



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

April-June 2022

DIARY DATES

Sunday June 5

8.30AM

KAG Tree Planting

Sawmill Drive,
Wellington Pt

Wear closed-in shoes and sun safe clothing. BYO gloves. Hand tools are provided and holes are pre dug. All are welcome and a delicious morning tea follows the planting.

Sunday July 3

8.30AM

KAG Tree Planting

Spurs Drive, Wellington Pt
(off Riverton Drive)

Wear closed-in shoes and sun safe clothing. BYO gloves. Hand tools are provided and holes are pre dug. All are welcome and a delicious morning tea follows the planting.

Sunday July 17

2PM-4PM

**KAG AGM and
information session**

Lions Hall - 122 Shore
St N, Cleveland

Come along for an update on all the issues affecting the Redlands and join us for a sausage sizzle following the AGM.

PLEASE NOTE:

**Membership fees are
due by June 30 unless
otherwise advised by
email**

(Details on P.4)

Huge Turnout at Mothers Day Walk for Toondah

More than 2200 community members turned out on May 8 to show their opposition to the Toondah Harbour development proposal.

Community representatives including celebrity gardener Jerry Coleby-Williams (ABC's Gardening Australia) spoke to the crowd about the impacts of the development to construct 3600 units in high rise towers in Moreton Bay will be to destroy more than 100 acres of protected wetlands.

A procession of protesters led by a giant Eastern Curlew puppet 'Beako' filled the main streets of Cleveland holding hundreds of banners and signs opposing the proposed development.



With a newly elected Labor Federal government now in power, the fight will continue to have this environmentally destructive development rejected and to have the Ramsar listed wetlands and the koala colony living in and around the area protected in perpetuity.



Toondah koala 'Ruby' sighted in May 2022 has a young joey (her third) tucked into her belly



KAG president, Deb Pointing (holding sign) with Wilderness Society members at the Walk for Toondah

**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'Neil

Thank you!

The Early Childhood Learning Centre at Wellington Pt recently made a donation to KAG after the Centre raised funds to help increase awareness about the plight of Redland's koalas.

Also, a big thanks to KAG members who have made donations and those who have made the effort to return recyclable containers to a recycling centre and donated the proceeds to our group.

KAG's ID code is: C10146563 and will need to be quoted at the time you deposit your recyclables.

Check the containersforchange.com.au website to find the nearest deposit centre.

Tree planting update

After almost 2 years of interruptions with COVID, in early May KAG planters were happy to be doing what they do best, putting koala trees in the ground for the Bligh St koalas.

KAG has been working on revegetating the Bligh St Conservation Area (purchased by Council in 2018) at Wellington Pt. The planting area is located within an environmentally sensitive site, adjacent to the Geoff Skinner Wetlands and Hilliards Creek.

The area forms part of a major wildlife corridor that stretches from the northern end of the Redlands all the way to the southern end.

Volunteers are regularly



Koala reports - Feb to May 2022

Alexandra Hills: Dean Rd, Plaxtol Ct, Redland Bay Rd. **Birkdale:** Birkdale Rd, Collingwood Rd, Lewisham Ct, Sunnybay Dr, Whitehall Av. **Capalaba:** Chatsworth Cct, Crotana Rd, Mt Cotton Rd. **Cleveland:** Benjamin Ct, Coburg St E, Channel St, Delancey St, Erobin St, Fitzroy St, Gretel Pl, Island St, Long St, Middle St, Passage St, Phelan St, Riley Peter Pl, Russel St, Shore St E, South St, Weippin St, Wharf St. **Lamb Is:** Lovell Pde. **Mount Cotton:** Gramzow Rd, Kingfisher Rd, Mt Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Ballow St, Claytons Rd, Gonzales St, Llewellyn St, MacLand St, Mooloomba Rd, Pt Lookout Rd, Timbin Rd, Toompany St, Tosh St, Sovereign Rd, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Bainbridge St, Dundas St W, Hilliards Pk Dr, Ivory Ln, McCartney St, Old Cleveland Rd E, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St, Tolson Tce. **Thornlands:** Boundary Rd, Clifford Perske Dr, Manning Esp, Osprey Dr, Wellington St. **Wellington Pt:** Bibury St, Bligh St, Breezeway Cl, Comic Ct, Fernbourne Rd, Gloucester St, Grosvenor St, Jacob St, Mindarie Cr, Musgrave St, Sawmill Dr.

Other LGA's: **BCC:** Carindale, Mt Gravatt. **FCRC:** Hervey Bay. **GCCC:** Tallebudgera. **LVRC:** Glenore Grove. **MBRC:** Warner. **SSC:** Fernvale.

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



rewarded by having the company of numerous local koalas, including this handsome boy that was in a tree nearby at the May planting.

The recent wet weather has resulted in substantial growth of the recently planted habitat, including numbers of the favourite koala food tree - *Eucalyptus tereticornis*

that are the dominant koala habitat species on the site.

Report koala sightings to - Redlands Koala Watch

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

or

Report a Koala Sighting – Koala Action Group Qld Inc
(koalagroup.asn.au)

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

Heinemann Rd Sporting Precinct will decimate most valuable habitat of the now 'Endangered Koala'

KAG is urging Redlands Council to rethink the sporting precinct masterplan to enable retention of significant koala habitat that will be removed to make way for a BMX clubhouse and multiple bike tracks under the current plans.

