



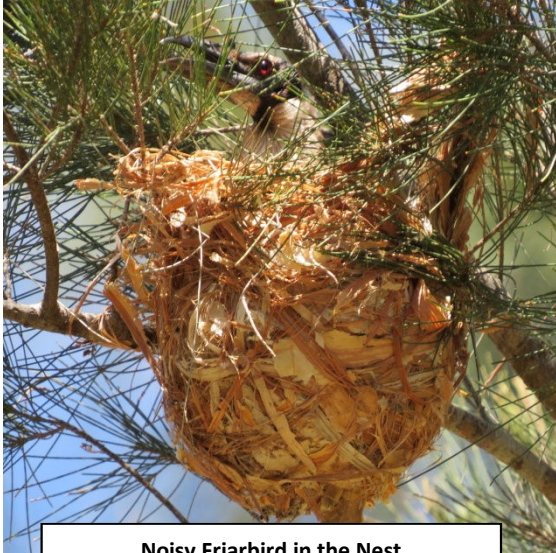
FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

20 October

The lives of Birds and their Nests

This week on October 20, *Robyn Howard* will describe the vast array of nests built by the birds that we see every day in our back yards and beyond.



Noisy Friarbird in the Nest

Ms Howard describes herself as an “**amateur naturalist**” with a thirty year passion for studying the lives of birds and insects.

She will answer questions such as “How many nests are successful?” and “How many young thrive until they leave the nest or survive the risks of their first year to achieve maturity?”

Unlike humans, birds cannot decide to defer raising a family for a few years.

Nature compels mature birds to find a mate and procreate, but it is a risky business.

Production of eggs, relatively large when compared to the bird’s body mass, requires a demanding contribution from the female.

Spending so much time at a site, coming and going, constructing a nest, then brooding eggs and feeding and raising young is an advertisement to predators that some very tasty snacks are available, whether it be the eggs, chicks, or even the adult birds. Nesting strategies for trying to avoid predators vary from species to species.

From simple scrapes on the ground to huge high-rise structures, the contrast in nest sites and the nests themselves provides seemingly endless variety. Some birds lay eggs on almost bare ground, others build beautifully architected nests and some carefully weave magnificent creations. Birds use camouflage and decoration on their nests, whilst others place a few twigs together and manage to raise a family there.

You are invited to join the audience at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville on 20th October to share the knowledge of lifelong bird watcher, Robyn Howard. Coffee and a chat are on offer from 10am and the forum commences at 10.30am. The Interpretive Birding group welcomes newcomers to join their walk in Wallace Park. Meet Valda in the car park at 8.30am. All welcome and visit www.noosaparks.org.au for more information



Noisy Miner Nest

All welcome.