



A voice for koalas in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

October–December 2023

INVITATION

Please join us for KAG's Xmas party



When: Friday
December 8th
6.00-9.00pm

Where: Lions
Hall -122 Shore St
North, Cleveland

For catering purposes
please RSVP by
December 3

Email:
admin@koalagroup.asn.au
or call 3823 5575
and leave a message.

Wildlife Hospital for the Redlands (after 26 years)!

On November 8th, the Federal government in conjunction with the RSPCA and Redlands Council announced that a wildlife hospital would be built in the Redlands, near the IndigiScapes Centre at Capalaba.

The only other detail provided was that the Federal Government would contribute \$5 million towards the facility that is expected to cost upwards of \$20 million.

Whilst KAG is supportive in principle of such a facility in the Redlands, it is disappointing that our group along with other long term Redland based wildlife groups have been kept completely in the dark with this proposal that was first exposed some time ago on social media.

Interestingly, it's been 26 years since KAG reported that Redlands had plans for a koala hospital. This was at a time when koalas were prolific and there were estimated to be more than 6000 in the Koala Coast region which encompasses all of the Redlands.

In 1997, a well renowned wildlife veterinarian Jon Hanger (who specialises in koalas) said there was an urgent need for a koala hospital in the Redlands because we had one of the largest populations of koalas in Australia.

Sadly, due to habitat loss from rampant development, koala numbers have now plummeted to less than 1000 and possibly only a few hundred remain today.

KAG feels that the ever-increasing pressures on koalas and other wildlife from urban development still warrants the need for a wildlife hospital facility in the Redlands.

Our group looks forward to having constructive involvement in progressing this proposal that will help support all wildlife in the Redlands.



Front page of KAG newsletter- Sept 1997

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

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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

September to November 2023

Alexandra Hills: Buckingham St, Warana St. **Birkdale:** Francesca Ct, Lachlan St, Nutmeg Ct, Old Cleveland Rd E, Pentland Cl, Spoonbill St, Sunnybay Dr, Toronto Rd. **Capalaba:** Crotona Rd, Howlett Rd, Poplar St, Tipuana Dr. **Cleveland:** Coburg St E, Coburg St W, Channel St, Channel St S, Island St, Karen St, Long St, Middle St, Nicole St, North St, Passage St, Queen St, Shore St E, Shore St N, Weipin St, Wellington St, Wharf St. **Mt Cotton:** Billiau Rd, Irene La, Mt Cotton Rd, Mt View Rd, W Mount Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Ballow St, East Coast Rd, George Nothling Dr, Miles St, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Delancey St, Dundas St W, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St, Wellington St. **Redland Bay:** German Church Rd. **Thorneside:** Frank St, Thorneside Rd. **Thornlands:** Boundary Rd, Dinwoodie Rd, George Thorn Dr, Panorama Dr, Santagiuliana Way. **Victoria Pt:** Aspect Dr, Bellenden Ct, Brendon Way, Cleveland-Redland Bay Rd, Illidge Rd, School Rd. **Wellington Pt:** Belford Dr, Bligh St, Collingwood Rd, Chermiside St, Grenaid Ct, Haig Rd, Jacob St, Janelle Ct, Main Rd, Montgomery Dr, Musgrave St, Old Cleveland Rd E, Peterson St, Pitt Rd, Rye St, Roberts St, Sawmill Dr, Spurs Dr, Tulloch Dr.

Other LGA's:

BCC: Carina Heights, Carindale. **GCCC:** Mudgeeraba. **MBRC:** Strathpine.

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)

Toondah Festival

An estimated 2000 attendees celebrated the return of the migratory shorebirds at this year's 'Welcome Back Shorebirds' festival held by ACF Bayside last month.

The event had a very positive feel, with people of all ages enjoying live music, guest speakers, art activities and a variety of food.

Two of the local Toondah koalas were resting in trees nearby, one in the 'family tree' in Shore St East and the other in the beer garden area of the Grand View Hotel.

Congratulations to the festival organisers and KAG looks forward to participating next year, hopefully celebrating a decision by the Federal Environment minister to reject the Walker development proposal.

Male koala 'Cayden' rests in one of the gums trees in the garden area of the Grand View Hotel.



NOTE: KAG commends the Grand View Hotel who are planning a redevelopment of the historical venue. The development plans show the koala trees on the site are to be retained and incorporated into the redevelopment design.

Tree Planting wrap for 2023

Our dedicated team of planters have wrapped up another successful year, planting approximately 2000 plants into wildlife corridors, with additional numbers at community plants. We covered all points of the compass in the Redlands.



Utilising the expertise of our ever supportive Indigis Bushcare Officer, Mim, we trialled new methods such as adding soluble fertiliser when plant watering.

Hopefully this will counteract poor soil and anticipated future

dry weather conditions.

Memorable moments included spotting the local koala, ring tail possum and a boobook owl, and finally rounding off the season by working in welcome rain!

Petition to stop Lendlease from destroying farm dams/wildlife habitat at Shoreline in Southern Redland Bay.

Please support by signing this petition, thank you!

