

Some of the birds you may see along our foreshore



Crested Pigeon



Scarlet Honeyeater (Male)



Australian Pelican



Caspian Tern



Rainbow Lorikeet



Little Wattlebird



Crested Tern



Bar-tailed Godwit

A Short History of Tin Can Bay

Tin Can Bay, on the western shore of a mainland inlet south of Fraser Island, is 200km north of Brisbane. It is thought that the name came from the anglicisation of “Tin-kun”, an Aboriginal word describing a narrow-leafed coastal vine, or similar sounding expression meaning dugong, big fish or mangroves. The protected shallows of the inlet were ideal for exploitation. Dugong were hunted for their oil, and a dugong station was set up at the mouth of Kauri Creek (8km north of the inlet) in the 1850s. The timber industry came when Pettigrew & Co laid the Kaloolah railway to transport cut timber, and oysters were cultivated and harvested at the mouth of Schnapper Creek, the waterway running through Tin Can Bay township.

In 1922, after only a few humpies had been built at Schnapper Creek, the township was established when the government released 25 blocks of land for the sum of 40 pounds each. They were bought mostly by residents of Gympie and Widgee Shires for holiday houses. In the 1930s, the cheap land and plentiful fishing attracted permanent residents affected by the economic depression.

A school was opened in 1934, and the town was known as Wallu until it reverted to Tin Can Bay in 1937. By the early 1950s the population had grown to about 240, with a wharf and fish market (1945).

In 1957 a prawning ground was found, bringing in a trawling industry. Tin Can Bay became a fishing port and ultimately the boating and fishing resort it is today. A sealed access road, a hotel and reticulated electricity followed in a few years. A new fish market was opened in 1971.

queenslandplaces.com.au/tin-can-bay

The iconic shelter shed at Norman Point



Welcome to Tin Can Bay and our Wonderful Foreshore!

Not only is Tin Can Bay known throughout Australia as one of the most charming villages on the SE Queensland coast, but our foreshore continues to gather praise for it’s wealth of natural beauty. Being located within Queensland’s Great Sandy Straits, it is also part of a Ramsar Wetland of international importance.

Whether bicycle riding, jogging, or just casually strolling, follow the signage along the 4km stretch of the easily accessible ‘Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk’, you will soon discover that Tin Can Bay is home to a truly wonderful variety of birds. With a list of 143 species already sighted, our foreshore is gaining a “reputation” as a great place to bird watch!

It provides a range of habitats for an excellent birding experience. The sandflats and mangroves are a food source for migratory waders and sea birds. Patches of Wallum heath and sedges provide shelter for ground dwelling and lower storey birds.

Our native vegetation of Wattle, Sheoak and Banksia provide nectar for the middle storey birds, and the birds of the upper-storey feed on the blossoms of the Red River Gums and Bloodwood. There are also many spots where birds of the “open space” can be observed.

Remember, sandflies and mosquitoes are also a natural part of our environment, so dress appropriately and always protect yourself against sunburn, especially in the summer. A pair of binoculars and a good field guide of Australian birds will no doubt enhance your foreshore walk.

Most birds listed in this brochure may be viewed in suitable habitat and season anywhere along the foreshore. However, the numbered sites have been identified as the most likely place for an observation of the listed species.

Please report bird species not listed by logging on to our website at www.birdingcooloola.org.au, or by email to cooloolanature@spiderweb.com.au.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!



Tin Can Bay Foreshore Bird Walk



birdingcooloola.org.au



cooloolacoastcare.org.au



gympie.qld.gov.au

Birds of the Bay

Best viewing locations



Little Tern

- Bar-tailed Godwit *VSM*
- Caspian Tern *C*
- Common Tern *U*
- Crested Tern *C*
- House Sparrow *IC*
- Little Tern*** *U*
- Mangrove Gerygone *U*
- Pied Oystercatcher *C*
- Whimbrel *C*



Great Knot

- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *C*
- Brown Thornbill *U*
- Great Knot *USM*
- Lesser Sand Plover *USM*
- Mangrove Honeyeater *C*
- Noisy Friarbird *V*
- Red Knot *USM*
- Red-capped Plover *C*
- Red-necked Stint *USM*
- Tree Martin *C*



