



Hi everyone,

September was Save the Koala Month and in terms of activities for QKC we had a few diverse and supported efforts from our community.

Detection Dogs

We started the month off with an informative evening at the University of the Sunshine Coast on the 7th September with Romane Cristecu and detection dogs, Bear and Maya. We gained new volunteers at this event and learned more about the incredible work being done by the Detection Dog for Conservation Team leading in innovative and valuable data collection that gives us a better picture of the koalas across Qld and NSW.

Sun Bears

On the 16th September, I represented QKC at an evening book launch discussion in Peregian Beach with Annie's Books, providing an interactive event with Sarah Pye (author of Saving Sun Bears, One Man's Quest to Save a Species) and Dr. Wong Siew Te. Dr. Wong has dedicated his life to saving the world's smallest bear from extinction and his work gives a sense of others who never give up in the face of a difficult and daunting reality of continued habitat loss, destruction and devastation in a species on the brink of extinction. Dr. Wong's incredible passion and resilience bring a sense of collaborative spirit for those of us working as advocates for the rare and precious animals on this planet.

Super Koala Festival

The end of the month brought another exciting event that QKC participated in at Wildlife HQ Zoo in Woombye. On the 26th and 27th September, Super Koala made his debut with the support of Wildlife HQ Zoo. Super Koala and Mates intends to bring hope to kids on the coast through an interactive education program that brings community together and inspires youth leaders of tomorrow through kids club activities and empowering stories. Funds were raised to be donated to Wildlife HQ Zoo for the planting of koala food trees onsite and Koala Crusaders received a donation of Boomerang Bags to be used in future fundraising projects through our interactive educational stalls at events.

Karla the Coolest Koala in Noosa

On the 30th September we ended our "Save the Koala" month activities at a locally sponsored event on Hastings Street in Noosa with Mantra French Quarter Noosa providing a live koala onsite on the front steps of the establishment. Wildlife HQ brought "Arlo", the star of a recent NRMA Insurance TV ad and he delighted the crowd as he munched on fresh leaf, unfazed by those who came up to give him a pat and say G'Day.



Local author, Elizabeth Reynolds sponsored the event with a book signing and donation of \$1 per book sold to go to QKC. Donations were also received to get a photo with Arlo which was enjoyed by locals and visitors alike during this generous school holiday event. I was asked to attend to give information to locals about koalas in the region and the work QKC does to be the "Voice for Koalas".

Sanctuary Strategy and Governance

We are continuing the process of writing a feasibility study and Koala Sanctuary Business Case Strategy for the Noosa Region. Awaiting Business plan, governance and policy documents, this project will lead us into 2021 with a consolidated plan for the future. Carolyn Roy will report progress at meeting.

Transport and Main Roads Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra (C2C) upgrade

Due to conflict in my scheduling with the Karla event, President Rex Halverson attended the TMR meeting on my behalf on the 30th September.

Following are his notes with positive results being achieved for our lengthy involvement in the process.

Koala Action Inc, Queensland Koala Crusaders, Wildcare/Landcare, Koala Action Gympie in attendance as stakeholders. Justin and Adam from TMR. Minutes taken by TMR representative.

Environmental considerations and impacts that are actively managed:

- Erosion and sedimentation
- Fauna management
- Progressive clearing
- Water quality
- Cultural heritage

They have their own koala monitoring program overseen by internal administrator as well as Justin and Adam.

Starting contract 1 in 3-4 weeks.

They say will be "well above TMR standards and other projects in the region" as stated by TMR representative.

Subcontractor decided upon but not yet named.

Subcontractors will have land or aquatic specialist expertise, 10+ years experience.

Contract 2 start in February expected

Koala management will be done "Moreton Bay style"

- USC and Endeavour Vet involved.
- Drones (heat sensing and doing two crossing flights over each area).
- Collared trackers with both GPS and VHF tracking tag wherever possible. GPS allows for same day locating.
- Jon Hanger's team has translocation permit.
- They will fly drones during the day in hot spot areas while clearing.
- The preconstruction survey results will be reported to the Wildnet database.
- Have completed initial survey – 40 koalas found so far with drones. 50% female and 30-40% sick (health checks with Jon Hanger at Endeavour Ecology in Toorbul)
- Will do secondary survey and 24 hours prior to work commencing.
- Vanda requested and they agreed to provide quarterly updates on the program and outcomes.



- Rachel asked for any information regarding greater gliders be reported as a side element if possible.
- I brought up the opportunity to vaccinate and be part of Peter Timms project, Rachel was aware of this as well and they were to speak to their project manager about how to progress this.
- I requested they submit their model here as a potential best practice methodology to their internal groups for standardization and starting point for future projects.
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There are several underpasses being included with cameras and monitoring for three months. Suggestion was made to consider seasonally monitoring rather during peak movement periods. Other impacts in the area include a very large wind farm (300 turbines) and a solar farm including transmission line clearings.

In moving forward, we will be planning for our next AGM in December 2020 and I encourage more members to consider getting involved.

2021 will be a ground-breaking year for us at QKC and we look forward to what this will bring for the community and the local koalas within our region.

Thank you for being a part of us and for your continued support.

Meghan

Meghan Halverson, Ambassador
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