



A voice for koalas in the Redlands

www.koalagroup.asn.au
email:admin@koalagroup.asn.au

KAG Newsletter

July-Sept 2020

DIARY DATES

Due to ongoing changes with COVID-19 rules, KAG will not be conducting meetings for the remainder of the year. We hope to recommence with our usual activities in 2021.

KAG Annual General Meeting
- email/postal nominations (see further details on P4)

September 21st-25th Wild Spaces week at IndigiScapes **10AM-2PM** More details www.indigiscapes.com.au
Note: KAG will be there on Thursday the 24th.

SUNDAY September 27 3.30-5.30PM Cleveland Koala Count
Help us count koalas in various areas of Cleveland. Activity suitable for all ages.
RSVP for attendance is essential as places are limited.
Call 0422 887 027 or email admin@koalagroup.asn.au for more info and to RSVP.
Wear sun safe clothing, closed-in shoes and BYO water.

SUNDAY November 1 Tree Planting 8.30AM
Bligh St Conservation Area, end of Bligh St, Wellington Pt. Please wear closed-in shoes and sun smart clothing. Planting is suitable for all ages. Refer to KAG website for updates.

Please note:
The planting scheduled for **October 4th** has been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time of going to print.

Federal environment laws failing

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act is Australia's central piece of environmental legislation.

The law aims to conserve and protect the environment, including threatened species, wetlands, world heritage sites and the Great Barrier Reef marine park. Every 10 years, the act is subject to an independent statutory review.

In July this year an interim report was handed down by the former competition watchdog head Graeme Samuel with findings and recommendations.

The report revealed that Australia's environment is in an unsustainable state of decline and our iconic places and native species are under increasing threat from habitat destruction, climate change and invasive species.

It reported that the act was ineffective and successive governments had failed to implement the law.

Australia has the world's highest rate of mammal extinction and governments have failed to protect habitat, implement recovery plans for species facing extinction and address the biggest threats to our environment.

This was the case even before the bushfire disaster of 2019-20, which put more species and ecosystems in jeopardy.

This is the same piece of legislation that the Toondah Harbour development Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process is currently being assessed against. This is of extreme concern considering the number of flaws that Toondah mum 'Ruby' and joey have been exposed by the review.

KAG strongly advises that the outcomes of any EIS is peer reviewed to ensure that accuracy and trustworthiness is apparent to the community.



A more honest depiction of the proposed Toondah development showing many buildings of ten stories with dozens of other multi-story constructions in Moreton Bay marine park. This image was commissioned by Claire Richardson, Independent candidate for Oodgeroo in the upcoming State election who is opposed to the proposal.

This newsletter is produced by
The Koala Action Group Qld Inc

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Patrons Helen Murray

Councillor Lance Hewlett

President Debbie Pointing

V/President & Policy Advisor

Lynn Roberts

Secretary Jenny Niall

(Tree Planting Convenor)

Treasurer Tanya Golitschenko

Newsletter Debbie Pointing

Executive Members

Chris Bray

Sightings July to Sept 2020

Alexandra Hills: Agate Ct, Balmoral St, Sevenoaks St. **Birkdale:**

Collingwood Rd, Hailey Dr, Hardy Rd, Lyre Ct, Randall Rd, Sunnybay Dr.

Capalaba: Runnymede Rd.

Cleveland: Coburg St E, Fitzroy St, Middle St, Passage St, Paxton St, Russel St, Shore St E, Wellington St, Wynyard St. **NSI:** Billa St, Bimba St, Cumming Pde, Gonzales St, Hexton St, Sovereign Rd, Toompany St.

Ormiston: Beckwith St, Cowley St, Empire Vista, Gloucester St, Ivory Ln, Tolson Tce, Wellington St.

Redland Bay: Boundary St, Cleveland-Redland Bay Rd, German Church Rd. **Sheldon:** Henderson Rd.

Thornlands: Clifford Perske Dr, McBride Crt, Osprey Dr, South St.

Victoria Pt: Cleveland Redland Bay Rd, Hettwer Ct. **Wellington Pt:** Anson Rd, Bligh St, Fernbourne Rd, Hilliards Park Dr, Jacob St, Janelle Ct, Sawmill Dr, Station St, Trafalgar Vale Av.

Other LCA's: **BCC:** Edgehill St (Nathan), Kulmaren Grove (Karana Downs), Mt Gravatt Outlook Dr & Tallowood Pl (Mount Gravatt East). **LCC:** Peacock Av (Beenleigh), Prangley Rd (Bahrs Scrub).

SBRC: D'Aguilar Highway (Benarkin State Forest). **SCC:** Bamboo Rd (Palmwoods), Wust Rd (Doonan). **SRRC:** Schneider Rd (Allandale), Wongawallan Rd (Tamborine Mountain).

Primary data sources:

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/project/index/edad0555-32a6-473e-8956-c70cf80329c4>

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations>



Tree plantings continue at Bligh St Conservation Area

The KAG tree planting team have only managed to conduct one tree planting this year due to the ongoing restrictions with COVID-19.

However, volunteers were rewarded after the August planting with the sighting of a mum and joey tucked away in foliage in a nearby tree.

We look forward to a time when KAG activities (including plantings) can return to normal and thank everyone for their support and patience during these trying times.



Help for Koalas in GJ Walter Park at Cleveland

Council recently erected temporary fencing in the GJ Walter Pk off leash dog area after a request from KAG to provide protection for koalas during the breeding season.

It is well known that numbers of koalas inhabit many of the trees within the off leash dog park and KAG had received information indicating that a female koala (Ruby) and her joey were regularly seen moving between trees mid afternoon which is a very busy time for park users and their pet dogs.



