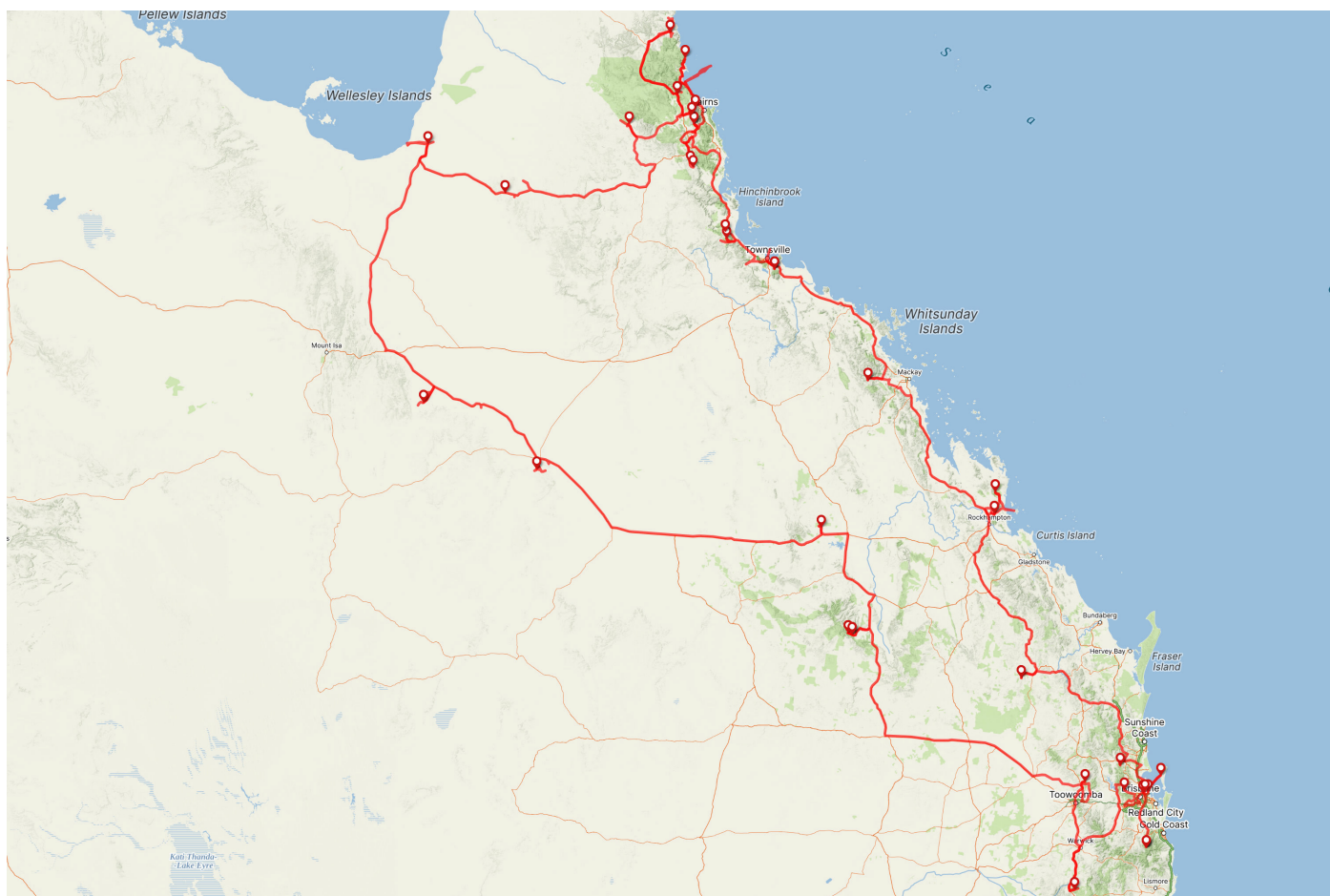




Queensland

14. 6. – 17. 7. 2026

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34 days, 9400 kilometers – Lamington to Cooktown mostly along the coast on the beaten track, then a loop through Karumba, Winton, Carnarvon and Girraween – 70 species, 56 lifers. Our second best mammal trip ever which somehow didn't feel like that. 50 USD per person per day including all the fish and chips (but not the lavish Wavelength reef cruise, which was not mammal-relevant and which alone adds \$6 per day even when the cost is spread over five weeks – and any possible speeding tickets as those aren't settled yet at the time of writing, I just know I got at least one).

