



A voice
for koalas
in the Redlands

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

KAG Newsletter

July–September 2026

DIARY DATE

**Saturday October 3
(12-5pm)**

**& Sunday October 4
(9am-3.30pm)**

**Toondah - The Art of
Conservation Exhibi-
tion and Celebration**

Cleveland Scout Hall
26 Bainbridge St,
Ormiston



Redlands Community Bushcare

There are 27 active Bushcare groups across the Redlands working to improve the natural environment. For more info visit:

<https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/Environment-and-sustainability/Volunteering-and-local-initiatives/Community-Bushcare>

IndigiScapes Native Nursery

Make your garden attractive to native wildlife using a great variety of plants endemic to the Redlands. Friendly advice available and all plants \$3.00 each. Five free koala food trees available to Redlands residents.

Stop The Chop March For Koalas

Several hundred community members of all ages gathered at Cleveland on August 12 Ekka Wednesday to 'be the voice for Koalas' and wildlife that is suffering at the hands of decision makers.

The 'March for Koalas' event attracted people from far and wide with attendees strongly expressing concerns about ongoing habitat loss, with many examples in the Redlands, such as Ormiston College, Kinross Rd, Southern Redland Bay, and future developments proposed for Birkdale land, Southern Thornlands and Mt Cotton.

Key messages from the Koala March were directed at elected politicians Henry Pike, Rebecca Young, Amanda Stoker, Russell Fields and Redland City councilors, who we believe are not

considering impacts to koalas and the natural environment in their representation as community leaders.

KAG President Debbie Pointing told march attendees that Redlands Koala numbers have plummeted from more than 4000 in the early 1990's to a now estimated 400.

"What we have recently witnessed at Ormiston College, ongoing clearing at Southern Redland Bay and what is proposed for Southern Thornlands and the Birkdale White-water Centre really is pushing development too far".

"Our remnant bushland areas and wildlife corridors are being chipped away bit by bit with a few hundred trees here, a thousand there and tens of thousands proposed at Southern Thornlands."

"Decision makers at all levels of government are failing to protect our koalas, failing to protect our natural environment and failing to protect the values that the majority of Redlanders cherish".

"The upcoming Olympic Games provides an opportunity to showcase the Redlands as a destination for visitors from all over the world to see koalas living in their natural environment".

"Astonishingly, so far promotional material coming from the Redlands is firmly focused on the Redlands Whitewater Elephant, not the incredible biodiverse natural assets that the Redlands are so fortunate to have, including migratory Shorebirds, and of course the world iconic Koala".



An Ormiston Koala
photo: U Sandeman

**This newsletter is produced by
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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

Carmel Rackemann

Tanya Golitschenko

KOALA SIGHTINGS JUNE to SEPTEMBER

Alexandra Hills: Finucane Rd, Greenwich Ct, Montgomery Dr, Princeton Av, Redland Bay Rd, William St. **Birkdale:** Archer Pl, Collingwood Rd, Francene Pl, Lapidus St, Lloyd Vis, Old Cleveland Rd E, Quarry Rd, Sunnybay Dr, Trafalgar Vale Av, Uhlman Rd. **Capalaba:** Howlett Rd, Jones Rd, Redland Bay Rd.

Cleveland: Amanda St, Angela Cres, Beach St, Erobin St, Fitzroy St, Fogarty St, Long St, Middle St, North St, Passage St, Princess St, Shore St E, Shore St N, Sommersea Dr, South St, Wellington St. **Mt Cotton:** Balthazar Cct, Dunnart St, Elysian St, German Church Rd, Heineman Rd, Liriope Pl, Mt Cotton Rd, Pimelea Cres, Settlers Ct, Vineyard Dr, Schoeck Rd, School of Arts Rd, West Mt Cotton Rd.

NSI: Ballow St, Birch St, Brown Lake Dr, Claytons Rd, Dickson Way, Dunbar St, East Coast Rd, Flinders Beach Dr, Oxley Pde, Wallum Ck Dr, Yabby St. **Ormiston:** Beckwith St, Court St, Darcelle Pl, Delancey St, Dundas St W, Empire Vista, Fletcher Tce, Hilliard St, Hope St, Ivory Ln, Northern Arterial Rd, Ormiston Gr, Poinsettia Way, Stevens Pl, Sturgeon St, Susannah Pl. **Redland Bay:** Boundary St, Cleveland Redland Bay Rd, Gordon Rd, Habitat Dr, Mill St, Serpentine Ck Rd.

