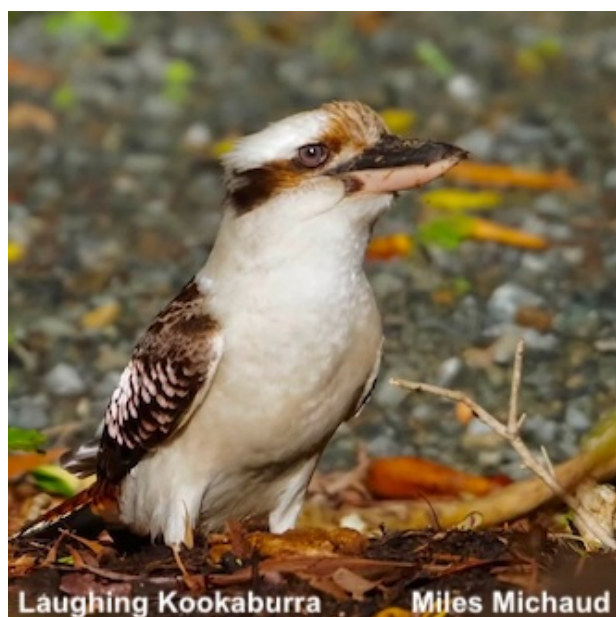
Walking alongside Saltwater Creek we came to the pedestrian bridge. **Banded Archerfish** and **Northern River Garfish** below while up above was a flurry of activity. A few **Green Orioles** flew in and carried on, a **Leaden Flycatcher** could be seen in the background and for a lucky few there was a pair of **Sahul Cicadabirds**.



Aust'n Grebe Patrick Howlett



Nankeen Night Heron Eden Gray-Spence



Laughing Kookaburra Miles Michaud

The *White Cedar paddock* had a couple of **Australian White Ibis** and **Masked Lapwings** holding ground while up in the trees was a **Sacred Kingfisher**, **Varied Trillers**, **Yellow Honeyeaters** and Sean pointed to a pair of **Double-eyed Fig-parrots** that were checking out some nesting sites. These were a definite hit. We were held up chasing a mystery bird. No names, Miguel, but it sounded intriguing so we persisted till its description matched that orange-stained nobbly bit of branch . . . it happens to us all, welcome to the club!

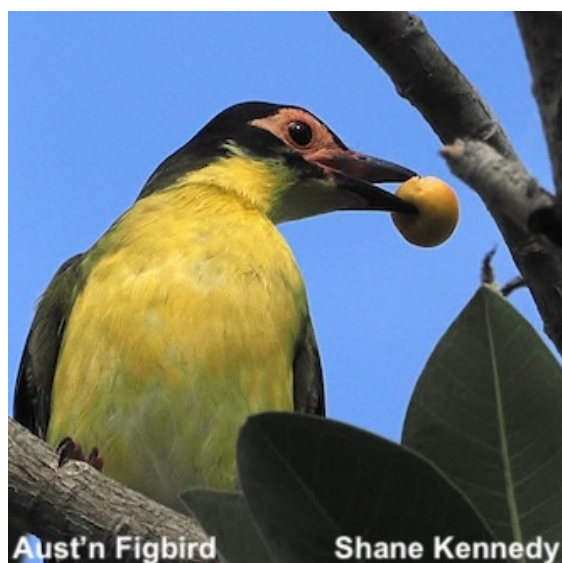
Over by Saltwater Lake we had a **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** showing off its crest as it dominated a hollow better suited to the **Rainbow Lorikeets** that had just moved on. A **Torresian Kingfisher** was briefly seen but heard by everyone, and down in the grass was a flock of **Scaly-breasted Munia**. We saw our second **Sacred Kingfisher** here too. We had a screen of mangroves which allowed us to creep in quite close. Goodness knows what it thought of all those big lenses squirming their way through gaps in the foliage.

Back to Freshwater Lake, **Mistletoebirds**, **Suhul Sunbirds**, better views of the **Australasian Grebe** and five **Magpie Geese** had settled on the peninsula. 49 species all up and I think I speak for all when I say that that was another good day!

