



# *The Bowerbird November 2011*

*Collection of stories, news and anecdotes from O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, Mountain Villas and Lost World Spa*

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## **A Traditional O'Reilly's Christmas Experience... A Blast from the Past!**



In earlier years, on Christmas day guests would sit down and enjoy a delicious three hour festive feast. Once this was over, the staff would be ravenous and ready for their own scrumptious meal, so the guests would go into the kitchen and dish up and serve O'Reilly's staff.

### **O'Reilly's Christmas Cake**

- 2 ½ cups sultanas
- 1 ½ cups raisins, chopped
- 1 2/3 cups currants
- ¾ cup mixed peel
- ¼ cup chopped ginger
- ¼ cup dried apricots
- 250g butter
- 1cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ brandy
- ½ cup water
- 2 teaspoons grated orange rind
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 tablespoon treacle
- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 ¾ cup plain flour
- 1/3 cup self raising flour

½ teaspoon bi-card

- Line the base and sides of a deep 19cm square or round 22cm cake tin with alfoil and then two layers of baking paper. Bring the baking paper 5cm above the edge of the cake tin.
- Combine fruit, butter, sugar, brandy and water in a saucepan and stir over heat until butter is melted and sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil then immediately remove from the heat. Transfer to a large bowl and allow to cool.
- Stir in rinds, treacle and eggs, then sift in dry ingredients. Spread cake mixture evenly into cake tin.
- Cook on the middle shelf of the oven at 150deg for 2 ½ hours. Remove from the oven and allow to cool a little. Tip it upside down while still hot onto a sheet of alfoil to even out the top.
- When it has cooled a little more, still warm, wrap in alfoil and seal in glad wrap. Store in the cupboard until ready for icing and decorations.

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## Tim O'Reilly lead the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Week



This year's 34<sup>th</sup> Bird Week was a great success as the O'Reilly family and guests celebrated colourful, cheeky and native birds. Olive Whistlers and Rufous Scrub-birds, which during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century were almost extinct, were one of the many varieties spotted and talked about in O'Reilly's vast bird paradise sanctuary.

Expert guides Tim O'Reilly, Glen Trelfo, Ian Gynther, Bill McDonald and Duncan Fowler led guests through ecosystems of the Lamington region, where visitors experienced special sightings and birding 'hot-spots'. Guests returned home with a renewed knowledge of Australian fauna and a greater understanding of the role birds assume in a natural rainforest environment.



Here is a picture of Big Pete with Annette enjoying the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Week.

## Let O'Reilly's delight you with a relaxing and indulgent Eco Rangers Christmas



This year O'Reilly's Christmas Celebrations Package includes three nights' accommodation in a Mountain View room, full breakfast daily, three course dinner each evening, daily morning and afternoon tea, the Birds of Prey show, Glow Worm tour plus all the walks, talks and 4wd bus trips one can squeeze in for \$678 per person, twin share. Christmas lunch is available for \$99 per adult.

O'Reilly's three night villa package start from \$467 per night quad share but we can offer better rates in the villas for longer stays. Please contact reservations on 1800 688 722 or [reservations@oreillys.com.au](mailto:reservations@oreillys.com.au) to book now!

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### Flying High with the Birds of Prey



Featuring famous birdman, Mark Culleton O'Reilly's Birds of Prey flight show exhibits breathtaking aerial predators including owls, falcons and eagles in free flight as they perform amazing displays of natural aerobatics. Afterwards, guests have a chance to meet the 'stars' of the show and have a photo taken with them. The 45 minute show runs daily at O'Reilly's and is an amazing experience for the whole family!

In addition, Mark has a very unique one-on-one encounter for Birds of Prey enthusiasts at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyard and meet with the largest Bird of Prey in Australia, the Wedged-Tail Eagle or one of the fastest living entities Peregrine Falcon that can fly over 300 Kilometres per hour.

For more information and to make a booking, please call 07 5544 0644.

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## What Christmas gifts do you bestow for loved ones who have it all?



