



A voice  
for koalas  
in the Redlands

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

# KAG Newsletter

## July-Sept 2021

### DIARY DATES

#### KAG AGM 2021

Due to ongoing uncertainty with COVID19, the Annual General Meeting will be processed online.

Nominations for committee positions will be accepted by email or post up until October 10. Full financials are available on request.

(see further details on P4)

#### WEDNESDAY September 22

Citizen Science Bushwalk  
IndigiScapes Centre  
9am-11am

#### THURSDAY September 24

Geckoes Wildlife with Ranger Stacey  
IndigiScapes Centre at 9am,  
10am and 11am Cost \$10  
(bookings essential for above  
holiday events <https://indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au/>  
or for further enquiries call  
3824 8611)

#### KAG Tree Plantings

##### Sunday October 3, 8.30am

Bligh St Conservation Area,  
end of Bligh St, Wellington Pt.

##### Sunday November 7, 8.30am

Susannah Pl, off Dundas St,  
Ormiston

Plantings are suitable for all ages.  
Please wear closed-in shoes and  
sun smart clothing.

Due to COVID restrictions please  
bring own cup for morning tea.

#### IndigiScapes Native Nursery

Open Mon-Fri 10am-3pm and  
9am-12noon on the first Sat of  
each month.

Friendly advice on how to create  
a beautiful native garden with  
plants only \$2.50 each and  
Koala food trees are free!

### State Government grants permit for koala to be removed from Ormiston site

KAG recently learnt that the Qld State Government Department of Environment and Science granted permission to the developer of a site in Cowley Street, Ormiston to have a resident koala captured and moved elsewhere.

Widespread media from the ABC earlier this year highlighted significant flaws in Redland Council's habitat protection legislation that allowed numbers of 100 plus year old koala trees to be bulldozed on the development site where at least three koalas lived.

The tree removal was only halted at that time by the ongoing presence of koalas on the site as legislation prohibits the removal of trees that contain koalas.

The permit was granted under the State Government's Policy on 'Release of rehabilitated Koalas and the release of koalas in imminent danger'.

KAG strongly believes that in this instance the Policy has been abused and sets a dangerous precedent of what is perceived as 'imminent danger'.

Any koala living in an urban environment could now be seen as being in 'imminent danger'. The State government has opened the flood gates to having all urban koalas potentially removed under this flawed and irrational 'appease the developer' policy.

KAG wrote to the State Government on August 16 (see below) to express our concerns and has not received a response at the time of printing this newsletter which is more than a month later.

*To whom it may concern,*

*Our group is writing to seek details on a permit given from your department to a developer in Cowley St, Ormiston to relocate a koala that lives on the site.*

*The Koala Action Group strongly questions the use of the 'Release of Rehabilitated Koalas and the Take and Release of Koalas in Imminent Danger Policy' for this situation, being that a developer wants to bulldoze the remainder of very large eucalyptus trees that remain on the site.*

*Representatives of our group were involved in the reviewing of this policy and at the time expressed serious concerns regarding the risk for it to be misused and although we were assured that this would not be the case it now appears this is what is occurring.*

*KAG believes the koala currently living on the Cowley Street site is not in 'clear and imminent danger' as it is residing in a number of significantly large Eucalyptus Tereticornis trees and can move away from the site on its own accord if it so chooses and we are aware of at least four other koalas over the past 12 months that have also been utilising the site.*

*Our group understand that this urban population of koalas move in and out of the area by using habitat trees on footpaths and in the adjoining parkland to move to the nearby Ormiston Primary School, foreshore trees and patches of remnant bushland that are located to the north, south, east and west of the site.*

*We request that your department provides the reasons for giving the developer a permit to remove this koala and also the evidence to prove that the koala is in 'clear and imminent danger'?*

*Yours sincerely*



*Female koala (with joey in pouch) has now been relocated to a bushland refuge south of Cowley St*

**This newsletter is produced by  
The Koala Action Group Qld Inc**

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**Patrons** Helen Murray

Councillor Lance Hewlett

Councillor Wendy Boglary

**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

Penny O'Neill

*Sightings June to Sept 2021*

**Alexandra Hills:** Dawson Rd, Dean Rd, Flinders St, Kulara Ct, McDonald Rd, Winchester Rd. **Birkdale:** Carlton Ct, Creek Rd, Hardy Rd, Napier St, Old Cleveland Rd E, St Andrews Av. **Capalaba:** Hibbertia Ct, Mt Cotton Rd, Runnymede Rd. **Cleveland:** Bay St, Coburg St E, Coburg St W, Goleby Esp, Gotha St, Island St, Longland St, Middle St, Passage St, Princess St, Russell St, South St, Wynyard St. **Mt. Cotton:** Johnathon Rd, Warren St. **NSI:** East Coast Rd, Cumming Pde, Lang Ln, Oxley Pde. **Ormiston:** Bainbridge St, Cowley St, Duncan St, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St, Tolson Tce, Wellington St. **Redland Bay:** Giles Rd. **Thornlands:** Lorikeet Dr, Osprey Dr, South St, Waterville Dr, Ziggy's Dr. **Victoria Pt:** Colburn Av, Orana St. **Wellington Pt:** Belford Dr, Bibury St, Bligh St, Fernbourne Rd, Jacob St, Marlborough Rd, Nursery St, Plantation Pl, Saranah Pl, Starkey St.

