



Ambassador Report June 2020

18th June 2020



Hi Everyone

I hope you all are well. It has been a quiet time for some and a very challenging one at such an unprecedented time in history. Local Government elections led to changes in our current Council and the past month we have been communicating with the newly elected Council officers as well as incumbents, in terms of koala conservation and local efforts. We have also been made aware of potential conflicts with Attunga Heights under review and appeal as well as the RACV site potential clearing to occur. When a development application has a pre-approval, we often cannot change an outcome, and this can feel very frustrating to our members. Community and neighbourhood support are necessary and currently we are keeping an eye out for further developments.

A recent report was brought to us from the **Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation** regarding the "Bring Back the Koala" Summit which we participated in late last year and with this collective effort, we have an opportunity to contribute to a worthy project in the coming year. Although Covid 19 has delayed some reporting and led to potential changes in focus, the overarching review is to support projects that will lead to long-term value for koalas in our region.

**Paul Hilton** environmental activist and filmmaker has requested to team up to produce a vocal film about deforestation to create a direct-action campaign for koalas and Australian Bush protection. I am currently writing a grant to facilitate this process through Patagonia. They fund environmental project grants that support small activist organisations with provocative direct-action agendas. With our current forest and local habitat losses, I can't think of anything more important than creating an inspiring film with a call to action to protect and preserve habitat and support our sanctuary aspirations.

I have been approached to help support the efforts to protect and create a **Toowoomba Hospital Sanctuary** at an existing covenant protected property in this region. The property was used extensively during the recent bushfires to rescue, treat and rehabilitate "fire effected" koalas and is the residence of the late Clare Gover, dedicated carer and koala advocate for over 30 years. The local carers group wish to purchase this property and keep it in perpetuity for koalas in years to come. WWF is also meeting with us to discuss assistance.



On the 7th June, Vanda Grabowski and myself participated in the **World Environment Day Festival (WED)** in a livestream event at the University of the Sunshine Coast. You can view this recorded event (Biodiversity Panel Discussion is at 2 minutes and 30 seconds):

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

### **Super Koala**

I was approached by Jeremy Alkin to discuss his "Super Koala" cartoon character which I shared at the last meeting. The concept was further considered and discussed at a meeting on 17th June with prospective partners at the University of the Sunshine Coast and ongoing discussions will continue to see how this endeavour can assist QKC in our future fundraising and land protective measures through a planned campaign in September for "Save the Koala" Month!

Voting continues until the 30th June for the shared resources for **MyGivingCircle.Org**.

[VOTE HERE](#)

The top 50 organisations will share in a pool of \$70,000. We are currently rated at #31

Cory Messer from **Brave Wilderness** (Wilderness Productions LLC USA) has shared the trailer of the film interview that we assisted with at Wildlife HQ with Miller Wilson, Young Ambassador for QKC in February of this year.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

This will be a great outreach to the International Community to support QKC and our efforts.

Today, I attended a meeting with the students alongside the **Noosa Environmental Education Hub** regarding the International **Duke of Edinburgh program** being conducted at the Sunshine Beach High School. They plan to support koalas in their project with QKC being a recipient of their efforts. Community Education in support of koalas is a great way to further our goals and this enthusiastic and engaged group will be great leaders in their school to create greater awareness for koalas and their challenges.

I look forward to further developments in environmental awareness as we reset and come back together in the coming months. May this time reflect on how we can do better if we know better as we grow to better support and preserve koalas in our region. There is no greater need than now to look towards the future with hopeful in anticipation of what is yet to come for koalas, their habitat and us all.

For the Koala,  
Meghan

Meghan Halverson, Ambassador  
Queensland Koala Crusaders Inc.