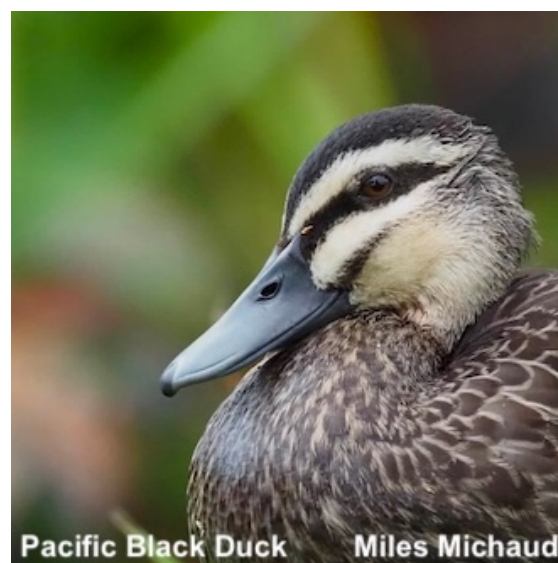


Double-eyed Fig-Parrot Eden Gray-Spence

Magpie Goose, Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Muscovy Duck x Mallard (hybrid), Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Megapode, Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon), Peaceful Dove, Little Bronze-Cuckoo, Sahul Brush Cuckoo, Australian Swiftlet, Masked Lapwing, Australasian Grebe, Australasian Darter, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis, Nankeen Night Heron, Little Egret, Little Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, Rainbow Bee-eater, Laughing Kookaburra, Torresian Kingfisher, Sacred Kingfisher, Little Kingfisher, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Varied Triller, Sahul Cicadabird, Olive-backed Oriole, 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, Scaly-breasted Munia



Aust'n Figbird Shane Kennedy



Pacific Black Duck Miles Michaud

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.](#)



I've just been looking back at the collection of photos from this morning, particularly Sean's candid shots of the birders. Raincoats and umbrellas were in abundance and I was reminded that it had been raining! It's gotta be saying something about the walk when the weather is not a part of the immediate recall. Joining Sean and me today were regulars Denis, Scott, Jeff, Jon, Mikey, Nigel, Denise, Mikey and Andrew. From further afield were Elise (Brisbane), Toni (Mission Beach), Rob (Melbourne), Phung, Chris and Jackson (Sydney) and Tuija and Terje from Finland.

We wasted no time getting on to the boardwalk where the scarcity of birds had us talking plants. In particular we found the fruit from the Sago Palm, *Metroxylon sagu*, a tennis-ball sized fruit covered in shiny scales looking more like the egg of a dragon! We did have birds here of course, **Australian Brush-turkeys** were plentiful and Mikey heard **Pale-vented Bush-hen**.

The path led to Freshwater Lake. We slowed our pace here to concentrate on our target species. We saw **Willie Wagtails** flitting about, **Pacific Black Ducks** in the shallows and over there a ripple, revealing an **Australasian Grebe**, an uncommon visitor and usually very flighty.



Sean raised his finger with a “there!”.

The **Little Kingfisher** sat on a twig about 12m from the shore. We huddled with contained excitement while the photographers performed acts of contortion to get just the right angle. This little jewel eventually flew out of sight, releasing us from its bind.

Approaching the pagoda Jon was pointing out where he’d had an encounter with a File Snake a week or so ago.

“Just there”, he said.

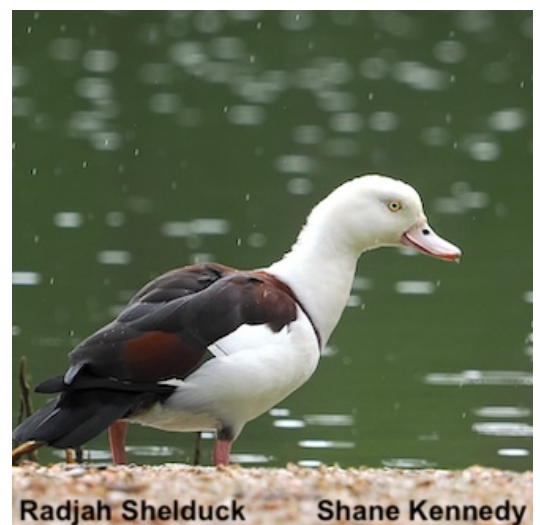
And, as if summoned, a second **Little Kingfisher** landed on a perch *just there!* - this one even closer.