Our group's concerns and suggestions have been largely ignored during the consultation phase which is extremely disappointing and frustrating, especially considering the Koala's recent listing up to 'Endangered' that highlights what an extreme dire predicament they are in.

When KAG was asked for their ideas of what would satisfy them with the Heinemann Road site, we suggested the removal of the Cycle Precinct and replacement with low impact walking tracks. An alternative site must be considered that is more suitable for the BMX clubhouse and tracks, preferably in a more urbanised area where access is easier for families with children and bikes.

The area earmarked for the Cycle Precinct contains koala habitat that is mapped as being worthy of protection and described in the Master Plan as: *"These large trees include Eucalyptus tereticornis and Eucalyptus pilularis specimens that often support hollows. In the central and north-west portions of the site, a number of these eucalypts are some of the largest examples within the Redland area."*

Some of the scattered trees are of great significance both to fauna and of historical interest to the Redlands because of their age. Old growth trees are notoriously sensitive to disturbance and would be negatively impacted and unlikely to survive in the long term.

Low impact walking tracks would allow all Redlanders to appreciate the large trees that are of historical significance. The presence of bike trails throughout this area would lead to the decline of this amazing heritage that belongs to all people in the Redlands, not just a single sporting group.

It is totally unacceptable that these trees which were identified very early in the process for protection and were clearly mapped, have not been afforded the care required to ensure they persist into the future and will be seen as a serious indictment of the council's environmental practices.

Additionally, KAG suggested that an effective buffer zone of approx. 50 metres along the northern boundary and 30 metres along Heinemann Road would protect at least some of the trees belonging to the 'Regional Ecosystems' that are being totally obliterated.

This would require a reduction of a couple of the sixteen proposed playing fields and would also be an advantage by providing some connectivity for native fauna around the playing fields. It would also screen the road from the playing fields and protect the local residents from the light pollution and improve their view of the area. Construction is expected to commence later this year and the costings have already blown out from \$65 million first predicted by Council to closer to \$200 million due to the massive amount of earthworks required on the site that is flood prone and generally unsuitable for the intended use as a sporting precinct.

Birkdale Land draft masterplan continues to ignore community wishes

Council have released the draft Birkdale Community Precinct masterplan and not surprisingly it contains the very unpopular Olympic Whitewater Rafting facility as a centrepiece of the site.

The community made it very clear during the extensive IMAGINE community consultation conducted in 2021 that the highest ranked theme was 'Environment and ecology' and that protection of koalas and cultural, heritage and conservation values were the highest priorities for the site.

It now appears that the location of the Olympic venue on the Birkdale Land could have been a done deal prior to last year's community consultation, making a farce of the entire process.

Mayor Williams has stated on several occasions that alternate sites

for the White Water Rafting venue have been looked at, yet no information on where these are located and no feasibility studies have ever been produced to ensure transparency of the site selection process.

Instead, Mayor Williams, supported by a number of councillors, has devalued constituents wishes and forged ahead to ensure that the Olympic White Water Rafting facility is firmly entrenched into the masterplan.

Furthermore, Council appear to have no idea what the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of such a facility will be, therefore risking it being a financial burden on Redlands ratepayers.

Mayor Williams has also stated that hosting an Olympic event at the Birkdale Land will bring infrastructure, such as the extended Eastern busway and a duplication of the Cleveland railway line.

Of course there is no evidence or guarantee that this will happen as the costs are substantial and neither of these projects are likely to commence in the years leading up the Olympic games.

Have your say by Monday June 6 2022 - https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/Imagine/survey_tools/draft-master-plan-survey11



Redlands Koala Science in Action Community Forum

The forum held in March this year was well attended and very informative.

There were ten key speakers that included researchers from the Griffith and Sunshine Coast Universities speaking on various topics.

Attendees were given an overview of Council's Koala Conservation Plan 2022-2027 and the Koala Conservation Action Plan 2022-2027 with the goal being to stabilise and eventually increase the koala population across the Redlands.

Details were provided about 'ambassador' koalas that were recruited into the 'Koala Safe Neighbourhoods' program [Koala Safe Neighbourhoods | Redland City Council](#) over the past few years to help spread awareness in the communities.

Between two to six koalas in four different suburbs have been captured, health checked and fitted with GPS tracking collars to enable researchers to closely monitor them and better understand how they use urban areas. About a third of these koalas have been found to have disease and whilst some can be treated, those where the disease is too severe will need to be euthanised.

It was made clear that community play a key role in helping to monitor neighbourhood koalas, the importance of reporting koala sightings and the early treatment for disease is vital.

Surveys conducted by the Griffith Uni show that community awareness of issues affecting koalas has increased over the past few years and road data reveals that nine out of the ten dynamic koala signs (three different types) that have been placed on roads across the Redlands have resulted in a reduction in vehicle speed.

The team of researchers from the Detection Dogs for Conservation (Sunshine Coast Uni) shared information about how the specially trained dogs and the use of drones fitted with thermal cameras are used to locate koalas.

The researchers began collecting koala poo (scats) for DNA analysis in 2018 and then again in 2020 from 240 individual koalas. The genetic studies reveal sex ratio, genetic diversity and presence of disease pathogens. More details are available in the following report: [Redlands Coast Koala Population Assessment 2021.pdf](#)

To view the Koala forum in its entirety a video recording is available at- [Koala Forum Virtual Platform \(eventsair.com\)](#)

For more information go to: https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20301/koala_conservation

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.