We were in Tasmania in 2016 and it was easy and pleasant, with everything accessed by a normal car and plenty of camping spots - but we were not yet mammalwatchers so we only saw the obvious animals. Then in early 2020 I started planning a trip to Northern Territory (which obviously didn't happen) and it looked exactly the opposite - aboriginal and other restrictions on land access, almost no roads anywhere, weird rental car rules (most don't even allow driving after sunset!) ... So I was really not sure what to expect from Queensland. Turns out it's a bit of a compromise between the two, but relevant details are surprisingly hard to find until you get there, so there is a brief guide for first time visitors:

- **Car:** I spent a lot of time trying to figure out what car we would need, but the answer for anyone visiting for the first time is simple: get a 2WD – it will cut you off Cape York (nobody allows taking it north of Cooktown) and some remote sites in the outback, but there is just so much to see from the main roads that it doesn't make sense to splurge on a 4WD for a first visit and waste expensive 4WD time on species that you can easily get next to the road. I was particularly glad to not have gotten a 4WD after I found out that the entire southwest corner of Queensland was inaccessible anyway due to water from floods that happened like one-and-a-half years ago and hundreds of kilometers away, with many roads and most parks still closed. Closures in general seem to be



Eastern Grey Kangaroo



Red Kangaroo

more of a rule than an exception – a particularly juicy cyclone can close some roads for years and then a heavy local rain closes other roads for the week you want to use them, even in the supposedly “dry” season. Always check the QLD Traffic website for latest info - but even that may be confusing. We were considering going all the way to Boodjamulla, the park was open and accepting bookings, but the only road to the secondary camp-site (the primary was full) was marked closed – I asked the parks about it and about a week later they wrote me that they think the road was open, as we were already 2000 kms past the place.

There is still a maze of rules among the rental companies regarding unsealed roads - some prohibit them entirely, some allow “access to accommodations and established sites”, whatever that means. Apex seemed the most relaxed and in person they also assured me there will be no satellite tracking. We got a bit of a higher car (Corolla Cross) and that was sometimes handy. There were no issues with the car at all, except for a weird scene on return, when the clerk told us that the car was too dusty on the dashboard. That was despite the other clerk five weeks ago having told us we did not need to clean the car at all and us having cleaned it nevertheless out of courtesy (but mainly from the outside). She insisted that the branch manager would have to decide next week about the penalty, but nothing ever arrived, so all is good, it was just annoying. Note you can’t cross to NT with any company I looked at.

- **Time:** five weeks might seem long, but it was the absolute bare minimum to do Brisbane to Cairns, a week thereabouts and an outback circle back - we still had to skip things and rush others and could have gotten a few species more if we had more time. Yes, there isn’t much to do during the daytime so you can just drive on, but the distances are simply insane. If you have less than a month, focus on the north and maybe fly over to Brisbane for a week. We chose June/July because it’s the coldest part of the year and theoretically also dry season. This year it was particularly cold and rainy - it was possibly too cold in the mountains around Brisbane and in Atherton Tablelands, thus limiting mammal activity; the regular rains in the Tablelands also limited our mammalwatching activity a bit. At the end of the trip, when we returned to the Brisbane area, the weather turned sunny, but even colder with near free-



Common Wallaroo



Antilopine Wallaroo



Whiptail Wallaby

zing nights, the 1-degree night at Girraween was clearly karma for me making fun of Ivana for bringing (my!) down jacket. But it was quite pleasant in the outback, where we would have suffered terribly in the summer.

• **Camping:** Queensland seems to widely forbid wild camping ... until it doesn't? All parks, state and national, permit camping only in official campsites, of which there are over 500 and they all have to be booked online. This must be quite annoying if you want to do some long hikes and have to pre-book your timeline and then hope you don't feel sick for two days somewhere along the trail - and some places are simply legally unvisitable on foot because there is nowhere to camp and it's too far to walk in a day? Weird. But for a roaming trip with a car, this system works well. A lot of the campsites are weirdly cramped though - you have a huge day-visit area that sits completely empty and then a small campsite with people breathing on each other; some campers are also quite inconsiderate or outright stupid. Outside of the parks, the coast is littered with "no camping" signs and Port Douglas has a huge lightboard proudly announcing the fine for wild camping to be over 300 bucks - and remember that sleeping in your car counts as camping. Several famous parks in the Tablelands are tiny and have no campsites, but there are always some within an hour from everything plus the free rest stop at Rifle Creek. Any other form of accommodation is so absurdly overpriced that it doesn't deserve any consideration - had we slept even in the cheapest available places every night, the budget would at least double, more likely triple!

Once you get a bit to the west, things suddenly change and people just camp in roadside rest areas, gravel pits ... anywhere it doesn't look like someone's farm. A lady in Normanton tourist info plainly told us to set up anywhere far enough from town, so this seems to be semi-official at least. The traffic dies off quickly after

Agile Wallaby

Swamp Wallaby





Red-necked Wallaby



Black-striped Wallaby

at sunset, so even roadside places are fine, it's only the hard ground and prickly plants making it a little difficult sometimes. WikiCamps app is great in helping you find spots in the outback and commercial or municipal campgrounds on the coast when parks fail you - just make sure to thoroughly check the conditions, many places require online booking or are restricted to self-contained campers. Note that the capacity in park campgrounds can run out - we booked many on the same day, but for example Daintree had only spots almost a week out so we had to plan around that.

• **Sites:** David Andrew's book on finding mammals is now a bit old and almost all the sites are covered by Jon in his Queensland page, but I still found the book useful to organize my ideas of the sites, as there are a LOT of them. The only way to get it electronically seems to be Kindle, but they have an Android app, so you don't need the device. There is a lot of reports but it's hard to find extra info in them - I liked Valentin's as it has some specific sites and notes on birds, but Romain Boquier's brought us to Carnarvon with his signature one-line note about seeing a feathertail there and Pieter de Groot Boersma's proved key in learning that feathertails follow YB gliders (even if all of this proved a little moot later).

