



A voice  
for koalas  
in the Redlands

www.koalagroup.asn.au  
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# KAG Newsletter

## Jan-Mar 2022

### DIARY DATES

**Sunday March 6**

**7.30-9.30AM**

#### **Clean-up Australia Day**

Raby Bay Boulevard parkland and foreshore area

Meeting at the gazebo on eastern side of Shore St Nth just past Cameron St, Cleveland.

Sturdy closed-in shoes are essential, sun safe clothing and gloves recommended.

**Wednesday March 23**

**5.00-8.00PM**

#### **Redlands Koala Forum**

Koala researchers outlining the latest information work with an opportunity to ask questions.

Registration essential with further details to be advised.

**Saturday April 2**

**8.00AM-12.00PM**

#### **Indigis Eco Market**

Family day out offering a wide range of eco-friendly products, hand crafted goods, sustainable giftware, yummy food and live music from local artists.

**Sunday April 10**

**9.00AM**

#### **Koala Community Planting**

Cameron Court, Victoria Pt  
Registration essential. More info will be available at [www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.indigiscapes.redland.qld.gov.au)

#### **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!

## Federal 'threatened' listing for Koalas - will it make any difference in the Redlands?

On February 11th, Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley announced that the status of koala populations in Queensland, New South Wales and ACT will be changed from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'.

This followed an announcement the week before by Prime Minister Scott Morrison that the government will invest \$50 million to restore koala habitat, monitor populations and research their health.

In the same week, information released by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) found that in the decade since koalas were declared 'vulnerable', the federal government had approved the clearing of 25,000 hectares of the species habitat.

[Federal government has approved the clearing of 25,000 hectares of koala habitat in the last 10 years - Australian Conservation Foundation \(acf.org.au\)](https://www.acf.org.au/press-releases/federal-government-has-approved-the-clearing-of-25000-hectares-of-koala-habitat-in-the-last-10-years)

The Environmental Defenders Office reported that the 'endangered' listing is welcomed but more immediate action is required from the federal government including the release of a Koala Recovery Plan and the need to identify habitat and list it on a 'critical habitat register'.

[Koalas formally declared at greater risk of extinction in NSW, QLD and ACT following 2019-2020 bushfires - Update and Summary of Implications - Environmental Defenders Office \(edo.org.au\)](https://www.edo.org.au/koalas-formally-declared-at-greater-risk-of-extinction-in-nsw-qld-and-act-following-2019-2020-bushfires-update-and-summary-of-implications)

KAG has grave concerns that the 'endangered' listing will not make any difference on the ground in the Redlands.

Koala populations in the Koala Coast region, that takes in all of Redland City have declined by more than 80% in the past 20 years with habitat loss the leading cause.

Whilst Redland Council have put in place mitigation measures over previous decades to decrease numbers of koalas lost to vehicle strikes and domestic dog attacks, the attempts have often been ad hoc and compromised by the pro development agenda of a number of Redland City councillors, including the current Mayor.

With development continuing unabated across the Redlands, threats to koalas are substantially increasing resulting in large numbers of the remaining koala population succumbing to the stress related disease Chlamydia.

With numbers of large scale developments either underway (South East Thornlands and Shoreline) or those proposed such as Toondah Harbour, Bunker and Double Jump Roads, Heinemann Road Sports Precinct, Birkdale Land and Karremans Quarry expansion it really is obvious that there is no balance occurring and koalas will lose out.

<https://www.redlandcitybulletin.com.au/story/7619651/qld-koalas-listed-endangered/?cs=213>

Furthermore, failings with State Government planning, flawed koala mapping and weak policies have contributed to the koalas catastrophic decline and the Palaszczuk government's continued support of the environmentally destructive Toondah Harbour proposal will result in Redlands koalas continuing to decline.



One of the Toondah Harbour koalas chilling out.....



