



# FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

## NPA Environment Centre

### 21 June 2019

#### Birdsongs: studying how animal languages evolve



Birdsong is a unique feature in the animal kingdom, with songbirds being one of only a few groups of animals, including humans and cetaceans, which must learn how to communicate vocally. Because of this, we can see cultural patterns in birdsong in the wild that remind us of human languages.

Friday Environment Forum guest speaker **Dominique Potvin** will share her knowledge of the intriguing topic of birdsong on June 21. She will explain that bird species demonstrate the use of specific dialects, accents and learning mistakes that result in incredible natural variation in songs. The talk will also reveal that the evolution of these songs can be tracked across populations, landscapes and even the globe.



“Most interestingly, since humans have been changing the natural environment physically and therefore also changing the soundscape of these environments, we have started to observe that birdsongs are being affected by these changes” explained Dominique.

Join the audience on Friday morning at the **Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville**. In her presentation, Ms Potvin will tackle questions of why birdsong is so varied, and how human impacts are influencing this variation in particular directions - for better or worse – especially for Australian species.

**Investigate the birds of  
Wallace Park with Valda and  
the Interpretive Birding Group.  
Meet at 8.30am in the car park.  
All welcome**

The forum starts at 10.30am and finishes at 12.15pm. Arrive at 10am and, for a gold coin donation, enjoy morning tea and chat to like-minded individuals.