**Other LCA's:** **BCC:** Camp Hill, Carindale, Ferny Grove, Macgregor, Mansfield, Mt Crosby, Mt Gravatt, Mt Gravatt East, Nathan, Tarragindi. **LCC:** Nth Maclean, Waterford. **MBRC:** Deception Bay, Petrie. **SRRC:** Tamborine.

Primary data sources:

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

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/acsa/project/index/f3d0ad81-135d-40bb-baec-50db553df6d0>

[https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=c1959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&fq=occurrence\\_decade\\_i:%222020%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=c1959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&fq=occurrence_decade_i:%222020%22&pageSize=100)



**Koala Action Group Qld Inc**  
You can report koala sightings on our website:  
[www.koalagroup.asn.au](http://www.koalagroup.asn.au)  
P: 07 3823 5575  
E: [admin@koalagroup.asn.au](mailto:admin@koalagroup.asn.au)

**Koalas with bling - what are ambassador koalas in the Koala Safe Neighbourhoods wearing, and why? - by Dr Romane Cristescu USC**

For those of you who may have seen koalas in your neighbourhood adorned with collars and/or ear tags, these koalas are part of a tracking project from the Redland City Council and the Detection Dogs for Conservation at USC (University of the Sunshine Coast)

For the past three years, a number of koalas in the Redlands have been recruited as ambassadors of their respective Koala Safe Neighbourhoods (Ormiston, Birkdale, Thornlands and selected areas in Mount Cotton).

All koalas are given a health check by USC's partnering vet team at Endeavour Veterinary Ecology, and then fitted with multiple tracking devices attached to collar to answer a variety of questions that help to understand and protect them better.

The monitored koalas are also microchipped to enable identification if a koala is recaptured (such as in case of an injury/disease later in life) after the monitoring is over.

In general, questions such as where koalas are, how much time they spend in each part of their home range (territory), how they move and navigate the urban matrix and how far they go during a day, a week, or when they disperse, are all important to assess the threats they face, and which areas they rely on most. This understanding of koalas can help RCC environmental managers to design effective conservation plans and prioritise areas to protect.

Primarily, the monitoring devices are used to find koalas regularly, and check their health conditions and welfare. The sooner a sick or injured koala is found, rescued and treated, the higher the chances of recovery and release back into the wild.

The collar assembly is customised with a safety weak link (designed to break if the koala becomes entangled). Collars weigh less than 300g and contain several technologies. A GPS tracker is used to record the animal's location every 6 hours and display it to researchers in near real time, so they can ensure they know where koalas are moving. This is checked daily. The GPS tracking data is a powerful tool and has been used to highlight some of the tricky situations koalas find themselves in.

A good recent example is GPS data of koala 'Rainbow' frequently crossing rail lines at Birkdale has triggered a partnership with Queensland Rail to work with researchers and the council to find solutions to mitigate koalas interacting with the rail line in that area.

A small lightweight altimeter is used to detect when koalas are on the ground. This will quantify for the first time how long koala spend on the ground while moving between trees. This is critical for their protection, as the ground is where koalas are at their most vulnerable (think dog attacks, car collision).

A VHF beacon allows researchers to find koalas at any time, when performing field assessments to check koala health.

Finally, koalas are equipped with a solar-powered Bluetooth ear tag (<5g). This newly developed tag allows researchers to identify koalas while standing near the base of its tree.

Over the past three years, the Redland City Council and the Detection Dogs for Conservation at USC have monitored 40 individuals and taken 12 koalas for treatment to Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. Each interaction brings important information about the daily lives of Redlands koalas.



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





## Koala after dark activities in the Toondah Harbour precinct in Cleveland



## Councils' Birkdale Land Olympic vision not community choice

At a meeting on August 22nd, a majority of councillors voted to adopt the 'vision plan' (below) for the Birkdale Land that features an aquatic centre and whitewater facility despite community feedback indicating that it was one of the least preferred uses for the site.

It has been revealed that less than 10% of survey participants on the Council's online feedback form supported any type of Olympic venue to be built on the Birkdale Land, yet the draft vision plan shows an Olympic whitewater rafting facility as a centrepiece for the site.

This extraordinary disregard of public opinion from Mayor Williams and a number of supporting councillors displays complete disrespect for the thousands of community members who made an effort to participate in the survey.

It gives the appearance that the preferred use for the site had been predetermined and a farcical community consultation was carried out at a significant cost to rate payers.



# Koala Action Group Qld Inc Annual General Meeting 2021

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:

1. Nominate the following person for the position indicated.

President .....

Vice President .....

Treasurer .....

Secretary .....

Additional Committee Members (4) .....

.....

.....

.....

2. Nominate .....to act as my proxy at the Koala Action Group Qld Inc. 2021 AGM.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please send to KAG by October 10, 2021 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.