



A voice  
for koalas  
in the Redlands

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

# KAG Newsletter

## Oct-Dec 2021

### DIARY DATES

#### YOU ARE INVITED

To join KAG's end of year BBQ/Picnic in the Park

Sausage BBQ and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

BYO chairs/picnic rugs and additional food/drinks.



**When:** Saturday  
November 27 at 4pm

**Where:** GJ Walter Park -  
water end of Shore St  
East, Cleveland

**RSVP:** by November 22  
admin@koalagroup.asn.  
au or call 3823 5575 and  
leave a message.

#### IndigiScapes Native Nursery

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

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

### Mt Cotton Sporting and Recreation Precinct plans to destroy valued koala habitat

KAG has had input to numerous community consultation sessions with regards to future plans for the Redlands Coast Regional Sport and Recreation Precinct at Heinemann Rd, Mt Cotton.

Whilst Council's ongoing consultation with interested groups/individuals is appreciated, KAG feels that much of our group's feedback appears to have been ignored.

The reason appears to be due to an attempt to jam way too many sport/recreational uses onto the site that is quite constrained by flood and habitat overlays.

Key concerns expressed by KAG are as follows:

- Increase in mortality to wildlife from significant increase in traffic and wide roads (to fit buses) that will be constructed within environmentally sensitive areas.
- An 'intensive bike precinct' including BMX tracks, carparks and club house is planned to be built in an area identified in the Ecological Reports as containing century old trees that are rare in the Redlands and contain many hollows that support hollow-dependant birds and mammals.
- Trees of this age require a significant buffer between them and any future built up elements as they will not survive such major disturbance.
- KAG has estimated that some 150 mature prime koala food trees will be removed and/or impacted upon by the uses proposed in the current draft Master Plan.

Some questions remain unanswered:

1. How many trees will be cleared to build the 16 playing field and associated infrastructure?
2. How many trees within the waterway corridor are to be cleared to build four dams, roads, parking areas and other proposed uses?
3. How many mature trees in the north west corner are to be cleared or impacted by the proposed Cycle Precinct and associated infrastructure i.e. clubhouses, parking areas, roads, tracks, BMX facility?

KAG strongly questions the overall suitability of the site for the use as a high impact sporting and recreation precinct.

At the very least KAG wishes to see the removal of the Cycle Precinct and replace it with walking trails so the historically significant old eucalyptus trees can be protected in perpetuity.

Additionally, KAG recommends that the number of sporting fields be reduced slightly to allow a buffer zone along the north and eastern edges to retain a corridor of "stepping stone" trees for koala and other fauna to use and also provide some protection for local residents from light pollution.

**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

## Toondah Koala Update

Four healthy koalas were sighted within an hour last month in GJ Walter Park and Shore St East at Cleveland.

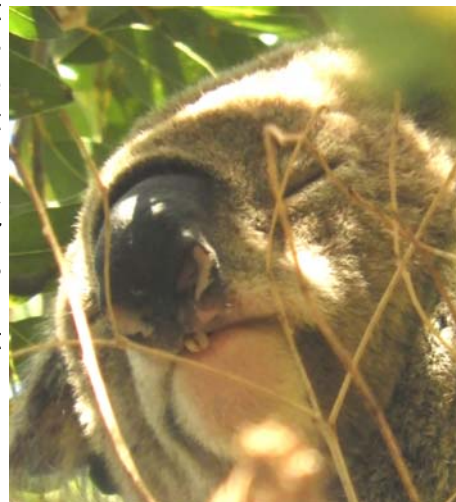
Ruby and her joey were seen in a tree in front of the historical 'Fernleigh House'. Two more koalas were found at opposite ends of GJ Walter Pk in the dog off-leash area as well as the infamous 'Tyler' with his notable bucked front teeth (pictured) who was well hidden in the Tallowood tree on the corner of Wharf St and Shore St East.

These recent sightings are a positive sign and warrants our groups concerns with the impacts that will occur if the proposed Toondah Harbour development goes ahead.

KAG applauds the work being done by numerous other community groups to inform residents and local businesses about this environmentally destructive development that will negatively impact on both the wildlife and lifestyle of existing residents and businesses.

