



A voice for koalas in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

July-September 2023

DIARY DATES

KAG Tree Plantings

Sunday October 1

8.30am

Catherine St, St James Pk Birkdale

Sunday November 5

8.30am

Sycamore Parade Park, Victoria Pt. Access via 68 Sycamore Pde, Victoria Point

Please 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.

Saturday October 14

1pm-5pm

Welcome Back Shorebirds Festival

GJ Walter Pk - water end of Shore St East, Cleveland Fun and inclusive afternoon suitable for all age groups.

Bring your family along to enjoy art activities, face painting, kids book readings, live music, displays, food and drink vans, shorebird spotting and a koala walk. For more info - <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/welcome-back-shore-birds-festi/511595527856196/>

Redlands IndigiScapes Nursery

Opening hours: 10am-3pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12 noon the first Saturday of each month All plants are only \$3.00 each. Redland City Council residents can obtain 5 free koala food trees to plant on Redland properties to provide habitat. Your garden is bound to be a naturally wonderful oasis for you and the local wildlife to enjoy.

KAG fronts Federal Senate Inquiry about Whitewater plans

KAG along with several other community groups from the Redlands presented to a Federal government Senate Inquiry to express concerns about Council's plans to construct an Olympic Whitewater rafting centre on the Birkdale land.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate also presented at the Inquiry and agreed with our concerns that the risk of ratepayers is real, stating that he "felt sorry for future generations in Redlands who would have to foot the bill for the venue".

When Mayor Tate was asked whether he believed the canoe slalom events should be held at the Whitewater stadium in Penrith, he replied "yes".

KAG President, Debbie Pointing told the Inquiry "the site contains some of

the best koala habitat in the area and the endangered koalas that live on the site will be affected by the construction and operation of the Whitewater centre.

"It is indisputable that is this large industrial sized centre goes ahead, it will present an impenetrable, permanent barrier to the north-south movement of koalas across the site.

"Our group is deeply concerned about the impacts of building a Whitewater centre immediately adjacent to protected conservation areas".

She concluded by saying, "Our group believes a much more sensible and acceptable solution is for the recently upgraded, fit for purpose Whitewater facility in Penrith, NSW to be used for the two week Olympic Games Whitewater rafting event".

Footnote: The Senate report was tabled late September 14. Page 10 Recommendation 7 deals with the Redland Whitewater centre.



Queensland Globe



https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/committees/reportsen/RB000224/toc_pdf/Australia'spreparednesstohostCommonwealth.OlympicandParalympicGames.pdf

At the Redland City Council general meeting on September 13, councillors Huges, Golle, Mitchell, McKenzie, Talty, and Edwards along with Mayor Williams voted to continue supporting the Whitewater Centre, a move that KAG believes demonstratively lacks community support.

This newsletter is produced by
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Lynn Roberts
Secretary & Tree Planting Convenor
Jenny Niall
Treasurer Tanya Golitschenko
Newsletter Debbie Pointing
Executive Members
Chris Bray
Carmel Rackemann

Koala Sightings

June to September 2023

Alexandra Hills: Glover Dr. **Birkdale:** Barrett St, Collingwood Rd, Francesca Ct, Patersonia Pl, Sunnybay Dr. **Cleveland:** Coburg St E, Channel St S, Fitzroy St, Goleby Esp, Island St, Long St, Longland St, Middle St, Passage St, Shore St E. **Mt Cotton:** Mt Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Claytons Rd, Dickson Way, East Coast Rd, Miles St, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Delancy St, Dundas St W, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St, Wellington St. **Thorneside:** Kunden St. **Thornlands:** Clifford Perske Dr, George Thorne Dr, Osprey Dr, Pinecone Pl, Santagiuliana Way. **Victoria Pt:** Aspect Dr, Bellenden Ct, Fir St. **Wellington Pt:** Bligh St, Chermiside St, Fernbourne Rd, Haigh Rd, Hardy Rd, Janelle Ct, Main Rd, Montgomery Dr, Spurs Dr. **Other LGA's:** **BCC:** Carina Heights, Coopers Plains, Mt Gravatt E. **GCCC:** Coombabah, Coomera. **GRC:** Southside. **LCC:** Windaroo. **MBRC:** Camp Mt. **TRC:** Preston.