This is a developed western country, so everything is pretty much mapped out and you can't really break new ground. Weirdly this also means that if you are primarily going after mammal species, you don't get much into any kind of "wilderness" as there are convenient sites for essentially everything, but there are a lot of them, each having often only 1-2 targets, so you may find yourself running around like a clockwork bunny sometimes. The largest variety of mammals is found around the highlands above Cairns, which is a rather compact area, but we were constantly picking up new species along the whole route. The large outback loop was the least productive, but I wouldn't miss it just because of the possibilities there, even if they didn't materialize.



A major annoyance in Australia is the US-level privatization of land. There are even billboards along the roads advertising that trespassing carries up to six months in jail and "no entry" signs everywhere. What's worse, you can get shouted at for just walking anywhere because everything can be private even if not signposted and you should somehow magically know that. The fact that even some people in my country

Northern Nail-tail Wallaby



Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo

dream about this kind of dystopia really keeps me up at night, but from a practical point of view it means that visiting public protected areas is much easier than picking a random spot in the middle of nowhere. Even out in the west where it looks empty on a map literally everything is a cattle ranch.

Interestingly, while there are heaps of iNaturalist records, they seem to come mostly from what random people saw in their backyards and the rarer species sometimes have very few records. Maybe local mammalwatchers put sightings elsewhere? But I didn't manage to find anything.

A good example is Little Red Flying-

-fox, which we couldn't find for the longest time and it had almost no recent records on iNat - until we found dozens in a colony in the middle of Brisbane, which just went unreported for months. After just this one trip, we are somehow already #4 in mammal species in Queensland and if the House Mouse ever reaches consensus ID, we will be tied for #2!

- **Gear:** this time we had two thermals - alongside the trusty old Pulsar XQ38F, we brought a ThermalMaster T2 Max, so while walking, we were both thermalling. While the Pulsar is clearly better for small and distant animals, the T2 Max has much better adaptive scale and doesn't suffer from sky contrast that much, which was very helpful in a place where many species live in trees. Some gliders and possums were still found better with eyeshine; many animals here in particular seem to like red light much more than white.

- **Mammals:** When looking at the list of mammals, I was imagining myself going after all the weird and varied carnivorous marsupials and maybe seeing some kangaroos along the way. In reality, we have seen 19 species of "kangaroos" (many of them very hard to tell from each other and we still struggle in IDing them in the field), a lot of possums and gliders, but only a few bandicoots ... and one single Dasyurid. Mammalwatching in Australia is simply very different from almost anywhere else, largely due to the glaring absence of any large carnivores, which are the sort of animal that you look for everywhere but nowhere in particular. The general



Red-legged Pademelon



Red-necked Pademelon

impossibility of seeing Dasyurids during this trip combined with small variety and often also density of rodents (and the fact that there isn't anything else) meant that many sites had very few small mammals or none at all and thus felt a bit dead - the big exception being sites overrun with Fawn-footed Melomys, which were maybe a bit *too* alive, because it was impossible to find anything else in the "noise". At least there are quite a few bats to look for (even though there are relatively few caves to explore). This led to the weird situation where we saw



Rock Wallabies (by rows): Unadorned, Allied, Marreeba, Herbert's, Purple-necked, Brush-tailed

a lot of species and towards the end when we searched iNaturalist, there were only a few species recorded in a given area to look for, yet it still didn't really feel very rich, in a large part because none of these secondary targets ever showed up.

In theory, the trip could have brought us 8 new families, but we only got 7: Ring-tailed possums and Gliders were pretty fast and easy, Musky Rat-Kangaroo has a specific site to pick it up, Bandicoots and Rat-Kangaroos appeared surprisingly late to the party, but then showed repeatedly, and the lone Dasyurid was a reward for some effort. Pygmy Possums and Feathertail Gliders are apparently both quite rare: Pygmy Possums go into torpor in cold weather so that may have contributed to their lack. A Feathertail seemed similarly unlikely, but we discovered a good site in Carnarvon and then found another one randomly near Brisbane. There's obviously also Koala, Wombat, Platypus, Echidna, Kangaroos and Brushtails, but we somehow had all of that from Tasmania despite the trip having happened before we started actively mammalwatching.