To keep updated on issues relating to Toondah Harbour visit the following website and facebook pages:

**Redlands2030, ToondahFriends, Save Straddie**



## Sightings Sept to Nov 2021

**Alexandra Hills:** Angala Ct, Dean Rd, Glover Dr, Hanover Dr, Kulara Ct, McDonald Rd, Winchester Rd. **Birkdale:** Burbank Rd, Byng Rd, Hardy Rd, Napier St, Old Cleveland Rd E, Pit Rd, Sunnybay Rd. **Capalaba:** Mt Cotton Rd, Parkwood Dr, Ravensbourne Cct, Redland Bay Rd, Silkwood St. **Cleveland:** Bay St, Channel St, Coburg St E, Coburg St W, Goleby Esp, Island St, Kassandra St, Langdon St, Middle St, North St, Passage St, Princess St, Shore St E, South St, Wharf St. **NSI:** Ballow St, Bingle Rd, Boreen St, Claytons Rd, Cook St, Cunningham St, East Coast Rd, Flinders Av, Gonzalez St, Kawana St, Kindara St, Llewellyn St, Miles St, Miramar St, Oxley Pde, Timbin St, Toompany St, Tranicam St, Welsby St, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Cowley St, Sturgeon St. **Thorndale:** Baythorn Dr, Boundary Rd, Jerry's Pl, Kerder St, Osprey Dr, South St, Waterville Dr, Ziggy's Dr. **Wellington Pt:** Belford Dr, Bibury St, Birkdale Rd, Bligh St, Breezeway Cl, Marlborough Rd, Mindarie Cr, Nursery St, Plantation Pl, Sawmill Dr, Valley Rd, Wharton St.

**Other LCA's:** **BCC:** Coorparoo, Holland Pk W, Mansfield, Mt Gravatt E, Tarrangindi, The Gap, Wakerley. **GCCC:** Mudgeeraba. **ICC:** Bellbird Pk. **LCC:** Nth Maclean. **MBRC:** Kallangur, Petrie, Upper Kedron. **SBRC:** SE Nanango. **SCC:** Buderim, Tanawha.

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=ci959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&fq=occurrence.decade.i:%222020%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=ci959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&fq=occurrence.decade.i:%222020%22&pageSize=100)

## Tree Plant Wrap

Under trying circumstances due to COVID restrictions, the KAG planting team managed to complete numerous plantings this year as well as provide support to IndigiScapes community plantings.

The recent showery weather is a bonus to help the plants along leading up to the hot summer months.



Well done everyone with a special mention to KAG Tree Planting Convenor Jen Niall and Steve and Jen Anthony who this year have been transporting the KAG trailer.

We look forward to welcoming back the team in the new year usually around April or May.

Details will be provided via the website and newsletter.

*One of the Bligh St koalas at Wellington Pt*

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

## **President Report 2021**

KAG public activities have been limited again this year due to disruptions from COVID, however we have enjoyed a koala walk at Wellington Pt, conducted numerous tree plantings, hosted an information session and held a display at the IndigiScapes Environmental Market Day. KAG members have also been involved in the Council community planting days. Whilst public participation in Council meetings has been stopped and request for meetings with State representatives being denied due to COVID, it appears that some decision makers have been extremely busy behind closed doors planning Redlands future.

Many of the areas earmarked for development are currently untouched and act as safe refuges for wildlife. KAG is extremely concerned by many aspects of these proposals that do not fully consider the serious detrimental impacts, both short and long term on koalas and the natural environment. Our group continues to question the hypocrisy of Council's branding of being 'naturally wonderful'.

KAG has submitted objections/comments to the following:

- RCC proposal to relax dog laws to allow dogs into more public areas all over the Redlands
- RCC proposal to increase dog numbers in the Redlands based on property size
- RCC proposal for an Olympic sized pool and white water rafting venue on the Birkdale Land
- RCC proposal for a Sporting and Recreation Precinct at Heinemann Rd, Mt Cotton
- RCC proposal for the South Thornlands Potential Future Growth Area

KAG has had good media coverage with TV and radio interviews covering the removal of old growth koala habitat in Ormiston and also the impacts for Redlands koalas if the Toondah Harbour development goes ahead.

The State government continues to disappoint with their attitude towards urban koalas. Their most recent action of giving approval to a developer to move koalas from an Ormiston development is reprehensible and sets a dangerous precedent for all urban koalas. Furthermore, their resistance to include foreshore areas in the Koala Mapping makes no sense as the research and sightings data proves that this is where most koalas live.

Our group continues to support the research work being done by the University of the Sunshine Coast team who are tracking urban koalas and collecting vital data on their genetics, movement patterns and tree usage etc. The Koala Safe Neighbourhoods and Koala Watch programs being initiated by IndigiScapes are also worthwhile and supported by KAG. We also support the 'facial recognition technology' underway by researchers from the Griffith University.

KAG recently submitted a letter of support for the Birkdale Progress Association application for State Heritage listing on the Willards Farmhouse and surrounding buildings and land, including the underground natural springs which are a unique asset to the site. Our group has grave concerns with the vision of Mayor Williams and some councillors to feature an Olympic whitewater rafting facility as a 'centrepiece' to this historically, culturally and environmentally rich site.