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Lynn Roberts

Secretary Jenny Niall

(Tree Planting Convenor)

Treasurer Tanya Golitschenko

Newsletter Debbie Pointing

Executive Members

Chris Bray

Penny O'Neill

## Koala reports - November 2021 to February 2022

**Alexandra Hills:** Alexandra Cct, Dean Rd, Redland Bay Rd, Sevenoaks St, Winchester Rd. **Birkdale:** Birkdale Rd, Burbank Rd, Byng Rd, Collingwood Rd, Mary St, Quarry Rd, Sunnybay Dr. **Capalaba:** Chatsworth Cct, Crotona Rd, Howlett Rd. **Cleveland:** Benjamin Ct, Coburg St E, Erubin St, Fitzroy St, Goleby Esp, Island St, Long St, Middle St, Passage St, Princess St, Russell St, Sunshine Dr. **NSI:** Billa St, Midjimberry Rd, Mooloomba Rd. **Ormiston:** Arterial Rd, Dundas St W, Morris St, Rose St, Sturgeon St, Tolson Tce. **Redland Bay:** Serpentine Ck Rd, Sunningdale Dr. **Thornlands:** Boundary Rd, Clifford Perske Dr, Osprey Dr, Wellington St. **Wellington Pt:** Bligh St, Sawmill Dr, Wharton St.

**Other LCA's:** **BCC:** Gumdale, Kenmore, Upper Kedron. **GCCC:** Advancetown. **LVR:** Glenore Grove. **MBRC:** Cashmere, Kallangur. **NSC:** Doonan. **TRC:** Oakley.

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)

Report Koala sightings to

<https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch> or

<https://koalagroup.asn.au/report-a-koala-sighting/>

THE REDLAND TIMES, Wednesday, August 16th, 1989 — 5

# Lobby groups join forces to plant eucalypts for koalas

A successful tree planting exercise was held earlier this month at the G.J. Walter Park, Cleveland.

The ceremony was organised by Save Toondah's Invaluable Resources (STIR) with the assistance of the Koala Action Group.

Redland Shire Council donated 62 eucalypt trees to provide food for the koalas in the Toondah area.

Division Two councillor Wayne Yeo organised the stakes and about 10 children helped plant the trees.

Southern Districts Landscapes at Thornlands donated the top soil and Organic Industries, Hemmant, provided the mulch.

STIR would like to thank those people who supported the tree planting.



CHRISTINE and Marion Beeby, Lynn and Kerry Roberts, Enid Brown and Esme Whitby doing their bit for Toondah koalas.

KAG vice-president Lynn Roberts, pictured above (back left), was instrumental in the planting of 62 koala trees in GJ Walter Park at Cleveland in 1989.

The community, visitors to the dog park and tourists enjoy regular sightings of healthy koalas in trees located near Toondah Harbour.

Recent sightings indicate that there are numerous koalas, including two females with joeys utilising this area.



## Koalas - an Olympic Dream

Redlands is in a fortunate position to have a world loved iconic species, the koala living in places where they are relatively easy for people to see.

It's a well known fact that koalas attract billions of tourism dollars each year and it would make sense for Redlands to benefit from this asset to attract visitors especially leading up to and during the Olympic Games.

Redlands Council must revise their vision for the Birkdale Community Precinct to focus primarily on making this public property a safe haven for koalas and other wildlife.

And instead of supporting high rise residential development at Toondah Harbour that will significantly increase threats to koalas, priority should be given to protecting and building up the koala numbers so it is a valuable tourist destination on the doorstep of the 'naturally wonderful' Moreton Bay Marine Park as well as the gateway to Nth Stradbroke Island.

**Tourists want to see koalas, not high rise towers!**

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



Karremans Quarry located on West Mt Cotton Rd, Mt Cotton has been operating for more than fifty years and in recent years applied to the State government and Council to approve an extension for the quarrying operation to remove an additional 51 hectares of bushland.

However, a Sheldon resident felt strongly enough against the continued large scale destruction of koala habitat to start a petition just prior to Christmas and to date it has attracted almost 24,000 signatures opposing the development.

Federal Minister Sussan Ley is expected to hand down her decision in early March and we hope the new 'endangered' listing of the koala is taken into consideration when deciding if it's detrimental to koalas and other threatened species for this type of activity to continue in 'critical koala habitat'.



The Koala Action Group wishes to make comment on the proposed expansion of the West Mount Cotton Quarry at 616-632 West Mount Cotton Road, Mount Cotton (lots 1-5 on RP186598).

