



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

22 September

The world of Micro Bats

This week on **September 22**, Guest speaker is **John Parsons of Fraser Coast Micro Bats**, who will share his knowledge and love for these great little pollinators. As it is school holiday time, this is a forum especially for children, but adults who are 'young at heart' will enjoy it also.



Eastern Long Eared Bat (*Nyctophilus bifax*)

Micro bats, also known as insectivorous bats, are small to medium-sized mammals, weighing from 3g to 150g, and with wingspans of around 25cm. They are nocturnal, and rely on echolocation and, to a lesser extent, eyesight, to find their way and locate insects at night.

Micro bats are very fast and efficient fliers and most concentrate on catching and eating their prey in the air while flying, sometimes remaining airborne for hours at a time.

Each night they consume huge quantities of insects including mosquitoes and they also perform an important role as plant pollinators.

They have been around for 50 million years and account for a large proportion of the world's mammals. Australia has seventy-two species of micro bats of which thirty-five are now threatened species.

In Central Queensland there are twenty-two different species, but little is known about these tiny creatures or the important role they play in keeping ecosystems healthy

Loss of suitable roosting hollows for micro bats is a growing problem as human populations expand.

Mr Parsons will demonstrate how the simple act of installing bat boxes in your garden will attract these little pollinators to your fruit and flowering trees. Boxes will also protect the micro bats from predators such as cats, owls and snakes.

*Adults and children alike are invited to join the audience on **September 22** for this enlightening talk at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville. Coffee and a chat are on offer from 10am with the forum commencing at 10.30am. Children accompanied by an adult are also invited to meet Valda in the car park at 8.30am to enjoy a birding walk in Wallace Park. Bring hats and binoculars kids. Visit www.noosaparks.org.au for more information.*

All welcome.



John Parsons uses a device to measure the echolocation