



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

January–March 2025

DIARY DATE

Saturday April 26
Koala Community Planting (Council)
9am-11am

Victoria Point Bushland Refuge -143 Link Rd
Join the community bushcare team and help plant 1,500 native seedlings to expand vital habitat for koalas and other wildlife.

Bookings essential:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/bushcare-community-plantings-3989303>. For more info call 38248611.

Redlands Bushcare Program

Join one of the local Bushcare groups who undertake a variety of activities such as planting, weeding, creek care, seed collection and weed weaving.

For more info: https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20268/volunteering_and_local_initiatives/671/community_bushcare

Saturday May 10

9am-11am
Nature Walk

Hilliards Creek (Fellmonger Pk), Ormiston. Meet in car-park opp. Ormiston Grove, off Sturgeon St.

Up to 5 koalas are regularly sighted in this area. An easy walk suitable for all abilities and join us for a cuppa afterwards.

Redlands IndigiScapes Nursery

Opening hours: 10am-3pm Monday-Friday and 9am-12 noon on 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.

Toondah Harbour Community Concept Plan

The draft Toondah Community Concept Plan continues to be well received by the community with Toondah Alliance member groups holding displays at North Stradbroke Island market days and at a recent information night at the Redlands Museum.

The event was attended by about 100 people and Landscape Architect John

Mongard (pictured) explained the various aspects of the Concept Plan and how the Toondah Harbour Precinct area could be transformed from the unfriendly user experience that it currently is, to become a world class ferry port with aesthetically pleasing green surrounds.

John answered questions from audience members who had an opportunity to provide feedback on the Toondah Community Concept Plan.



KAG understand the Walker Corporation had 12 months to resubmit a new plan from when they withdrew their previous proposal in April 2024 following Minister Tanya Plibersek's advice intending to refuse their large scale proposal.

Recent news reports said that Walker Corporation have come back with a Toondah 2 development land based proposal and have met with Redland City Council to provide a briefing of the proposed alternative plan.

KAG's concerns remain unchanged regarding any future development in the Toondah Precinct that would include additional residential high rise. This will significantly increase traffic movement around the area and result in increased threats to koalas and other wildlife that live in and traverse through the Cleveland area.

In light of the recent weather event (Cyclone Alfred), KAG trusts that any future decisions made for the Toondah Harbour Precinct seriously consider the implications of approving further residential dwellings in this area, considering the entire site is included in the predicted Climate and Storm Surge Inundation Plan (shown above).



**This newsletter is produced by
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Councillor Wendy Boglary

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V/President & Policy Advisor

Lynn Roberts

Secretary Jenny Niall

Treasurer Jennifer Hoskin

Newsletter Debbie Pointing

Executive Members

Chris Bray

Carmel Rackemann

Tanya Golitschenko

Koala Sightings

November 2024 to March 2025

Alexandra Hills: Cambridge Dr,

Sevenoaks St, Windemere Dr, **Birkdale:**

Collingwood Rd, Haig Rd, Lachlan St,

Lloyd Vis, Old Cleveland Rd E. **Ca-**

palaba: Brewer St, Howlett Rd, Tipuana

Dr. **Cleveland:** Erubin St, Fitzroy St,

Goleby Esp, Island St, Long St, Middle

St, Passage St, Phalan St, Russel St,

South St, Weippin St. **NSI:** Alfred Martin

Way, Claytons Rd, Flinders Av, Fraser

St, Dickson Way, Karboora Dr, Millers

Ln, Oxley Pde, Sovereign Rd, Yabby St.

Mt Cotton: Hardwood Dr, Vineyard Dr,

West Mt Cotton Rd. **Ormiston:** Dundas

St W, Gloucester Dr, Stevens Pl, Stur-

geon St, Wellington St. **Redland Bay:**

Main St. **Thorneside:** Beatty Rd.

Thornlands: Boundary Rd, Clifford Per-

ske Dr, King St, Manning Esp, Pinecone

Pl, Santagiuliana Pde. **Victoria Pt:**

Orana St. **Wellington Pt:** Allenby Rd,

Balmoral St, Bligh St, Chermside St,

Crossley Dr, Fernbourne Rd, Hilliards

Pk Dr, Sawmill Dr, Skinner Av, Starkey

St.

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

Tourism in the Redlands - Wild Koalas or Whitewater Elephant?

Excerpt from Media Release by Lavinia Wood– spokesperson for Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP)

Creating the 'Redlands Wild Koala Refuge & Cultural Heritage Precinct' on the Birkdale lands would attract thousands of tourists each year – before, during and long after the 2032 Olympic Games. We see this in Logan City, with over 400,000 visitors annually attending the Daisy Hill Koala Sanctuary. The Birkdale site has the added bonus of significant Indigenous Cultural and European Heritage attractions.

What's more, Council could link and actively promote the ecotourism opportunities found within the priceless Ramsar-listed wetlands of Toondah Harbour and the wider cultural heritage precinct of the Cleveland Point. Add to these the outstanding natural and Indigenous Cultural attractions of



Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island and Redland City would be the proud custodian of a world-famous eco-tourism and cultural heritage trail.

There is no doubt the Birkdale Koalas are the defining point of difference when it comes to competing for the tourist dollar, because they are found only thirty minutes' travel from Queensland's tourist capital, Brisbane. They are the key to bringing perpetual prosperity to the Redlands through tourism.

