



Taipan

Eco-Expeditions

LAKE BROADWATER

Our Lake Broadwater expedition is a 7 day adventure on the western edge of the Darling Downs region, the focus of which is participation in two 'hands on' research projects, the first of which involves monitoring the distribution, abundance and metapopulation dynamics of koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) in a semi-arid ecosystem, the second a detailed population/ecological study of the poorly known Pale-headed Snake (*Hoplocephalus bitorquatus*). The two projects are set against the backdrop of a dynamic wetland ecosystem that fluctuates between times of plenty and times of dire need where a brief shower of rain can mean the difference between life and death.

Our trip commences on the east coast with a simple day's drive to our research base at the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park. From here our itinerary focuses on a program of specific day/night research activities, with time out for a bit of botanising, bird watching and spot lighting along the way. This expedition offers a fascinating insight into life in a semi-arid, wetland ecosystem not far from the hustle and bustle of busy city life.

In 2007/08 our primary objective is to build on the work of previous years, particularly in terms of increasing the number of marked Pale-headed Snakes already in our study area and thus refining density and preliminary population size estimates. A prolonged period of drought has also taken its toll on the native vegetation and wildlife in general, so our monitoring of koala distribution and abundance is also vital. Taipan Eco-expeditions invites you to take part in an outstanding natural history experience, to become instrumental in the conservation and preservation of some of Australia's most fragile species whilst enjoying the contrasts that only some time in the Australian outback can offer.

.. For the Earth ..

Providing outstanding wildlife & remote area experiences, while also contributing meaningful scientific data to assist long term conservation & management.

TAIPAN ECO-EXPEDITIONS



LAKE BROADWATER

TRIP NOTES

This itinerary is intended as a guide only. Local weather conditions and wildlife may affect some aspects of the program. Please be aware that any stated times are approximate & nominated activities may vary with each itinerary.

DAY 1: TRAVEL

This expedition departs from the east coast, leaving Murwillumbah on the north coast of NSW in the morning and arriving at Lake Broadwater in Queensland by mid-afternoon, picking up our passengers along the way. Traveling westwards we will leave the coastal influence behind as we go up and over the Eastern escarpment to gradually enter the Darling Downs region with its primary focus on agricultural production. The town of Dalby will be our last taste of "civilisation" before heading out of town along the Moonie Highway to the Lake Broadwater Conservation Park where we will set up camp for the week. Once settled, showered and following some introductory drinks, our expedition leaders will provide an overview of the two projects, detail the itinerary for the week ahead, data collection protocols, the wildlife to be encountered, safety first and other issues. Some time for questions and better getting to know each other around the campfire should ideally precede an "early" night given that we will all be up at dawn the very next day....

Day 2 to Day 6: LAKE BROADWATER CONSERVATION PARK

Time to get down and dirty as we gently engage 5 days/4 nights of focused research work on Koalas, Pale-headed Snakes and the other wildlife species that live in this small but unique conservation reserve. A hearty breakfast after some early morning bird watching and then into the bush to be introduced to some GPS/bush navigation skills before doing some SAT-based koala habitat sampling for the remainder of the morning. We break for some lunch in the field before returning to do some more habitat sampling

over the course of the afternoon. Returning to our camp at dusk we digest the day's activities and wash the dust off before some pre-dinner drinks and nibbles ahead of our evening meal. After dinner we will split into two groups for the evening program which will be focused on transect surveys for Pale-headed Snakes or other ancillary survey work respectively.

Our second morning will likely see at least one group processing results from the previous 24 hours work and doing some follow up field work, while the other heads straight out for more habitat sampling. Meeting up for lunch, we again spend the afternoon collecting quantitative data on koala habitat use.

For our second night, group roles will be reversed for the evening program, thus sharing the research tasks so that everyone gets to have a go at everything over the next 4 days/3 nights. On our last evening together, our time will be devoted to a project debriefing that will detail what has been achieved over the week. If all goes according to plan, we will have sampled at least 50% of our formal koala field sites and gathered some useful koala demographic data. We'll also have a number of new Pale-headed Snakes photographed, measured, marked and released as well as gained further insights into habitat use by this unusual species. We think that such things are a good enough reason to celebrate and hence some social interaction will be the main theme for the remainder of the evening.

Day 7: TRAVEL

After completing the research component of the program, we pack up and leave Lake Broadwater, retracing our steps back to the east coast.

TAIPAN ECO-EXPEDITIONS

For details on other unique research projects visit:
www.taipantours.com.au



TAIPAN ECO-EXPEDITIONS LAKE BROADWATER 7 Days / 6 Nights

Expedition Dates for 2007 & 2008

4 - 10 November 2007 (incl)

16 - 22 March 2008 (incl)

9 - 15 November 2008 (incl)

COST: AU\$1750.00 (incl. GST) per person

Optimum group size: 6 - 8 persons.

INCLUSIONS

- * 6 nights Remote Research Quarters accommodation (or similar).
- * All meals, beverages and outback cocktail hours.
- * Qualified Biologists as Expedition Leaders.
- * One Biologist per 4 - 6 participants.
- * All research activities
- * All activities and sightseeing as specified

Expedition Grading: This journey is graded **Adventurous** which means that a good level of health and fitness is required. There may be periods of rough overland travel and the possibility of extreme weather conditions. Participants may be required to hike in uneven terrain to be actively involved in the research component of the project. You will be required to manage your own luggage and prepare your own sleeping quarters. While accommodation is the best available in these remote locations, this is not sanitized travel. Appreciation for your fellow travelers, the environment and the wildlife is required.