Sheldon: Pioneer Rd. **Thorneside:** Beatty Rd, Frank St, Gradi Ct, Henry St, Mooroondu Rd. **Thornlands:** Carlingford Dr, Clifford Perske Dr, George Thorn Dr, Jerrys Pl, Manning Esp, Panaroma Dr, South St. **Victoria Pt:** Aspect Dr, Cameron Ct, Colburn Av, Cleveland Redland Bay Rd, Illidge Rd, Lambert Ct, Lakefield Dr, Link Rd, Nottingham Dr, Orana St, School Rd.

Save the Koala Month Walk at Ormiston

On September 5th approximately 50 community members enjoyed a koala discovery nature walk along parts of Hilliards Ck at Ormiston. Participants were rewarded with the sighting of three koalas, including one of the Uni research koalas, Biripi (pictured).



A Danish tourist who joined the walk had only been in Australia for 3 days and was thrilled to tick off one of his bucket list of seeing a koala in the wild for the first time.

Photo: U Sandeman

Thank you to koala spotters Una, Roberta, and helpers Carmel and Jen who ensured the afternoon was a great success.

New Koala T-shirts and Merchandise Available

KAG has ordered some 'Respect Locals' koala t-shirts (sizes medium, large and xlarge), and with Xmas around the corner we also have a range of other lovely merchandise for sale (various sizes of toy koalas, puzzles, puppet, handbags and backpacks). Please make contact on 0407 094 799 (text or leave a message) or email admin@koalagroup.asn.au if you wish to purchase any of these items and we can arrange delivery (local area only).



KOALA SIGHTINGS (continued)

Wellington Pt: Bibury St, Canegrove Cct, Celsa St, Charles Canty Dr, Fernbourne Rd, Harris St, Hilliards Pk Dr, Leonard St, Main Rd, Mindarie Cres, Montgomery Dr, Nelson Rd, Pitt Rd, Riverton Dr, Skinner Av, Spurs Dr, Station St, Stonebridge St, Whepstead Av.

Other LGA's: Toowoomba Regional Council. Gowrie Junction.

Primary data source:

[https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=c1959:%22Redland%20\(C\)%22&pageSize=100](https://biocache.ala.org.au/occurrences/search?q=text:koala&fq=c1959:%22Redland%20(C)%22&pageSize=100)

REPORT KOALA SIGHTINGS TO:

<https://www.redland.qld.gov.au/Environment-and-sustainability/Koala-conservation/Redlands-Coast-Koala-Watch>

KAG Presidents Report - AGM August 2026

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for the past year on behalf of the Koala Action Group (KAG). While the year has once again demonstrated the remarkable dedication of our members, volunteers and supporters, it has also been one of the most challenging periods for koala conservation in the Redlands.

The threats facing our local koala population continue to escalate. Some of the most significant issues of concern include the tree clearing at Ormiston College, the proposed Redlands Whitewater Centre at Birkdale, the Southern Thornlands Priority Development Area (890 hectares), Shoreline at Southern Redland Bay and the proposed urban expansion into Mt Cotton. Collectively, these developments represent a substantial threat to remaining koala habitat and further fragment an already stressed landscape.

Beyond these high-profile projects, the cumulative impact of incremental tree clearing across the region cannot be underestimated. The loss of a couple of hundred trees here, another 500 there, and the tens of thousands of trees approved for removal in Southern Redland Bay and the Southern Thornlands PDA all contribute to increasing pressure on an already fragile koala population. Habitat fragmentation continues to reduce food resources, increase road crossings and dog attacks, and isolate populations, making long-term recovery increasingly difficult.

One of the most significant events of the year has been the extraordinary community response to the tree clearing at Ormiston College. The level of public concern has been unprecedented, with the issue attracting attention not only throughout Queensland and Australia but also internationally. This overwhelming support demonstrates just how deeply people value koalas and expect greater protection for one of Australia's most iconic species.