Please retain this voucher for presentation upon arrival to redeem the value. Management reserves the right to refuse this voucher if it has been altered or duplicated.

Reservations are subject to availability and the conditions stated. To make a reservation please contact O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards on (07) 55434011

**O'Reilly's**  
CANUNGRA VALLEY VINEYARDS

O'Reilly's Rainforest retreat is the perfect escape into another world where nature flourishes. This is an ideal gift of relaxation and rejuvenation with legendary hospitality included. Whether it is a relaxing accommodation package, a delicious meal in our restaurant, a fun Segway tour through the rainforest, a luxurious spa treatment or a picnic basket at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards, O'Reilly's gift vouchers provide the perfect gift for that someone special. Please contact reservations on 1800 688 722 or [reservations@oreillys.com.au](mailto:reservations@oreillys.com.au) to purchase your gift voucher now!

## Calling all Grandparents... It's your turn to shine!



Escape with your grandchildren on an adventure of a lifetime during this school holidays where they will become 'Nature Detectives' and discover all the beauty that nature has to offer. You can take a tour of O'Reilly's Library, enjoy the Birds of Prey Show or go on the Tree Top Walk.

There is also the infamous O'Reilly's Eco Rangers program that is a fun creative way for children aged 4 and over to learn all about the environment. All the activities are based on environmental education concepts that incorporate learning about the rainforest and its weird and wonderful inhabitants with fun games, arts and crafts. All activities have been designed with the children's safety in mind and while participating, the children are supervised at all times by a qualified staff member.

Take advantage of our Grandparents and Grandkids special where you will enjoy two nights' accommodation in a Mountain View room at \$299 per adult which includes breakfast and dinner. Kids will cost \$70 each for breakfast, dinner and participation in our wonderful Eco Rangers program. Please contact reservations on 1800 688 722 or [reservations@oreillys.com.au](mailto:reservations@oreillys.com.au) to book now!

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## **Still looking for the ideal location for this year's Christmas party?**

**Well, look no further... its jingle bells all the way!**



Colleagues, family and friends are welcome at O'Reilly's to celebrate all things festive with a Corporate Christmas feast of nature, food, entertainment, relaxation and discovery.

At O'Reilly's, Christmas functions can be tailored to individual needs, with options ranging from sunset drinks and canapés at the spectacular moonlight crag, a six-course meal to Christmas-themed fireside dinners or candlelit barbecues under the rainforest canopy. Bolster team harmony all while burning off that extra piece of O'Reilly's Traditional Christmas cake, with a Rainforest walk, whiz across Moran's Creek on the flying fox, sway and rock on the giant swing or take an evening spotlight and glow worm tour. For the ultimate end of year reward, delegates can indulge in pampering treatments at the Lost World Spa, which offer relaxation massages and therapeutic treatments in rooms overlooking spectacular mountain views.



O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards also cater for intimate Christmas lunches and dinners to large family events where a range of festivities including gourmet picnics or family fun days with creek side cricket or a festive Cellar Door cocktail party or elegant banquet in the Grand Ballroom are all on offer.

**Please contact conferences reservations on 1800 688 722 or [conferencesales@oreillys.com.au](mailto:conferencesales@oreillys.com.au) to book now!**

## Calling all Past Staff as O'Reilly's Celebrate 100 Years... the countdown begins for O'Reilly's Staff Reunion

Have you or do you know somebody who has worked at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat? The hunt is on as O'Reilly's continue to celebrate 100 years with an O'Reilly's Staff Reunion commencing on Friday 2 December for sunset drinks at Moonlight Crag, followed through to Saturday 3 December where there will be a kids club, BBQ lunch and evening pizza and pasta buffet.

For more information about O'Reilly's Staff Reunion, please contact Jenny O'Reilly on 0419 789 241 or [oreillys@questapartments.com.au](mailto:oreillys@questapartments.com.au) or visit facebook and become a friend of O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat to find out more or post some more great photos! Bookings are essential, please call reservations on 1800 688 722 or email [reservations@oreillys.com.au](mailto:reservations@oreillys.com.au)