REDLANDS WILDLIFE HOSPITAL UPDATE

RSPCA Queensland is excited to announce that the Development Application (DA) for the new RSPCA Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence has been officially submitted to Redland City Council. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to create a world-class facility dedicated to wildlife care, rehabilitation, and education.

The project will deliver a state-of-the-art Wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence, built to support the growing demand for wildlife rescue and care in Southeast Queensland. The facility will integrate leading medical, rehabilitation, and educational spaces, aiming to future-proof wildlife care for generations to come. The project is on track to deliver the new facility in early 2026.

The project has secured a hectare of cleared land at the Redlands Coast Eco Precinct (IndigiScapes).

This project is a collaboration between RSPCA Qld and Redland City Council, showcasing strong community and Council support. The capital campaign, Together for Wildlife, continues to make progress towards the \$25 million fundraising target. Almost \$20 million has been committed in funding. The project has received \$5 million in grant funding from the Australian Government under the Saving Koalas Fund. The State Government has committed \$12 million for the project and \$1 million has been received from generous philanthropic supporters. An additional \$2 million has been pledged and specialist fundraising continues.

Source: <https://rspcavet.net.au/news-and-events/news/new-wildlife-hospital-development-application-submitted>



Crisafulli Government turns back on community - Green Light for Whitewater Centre

KAG is extremely disappointed with the State Government's announcement to proceed with the Whitewater Centre on the Birkdale land.

Last month an online poll by Redland Bayside News reaffirmed that 74% of Redlands community are against the project, and are now being forced to have this unneeded and unwanted project.

KAG recently sent a submission (<https://koalagroup.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/KAG-Submission-to-100-day-Review-into-Games-Venues-and-Transport-Infrastructure-Jan-2025-including-Expert-Report.pdf>) to the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) who undertook the 100 day review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure and Planning.

Our comprehensive submission highlighted concerns about impacts to protected koala habitat and provided a recently released expert report that details the intricate relationship of groundwater dependent ecosystems and the risks associated when water aquifers are interfered with, often resulting in devastating dieback of habitat, of which eucalyptus trees are particularly susceptible.

KAG also demonstrated how koala/fauna movement across the site (east to west) would be almost 80% blocked by the Whitewater Centre and proposed lagoon.

The submission raised serious concerns about Redland City Council's lack of transparency regarding consultation where appendixes to consultation reports were purposely withheld and details of the not yet finalised 'Conservation Agreement' between the Federal government and the Council remains confidential.

Other issues raised were, Council's reluctance to refer the project to the Federal government for assessment under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) and have provided no real evidence of financial viability for the Whitewater Centre.

This decision by the Crisafulli government blatantly goes against the Olympic 'New Norm' policy of using existing venues, even if located away from the Host City, particularly for single sport events.

A recent example of this is the LA28 Games, where the host city of Los Angeles will hold their Whitewater event 2000 kilometres away in Oklahoma.

KAG will continue to ensure the project is properly assessed through the EPBC Act and fight for the only sensible solution to help protect the endangered koalas on the Birkdale site, which is for the two week Whitewater Rafting Olympic 2032 event to be held at the ready-to-go venue in Penrith, NSW that is home to the incredible Olympic champion Fox sisters.



A recently released expert report warns of the risk to Koala habitat on the Birkdale site if construction of a Whitewater Centre proceeds. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) are mapped on much of the site and large swathes of koala habitat are at risk of suffering die-back if the aquifers are interfered with during excavation and construction of the industrial sized venue.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: REDLANDS' KOALAS IN OLYMPIC PERIL

<https://youtu.be/Rg3WBAo8z00?si=xUTVi-qFXkyfK436>

A huge thank you to filmmaker Jim Stevens, who assisted the Birkdale Alliance (of whom KAG is a member of) to produce this short video to highlight the precarious position that the Redland's Koala population is in. The proposed Olympic Whitewater Centre, if allowed to proceed will threaten the koalas that inhabit the Birkdale Land and put at serious risk the vast amount of protected habitat on the site.

Federal Government backs down on strengthening Environment Laws

KAG is extremely disappointed with the Federal Labor government's apparent backing down on their 2022 election promise to overhaul Australia's broken nature laws (Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act - EPBC).

[Labor's dumping of Australia's new nature laws means the environment is shaping as a key 2025 election issue](#)

Independent reviews of the EPBC Act in 2008 and again in 2019 led to a report [Independent Review of the EPBC Act – Final Report October 2020](#) being delivered to the then Minister for Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Sussan Ley making recommendations to fix the outdated and ineffective Act.

The report stated that:

- ♦ ***Australia's natural environment and iconic places are in an overall state of decline and are under increasing threat. The current environmental trajectory is unsustainable***
- ♦ ***The EPBC Act is ineffective. It does not enable the Commonwealth to effectively protect environmental matters that are important for the nation. It is not fit to address current or future environmental challenges***

More than four years have since passed, and whilst current Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek has attempted to put in place some of the recommendations, it has been met with resistance.

Considering Australia holds the shameful position of being a world leader for extinction of flora and fauna, it is completely unacceptable that no government will stand up for nature.

Instead politically powerful interests (often overseas owned) such as property, mining, logging and agriculture appear to be firmly in the drivers seat, allowing the continuing destruction of Australia's amazingly diverse natural environment.

**To report a sick or injured koala contact
Redlands Wildlife Rescue Service on 3833 4031 or Koala
Rescue Redlands and Surrounds 0435 504 222 (24 hrs)**

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: Suncorp no longer accept cheques or money orders)

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