



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

KAG Newsletter

www.koalagroup.asn.au

email:admin@koalagroup.asn.au

April–June 2026

DIARY DATE

Sunday July 26
National Tree Day
Community Planting
(Council)
9am-11am

Burmah Boulevard,
Redland Bay

Join Redland City Council's
Community Bushcare Team
and help plant 2000
native seedlings.

Please bring enclosed
shoes, sun protection and
drinking water.

Street parking available
along Burmah Boulevard
and surrounding streets.

For more info and for
groups of more than 5 peo-
ple, please contact Commu-
nity Bushcare Team at 3824
8611 or bush-
care@redland.qld.gov.au.

[National Tree Day Community
Planting Tickets, Sunday, July
26 • 9 AM - 11 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Saturday August 1
KAG Annual
General Meeting
2pm-4pm

Cleveland Scout Hall
26 Bainbridge St,
Ormiston

Come along to hear what's
been happening around the
Redlands and vote in a new
committee.

IndigiScapes Native Nursery

Make your garden
attractive to native wildlife
using a great variety of
plants endemic to the Red-
lands.

Friendly advice available
and all plants \$3.00 each.
Five free koala food trees
available to Redlands
Residents.

Trees Destroyed at Ormiston College

Just days following the approval decision from Deputy Premier Jarrod Blieje to green light the Ormiston College master plan, hundreds of mature gum trees were chain sawed and felled extremely quickly by a large team of tree removal contractors.

Shocked bystanders were appalled to witness a tree with a young male koala in it very close to being cut down after the fauna spotter onsite missed seeing it.

Equally disturbing, was the sight of female koala 'Leaf' directly across the road from the works witnessing this happening.

Just a couple of days later, Leaf moved onto the development site where she is known to live, but sadly many of her home range trees now lay on the ground.

With tree clearing occurring at haste, many questions remain about whether compliance with the Vegetation Fauna Management Plan and Koala Management Plan were followed, including no clearing works occurring within a 20 metre exclusion zone, once it was known that a koala was present onsite.

It is also alleged that a significant koala tree on the boundary of the development site has been removed in error, with a koala being photographed in this exact tree just days prior.

KAG and many other concerned residents have formally raised these non-compliance with MID approval concerns with Council and the State Government department of Environment, however to date have not received a response.

Community outrage and support has been overwhelming and KAG is extremely grateful to the thousands of people who have and continue to contribute in any way to the campaign.

Ormiston College has recently confirmed that no further clearing will happen in the immediate future, however KAG and other community members are calling for the College to change their long term master plan to relocate the proposed Early Learning Centre to an area that will exclude any further clearing of Core Koala habitat.

Female koala 'Leaf' (right) with a pouch young has been the face of the Ormiston campaign and it has been heartbreaking to witness her century old food trees, plus hundreds of other habitat trees so callously smashed to the ground with Leaf and another young male koala watching on in close proximity.

Numbers of other koalas in the nearby Hilliards Creek area, some of which are being monitored as part of the Redland Council's various university koala research programs are also likely to be impacted in some manner by the loss of this important koala habitat.



This newsletter is produced by
The Koala Action Group Qld Inc

Address: PO Box 660
Capalaba Qld 4157

ABN: 85 618 891 610

Phone: 0407 094 799

email: admin@koalagroup.asn.au

web : www.koalagroup.asn.au

Patrons Helen Murray
Councillor Lance Hewlett
Councillor Wendy Boglary

President Debbie Pointing
V/President & Policy Advisor

Lynn Roberts

Secretary Jenny Niall

Treasurer Jennifer Hoskin

Newsletter Debbie Pointing

Executive Members

Chris Bray

Carmel Rackemann

Tanya Golitschenko

KAG members recently enjoyed a fine Autumn day walk around Thorneside taking in part of Tingalpa Creek, a waterway corridor that KAG had planted up many years ago.



Also included were parcels of land that have been preserved for conservation due to advocacy by one of the founding KAG members and former Redland City Councillor, Helen Murray. Whilst we did not sight any koalas on the route walked, following a delicious morning tea at a local café one of the local female koalas with pouch young 'Jenni' (above) was sighted nearby in Beattie Rd using the bluetooth app which responded to the tag attached to Jenni's ear.

Koala Sightings March – June 2026

Alexandra Hills: Anne St, McDon-

ald Rd, Montgomery Dr, Seven-

oaks St. **Birkdale:** Carinyan Dr,

Lloyd Vis, Macfarlan St, Menas Ct,

Old Cleveland Rd E, Radunz Pl,

Sunnybay Dr, Uhlman Rd. **Capala-**

ba: Brewer St, Bryce Pl, Frances-

ca Ct, Jones Rd, Runnymede Rd.

