



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

April–June 2025

DIARY DATE

Friday June 27

**IndigiScapes Koala Walk
9am, 10am & 11am**

Pt Halloran Conservation Area
Orana St, Victoria Pt
Join the team from Indigis and koala
detection dogs
Bookings essential:
Call 3824 8611 for more info.

Sunday July 27

**National Tree Day
Community Planting
9am-11am**

St James's Estate, Birkdale
Parking and access via
Catherine St, Birkdale.

Council's Community Bushcare team will host this year's event, suitable for all the family along the beautiful Tingalpa Ck. This is an important urban wildlife corridor and will be extended with 2000 plants. Supplied are plants, tools, sun-screen, insect repellent, gloves and a sausage sizzle. Wear closed in shoes and sun safe clothing and bring your own drinking water. To register and for more info call 3824 8611.

**Saturday August 2 KAG
AGM**

2pm
Cleveland Scout Hall
32-38 Bainbridge St, Ormiston.
Please see attached invitation.

We hope you can join us to elect a new committee, get an update on Redlands issues followed by refreshments and a chat.

**Redlands IndigiScapes
Nursery**

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.

Ormiston Subdivision Causes Concern

KAG has written to Redland City Council in support of their concerns about a proposed subdivision (1 lot into 14) at Ormiston. Below is an excerpt:

We write to support council's concerns expressed in the information request on the proposed subdivision development at 17 McCartney St Ormiston – RAL25/0028.

It is difficult to see how the development will conform with the submitted landscape plan while demonstrating compliance with the Low-Density Residential Zone Code. If this proposal to subdivide 1 lot into 14 is approved it will set a precedent for this area that is both unacceptable and undesirable, impacting on the character of the area and diminishing the ecological values of the foreshore corridor that occurs on the site.

The plan accepts that it is widely acknowledged and documented that this area is home to koalas. KAG believes this foreshore corridor is a critically important movement pathway that adjoins the Stevens Place parkland and Hilliards Creek corridor.

KAG agrees that the clearing of mapped koala habitat in such an important movement area should be referred to the EPBC Act for assessment. The Ecological Report by 28°South Environmental uses highly selective terminology such as: 'fraction' and 'minute' when attempting to minimize the proposal to 'cut into' the koala habitat protected by State mapping.

*Some of the trees proposed for removal and/or subject to arborist assessment are of significant age and greater than 1000dbh. We agree with the assessment in the Information Request that the removal of large trees (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) is considered unacceptable due to their being some of the most significant trees across the site (given their location, size, species, and value as primary koala food trees). The root zones of trees being retained at the rear of the development site are likely to be impacted by construction which will compromise their long-term health.*



An Ormiston Koala

We also find it remarkable that the urban stormwater improvement conceptualisation uses old data from 1972 from the Capalaba rainfall station and that access to council maintenance vehicles along the foreshore corridor has not been considered. This same retaining wall has the potential to form a barrier to koala movement along the foreshore.

We trust that Redland City Council will uphold the values of State and local koala habitat protection and that the DA must not be approved in its present form.

This newsletter is produced by
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Lynn Roberts
Secretary Jenny Niall
Treasurer Jennifer Hoskin
Newsletter Debbie Pointing
Executive Members
Chris Bray
Carmel Rackemann
Tanya Golitschenko

Koala Sightings

March-June 2025

Alexandra Hills: Plaxtol Ct. **Birkdale:** Birkdale Rd, Lloyd Vis, Old Cleveland Rd E. **Capalaba:** Callistemon St, Tipuana Dr. **Cleveland:** Beach St, Channel St, Coburg St W, Erubin St, Fitzroy St, Goleby Esp, Passage St, Wellington St. **Mt. Cotton:** Sunrise St. **NSI:** Claytons Rd, Dickson Way, Flinders Av, Gonzales St, Oxley Pde, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Delancey St, Hilli Pl, Ivory Ln, Sturgeon St, Wellington St. **Thorneside:** Beatty Rd. **Thornlands:** Manning Esp, South St. **Victoria Pt:** Orana St. **Wellington Pt:** Belford Dr, Janelle Ct, Sawmill Dr.

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=cl959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=cl959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&pageSize=100)

3 Koalas released back into the wild

KAG members were invited recently to witness the release of 3 koalas following their treatment at Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital for Chlamydia.

It was thrilling to watch Matilda, Jones and Rose climb their trees to freedom at the locations they were captured months earlier at Ormiston, Wellington Pt and Cleveland.

All of them have been given a clean bill of health and fitted with Bluetooth ear tags to allow for easier tracking.



KAG plans to conduct a walk following the AGM on August 2nd, 2025 to try and locate Matilda (left) and Jones (below left) using the Bluetooth phone application.

Come along and learn more about how you can help our local koalas by conducting visual health checks using this new technology.



KAG wishes to thank everyone who donates funds through the 'Containers for Change' recycling program.

KAG's account ID code is **C10146563**.

You will need to quote this code when you deposit cans and bottles at a Centre near you.

<https://www.ccontainersforchange.com.au/qld/where-to-return>



KAG acknowledges Redland City Council's grant contribution through the Mayor and Councillors' Community Benefit Fund to help our group purchase two laptop computers. Thank you to Mayor Mitchell and councillors Hewlett, Golle and Boglary.