Mammals list

(lifers in bold)

Koala
Eastern Grey Kangaroo
Red Kangaroo
Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo
Common Wallaroo
Antilopine Wallaroo
Black-striped Wallaby
Red-necked Wallaby
Agile Wallaby
Swamp Wallaby
Whiptail Wallaby
Allied Rock Wallaby
Mareeba Rock Wallaby
Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby
Herbert's Rock Wallaby
Purple-necked Rock Wallaby
Unadorned Rock Wallaby
Northern Nail-tail Wallaby
Red-legged Pademelon
Red-necked Pademelon
Rufous Bettong
Northern Bettong
Musky Rat-Kangaroo
Common Brushtail Possum
Coppery Brush-tailed Possum
Short-eared Brush-tailed Possum
Eastern Ring-tailed Possum
Green Ringtail
Lemuroid Ring-tailed Possum
Herbert River Ring-tailed Possum
Greater Glider
Squirrel Glider
Sugar Glider
Kreff's Glider

Yellow-bellied Glider
Striped Possum
Broad-toed Feather-tailed Glider
Northern Brown Bandicoot
Queensland Barred Bandicoot
Yellow-footed Antechinus
Short-beaked Echidna
Platypus
Dingo
Brown Hare
European Rabbit
Wild Boar
Red Deer
Dromedary Camel
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin
Australian Humpback Dolphin
Black Flying-Fox
Spectacled Flying-Fox
Grey-headed Flying-Fox
Little Red Flying-Fox
Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit Bat
Eastern Horseshoe Bat
Diadem Roundleaf Bat
Dusky Roundleaf Bat
Southern Myotis
Eastern Cave Bat
Scotorepens sp. (Northern?)
Coastal Tomb Bat
Troughton's Tomb Bat
Rakali
Fawn-footed Melomys
White-tailed Giant Rat
Cape York Rat
Australian Swamp Rat
Chestnut Tree Mouse (Pogonomys sp.)
House Mouse



Northern Bettong



Rufous Bettong

• **Misses:** Apart from the Pygmy Possums, we missed several more species that are typically seen. Both Proserpine and Mount Claro Rock Wallabies would require an extra night for any real effort, which we chose not to spend – I expected to do Proserpine during the trip to Whitsundays that we considered, but the logistics didn't work out. Daintree River Possum would require perhaps even more time due to the Mt. Lewis road being closed and there being potentially a very long walk. Mahogany Glider could perhaps be searched for at other sites than Jourama but I am not sure what the chances would be. Goldman's Rock Wallaby may be mostly lost from Black Mountain. Bennett's Tree Kangaroo and Northern Quoll didn't show up despite targeted effort. Searching in the outback brought no Dunnarts or anything like that. At the end, we tried to target some remaining small animals – Spot-tailed Quoll, Bare-nosed Wombat (half-heartedly), Brush-tailed Phascogale, Subtropical Antechinus, Long-nosed Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo – all at sites where they should at least theoretically be, but found absolutely nothing, perhaps also due to the season? If one had a bit more time to search (and maybe warmer weather), it looks like an 80+ trip is realistically possible though.

Note also that while we are dedicated mammalwatchers (apart from the 4 days spent snorkelling which nevertheless mostly bought some mammals), we are also quite lazy – we usually went to sleep around midnight to 1 a.m., after “just” 5-6 hours of dark time.

• **Brief notes on sites in chronological order:**

Lamington NP: we started with four nights camping in O'Reilly's, the most luxurious campsite of the trip, but also the loudest; the first night we slept through due to jet lag. The place had huge promise, with dozens of species possible, but – setting the tone for the rest of the trip – somewhat underwhelming delivery, with only 10 species after the four days, including **Eastern Grey Kangaroo** seen in the lowlands on the way. The campsite itself had **Red-necked Pademelons** and **Swamp Rats** during the day. **Short-eared Brushtail**, **Eastern Ringtail Possums** and **Fawn-Footed Melomys** were very common at night in the nearby forests. **Red-legged Pademelons** were seen once at night very poorly from the canopy walk, a **Sugar Glider** was hiding in branches directly above the access road at the resort turn-off. Driving the access road at night brought a presumed **Dingo** in the higher part and **Common Brushtail** in the lower part. I think I saw some-



Musky Rat-kangaroo

thing with a good shape for a Bandicoot in my thermal at the raptor theater near the guesthouse, but it darted away too fast. The creek on the bottom of Wishing Tree Track looked good for Platypuses, but we saw none – we did see a spectacular display of glowworms at night though; the site is easily identified by the strategically located benches for viewing.

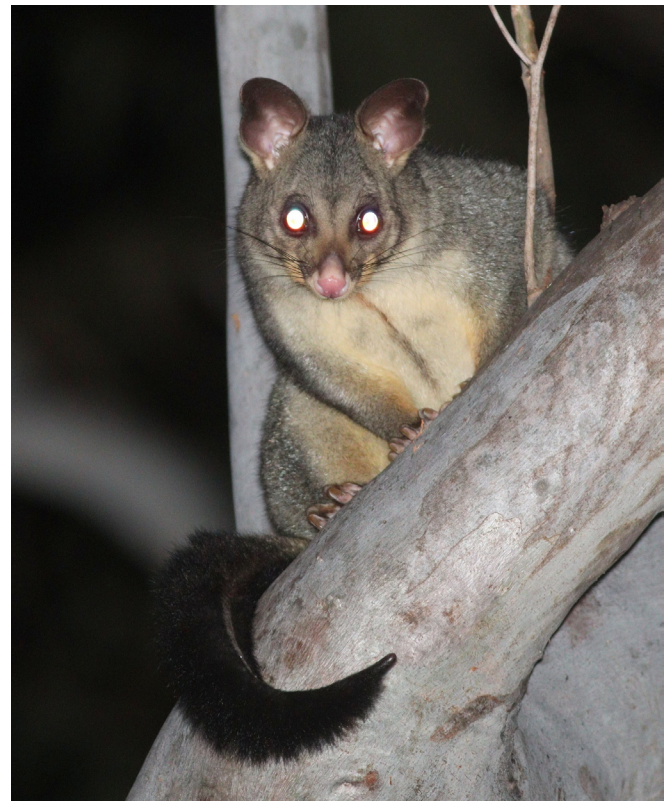
Moreton Island: We took the car ferry (without the car) to the Wrecks for snorkelling. From the ferry we found both **Australian Humpback** and **Indo-pacific Bottlenose dolphins**. A short night walk through the pleasant sandy forests brought very good views of **Squirrel Gliders** and a **Black Flying-fox**.