What a charmer. This one flew back and forth, paying scant attention to its admirers. Clearly the bird of the day . . . again!



The word “there” has got to be one of the oft used and least helpful words in the birding lexicon. Most birders are too busy looking *there*, or rather at their *there*, rather than following the pointed finger and if they’re unlucky they might just catch the movement as someone utters those fateful words “there it goes!”. It worked for us today though!

We moved on, getting good views of a **Nankeen Night Heron** by the overflow, a **Great Egret** by the Ant Plant pavilion and a **Radjah Shelduck** at Saltwater Lake. From here we moved to *Lerp Lane* and the *White Cedar Paddock*. Here we had great views of a **Laughing Kookaburra**, a real highlight for our international visitors. Nearby we have an old branch that is just right for **Double-eyed Fig-Parrots** to nest in. A pair were there with the female busy chewing out a potential nest hollow, the male supervising. Where have I seen that before?





Magpie Goose, Radjah Shelduck, Pacific Black Duck, Muscovy Duck x Mallard (hybrid), Australian Brushturkey, Orange-footed Megapode, Peaceful Dove, Australian Swiftlet, Pale-vented Bush-hen, Bush Stone-curlew, Masked Lapwing, Australasian Grebe, Little Pied Cormorant, Australian White Ibis, Nankeen Night Heron, Little Heron, Great Egret, Osprey, Pacific Baza, Rainbow Bee-eater, Little



There were more birds to see here including **Bush Stone-curlews**, **Australian White Ibis**, **Masked Lapwings** and a stunning view of a **Green Oriole**. Then Sean announced a Sacred Kingfisher in the White Cedar, but no, it was a little flush of new growth - the old Leaf Bird. Where were you Miguel!!

We crossed the last bridge, the home stretch, and all of a sudden, with the promise of coffee, Scott went from last place to leading the race. Who can blame him, it had been a grand day.



Kingfisher, Laughing Kookaburra, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Double-eyed Fig-Parrot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Yellow Honeyeater, Brown Honeyeater, Helmeted Friarbird, White-bellied Cuckooshrike, Varied Triller, Sahul Cicadabird, Yellow Oriole, Australasian Figbird, Black Butcherbird, Willie Wagtail, Spangled Drongo, Magpie-lark, Leaden Flycatcher, Welcome Swallow, Common Myna, Mistletoebird, Sahul Sunbird

Launch of the Nordy movie!**Tank 4 at 5:30 PM on Friday, 24 July**

In a Shutterbird post earlier this year I wrote about local artist Klara Royster who has made a short animated movie about Nordy and our esplanade shorebirds.

She is part of a group that refers to itself as “The call of the running tide”. The launch will be held in Tank 4 at 5:30 PM on Friday, 24 July. The exhibit will continue through 23 August. Let’s show our support for Klara and our shorebirds!

Exhibition: 24 Jul - 23 Aug

“On a global scale the world is experiencing profound natural crises which ‘call’ artists, poets and writers to respond differently. While some creatives might take us deeper into an exploration of nature’s wonders and beauty, helping us to ‘see again’ what we may have missed, artists participating in *Call of the Running Tide* are creative activists in the truest sense” [More Info here.](#)