Thank you to supporters and donors who enable KAG to continue our work of advocating for koalas and the natural environment that all wildlife rely on for survival.

The upcoming year is gearing up to be another busy one with KAG keeping an eye on the draft plans for the Birkdale Land and Heinemann Road Sporting and Recreation Precinct. Also, the Environmental Impact Statement for the Toondah Harbour proposal is expected to be released later this year.

Our group will continue to be the voice for koalas in the Redlands.

## **2021 KAG Financial Report:**

Koala Action Group Qld's finances are currently in a healthy state, with a bank balance of \$9,293.16 at the end of our financial year (29.01.2021)

During the 20/21 financial year we received a Redland City Councillor Grant of \$950 enabling the purchase of outdoor camera traps to monitor the movements of urban koalas particularly around Cleveland and the Toondah harbour habitat areas. KAG were also able to make donations to local groups in support of their advocacy work, including donations to Redlands 2030 of \$400, a donation to the USC detection dogs of \$630 and a donation to the Environmental defenders office of \$100.

Our income is derived from donations, membership fees, fundraising events, container exchange recycling program and bank interest.

Our expense figure includes, donations, newsletter printing & postage, merchandise, public education and advertising, hall hire for meetings, website, telephone and computer expenses.

### **2019-2020**

Income	\$3,454.07
Expenditure	\$3,775.33
Loss of	-\$321.26

A copy of our financials are available on request.

**Tanya Golitschenko**

**Treasurer**

## Straddie Koala Survey 2021

On the 9th of October, 29 volunteers from universities, koala groups, community and Council participated in the 13th annual North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) Urban Koala Survey.

Volunteers included numerous KAG members walked every street in the urban townships of Pt Lookout, Amity Pt, Dunwich (and Flinders Beach) searching and recording every koala that they located.

Volunteers entered the data via the Koala Watch app developed by the RCC Koala Conservation Program. The data was accessed on the day by University of Sunshine Coast koala researchers to collect fresh scats (faeces) for genetic analysis.

**A total of 76 koalas (including 12 joeys) were recorded: Amity Point 41 koalas (including 7 joeys), Point Lookout 18 koalas (including 4 joeys) and Dunwich 17 koalas (including 1 joey).**

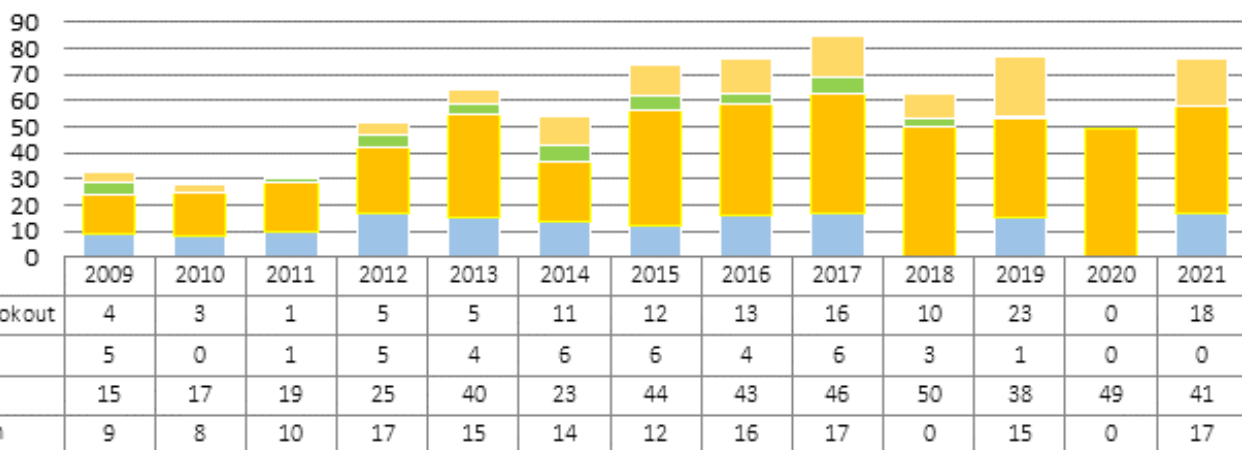
For information about how you can join Koala Watch and help monitor our local koalas, please visit; <https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch>

**Please note:** It is important to remember that these are only the animals sighted on the day. It is not claimed that we record every koala in the urban areas, but the information gathered by you allows Council to keep any eye on how the numbers are faring annually in each of the townships.

### NSI Urban Koala Surveys 2009 - 2021

#### Year and Area totals

(2020 Amity only Covid-19)



**KAG Membership: Application/Renewal** Please complete the following and forward to: KAG: PO Box 660, Capalaba Qld 4157 or email [admin@koalagroup.asn.au](mailto: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.**