Cleveland: Bay St, Channel St S,

Coburg St W, Colburn St, Enter-

prise St, Erobin St, Fitzroy St, Is-

land St, Longland St, Middle St,

Passage St, Russel St, Shore St

E, Shore St N, Sommersea Dr,

Sunshine Dr, Wellington St. **Mt**

Cotton: Heineman Rd, Settlers Ct,

West Mt Cotton Rd. **NSI:** Ballow

St, Brown Lake Dr, Flinders Dr,

Flinders Beach Rd, Geera St,

MacLand St, Oxley Pde, Toompa-

ny St, Wallum Ck Dr, Yabby St.

Ormiston: Beckwith St S, Black-

thorne St, Court St, Darcelle Pl,

Delancey St, Dundas St W, Fletch-

er Tce, Gloucester St, Ivory Ln,

Oak St, Ormiston Gr, Stevens Pl,

Sturgeon St, Tolston Tce, Welling-

ton St. **Redland Bay:** Boundary

St, Giles Rd, Serpentine Ck Rd.

Thorneside: Beatty Rd, Frank St,

Henry St, Mooroondu Rd.

Thornlands: Amanda St, Clifford

Perske Dr, Jerrys Pl, Manning Esp,

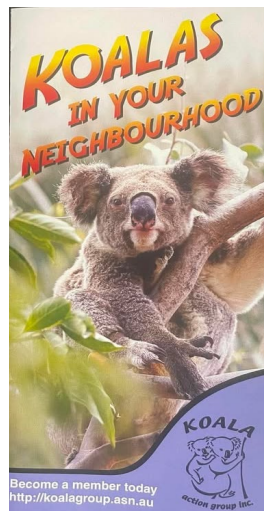
South St, Wellington St. **Victoria**

Pt: Cleveland Redland Bay Rd,

Creekside Cct W, Illidge Rd, Not-

tingham Dr, Orana St, Regency St,

School Rd, Yeo St.



KAG acknowledges and thanks Redland City Council for funding from the Mayor and Councillor Community Benefit Fund to assist with printing coloured educational brochures that will help raise awareness in the community on ways to help koalas.

Thank you to everyone who donate 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.containersforchange.com.au/qld/>



(Koala Sightings—continued)

Wellington Pt: Anson Rd, Belford Dr, Bligh St, Cedarview Pl, Celsa St, Grosvenor Ct, Hilliards Pk Dr, Jacob St, Janelle Ct, Lenord St, Macfarlan St, Montgomery Dr, Nelson Rd, Nottingham Dr, O'Connell Pde, Pitt Rd, Riverton Dr, Spurs Dr, Trafalgar Vale Av, Whepstead Av.

Primary data sources: [https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=cl959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&fq=occurrence_decade_i:%222020%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=cl959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&fq=occurrence_decade_i:%222020%22&pageSize=100)
https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/76c06e811c5d4f6fb0f065e652d7f66b/page/Koala-Watch-#data_s=id%3AdataSource_19%3A0%2Cid%3Aaefc7a6599774992958fe9c49bd956cd-18de77ef673-layer-7%3A1460%2Cid%3Aaefc7a6599774992958fe9c49bd956cd-18de3432643-layer-1%3A86

Birkdale Whitewater gets green light from Federal Government

KAG is extremely disappointed by the Federal Government's decision earlier this month to approve the Redlands Whitewater Centre without making it a 'controlled action'.

If declared a 'controlled action', the project would be required to undertake further investigation work to ensure Koalas and their habitat will not be significantly impacted by the proposal.

Serious concerns are held by KAG and other Birkdale Alliance group members (CARP, Redland2030, WPSQ Bayside, ACF Bayside, Birkdale Progress Assoc) about impacts to koalas during the long term construction phase and potentially devastating impacts to Core Koala habitat, due to interference with the underground water aquifer that put at risk groundwater dependant species such as eucalyptus trees whose root systems are reliant upon groundwater, particularly during dry spells.

An excerpt of KAG's submission to the EPBC referral is below:

Our group has serious concerns that impacts will occur to surrounding habitat due to the massive scale of earthworks and the heavy machinery required to construct a facility of this size. Local impacts include noise, vibration and dust. After construction and in the use phase, airborne water treatment chemicals may also affect leaf growth. There does not appear to be any sufficiently sized buffer areas between these works and the conservation areas to protect the vegetation from these impacts. Scientific research suggests that "hard edges", as would be produced with the industrial scale whitewater centre, appear to be the most damaging to arboreal mammals.