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

KAG won the Grill'd 'Local Matters' that was held during the month of July.
Thank you to Grill'd Victoria Pt and those who helped support our group by visiting the restaurant during that time.
We will be grateful to receive the cheque for \$300!



Maggie's Story

Earlier this year, a four year old koala was extremely lucky to have only received minor injuries after being struck by a vehicle on Boundary Rd at Thornlands.

The female koala was named 'Maggie' and was transported by a volunteer for treatment at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital where it was discovered she was carrying a very small pouch young.

After several weeks of treatment for a tongue laceration, Maggie was released in her 'home range' at a nearby acreage property belonging to Chris and Lynn Roberts.

Maggie had been fitted with a Bluetooth ear tag and over the next couple of months, Lynn spent countless hours locating her for welfare checks and was delighted to witness her pouch expanding as the joey grew. Maggie favoured particular trees on their property, including eucalyptus trees planted by Koala Action Group members in 2005.

Prior to Maggie being released from hospital, Lynn had letterbox dropped her neighbours asking them to keep an eye out for Maggie and to contact her if they saw her. She also asked that residents please keep pet dogs inside/restrained at night.

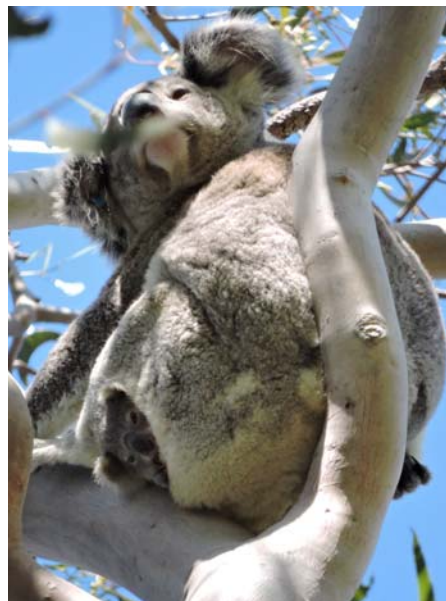
Maggie suddenly disappeared from Lynn's property and after a couple of weeks of concern about Maggie's welfare, Lynn received phone calls from two neighbours reporting they had sighted a koala and joey in their trees.

Upon inspection, it was confirmed to be Maggie with an ear tag present. Her joey had started emerging from the pouch to explore the outside world.

This is a great example of collaboration between neighbours to monitor and look out for the wellbeing of local koalas.



Maggie's release in April 2023
Photo: courtesy of USC Detection Dogs for Conservation



Maggie's joey peeking out!

Koala Action Group Annual General Meeting 2023

President Report

Several key issues have kept KAG busy over the past 12 months with the Toondah Harbour proposal about to enter its tenth year since the area was designated by as a 'Priority Development Area'. KAG has continued to have input into the Lendlease 'Shoreline' development happening in Southern Redland Bay, the Heinemann Rd Sporting and Recreation Precinct at Mt Cotton, the Birkdale Land project and more recently the Ormiston College proposed expansion.

A push by a sector of Council to increase the number of dogs allowed to be kept in the Redlands has continued and KAG will continue to condemn such a preposterous move.

The planting program as always is going strong and our team continue to successfully strengthen these vitally important wildlife linkages across numerous areas of the Redlands. Thank you to all the volunteers and key players who diligently commit to ensuring these events run smoothly, that the plants are properly planted and watered, and volunteers walk away satisfied with a tummy full of home-made morning tea.

Generous donations have been received from Bayside Redland Business Network, Cleveland State School, a young Birkdale school student who collected recycle containers wanting to support koala groups. Thank you also to numerous members who regularly donate funds and support KAG through the Containers for Change program.

I would personally like to thank KAG members and supporters for your ongoing commitment to koalas and acknowledge my committee members who often work quietly in the background and always step up when required, sometimes at short notice.

Moving forward, KAG will continue to support the ongoing koala research work being done by Council in conjunction with researchers from University of the Sunshine Coast and Griffith Uni. KAG's website contains a Koala ear tag list that is regularly updated to enable community members and researchers to identify koalas that have been treated, rehabilitated and released back into the Redlands. Some of the ear tags contain Bluetooth devices that allows released koalas to be tracked for welfare reasons in the early period of their release.

We believe that koala awareness has generally increased in the community, through the community education work KAG has continued with, and also Council programs such as the Koala Safe Neighbourhood, Koala Ambassador and Koala Watch programs that are heavily promoted through social media and other means.