Despite these challenges, KAG has continued to make a positive contribution to conservation across the Redlands working in conjunction with other community groups and the koala rescue team. Our members have actively supported community tree planting initiatives, are active members of multiple Bushcare groups, and continued to assist the important koala research projects undertaken through Redlands IndigiScapes. These activities not only improve habitat but also strengthen community awareness and involvement in protecting our unique natural environment.

I would like to sincerely thank our members and supporters for their ongoing commitment to KAG. Your generous donations enable our organisation to continue advocating for koalas, supporting conservation projects and engaging with the community. Every contribution, whether financial or through volunteering your time, helps strengthen our ability to be an effective voice for koala conservation.

My thanks also go to the members of the Management Committee for their dedication and support throughout the year. As with any incorporated association, there are numerous governance and administrative responsibilities that must be fulfilled behind the scenes. Their willingness to assist has ensured that KAG continues to meet its obligations while maintaining a strong and respected presence within the community.

As discussion continues to build around the opportunities presented by the upcoming Olympic Games, much is being said about showcasing the Redlands as a destination for visitors. It is therefore bewildering that two of the region's greatest natural assets—the koala and our internationally significant migratory shorebirds—are not front and centre in promotional material. Both possess global iconic status and have enormous potential to attract visitors seeking authentic wildlife experiences. Protecting and celebrating these unique environmental values should be fundamental to promoting the Redlands, rather than allowing continued habitat loss to diminish the very qualities that make our region so special.

Looking ahead, KAG will continue to advocate strongly for the protection of koalas and their habitat. We will continue to support science, restoration and community action while remaining an independent voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Encouragingly, more and more Redlanders recognise that koalas and our remarkable natural environment are central to the identity of this unique part of the world. Together, we can continue working towards a future where both our community and our wildlife can thrive and future generations can enjoy what we currently do.

FOOTNOTE: On August 18, 2026, the Federal government announced they had given final approval for the Olympic Whitewater Centre to proceed at Birkdale. KAG is extremely disappointed that the new Federal Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) did not decide the project should be a 'controlled action' meaning further environmental studies would be required to prove that the interference with the groundwater aquifer would not have future negative impacts on Core Koala habitat on this ecologically sensitive site. Also of significant concern to KAG is that the Conservation Agreement between the Federal Government and Redland City Council has still not been finalised.

This agreement was a condition of sale when the Federal Government sold the Birkdale Land to Redlands Council in 2019. A Conservation Agreement is an agreement between the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and another party to protect and conserve biodiversity in an area of land or sea.

KAG has written to the Federal Government seeking clarification.

Research reveals how koala populations changed over time

- A new study has provided fresh insights into the long-term history of koalas and the environmental changes that have shaped their populations.
- Researchers studied the DNA of hundreds of koalas to investigate how their populations changed over hundreds of thousands of years. They also examined two important genetic processes—**mutation and recombination**—to improve the accuracy of their estimates.
- By studying four koala parent-and-offspring families, the researchers were able to calculate a koala-specific mutation rate. This is important because previous studies often relied on mutation rates from other mammals, which may have affected estimates of when koala populations increased or declined.
- The researchers analysed the genomes of **457 wild koalas** from across Australia. Their results suggest that koala populations grew between about **700,000 and 200,000 years ago**, before beginning a long decline around **110,000–120,000 years ago**. Population numbers appear to have reached their lowest point around **60,000 years ago**.
- Importantly, this decline appears to have **started before humans arrived in Australia**, which is currently estimated to have occurred between about 65,000 and 47,000 years ago. The researchers suggest that changing environmental conditions, including increasing aridity, colder and drier glacial periods, and the loss and fragmentation of suitable forest habitat, may have played an important role.
- The study does not mean humans had no impact on koalas. Human activities have affected koala populations more recently through hunting, habitat clearing and other pressures. However, the findings suggest that koalas were already experiencing major population changes before human arrival.
- The research also highlights how important accurate genetic information is when studying threatened species. Understanding how koala populations have responded to environmental change in the past can help researchers and conservation managers better understand their present-day challenges and plan for their future.

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/07/260715083551.htm>

**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 on 3833 4031 (24 hrs)**

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