



## FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

17 February 2017

### Wonderful World of Raptors

This week at Friday Environment Forum - 17<sup>th</sup> February: Guest speaker will be **Greg Czechura** from the *Sciencentre at the Queensland Museum*, who will speak about the magnificent twenty-four species of eagle, hawk and falcon whose home is Australia. In addition, a few more species of rare and occasional visitors have been added in recent years.



**Nankeen Kestrel** Credit Gary Cranitch, Queensland Museum

The Nankeen Kestrel, so named for the russet colour of its upperparts, is commonly seen hovering over field and open habitats. Kestrels can also be found in urban and industrial areas, if open space is present.

Given the size of Australia, it is surprising that so few resident and endemic species are found. Greg explains, “the fossil record suggests that this has not always been the case – for example, Australia was once home of a number of eagle species, some larger and others smaller than the familiar wedge-tailed eagle, while the ancient rainforests supported a kind of crane hawk, a group now extinct in the Australasian region.”

The present (resident) Australian raptor fauna is composed of six species of falcons and eighteen species of hawks, eagles and kites, including several ‘Australasian Endemics’.

The presentation will provide an overview of the wonderful world of raptors and the challenges of watching and conserving them. The technical side of the presentation will be laced with Greg’s experiences as a confirmed ‘hawkwatcher’.

Do not miss this opportunity to hear from an expert in his field on Friday **February 17**. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am although everyone is welcome to arrive at 10am when coffee and chat are on offer. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.

**All welcome.**



1. **Family of White-bellied Sea-Eagles** (brown bird is a juvenile) Credit Gary Cranitch, Queensland Museum

The White-bellied Sea-Eagle is found along much of the Australian coastline and offshore islands and reefs.

It takes several years for the brown juveniles and immatures to attain the adult grey and white plumage.