

# Bulletin 1 National Campout Crystal Creek 2010

Draft Program (see below)

## **Notes for participants:**

The Campout will be based at Crystal Creek Community Centre, Mutarnee ~ 65km north of Townsville from 16 - 20 August 2010. The field trips planned will cover a variety of habitats, from the coast to the highlands, including rainforest, dry sclerophyll forest, coastal and wetlands. A number of locals with particular expertise in NQ birds will be speaking in the evenings. The Crystal Creek Caravan Park, which is next door to the Community Centre is the suggested camping venue.

## **Accommodation at Campout**

The Crystal Creek Caravan Park (Tel: 07 4770 8198), which is immediately adjacent to the Campout HQ at the Community Hall on Barrilgie Road, Mutarnee is the recommended park.

Alternatives within 35km of Mutarnee:

Rollingstone Beach Caravan Resort (Tel: 07 4770 7277)

Balgol Beach Holiday Units (Tel: 07 4770 7296)

Jourama Falls camping area (National Parks Tel: 13 13 04)

Big Crystal Creek camping area (National Parks Tel: 13 13 04)

**Monday evening meal** is a BBQ. Bring your own alcohol. Nearest hotel is at Rollingstone, 15km south.

**Phone reception.** There is a public phone at the van park office. Full mobile services are available along the coastal plane. However once into the ranges, reception is patchy if not non-existent.

**Climate.** The region has a mean maximum temp of 28°C in August, mean minimum 17°. Minimum can go down to 10°, and maximum up to 34°. Mean rainfall for August is 11 mm. However, the climate on the top of the ranges is generally a few degrees cooler and prone to showers.

**Sunrise:** ~ 6:30 am. **Sunset:** ~6:00 pm

## **Suggested Equipment**

First aid kit, including pressure bandage for snake bite.

Appropriate personal protective equipment: boots, long sleeves and trousers, leggings or gaiters, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent.

Binoculars, telescope if you have one, field guide, camera, camp stool or chair, backpack to carry water and snacks, spotlight with red filter.

If at all possible, each car to be used on excursions should get or borrow a GPS and UHF (vehicle and/or hand-held). Note that BANQ has a few hand held radios and GPS units that will be available.

## **Supplies**

**Fuel** - The Crystal Creek Caravan Park sells the full range of discounted fuel.

**Food** - The Crystal Creek Caravan Park has limited supplies, including bread, milk, fuel and newspapers

Full range of services in Ingham. (42 km north).

**Hall Facilities**

The Community Hall is a large hall and will only be used as a meeting centre.

**Directions and Transport to Crystal Creek Community Hall - Mutarnee.**

The Hall fronts the Bruce Highway

**Maps**

RACQ QDM3 Townsville Cairns Road Map

mudmaps will be provided in the Campout

**Bird Lists**

Townsville & Ingham lists <<http://www.birdsaustralianq.org/brochures.htm#coast>>

Paluma list [http://www.trvoc.org.au/birds\\_of\\_paluma.pdf](http://www.trvoc.org.au/birds_of_paluma.pdf)

Other lists will be in the Campout registration kit.

**Camp Booklet**

A package of mud maps, information sheets and data sheets and birdlists will be issued at registration.

## **Occupational Health and Safety**

Participants are expected to abide by the Birds Australia rules for activities:

### **Responsibilities of Participants**

1. Sign on and accept agreed aims, rules, conditions and reasonable directions from the leader.
2. Adhere to agreed return times and advise the leader if leaving the group.
3. Respect private property and legal obligations (permits, permissions, road rules etc)
4. Consider the enjoyment of others in the group.
5. Observe the bird-watching code of ethics.
6. Dispose of rubbish and human waste responsibly.
7. Keep track of your buddy.
8. Advance advice of potential health condition that may cause an emergency.
9. Carry water food first aid kit (minimum pressure bandage for snake bite)
10. Ensure that your vehicle is in roadworthy condition and has sufficient fuel
11. The driver has the skill for the vehicle and the terrain.
12. In convoy, ensure the following vehicle is aware of the route.
13. Dress for the conditions.
14. Carry appropriate equipment when required (map, compass, GPS, whistle, UHF, pocket knife, water, sunscreen etc)

### **Risk Assessment – Control of Risk**

Some general risks applying to the Campout. (Detailed assessments will be done by the leader during the sign-on at the start of each activity.)

#### **Road Conditions**

Bruce Highway is a busy commercial National Highway and the intersection with Brila road has limited sight distance in a 100 km/h speed zone.

Paluma Range Road is very narrow and steep with a 40km/h speed limit. Very limited stopping opportunities.

Side roads: most are narrow and will have cane harvesting traffic. Be sure to pull off only where you can be completely clear of the traffic lane; beware blind corners and crests – keep left. Avoid high speed and sudden direction changes on loose gravel roads.

Beware kangaroos, emus, eagles on road kill. Beware stock on unfenced roads (also on badly fenced roads!). Do NOT swerve to avoid animals (danger of overturning).

#### **Terrain and Track Conditions**

Forestry tracks may require skilled driving and navigation. Some are steep, washed out, rough. Avoid camping under trees where branches may fall. Respect private property. Watch for electric fences. Assume they are live.

#### **Animals**

Beware of scrub itch, a mite that burrows under the skin and lays eggs. Snakes will be becoming active, so carry a pressure bandage. In some areas there is stock on the road.

#### **Plants**

#### **Location**

Do a radio check before departure.

Have a map of the area with you. Mark a waypoint when you leave your vehicle, or leave the road or track.

Follow convoy procedures, always keep the vehicle behind you in sight or radio contact.

Do not leave camp on your own unless you leave a note on the notice board.

Do not leave a group without telling the leader.

Stick to agreed meeting times – always check how long until the group reassembles, and return on time.

### **Emergency Services**

Police/Fire/Ambulance call 000

Nearest Police Station is Rollingstone 15km south call 4770 7144

Nearest Hospital is McIlwraith St Ingham call 4776 2000

### **Vehicle condition/ driver skills/ breakdown**

The nearest mechanic is in Ingham. Although you are not in the outback, refer *Suggested*

*Checklist for 4WD vehicles*: [pdf file](#)

### **Emergency Supplies**

Fuel is available at Crystal Creek. Carry a day's supply of water and food.