

National Campout Crystal Creek 2010 Draft Program

Day	Activity choices	Evening activities
Monday 16 Aug	Arrival & registration Self drive Nos 7, 8, 9 & 10.	Campout BBQ Talk on NQ special birds by Ian Montgomery Bird Call
Tuesday 17 Aug	1. Paluma NP; 2. Paluma Township; 3 Mt Zero-Taravale; Self drive Nos 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	Bowerbirds by Jo Wieneke Bird Call
Wed 18 Aug	1. Paluma NP; 2. Paluma Township; 3 Mt Zero-Taravale; 5. Tyto Wetlands Self drive Nos 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	Eremaea by Ivor Preston Bird Call Spotlighting
Thursday 19 Aug	1. Paluma NP; 2. Paluma Township; 3 Mt Zero-Taravale; Self drive Nos 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10	Optional dinner at Mystic Sands Golf Club Bird Call
Friday 20 Aug	10 am depart Optional Hinchinbrook Is cruise departs Cardwell 9am	

Participants should feel free to do their own thing, but make sure names are on the Where Am I Noticeboard if not with an organised activity.

Activities (Draft)

1. Paluma National Park and Grandis Forest. Depart 7 15am.

4WD vehicles will be required for this full day excursion.

The convoy will be met by Parks & Wildlife leader at McClelland's Lookout carpark at the top of the range. The convoy will then drive to the Paluma Dam where the first surveys will take place. P&W will then lead the way into the restricted area and stop to do bird surveys at various places. Lunch will be taken at Hidden Valley. On the return home, you can stop at the Grandis Forest, before returning to camp. <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/paluma-range/index.html>

2. Paluma Township & Birthday Creek Falls. Depart 7.30am

Conventional vehicles can be used for this full day excursion.

As with most rainforest bird watching, the best birding is usually done from roads, tracks or clearings. This trip will explore the environs of the township. During the morning, we will be on the watch for Tooth-billed Bowerbird activity. After lunch, we move on to Birthday Creek Falls where the Golden bowerbird has an active bower.

<http://www.palumarainforest.com.au/>

3. AWC's Mount Zero-Taravale Depart 7am

4WD vehicles will be required for this full day excursion.

Mount Zero-Taravale extends more than 30 kilometres east to west, from the western edge of the rainforest to dry, rugged hills west of the Coane Range. Over this distance rainfall drops dramatically from about 1,500mms per annum on the eastern side of Taravale to about 800mms near the western boundary of Mount Zero. Much of the Sanctuary consists of rugged hills and escarpments of complex geology. Altitude ranges from 1,050 to 350 metres. The wet sclerophyll ecosystems are a major feature of the property and represent some of the best remaining wildlife habitat of the region. They are however under long-term threat as the habitat changes as a result of an altered fire regime over many decades.

Rainforest species are invading the understorey, preventing the regeneration of the canopy eucalypt species. Restoring appropriate fire regimes represents a key management challenge for AWC.

<http://www.australianwildlife.org/AWC-Sanctuaries/Mt-Zero-Taravale-Sanctuary.aspx>

4. Tyto Wetlands & Orient Road, Ingham

The Tyto Wetlands are on the southern edge of Ingham, 40 km from The Campout HQ. Orient Road is an alternate route home featuring some good grasslands and wetlands.
<http://www.tytowetlands.com.au/experience.htm>

5. Wallaman Fall, Girringun National Park – self drive.

Conventional vehicles can be used.

Wallaman Falls National Park is part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, boasting the highest, permanent, single-drop waterfall in Australia. Open forest dominates the ridge tops. Rainforest lines the gullies and creeks. The area is home to endangered cassowaries and musky rat-kangaroos. Stroll 800 metres along the banks of Stony Creek on the Banggurru walk, and learn about the rainforest. Look for platypus in the creek below the falls. To enjoy a closer look at the falls, take the 3.2 kilometre Jinda walk into the gorge.

Lookouts

The main lookout at Wallaman Falls provides a view of Stony Creek as it plunges 268 metres in a clear single drop, often through a rainbow-fringed cloud of mist. Wallaman Falls is the highest permanent, single drop waterfall in Australia. A second lookout provides stunning views of the gorge and the Herbert River Valley.

<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/girringun-wallaman/about.html>

On the return journey home, call into Masters Road wetland.

6. Bluewater Section of Paluma National Park

4WD or AWD vehicles recommended.

Access is via Forestry Road Atlas surveys can be done of selected sites on the roadside. We have exclusive access to the southern end of Paluma State Forest, which is 55km from Mutarnee.

7. Jourama Falls

Conventional vehicles can be used.

The falls are 23km north of Mutarnee via the Bruce Highway.

<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks/jourama-falls-paluma/index.html>

8. Mouth of Crystal Creek

4WD or AWD vehicles recommended.

Short self drive east along the banks of Crystal Creek to its mouth. – 5km.

9. Volk Road to Bullock O'Toms Creek

Conventional vehicles can be used.

Short self drive west from Mutarnee into lowland rainforest. – 4km.

10. Balgal Beach

Conventional vehicles can be used for this excursion.

Beach front and estuarine mangroves, which is the home of often seen Beach Stone Curlew. This site is 24km south of Mutarnee.

Twitchers' Corner

Noticeboards at the Hall listing sightings. (*Where they are*) and species wanted (*Where are they*).

There will be an opportunity after each evening birdcall to discuss where and how to find elusive birds.

Evening Talks 7.00

Review

Review of the day, Any OHS issues
Program for next day, organise car pool

Birdcall 8:00 pm

Post Campout Activity