

Birds of Tin Can Bay Foreshore

Bird Walk (Site 7)



Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)



Local Status - Very Common

Status relates only to the relative abundance of species
on the Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk

(Photography by Amelia Nielsen)

For further information, email cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au

The Laughing Kookaburra is our largest kingfisher. It is probably Australia's best-known bird, featuring in much of our land's culture, both Indigenous and European. The laugh has become an Australian icon, along with the Kangaroo and Emu. Other common names used are "Laughing Jackass" and "Settlers' Clock".

Bird Size - 46cm

Food - Quite large snakes up to a metre in length, as well as a wide range of smaller reptiles. Included too are insects, crabs, fish, and occasionally small birds. Domestic chickens and nestlings of other species may be taken in addition to these.

Nest style - An unlined hollow.

Material used - Nil.

Nest Site - Ten to twelve metres above the ground in a tree hollow, arboreal, (or terrestrial), termite mound and sometimes, though rarely, in an earthen bank.

Breeding Season & Details - August to January, with two to four eggs laid once a year.

Habits - In pairs or small groups, frequenting a range of habitats from woodlands to urban gardens. Mostly hunts from open perches. On one occasion a bird was seen taking a House Sparrow from the foliage of a Mango Tree, others noted feasting on Rhinoceros Beetles, (*Xylotrupes gideon*), in a Poinciana Tree, hitting them on branches before consuming them.