Numerous koalas are known to frequent the park and surrounding area in the Toondah

Harbour precinct and KAG believe the fencing is a great outcome that assists the local koalas to move more safely around their home range (territory).

Feedback from dog owners/park users has been overwhelmingly positive as the majority of community members express that they enjoy seeing koalas in this area and want to see them protected.



Responsible dog ownership essential

KAG received a disturbing report in recent weeks about the discovery of a koala's remains in the sports area of Henry Ziegenfusz Park at Cleveland. It was obvious from the injuries that the young male koala had been mauled by one or more dogs. KAG immediately requested that Council's Animal Control conduct additional after hour patrols in park areas along the foreshore between Thornlands and Cleveland. If you want to report dogs off leash call Council on 3829 8999 and advise your local councillor.

To report a sick or injured koala contact Redlands Wildlife Rescue Service on 3833 4031

For better Koala protection in South East Queensland
please sign the

KAG petition to the State government

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/petition-details?id=3378>

Opportunities for Birkdale Land (formerly owned by the Commonwealth Government)

In April last year negotiations were completed between the Federal Government and Redland City Council for Council to take ownership of the 61.78 hectare site at a cost of \$4.1 million to Redlands ratepayers.

The Birkdale site has significant historical, environmental and cultural values and KAG's vision for the site is that it be developed into a 'Historical Park and Koala Refuge' that will be both a major tourism attraction and a place for the Redlands community to enjoy and explore.

One of the buildings still intact on the site (a former United States Army radio receiving station, pictured at right) has recently been entered into the Queensland Heritage Register and has been described as:

“a unique remnant of the vast radio infrastructure that served the Allied forces in Australia during World War II,” and “one of south-east Queensland’s most significant and intact examples of World War II infrastructure”.



The site also contains the heritage listed Willards Farm and homestead (pictured below) that are currently being restored by Council. Incredibly interesting historical stories from the farming and WW2 era are evolving and an exciting opportunity exists for Council to tap into a tourism market and make this site a central part of a 'Redlands Heritage Trail'.



The 'Redlands Heritage Trail' could start at 'The Rocks' at Capalaba which is situated on the Tingalpa Creek (as is the Birkdale Land) and continue on to the many other historical buildings and sites throughout the Redlands, many of which have amazing views of Moreton Bay.

Re-enactments of cultural and historical events could be celebrated and shared through collaborations with the arts/dance sector and an outdoor stage/amphitheatre could form a central part of a low key entertainment precinct on the site to be enjoyed by community and visitors alike.

The rich diversity of cultural, heritage and environmental values on the site could be showcased through interpretive signage placed along various walking trails and include a viewing platform on the bank of Tingalpa Creek.

The site's proximity to the Brisbane City Council protected Conservation Area directly across Tingalpa Creek is an opportunity to make the area a sizable 'Koala Refuge'. The site provides ideal habitat for future koala recovery programs and rehabilitated wildlife.

Different vegetation types across the site contain key species of koala food trees and koala genetic studies conducted recently by koala researchers from the Sunshine Coast University proved that numbers of koalas utilise the site.



Development of Cleveland golf obstacle course a concern

KAG has concerns about the location of a site that Council recently gave approval to develop into a temporary miniature golf obstacle course for the American reality TV show 'Holey Moley'.

The 5 hectare site located at 240 South Street in Cleveland forms part of the Hilliards Creek Corridor and is an area rich and diverse in wildlife. Whilst some of the site is already cleared, the removal of numbers of trees is still of concern. The ecological report states that a number of trees contain hollows and had signs of usage by koalas, gliders, possums, goannas and birdlife.

KAG strongly questions whether this is an appropriate use of land situated within a major wildlife corridor and also its proximity to residents. Alternative locations in more rural areas should have been explored where fewer residents would have been impacted.

Also of great concern is the apparent haste and secrecy surrounding the approval of this development. Shutting the community out of such decision making suggests a paucity of probity. It also creates suspicion and angst, particularly amongst those who will be most impacted during the late night filming (4pm to 4am) of the show.

Koala Action Group Qld Inc Annual General Meeting 2020

Please note: Due to Covid19 requirements the KAG AGM will be processed by email. The normal reports will be available (on request) to members prior to the meeting and members can choose to provide their responses by email or post.

Nomination Form for Elected Positions:

I,being a financial member of KAG,
(a) nominate the following person for the position indicated.

- President**
- Vice President**
- Treasurer**
- Secretary**
- Additional Committee Members (4)**
-
-
-

(b) nominateto act as my proxy at the Koala Action Group Qld Inc. 2020 AGM. (delete if not applicable)

Signed: Date:

Please send to KAG by October 9th, 2020 via post or email.
PO Box 660 Capalaba, Qld 4157 Email: admin@koalagroup.asn.au

KAG Membership:Application/Renewal Please complete the following and forward to: KAG: PO Box 660, Capalaba Qld 4157 or email admin@koalagroup.asn.au
Fees can now be made via direct debit to: Koala Action Group Qld Inc. Suncorp Bank BSB: 484-799 Account No. 001748631 and include your name in the ref. line.
Please note: If paying by cheque or money order, ensure the payee line includes the full name - Koala Action Group Qld Inc. (the bank does not accept abbreviations)

Name -----
Address -----
Phone/email -----

Annual membership rates: Single:\$15; Family:\$25; Pensioner:\$10; Under 18:\$10 (Donation:optional) Please specify membership type.

If you're interested in any of the following, please indicate.
Tree planting { } Help with displays { } Letterbox drops { } Wildlife Rescue { }
I apply for membership of the Koala Action Group Qld Inc and enclose my membership fee.

Signature:Date:.....

All membership renewals are due in June unless otherwise stated on newsletter envelope's address label. Email recipients will receive an email renewal advice.