North of Brisbane: Bullock Creek in Donybrook only produced **House Mouse**, **Eastern Grey Kangaroos** and **Black Flying-foxes**; nearby countryside had ample **Brown hare**. Camped in Archer campground, nothing but **Melomys**. No bats under bridge in Conondale, but **Red-necked Wallaby** (not under the bridge), no **Black-tailed Wallaby** at Imbil, large colony of **Black** and **Grey-headed Flying-fox** at Gympie near hospital.

Auburn River NP: In the evening we quickly found many wallabies, but they turned out to be **Swamp Wallabies** and we had no Herbert's anywhere. Driving the access road produced **Greater** and **Kreff's Gliders**.

Rockhampton: day trip to Great Keppel produced no mammals, but the best beachside snorkelling anywhere. We did not find any Rock Wallabies on Mt. Etna, nor any bats – Johannasen's cave is closed in this season and the information board was pretty clear that Bat Cleft was empty in winter so we didn't wait until sunset there. Somewhat foolishly we went to find a single **Agile Wallaby** along Lake Mary road among the many **Eastern Gray Kangaroos** in the area (if we only knew ...). Night driving from the airport campsite had only **Common Brush-tails**, but the Upper Stony campground in a nearby park had **Unadorned Rock Wallabies** and **Northern Brown Bandicoot** right next to the tent (but also some very noisy unsupervised teenagers).

Eungella NP: We have seen Platypus before, but this was the best place to camp in the area anyway, so we stopped by. **Platypus** is inde-



Common Brush-tailed Possum



Coppery Brush-tailed Possum



Short-eared Brush-tailed Possum

ed very easy from the viewing platforms; night walks brought only **Melomys** and **Red-legged Pademelon**, Digging's road had **Swamp Wallaby** in the morning, the flying-fox camp in town was all **Black** and **Grey-headed** again.

Townsville: snorkelling at Magnetic Island was a disaster (zero visibility), so we went to see some **Koalas** hanging a meter above tourists at the Forts. **Allied Rock Wallabies** seen from the boat in the harbor and along the hike to Florence Bay. Two nights of



Eastern Ring-tailed Possum



Herbert River Ring-tailed Possum

nel at the top easily – well at least the location of it, but we didn't find any feasible access even after several hours of trying, everything is steep and overgrown so much that I wished to have had a machete (at least it would have been useful to find Jon later and hit him with it for suggesting this site). This is also where we started seeing

Agile Wallabies popping up everywhere and so I won't often specifically mention them from now on.



Green Ring-tailed Possum

camping at Alligator Creek with short night walks had just **Common Brushtails**. We checked way too many culverts under and around Hervey Range Road and found several with **Broad-nosed Bats** (*Scotorepens* sp.), probably not possible to get to exact species (likely Northern based on site?). Don't be fooled, they are extremely tiny and hide between the wasp nests. We found the railway tun-



Lemuroid Ring-tailed Possum

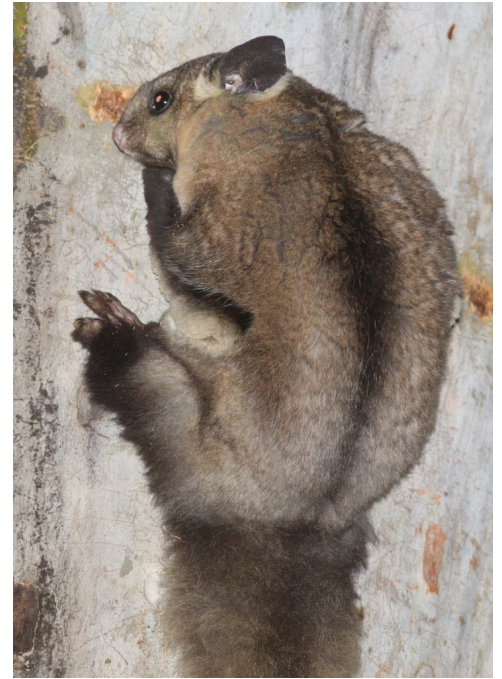
Paluma: nice camping at the dam with beautiful rainforest around. We drove the dam road and walked some trails near the village at night, but it was rainy and nothing showed up except for some **Melomys** directly at the dam wall, a **Wild Boar** on the road and a **Kreff's Glider** right in the village – we were not sure about the ID, but we measured the branch in daylight and that made it



Greater Glider



Squirrel Glider



Yellow-bellied Glider

clear . The access road had been closed for a long time due to cyclone damage and with it the tourism had been gone as well, so we saw the great opening of the teahouse, where we sat for a while hoping in vain for antechinuses. Victoria's Riflebirds were an acceptable substitute. One of the wooden bridges on the dam road had roosting **Southern Myotis** underneath during the day. The Flying-Fox colony at Ingham has grown to biblical proportions a couple years back and has thus been removed through great effort, no bats were left.