Noisy Miner

- Australasian Gannet *U*
- Blue-faced Honeyeater *V*
- Fig Bird *V*
- Noisy Miner *U*
- Rainbow Lorikeet *V*
- Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *U*
- Striated Pardalote *C*
- Welcome Swallow *C*
- White-bellied Sea-eagle *U*
- White-throated Needletail *U*
- Willy Wagtail *C*



Masked Lapwing

- Australian Wood Duck *U*
- Black Swan *U*
- Channel-billed Cuckoo *USM*
- Magpie-lark *C*
- Masked Lapwing *V*
- Richard's Pipit *U*
- Silver Gull *V*
- Straw-necked Ibis *U*
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *V*
- Torresian Crow *V*
- Wedge-tailed Eagle *U*



Pacific Baza

- Black Bittern *VR*
- Brown Honeyeater *V*
- Common Koel *CSM*
- Grey Butcherbird *U*
- Nankeen Night Heron *R*
- Pacific Baza *U*
- Pallid Cuckoo *RSM*
- Pheasant Coucal *U*
- Powerful Owl*** *VR*
- Red-backed Fairy-wren *C*
- Tawny Grassbird *U*



Rufus Whistler (Male)

- Black-winged Stilt *R*
- Brush Cuckoo *CSM*
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *U*
- Forest Kingfisher *USM*
- Grey Shrike-thrush *C*
- Gull-billed Tern *VC*
- Horsfield's Bronze-cuckoo *RSM*
- Lewin's Honeyeater *U*
- Little Bronze-cuckoo *USM*
- Little Shrike-thrush *U*

- Olive-backed Oriole *U*
- Pacific Black Duck *U*
- Rufous Whistler *V*
- Sacred Kingfisher *CSM*
- Silveryeye *U*

- Spangled Drongo *CWM*
- Striated Heron *U*
- Varied Triller *U*
- White-necked Heron *R*
- White-throated Gerygone *C*
- White-throated Honeyeater *C*



Buff-banded Rail

- Australian King-parrot *U*
- Bar-shouldered Dove *U*
- Brolga *R*
- Buff-banded Rail *C*
- Crested Pigeon *V*
- Grey Fantail *CWM*
- Grey-tailed Tattler *CSM*
- Intermediate Egret *U*
- Laughing Kookaburra *V*
- Leaden Flycatcher *C*

- Little Egret *C*
- Little Pied Cormorant *C*
- Peaceful Dove *C*
- Satin Flycatcher *R*
- Scarlet Honeyeater *C*
- Spotted Turtle-dove *IC*

- Tawny Frogmouth *U*
- Topknot Pigeon *VR*
- Whistling Kite *V*
- White-faced Heron *V*
- Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo *U*



Brahminy Kite

- Beach Stone-curlew*** *U*
- Brahminy Kite *C*
- Dollarbird *CSM*
- Fairy Martin *R*
- Little Friarbird *C*
- Nankeen Kestrel *R*
- Pale-headed Rosella *U*
- Red-winged Parrot *C*
- Royal Spoonbill *U*
- Southern Boobook *C*
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill *U*



Eastern Curlew

- Australian Magpie *C*
- Australian Pelican *C*
- Common Greenshank *USM*
- Eastern Curlew*** *VSM*
- Galah *C*
- Grey-crowned Babbler *VR*
- Little Corella *VR*
- Marsh Sandpiper *CSM*
- Pacific Golden Plover *CSM*
- Pied Butcherbird *V*
- Pied Currawong *R*
- White-breasted Woodswallow *U*



Mistletoebird (Male)

- Azure Kingfisher *U*
- Double-barred Finch *U*
- Eastern Whipbird *VR*
- Eastern Yellow Robin *VR*
- Great Cormorant *R*
- Little Black Cormorant *C*
- Little Wattlebird *U*
- Mistletoebird *C*
- Osprey *U*
- Pied Cormorant *U*
- Radjah Shelduck*** *VR*
- Rainbow Bee-eater *VSM*
- Restless Flycatcher *VR*
- Shining Flycatcher *VR*



White-cheeked Honeyeater

- Australian White Ibis *C*
- Brown Quail *R*
- Collared Kingfisher *C*
- Latham's Snipe *R*
- Peregrine Falcon *U*
- White-cheeked Honeyeater *C*