<https://chnq.it/NsLsPJJVLn>

Win for Environment at Heinemann Rd Sporting & Recreation Precinct

Years of campaigning by KAG to gain a better outcome at the Heinemann Rd Sporting and Recreation Precinct in Mt Cotton have paid off.

The Sporting and Recreation Precinct masterplan adopted by Redlands Council in May 2020 showed multiple sporting fields, intensive bicycle recreational activities, multiple carparks and three clubhouses to be developed on the northern part of the site.

KAG has consistently maintained that Council were overdeveloping the northern area which contained much of the best koala habitat and would result in at least 550 habitat trees being removed. This was clearly not acceptable and would ensure a poor outcome for the wildlife and natural environment.

One of KAG's particular concerns was with the BMX precinct in the north west corner that would see removal of and future threats (from bike trails winding in and around them) to centuries old eucalyptus trees that were identified in an ecological report as having 'scientific significance in that trees of their size and age are rare in the Redlands'.

Therefore, KAG was extremely pleased when the Federal government declared the project a 'controlled action' in March 2023 under the EPBC Act, recognising the project would have a 'significant impact' on Matters of National Environmental Significance i.e. the Koala which was listed as 'endangered' in February 2022.

Recent changes to the EPBC Act also required offset plantings that were unable to be achieved with the current masterplan, therefore Redlands Council were required to scale back and remove the entire Bike Activity precinct and revise the planned Recreation precinct.

At the Council General Meeting on November 15 2023, ten of the eleven councillors voted in favour of adopting the revised masterplan.

A Council officer stated that about 100 trees will be saved and details of the future Recreation precinct are yet to be determined.

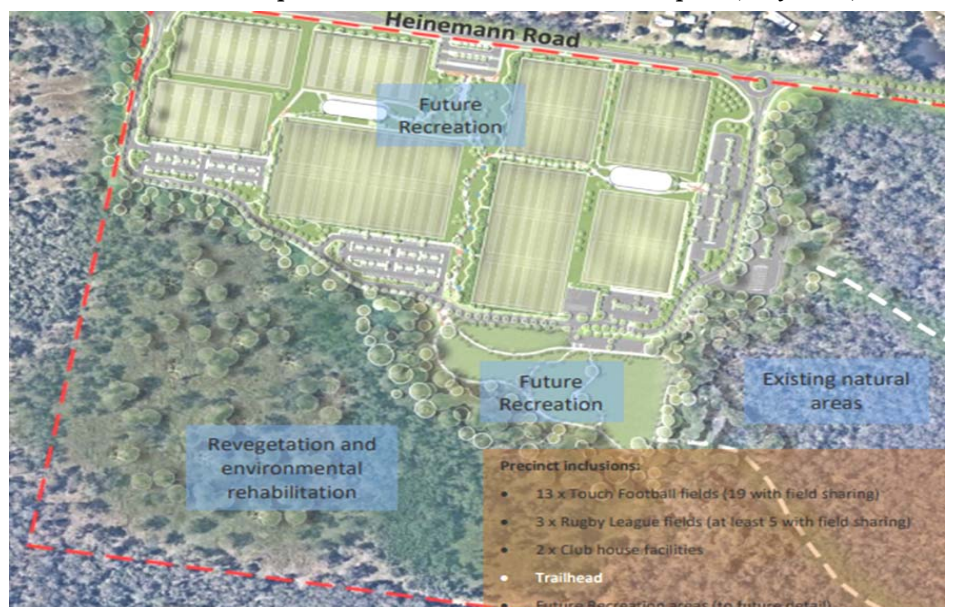
It is still unclear what the cost to the Redlands ratepayer will be to develop the site, with the original masterplan blowing out from the initial costing of \$40-60 million to a more recent figure stated of over \$200 million.

Whilst KAG is pleased with the outcome of the down-sized masterplan, the impacts that will still be felt by the wildlife that will lose many hundreds of habitat trees cannot be overestimated.

Additionally, the pair of breeding wedgetail eagles on the site will inevitably be disturbed by the future development of the sporting and recreation precinct.



Heinemann Rd Sport and Recreation Precinct masterplan (May 2020)



Revised masterplan adopted by Council November 2023

One Lucky Scribbly Gums Koala!

A young koala was discovered by a passerby recently in the Scribbly Gums Conservation Area entangled in temporary fencing known as 'Tiger Mesh'.

With the tough plastic unable to be stretched or torn apart by hand, quick action was taken to source a pair of scissors to cut the mesh and free the koala's head that was stuck through one of the fencing holes.

Fortunately the koala was unharmed and moved away once freed, but it isn't known how long it had been trapped and luckily it didn't become victim of a dog attack considering its vulnerability.

KAG immediately wrote to Redland City Council Parks and Conservation team requesting the immediate removal of the fencing and requested that an alternative type of temporary fencing must be used in these natural areas that are meant to be safe havens for wildlife.

Prompt action was taken by Council to remove and replace the fencing with single strand wire and also provide a commitment to look at ways of reducing the use of Tiger Mesh fencing across Redland City.



Photo credit: Steve Anthony

**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