Jourama falls: at night roosting **Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit Bat** and some **White-tailed Giant Rats** and **Melomys**, but no Mahogany (or other, for that matter) gliders.

Hypipamee and Ravenshoe: Frankly a really weird mammalwatching area, most of the Tablelands is agricultural land and towns. While this is surrounded by some large protected areas, those are very inaccessible and the famous sites are actually the tiny parks between the farms. To get to Hypipamee, Google Maps defaults to a shortcut from Millaa Millaa (**European Rabbit** on the roadside in town) which is reportedly very bad, but we had to go to Malanda for fuel anyway, as that's actually quite scarce here. Just after Malanda, we noticed suspicious behavior of tourists in a parking lot (Malanda Falls) and indeed, they were looking at a **Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo** up in the trees, the only one we saw in daylight.

And then we arrived at Hypipamee, the possum capital of the world, and the trip really changed gears. While we sat under the shelter at the parking lot, foolishly hoping for the rain to stop (the weather radar for some reason doesn't work in this area and all the rain looks like dispersing between reaching the Tablelands but that's

not real), a **Brushtail** went up to us and started rummaging through our things in the table. This was a difficult situation not only because we couldn't get rid of it but also because it was unclear whether this largely common-looking individual should be treated as Common or Coppery – luckily, there were more decidedly **Coppery** once nearby. A walk around produced several **Herbert's River Ring-tails** and a **Tree Kangaroo**



Krefft's Glider



Sugar Glider



Striped Possum

camper stuck with us had an axe and a winch and we cleared it in a couple of hours together. We visited Hypipamee briefly another night, but didn't find anything new. Nearby, however, at Elms road turnoff from the road to Herberton, there seems to be an excellent site for **Rufous Bettong**, which we saw easily from the main road at night.

Craters area: after finding all mines near Herberton closed off, no Flying Fox colony anywhere and another Platypus in Yungaburra (not from the viewing platform, but further down the creek), we arrived at Lake Eacham. In the late afternoon, we saw a likely **Musky Rat-Kangaroo** at the beginning of the trail, but with a very brief view. The subsequent walk around the crater into the night brought nothing, but the parking lot had **Queensland Barred Bandicoot**, with another one at the School Point campsite which we used as base for this area; on the way towards it we saw, at night, our first **Spectacled Flying-fox**. The next day we took a daytime walk around Lake Barrine and I finally took photos of the **Musky Rat-Kangaroo**, but Ivana didn't see it. Coming back to Lake Eacham, it was still afternoon but grey and overcast, so she took a thermal and quickly found not only another one but also **Yellow-footed Antechinus**, the only Dasyurid of the trip, both on the first stretch of the trail in counter-clockwise direction, just a couple hundred meters from people paddleboarding and whatnot. Coupled with the fact that the Bandicoot had been also very near the previous

was sleeping bravely in branches straight above the depths of the crater. Then we moved to Ravenshoe and drove the Tully Falls Road, finding **Green** and **Lemuroid Ringtails**, bringing the Possum species number to 4-5 depending on the Brushtail question. We booked the campsite at Koom-baloomba, but couldn't cross the last kilometer of road, so we set up on the roadside there in pouring rain. The next day the road back was blocked by a fallen tree, but a fellow



Broad-toed Feather-tailed Glider



Northern Brown Bandicoot

Queensland Barred Bandicoot





Koala

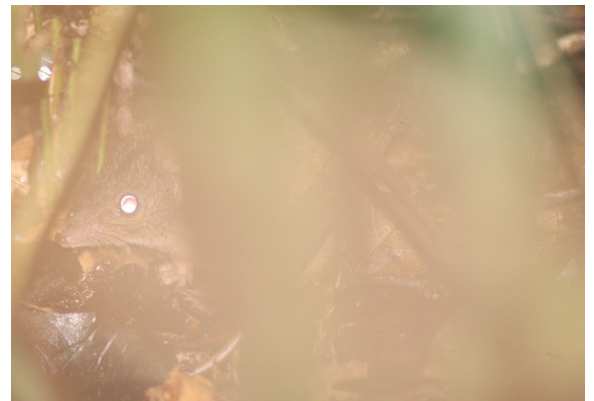


Short-beaked Echidna

night, this is a pretty rich area for obscure marsupial families! The reports of people seeing “many Musky Rat-Kangaroos easily” however seem a bit overblown. **White-tailed Giant Rats** were common in the area at night. The forests around the craters have a lot of fluorescent ... things: from wood and leaves to actual shining mushrooms.