Deposit & Payments: A deposit of \$350 AUD per person is required at the time of booking confirmation, with final monies due 40 working days prior to departure. We advise that applications are not a guarantee of expedition acceptance. In the event that an application is rejected, all deposited funds will be fully refunded.

Cancellation Fees: Cancellation 40 days prior to departure will incur a cancellation fee of 50% of the deposit. Less than 40 days before departure will incur a cancellation fee of 50% of tour cost. Once the tour has commenced, no refunds will be made under any circumstances for unused sections of the expedition.

Not Included: International & Domestic Airfares, taxes, visas, insurance, other meals, any optional tours and activities during free time, and items of a personal nature.

Visa & Documents: Please check with your travel agent for entry requirements into Australia.

Transport: Air conditioned 4WD Toyota Land-cruiser/Troop Carriers with forward seating.

Luggage & Equipment: We would ask that you limit your luggage to one soft sided bag/pack plus day pack, sleeping mat and a warm sleeping bag. Note: Luggage & Equipment recommendations listed on the booking form.

Climate: Usually Lake Broadwater offers a dry arid climate in March & November; temperatures may range between 5°C (overnight) to 40°C during the day.

Travellers Cheques and Currency: As we will be traveling through country areas we recommend Australian Dollars or Australian Travelers Cheques only.

Connecting Flights: No domestic flights are included in costs.

First Aid: A comprehensive first aid kit will accompany the expedition & crew members hold Remote First Aid certification. Vehicles are equipped with UHF radio & Satellite communications.

Authority of the Principal: At all times the decisions of the Principal or Taipan Eco-Expeditions representative will be final on all matters likely to affect the safety & well-being of the trip. Should any party interfere with the well-being of the group then Taipan Eco-Expeditions reserves the right to immediately dismiss that party from the expedition with no right of refund.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is mandatory to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances. It is essential to carry your policy with you at all times. We recommend that you cover yourself with Insurance at the time of making any payment. Should you have any pre-existing medical conditions, please obtain a 'Travelers Appraisal Form' from us for completion.

Limited Insurance held by Operator: The client acknowledges and accepts that there may be no policy covering the operator's liability to its clients for death, injury, damages or loss incurred during the expedition. The client also specifically acknowledges that they (the client) are fully responsible for their own cover with respect to passenger accident liability cover. Although the operator does hold various insurances this booking condition states that the client must assume he/she is not covered by any operator's insurance policy, including all liability insurance for death, injury, damage or any other loss.

For further information contact us at:

info@taipantours.com.au

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS
APPLICATION FORM & RETURN BY
FAX/POST (DETAILS BELOW)

Recommended Luggage & Equipment

**** One suitcase & One day pack only ****

Day Pack: Sunglasses, sunscreen & lip balm, binoculars, water bottle, insect repellent; broad-brimmed hat, eye drops, notebook & pencil, towelettes, toilet paper, camera & film, chewing gum.

Luggage: Sleeping bag suitable to zero degrees, sleeping mat & pillow, hand towel & bath towel, personal toiletries, walking boots, socks, long trousers, long sleeved shirts, shorts & short sleeved shirts, winter jacket, underwear, all personal medication suitable for the entire trip. Battery rechargers with 240volt adapters (3 pin plug).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname:

First Name (s):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Nationality:

Occupation:

Date & Place of Birth:

Special dietary needs:

Known medical conditions:

Are you taking specific medication?
(What & why):

Any known Allergies?

PASSPORT DETAILS:

Passport Number:

Place of issue:

Date of issue:

Valid until:

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name:

Relationship:

Address:

Telephone:

TRIP DETAILS:

Trip Name:

Start Date:

BEVERAGE PREFERENCES:

- Red Wine White Wine Beer
- Rum Bourbon Whiskey Port
- Soda preference.....
- Other.....

MEDICAL DECLARATION: For known medical conditions: If you have a known medical condition, you may need to complete a "Medical Declaration Form" before we can confirm your booking. Please request Taipan to forward you the relevant form.

AUSTRALIAN JURISDICTION DECLARATION: Should any disputes or legal claim arise between passenger(s) and Taipan, I accept that "Jurisdiction Notice" has been advised, and accept that any legal claim made against Taipan is subject to Australian law and any legal action arising shall be litigated in an Australian court of law.

DECLARATION: I have read, understand & agree to the conditions of booking & insurance. I have read, understand and accept all information in this brochure particularly with regard to acceptance of risk, type of travel, likely conditions and what is/is not included in the trip price. I agree to pay the balance not later than 40 working days before the departure date. I am aware that the contract including all matters arising from it is subject to Australian Law and the jurisdiction of the Australian Courts.

Signature:

Name:

Date:



Biolink Pty. Ltd t/as:
Taipan Eco-Expeditions
P.O.Box 196 Uki NSW 2484, Australia
Phone: (61) 266726966
Fax: (61) 266726077
ABN : 27 0905 72099
www.taipantours.com.au