CAIRNS BIRDERS FESTIVAL

28th August - 6th September 2026

Table 1

CAIRNS BIRDING FESTIVAL 2026			
Friday, 28 August 2026	PHOTO COMP		Doug
	1800	Stratford Library - Nest box success	Denis Moser
Saturday, 29 August 2026	730	Cattana Wetlands	Bird Photography with OM Rep - Luke
	1600	Centenary Lakes	Bird Photography with OM Rep - Luke
Sunday, 30 August 2026	700	Cruise: Michaelmas Cay	
	1600	Centenary Lakes	
Monday, 31 August 2026	800	Lake Morris/Copperload Dam	BYO morning tea
	1600	Centenary Lakes	
	1800	Stratford Library - Habitats of Australia	Iain Campbell
Tuesday, 1 September 2026	730	Botanical Gardens walk	Shane
	1600	Cruise: Daintree River Cruise	Shane n Murray
Wednesday, 2 September 2026	700	Cruise: Daintree River Cruise	Shane n Murray
	1500	Esplanade across from the RSL	
Thursday, 3 September 2026	730	Lake Barine then Thomas Rd – BYO chairs, morning tea	Louise
	1600	Esplanade northern end	
	1830	Spot-lighting tour - TBA	Mikey
Friday, 4 September 2026	730	Behana Gorge – BYO chairs, morning tea	
	Tide ?	Esplanade across from the RSL	
	1800	Stratford Library	Scott Ritchie
Saturday, 5 September 2026	630	East Trinity - BYO morning tea	Denis
	1400 - 1600	Welcome the Waders: Esplanade	Mikey
Sunday, 6 September 2026	700	Cattana Wetlands - Morning tea. Catered RSVP.	Various various!

Festival: Daintree River Boatman 1st AND 2nd September

Daintree River Boatman

- 1st September 4pm evening cruise - 9 people (Fully Booked - try the waitlist)
- 2nd September 7am dawn cruise - 9 people (Fully Booked - try the waitlist)
- **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

Must book and pay before Sunday, July 26. (23 of 36 already booked)

- 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.

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.

Observations:

Glossy Ibis - 5th July, Yorkeys Knob. Andy Rigby

Rowdy's Ramblings:



Bird song and music: - [El Condor Pasa - Simon n Garfunkel](#)

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.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Get rid of your lawn! [Plant shrubs on the naturestrip - if allowed](#)

Reminder; Bat Night



Special outing . . . Starry Starry Night

12 September 2026

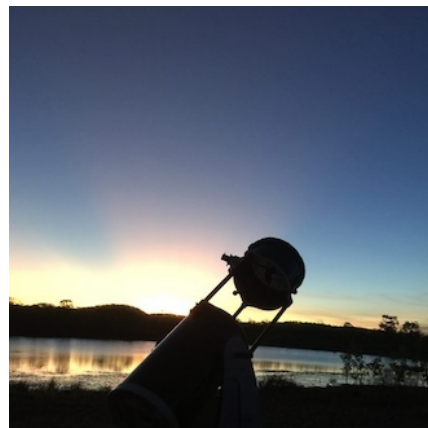
SPECIAL OUTING: **Starry Starry Night** limited to 14
12 September - up on the Tablelands (near Kay Rd)
4 places left;

Includes:

- an evening meal,
- discussion about the night sky with access to a telescope,
- then stories around the campfire.
- there is a campground nearby

Doug is organising this to celebrate Carolyn's birthday and thought, rather than joining a group of 12 randoms, wouldn't be nice to do it with folk he knows.

So if you want to help Doug and Carolyn celebrate then book here [STARRY STARRY NIGHT](#) and use the discount code **FNQastro** for 20% off. This is a regular NightSky event but this date is set aside just for us birders. - limited to 12 people.



The Bird Quiz

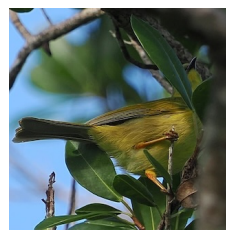
Louise Baume

What is this ?



Last week's quiz: What is this?

Yellow Honeyeater



The Trip to the Tip - CANCELLED

I have been informed that the Trip to the Tip has been cancelled due to "unforeseen circumstances".

You can still buy the shirt! [Redbubble](#).



Norty Corner