Davies Creek: as this is the top site for Northern Quoll, we visited it twice but didn't get any. Both nights we saw the rare **Northern Bettong** on the dirt road and one night also **Northern Brown Bandicoot**. Nearby Speewah campground and Barron falls didn't bring anything of note besides some **Giant Rats** and **Red-legged Pademelons**. Mareeba Gorge was not far from there to tick **Mareeba Rock Wallaby**, right after the start of the trails. Just before Kuranda from Cairns there was a **Spectacled Flying Fox** camp around the highway.

Daintree: We had hopes for Striped Possum and Bennett's Tree Kangaroo, so we drove around and walked boardwalks in Jindalba, Madja and Dubuji, but we only found **Melomys**, likely a **Cape York Rat**, **Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit bat**, **Queensland Barred Bandicoot** and the interesting local **Pogonomys sp.**, which is reported as Chestnut Tree Rat on iNat but very likely is a separate species. We have also done some driving around during daytime to increase our chances to see Cassowaries, during which we found only **Wild Boar** – then the next day, when we were already on the way out, a Cassowary casually walked along the main road a few meters from the car. Despite the ubiquitous warning signs, this is a very rare species to actually see! On the way, the cave under Rex Lookout is easily visited from Wagnetti Beach. We saw a **Coastal Tomb-bat** just looking into the opening from the outside, so the disturbance was minimal. The Flying fox camp in downtown Cairns was deserted.



Yellow-footed Antechinus



Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin



Australian Humpback Dolphin



Platypus



Spectacled Flying Fox

Cooktown: when you are this far north, it doesn't make any sense to not go as far as you can and that means Cooktown. We camped at the glorious Rossville Retreat, the only campsite in Queensland that is actually big enough. In the evening we staked out the Black Mountain lookout, but found no Rock Wallabies, then we



Black Flying Fox

Rifle Creek: to be in Port Douglas at 8 a.m. for the Wave-length cruise to the outer reef (which produced no mammals but brilliant snorkelling – seriously, it's precipitously expensive, but worth it), there aren't any real options but the free campsite at Rifle Creek near Mount Molloy. It's nowhere near any well-known sites except for Mt. Lewis, where the road barrier was however closed, so we just drove around some back roads. Just a few kms north on Weatherby road we found **Striped Possum**, another **Pogonomys** and some **White-tailed Giant Rats**.



Grey-headed Flying Fox

drove around a bit. Following the dirt road along Annan river we eventually reached a small creek that was too stony for our car, but had a **Rakali** as a compensation – it first swam in front of the car and then it sat still in its den, thinking that we didn't see it, which was plain wrong. We walked the road further, but the Rakali was the only interesting animal. On the way we explored a few places where bats were reported along the road, one had **Southern Myotis** and there was a **Spectacled Flying Fox** camp at Mt. Carbine

Chillagoe: even though we came for the bats, our first venture inland in the north meant also a chance for several kangaroo species. And indeed, besides the numerous **Agile Wallabies**, our quick late afternoon drive to Royal Arch brought both **Common** and **Antilopine Wallaroos** and **Whiptail Wallabies**. From the three publicly accessible caves the most productive was Baubinia with **Eastern Horseshoe**, **Dusky** and **Diademed Roundleaf** and **Troughton's Tomb Bats**. Pompeii had an **Eastern Cave Bat** and the Archways again the **Tomb bats**.



Little Red Flying Fox

A2 highway: we stopped at Chinaman Creek in Cloncurry in mid-afternoon not sure if we would have to wait until dusk for the Rock Wallabies, but after driving around the rocky hill for a while, we found one sitting at the very top. Despite some reports claiming otherwise, these are quite surely **Purple-necked Rock Wallabies**, so one doesn't have to go all the way to Mount Isa for them. Inspired by iNat records, we spent the evening on the side road south of McKinlay, finding our first **Red Kangaroo** but none of the several species of Dasyurids that were promised. The same situation repeated in Bladensburg NP: the local ranger acknowledged the presence of Dunnarts in the area, but even

Gulf country: from Chillagoe, the road continues for some 600 kms towards the Gulf, but this is explicitly prohibited to follow in all 2WD contracts – not that our car could carry enough fuel to even attempt it anyway – so highway 1 is the only option to continue westwards. At least one doesn't have to go all the way back to Ravenshoe, because the Ootann road provides a convenient shortcut. Tagalaka (formerly Littleton NP) had a few **Northern Nail-tail Wallaby** sightings nearby on EoL – among the large amounts of **Agile Wallabies** it didn't seem easy, but when it got dark, we rather quickly found one on Strathmore road and another one on Littleton road. The Normanton/Karumba area had only **Agile Wallabies** and nothing else at all.