The ongoing serious decline of koalas in South East Queensland including the Redlands is well known and loss of habitat is recognised as the primary cause.

The Southeast Queensland Regional Plan recognises the area as a 'Regional Biodiversity Corridor'. The proposed extension will further fragment this corridor as the earthworks involved in quarrying result in not only significant destruction of habitat but the very nature of quarrying activities will create major obstacles to fauna movement.

Venmans National Park is treasured by long-term residents and new arrivals alike. It, like all National Parks, should offer the highest level of protection for flora and fauna. In addition it is a great drawcard for visitors and has the potential for ecotourism. The planned extension of the quarry will directly abut the northern boundary of Venmans. The reserve will be impacted by noise and dust with the further possibility of hydrological changes affecting the vegetation. It is difficult to believe that there will be no hydrological effects from the massive land works that are a result of quarrying so close to a National Park. The likely "depressurisation around the pit shell" may well be a small effect because of the low permeability of greywacke. But even a small effect can have profound effects when combined with other impacts such as climate change. Increasing drought has been a real feature in recent times and a small effect may well mean the difference between survival and loss of vegetation.

Whilst our group acknowledges the proponents attempt to improve the conditions of the proposal by providing offsets including the rehabilitation of degraded land to make it more suitable for koalas, the suggested offsets in no way compensate for the loss of the original regional ecosystems.

The ecological report states that 405 hollow bearing trees will be destroyed across the impact area, some of these trees being centuries old. These trees not only support koalas but also endangered Greater Gliders which share the same habitat as koalas. Small hollows take at least 100 years to develop and hundreds of years for the larger hollows that provide homes to fauna species such as greater gliders. These historical trees cannot be replaced by offset plantings and/or by artificially created hollows and nesting boxes.

KAG also has serious concerns about supervision of the ongoing maintenance and management of the regeneration work and weed management on the offset sites. Furthermore, who will oversee the short and long term monitoring of fauna fencing, underpass culverts and pest management such as roaming domestic dogs.

## University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) rolls out Koala vaccine

(excerpt source: Terry Walsh USC 15/10/21)

While vaccination queues have become commonplace across Australia, the sight of hundreds of koalas lining up for a life-saving jab over coming months is still expected to turn some heads.

USC is leading a Phase 3 rollout of a koala chlamydia vaccine that has been developed collaboratively over many years with many partners, including the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital where the vaccine will be trialled in about 400 koalas from today (15 October).

USC Professor of Microbiology Peter Timms said the vaccine could play a significant role in the longer-term survival of koalas, especially in South East Queensland and NSW where chlamydia affects 50 percent or more of the koala population.

“The vaccine has now passed Phase 1 and Phase 2 testing that has established that it is completely safe and produces a good immune response and a good level of protection,” he said.

“The vaccine has been evaluated in more than 200 koalas in eight smaller trials so far, both in captive and wild koalas entering wildlife hospitals and in koala populations in the wild.

“We are now at the exciting stage of being ready to roll out the vaccine as part of large Phase 3 trials.”

Professor Timms said as well as the initial rollout trial at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, other trials were planned soon for Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre, RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and in several wild populations, including in the Moreton Bay region.

He said hundreds of koalas admitted to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital would receive the single dose vaccine via an injection after they have undergone routine hospital care and just prior to their release back into the wild.

“While this vaccination will directly benefit each of the animals, the trial will also have a focus on the protection provided by vaccination,” he said. “All koalas will be microchipped and the hospital will record any animals that return for any reason over the following 12 months.”

Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital Wildlife Veterinarian and Coordinator of Research Dr Amber Gillett said chlamydia was one of the most significant threats to koala populations and was the most common reason for koala admissions to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

“It is a cruel disease that causes debilitating conjunctivitis, bladder infections and at times, infertility,” said Dr Gillett, who has been involved in the vaccine project since its beginning.

“Although many koalas with chlamydia can be treated using traditional antibiotics, some animals cannot be saved due to the severity of their infection. Having a vaccine that can help prevent both infection and the severity of the disease is a critical element in the species’ conservation management.”

**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.**