



# FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

21 October 2016

## *The life and works of Silvester Diggles.*

At Noosa Parks Association's Friday Environment Forum this week, October 21<sup>st</sup>, come along to hear a descendant, Liz Diggles, tell the fascinating tale of the life and works of Silvester Diggles. Also available for audience members to see will be some of the original illustrations used in Ornithology of Australia as well as Diggles' original sketch book.



Silvester Diggles was a Naturalist in early Queensland

Whilst most of the original drawings are now held in museums and libraries both in Australia and overseas, some still in family hands will be brought along on Friday by great grandson, George Diggles.

It has been said that the Naturalists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were "the first geeks" in their tenacious pursuit of every new and different item of Nature, discovered and studied in the lands of the 'new world'.

Silvester Diggles was a young man growing up in Liverpool, England when he 'caught the Naturalist bug'. He migrated to Australia in 1854 and soon found his way to the frontier colony of Moreton Bay, later Brisbane. Inspired by the unique nature of Australia's fauna, Diggles set about collecting, describing and drawing the insects and birds of his new home. Employing the artistic skills learnt in England, he embarked upon the ambitious task of depicting and describing the behaviour and characteristics of the birds of Australia in a work titled The Ornithology of Australia.

He drew every specimen from life and hand coloured the resulting prints for his book which is now considered to be very rare. Diggles was a 'man of many talents' who involved himself in other areas of life in the community of early Brisbane. He taught Art in schools, both taught and performed Music and dabbled in Photography. In 1871 he participated as Queensland's representative on the prestigious Solar Eclipse Expedition to Cape York and was a member of a small group who initiated the formation of the Queensland Museum.

Come along to the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville on **21st October**. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am while coffee and a chat are on offer at 10.00. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.

**All welcome.**



Ground Parrot, one of hundreds of Australian birds depicted by Silvester Diggles.