Queensland Tube-nosed Fruit Bat



Eastern Horseshoe Bat



Diademed Roundleaf Bat



Dusky Roundleaf Bat



Troughton's Tomb Bat



Coastal Tomb Bat



Southern Myotis

he himself has only seen one in three months, so it was not a big surprise that we only found large numbers of **Red Kangaroos** and **Common Wallaroos** as well as two dogs. These can probably again be called **Dingoes**, but it is interesting to note that the ranger was consistent in calling them “wild dogs” as he clearly considers them pests and they are likely subject to culling campaigns, even though those are mainly focused on feral cats

(one of which we have seen, to the ranger's surprise). Nevertheless, the park was really beautiful and quite well accessible in our car and the ranger very welcoming, with nothing but support for our nighttime activities.

Rubyvale: A rather random destination based on iNat sightings has proven surprisingly good. We arrived already after dark and had a **Rufous Bettong** crossing the main road. **Black-striped Wallabies** were common both around the roads and on the night hike to Policeman's Knob, where we also fixed the previous miss of **Herbert's Rock Wallabies**, finally got a **Short-beaked Echidna** for the triplist



Scotorepens sp. (possibly Northern Broad-nosed Bat)

and saw a **Brushtail** and a **Kreff's glider** on top of all of that. In the morning, we ran into a small group of **Dromedary Camels** just opposite the rubbish tip in Sapphire (where we camped) – according to a quick search, this is a known herd and seems as wild as any camels in Australia. We also took a guided tour through the Miner's Heritage Walk-in Mine, encouraged by the promise of *Miniopterus* bats, but all of the bats that we could see were Vespers, likely **Eastern Cave Bats**. There was no flying-fox camp to be found in Emerald.

Carnarvon: If Hypipamee is the possum capital of the world, Carnarvon surely is the glider one – I am really not sure where else you will see five glider species in two evenings! The main campsite at the end of the road is weirdly open only during holidays, so we caught the last night possible; walking



Eastern Cave Bat



Rakali

another **Yellow-bellied Glider**. Since I have just learned from a report that Feathertails follow them for tree sap, we checked the trees with freshly cut bark carefully – and there it was, a **Broad-toed Feathertail Glider**, clearly quite happy that we have

around, we found **Greater, Squirrel** and **Yellow-bellied Gliders** and a **Common Brushtail**. More importantly to us however, we also found the camp wardens with their stories about a Feathertail sighting directly at site 25 a few days ago, so we focused a lot of attention on that area but with no luck. As the campsite was closing, we hiked up a few hours to the nearest bush camp at the upper end of the accessible part of the gorge. A short walk back down from the camp quickly brought



Australian Swamp Rat



White-tailed Giant Rat

ked Wallabies and **Brushtails**. A brief night drive to Lake Cressbrook brought **Red Deer** and **Eastern Gray Kangaroo**, Seventeen Mile Road had a **Koala**, a **Swamp Wallaby** and more **Brushtails**; on the way back on Fifteen Mile Road I sadly ran over a **Northern Brown Bandicoot**. In the morning, we hiked along the Crows Nest Creek and eventually found a couple of **Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies** across the gorge in binoculars.

driven the Yellow-bellied Glider away and the sweet treat is now completely unguarded! Soon, another one appeared and they started chasing each other around, including glides between the trees. A nearby **Kreffit's glider** rounded up the score; there were also **Eastern Gray Kangaroos** and **Whiptail Wallabies** around the access road.

Toowoomba: we reached Lake Perseverance already at dusk and found no Rock Wallabies, just **Red-nec-**



Fawn-footed Melomys



Pogonomys sp. (Chestnut Tree Mouse or Rat)



House Mouse

Girraween NP: at this point, we just searched for anything to pad the trip list with, so a place with both Quolls and Wombats was a clear choice. In one afternoon and night, we found neither, but the climb to the Pyramids would have been worth it even without any mammals. The only downside was the nighttime temperature of a whooping 1 degree C, not really what I had prepared for to be honest. Seen: **Red-necked Wallaby**, **Eastern Gray Kangaroo**, **Swamp Wallaby**, **Eastern Ringtail**, **Common Brushtail**, **Kreff's Glider**, **Dingo**.

Brisbane area: Despite a couple of hours of effort both in late afternoon and after dark, we didn't find any Sub-tropical Antechinuses at the Mt. Glorious rainforest circuit, just more and more **Fawn-footed Melomys** and **Red-legged Pademelons**. A bit of driving around mostly the main road (traffic was acceptable) however brought **Short-eared Brushtails**, **Eastern Ringtail**, **Red-necked Pademelon**, **Sugar Glider**, and – quite shockingly – another **Broad-toed Feathertail** – really just hanging in plain sight on a tree trunk next to the road. The Flying-fox Camp at Ipswich Nature Center was huge, but was again just **Black** and **Grey-headed**. It was only at the very

final site of the trip in Edenbrooke, where we finally found **Little Red Flying-foxes** – and there were hundreds and hundreds of them, forming tight roosting groups mostly below the even more numerous **Grey-headed Flying Foxes**, exactly as described in all the sources. When we were looking through camps before, I was worried that we could have overlooked them, but when we finally found them here, they were immediately obvious due to their brown wings.



Cape York Rat

Dingo



*Dromedary
Camel*