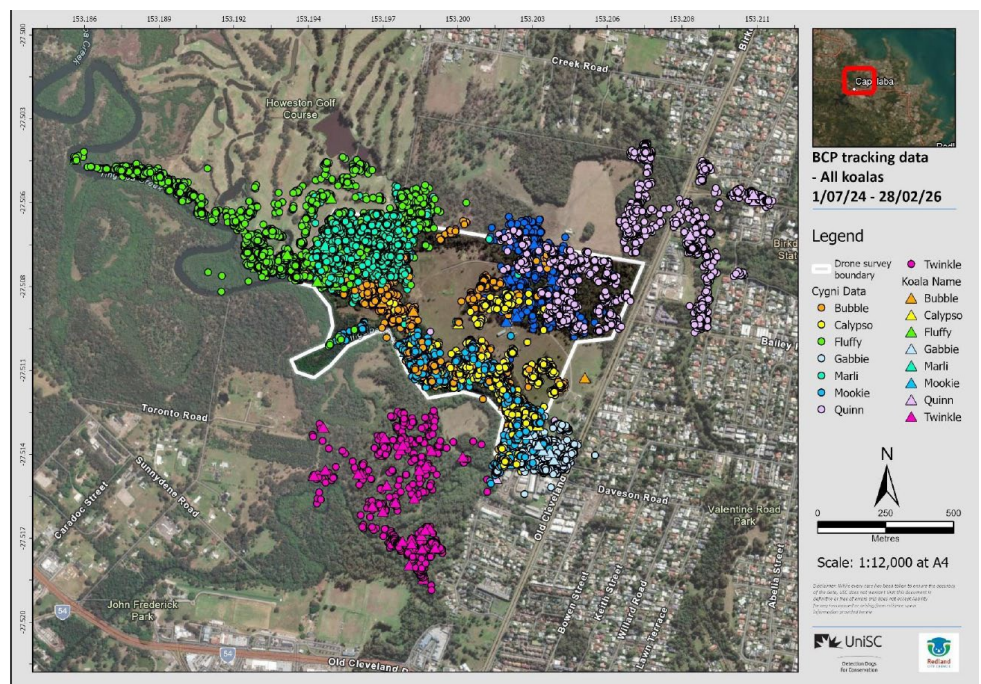
The latest iteration of the plans for BCP (2026) shows improved movement opportunities from the north and south across the eastern part of the site after development but fails to show that west to east is almost completely blocked. The diagram in the Birkdale Community Precinct Conceptual Management Plan by 28° South does show scattered trees allowing movement, albeit with koalas having to negotiate car parks and roads. It also presumes koalas can cross the stormwater treatment area which may prove difficult for them.

Even so, the tree loss is significant in the development area. 168 trees are to be removed with another 74 subject to Arborist Assessment. It is interesting to note that the disturbance area plus the avoidance area is 23.517 hectares leaving only 38.949 hectares. The RCC website shows that 44.78 hectares were paid for by the Environmental Levy.

The restriction of koala movement during construction will have a severe impact on the local koalas and any others that are passing through. It is not clear how long the construction of the site will be, but the projected timing is for construction from 2027 to 2029/30. If past experience is taken into consideration, it may be much longer.

This will be disastrous for the north to south movement of koalas as well as the west to east. For example

see in figure 4, Bubble and Calypso (a breeding koala) consistently use both sides of the disturbance footprint. Two years plus is a long time in the life of a koala and they will have to relocate away from their established home range to find food and are unlikely to survive until the north to south corridors are open. This blockage of movement will also lead to more koalas being forced to cross the busy Old Cleveland Road East with the resultant much reduced likelihood of survival. Koalas become very confused with changes in their home range and their navigation systems are put into disarray.



GPS tracked koalas on the Birkdale Community Precinct
Source: Redland City Council website

Ominous warning of temperature changes a major threat to Koalas

- A University of Sydney study analysed 11,862 koala hospital records across NSW between 2000 and 2022 and compared them with local weather data.
- Dr Mella and her fellow researchers found koalas were at much greater risk when average maximum temperatures exceeded 27°C over a seven-day period.
- Hospital admissions and deaths were 1.5 to 3.5 times more likely when temperatures rose above 30°C compared with a 25°C baseline.
- Inland koala populations are particularly vulnerable due to more frequent and prolonged heat events.
- Scientists warn that climate change, drought, habitat fragmentation and disease could drive local koala populations to extinction, particularly in inland regions.
- Koalas use several strategies to stay cool, including tree hugging, resting in shade, conserving water and panting. However, prolonged heat causes dehydration and reduces food quality.
- Unlike many animals, koalas have very limited fat reserves and must feed daily, making heat-related appetite loss a serious threat.
- Researchers are calling for practical measures such as wildlife water stations, shade structures, and protection of habitat corridors and mature trees.
- The study highlights the critical importance of protecting and restoring habitat to help koalas survive a warming climate.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2026-05-27/koala-deaths-linked-to-a-few-extra-degrees-of-heat/106722276>

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

**Report koala sightings to -
Redlands Koala Watch www.redland.qld.gov.au/info/**

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