Enjoy a wild winter walk

There’s an excellent opportunity next month to discover the sights and sounds of mother nature in one of Brisbane’s best-loved riverside parklands.

The Friends of Sherwood Arboretum Association (FOSA) will be conducting their winter “Walk in the Park” at 7.30am on Sunday July 1, an ideal opportunity to meet the natural residents of this magnificent heritage listed parkland.

One of Australia’s foremost ecologists, Professor Hugh Possingham, will introduce visitors to some of Australia’s eye-catching native birds and their distinctive calls during this informative hour-long walk.

FOSA will follow up the guided walk, starting at the Sherwood Arboretum’s Jolimont Street car park, with a refreshing morning tea.

Thanks to its well-vegetated islands and a riverfront bushland corridor, the Sherwood Arboretum has a well-deserved reputation as a mecca for bird watching in Brisbane.

Professor Possingham said that more than 160 species of birds have been sighted over the past decade in the Arboretum, which also boasts one of Australia’s most valuable collections of native trees.

“It’s really quite common to see 40 or 50 species of birds in an hour in the Sherwood Arboretum,” he said.

The impressive list can include birds like the Little Black Cormorants, Azure Kingfisher, Australian Reed-warbler and Royal Spoonbill found in the Arboretum’s wetlands.

Equally, you can sight Brown Honeyeaters, a winter favourite, and various waterfowl from the causeway, a bird watching “hot spot” between the two main islands in the wetlands.

The distinctive calls of the Eastern Whipbird, found in the wet rainforest zone, and the Pied Currawong, found in the towering river gums, can be heard in the Arboretum.

You can prepare for FOSA’s winter “Walk in the Park” by reading the well-illustrated guide, “Sherwood Arboretum Birding” by Professor Possingham and Mat Gilfedder, which can be found at www.uq.edu.au/spatialecology/birds-sherwoodarboretum.