We will continue advocating for increased protection of habitat through implementation of the Wildlife Corridors mapping into Council's development assessment processes and have input into Federal Government's new Koala Advisory Committee to improve Australia's environmental laws. The State Government's recent push to increase housing densities and the urban footprint is of great concern and an issue KAG will follow closely.

KAG will also continue working closely with the Toondah Harbour and Birkdale Land Alliance groups who are working towards the same goal. That is advocating for greater transparency in all levels of government, stopping overdevelopment of our ever-decreasing green space areas, improving environmental laws that are meant to protect such areas and to achieve better outcomes for the natural environment to prevent endangered and iconic species like the koala from becoming extinct.

2023 KAG Financial Report

Koala Action Group Qld Inc finances are currently in a healthy state, with a bank balance of \$18,875.53 at the end of our financial year (28.02.2023) During the 22/23 financial year we received \$1,245.66 in membership fees and \$1,571.56 in donations. We also received \$81.50 via the Qld containers for change program, thank you to members that contributed their containers.

During the 22/23 financial year we agreed to support and auspice an RCC Conservation Grant of \$10,000.00 on behalf of Friends of the Black Swamp, Cleveland to undertake Typha removal south of the weir in the black swamp wetlands in Cleveland. This Grant money was received in this financial year and will be administered in the next financial year. Our income is derived from donations, membership fees, fundraising events, container exchange recycling program and bank interest.

Our expense figure includes, Public liability insurance, Association liability insurance, trailer registration and insurance, newsletter printing & postage, merchandise, association fees, website hosting, telephone and computer expenses. Looking forward, from May this year, KAG is now a member of Qld Water and Land Carers who are under the Landcare umbrella. They provide all member groups with both public liability and Association Liability Insurance which will be a substantial cost saving each year for KAG.

DO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS WORK?

An environmental offset is defined as, '**compensation for unavoidable impacts on significant environmental matters (e.g. valuable species and ecosystems) on one site, by securing land at another site, and managing that land over a period of time, to replace those significant environmental matters which were lost.**'

KAG has consistently expressed concerns with Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy for the following reasons:

- Offsets are often used as a justification for enabling habitat destruction, significantly contributing to the devastating decline of koala populations and other endangered species.
- The majority of offsets are delivered as financial (often minimal) settlements and do not provide any immediate benefit to those animals that have lost their habitat.
- It does not provide for timelines, accountability or enforceability of offsets required.
- There is no scientific basis to determine a reasonable ratio of offsets required.

A study conducted by researchers from The University of Queensland and Griffith University titled *Performance of habitat offsets for species conservation in dynamic human-modified landscapes - Rhodes et al., 2023.* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10494>) analysed the impacts of the Queensland government's *Environmental Offsets Policy* (<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/offsets/legislation>) on koalas in the state's south-east. The policy requires every koala habitat tree removed for development to be offset by planting and protecting three new habitat trees elsewhere. The developers can do this themselves or make a payment into a state-managed *Offset Fund* (<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/offsets/investing-funds>).

The study assessed the likely impacts of financial settlement offsets on koala habitat and koala numbers under different future urban growth scenarios and found in some cases offsets can work. An example of this can be when the payment is used to invest strategically in planting of habitat in areas that improve connections between areas of suitable habitat or are close to important koala populations. However, it found that only 5.2% of all financial settlement offsets for koala habitat since 2018 have been delivered so far through on the ground activities by the state government, primarily due to a shortage of suitable offset sites.

The study questioned the government's offset calculation method and whether they properly considered the availability and cost of offset sites and highlighted the importance of ensuring developers having to pay the true cost of offsetting their impacts (**source:** <https://theconversation.com/developers-arent-paying-enough-to-offset-impacts-on-koalas-and-other-endangered-species-208587>)

**To report a sick or injured koala contact
Redlands Wildlife Rescue Service (24 hours) on 3833 4031**

Report koala sightings to - Redlands Koala Watch

www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/

OR

[Report a Koala Sighting – Koala Action Group Qld Inc \(www.koalagroup.asn.au\)](http://www.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 -----

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

Please indicate if you are interested in any of the following.
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.

Note: KAG has a Public Liability Policy with a limit for any one occurrence of \$ 30,000,000