KAG request to Federal Government

KAG has written to the Federal Department of Environment requesting they perform a thorough assessment of the Birkdale Whitewater Centre proposal once it is referred to them from Redland City Council. Our group also ask they not be pressured by Redland Council or the State LNP government to fast-track the EPBC assessment process considering the serious impacts to koalas and the environment we believe are at risk if the project proceeds. An excerpt from the letter is below:

We write to provide an update on the Redlands Olympic Whitewater Centre (RWC) proposed for the special conservation lands of the Birkdale Community Precinct (BCP) in Redland City, Queensland.

On March 25, 2025 the Queensland State LNP government announced they have accepted the recommendation set out in the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority's (GIICA) 100 Day Review to proceed with the Redland Whitewater Centre plan. **Source - 100 Day Review Report - 8 March 2025 APPROVED.pdf (giica.au)**

Further to this, on May 1, 2025 the Queensland Government announced they were introducing a new bill to give the GIICA power to override 15 planning laws, including the Environmental Protection Act, the Planning Act, the Queensland Heritage Act, the Local Government Act, and the Nature Conservation Act. These statements from GIICA and moves by the State government to 'fast track' Olympic Games venues are deeply concerning to our group.

As you are aware from previous correspondence, our group has serious concerns about risks to Core Koala Habitat and significant environmental damage, as well as other impacts to the resident and transient koalas. To date, Redland City Council has not made public any evidence to support the claim that the construction of the Whitewater Centre will not impact the aquifer, whereas in a specialist hydrogeological report experts have clearly outlined the serious risks to the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems that are present on the Birkdale Land. The excavation depth required to construct a Whitewater Centre will undoubtedly interfere with one or more aquifers of varying depths, which is likely to cause dieback of the Core Koala Habitat surrounding the impact area. The associated concreting and paving over of much of the subject site will also negatively impact the capacity of the unconsolidated soils to capture and supply water. This is of great concern to our group as we understand that irreversible environmental impacts will occur, given eucalyptus species are especially susceptible to changes in groundwater.

Incremental removal of koala habitat will inevitably occur during development of the Whitewater Centre, as well as during the subsequent development of the broader Birkdale Community Precinct, resulting in the clearing of hundreds of trees in total. Infrastructure requirements such as carparks and bus turnaround areas for the Whitewater Centre all require cleared spaces and will result in removal of koala habitat. Accumulative impacts during and after construction to koalas living on the site, and those attempting to traverse the area, will be devastating. The intensive construction of the RWC will result in extensive noise and disturbance to koalas living on the site. Koalas' ability to move across the landscape will be initially impeded by construction fencing. Then once completed, the industrial-scale Olympic venue itself, comprising buildings, concrete aprons and water channels will create a permanent impenetrable barrier for the koalas and other wildlife currently moving freely across the site.

The claim by Redland City Council that the site will not have night-time traffic is highly doubtful, given the proposed uses of the RWC and the wider Birkdale Community Precinct, as detailed in the excerpt below, from Council's own document. Excerpt from Birkdale Community Precinct Master Plan March 2024 - p3: *This Hub will be capable of accommodating large events such as concerts, festivals, open-air movies, public meetings, markets, performances of all kinds and art shows. With a capacity of up to 10,000 people for an outdoor standing event, the precinct will add to the city's entertainment assets.*

We continue to have serious concerns that Redland City Council was reluctant to refer the proposed Redland Whitewater Centre and Birkdale Community Precinct for assessment under the EPBC Act. As before, we believe Council will seek to diminish and downplay the hydrogeological factors and minimise the scale of risk to habitat and impacts to koalas living on and traversing the site. Council's track record in its handling of MNES responsibilities is evidence of this, as shown by their disregard of Ramsar obligations in the proposed Toondah Harbour development. We understand that the Conservation Agreement between Redland City Council and the Australian Government over the purchase of the land comprising the Birkdale Community Precinct has still not been finalised. We seriously question why Redland City Council continues to decline to formalise a Conservation Agreement that is intended to 'protect and conserve biodiversity in an area of land or sea', unless Council seeks to diminish the protections safeguarded by the current form of the Agreement in order to facilitate its development agenda.

The Queensland Government is clearly seeking to fast-track the development of 2032 Olympic venues and associated infrastructure, in flagrant disregard of existing legislative protections designed to ensure due process and to protect communities, and the natural environment, from inappropriate development. We believe Redland City Council supports a similar approach. Accordingly, we implore the Federal Government to use its power under the EPBC Act to ensure the Redland Whitewater Centre proposal and the wider Birkdale Community Precinct development proposal are forensically assessed, with all of the risks and impacts outlined by our group taken into consideration.

Redlands Corporate Plan Under Review

Council is asking for community feedback on their Corporate Plan which will guide their priorities and direction from 2026-2031. The Corporate Plan is the overarching plan that sets the long-term vision for the Redlands and guides budget and resource allocation for annual works and operations. The community's input will be used to develop a draft Corporate Plan, which will be released for public comment later this year. The plan will then be revised based on the community's feedback before a final version is presented for adoption at the General Meeting of Council in December 2025.

For more information and to have your say go to: <https://yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au/corporate-plan-2031>

Comments are open until June 22, 2025.

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 -
https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/20301/koala_conservation/1068/redlands_coast_koala_watch

KOALA ACTION GROUP QLD INC

Nomination Form for Elected Positions at Annual General Meeting
Saturday August 2nd, 2025

I,being a financial member of KAG

1. Nominate the following persons for the positions indicated

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Additional Committee Members
.....

2. Nominate or the chairperson to act as my proxy at the
Koala Action Group Qld Inc 2025 AGM

Signed: Date:

Please send proxy form to KAG by 26/7/25 - email: admin@koalagroup.asn.au OR by mail to PO Box 660, Capalaba Qld 4157

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