



Hi Everyone,

I hope you all are well. As we see a lessening of restrictions surrounding Covid19, we begin to look forward to supporting events and workshops to further promote education and awareness in the community. Koalas are often interwoven into conversations when we discuss climate variability, habitat, future sustainability and how we can support local actions in conservation and welfare of native species. It is important that we also recognise the immense efforts made by our volunteers who rescue, care for, provide administration and speak up for our beloved koalas! Everyone is on their own learning curve and we need to have patience and work as a team.

Continued collaboration remains a focus for me in the advocacy space that I promote and working as a team is more important now than it ever has been. I am grateful for the supportive efforts of many across our regions. It's time to step up and get involved and make a difference. Perhaps you would like to join us and if so contact:

Carolyn Roy - vice-president@koalacrusaders.org.au

We continue to have a need for Treasurer, Events Coordinator, Education Coordinator and Tree Planting Coordinator.

Collaboration and Partnership

"Karla the Koala" has been working to support QKC and in return, I was able to bring Fizzi Reynolds (author) and her partner John to Wildlife HQ Zoo alongside Carolyn Roy our VP. We had a wonderful day out and we discussed possibilities for further collaboration through fodder farms and working bees at the Zoo. WHQ has always supported our efforts and we are incredibly grateful for their support. A "working bee" will be organised soon so watch this space and sign up to volunteer with us if you are interested.

www.koalacrusaders.org.au/volunteer

We continue to have discussions with The Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation regarding the "Bring Back the Koala" symposium and potential for collaborative work in the Noosa Shire. We met with Peter Milne of Noosa Council 25th Feb. and we await further word from our Expression of Interest with State Govt. regarding the TAFE site in Tewantin before proceeding with possible sites for Sanctuary.

The Detection Dogs for Conservation Team at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) has requested our support for filming their work regarding Koala Conservation. Teaming up with David Rogalsky and receiving permission to survey his land in Kin Kin will facilitate this filming endeavour on the 30th March 2021. Future consideration for support by QKC will be discussed and the film will give exposure to the collaborative work being done within our community. If you wish to be a part of our citizen science endeavours through having your property surveyed, please let us know.

Dare to Care

A QKC campaign is being launched to support our rescuers, carers and koala advocates. Stay tuned for stories and insights into the world of a carer. We wish to honour and support their efforts in these difficult times. All carers are volunteers and need our help!

Rescue and Road Mitigation/TMR

On the 3rd March 2021 I met with the team from Transport and Main Roads along with Vanda Grabowski, Rachel Lyons, Michelle Daly, Robyn Jackson to discuss the management of koalas in the Cooran to Curra/Section D upgrade of the Bruce Hwy.

Continued concern for monitoring koalas past the current time allotted was discussed. We asked if cortisol levels had been checked on those koalas being monitored. We asked that Jon Hanger be consulted as to best practice and that they consider longer monitoring to evaluate the effects of stress. We have yet to hear the results of this meeting and await further consultation. Standard fencing was also discussed to assure proper koala proof fencing is installed in section D and that corridor movement continues to be considered in the project. Section C showed flaws in fencing and this should be addressed with standardised installation across all projects within State Road construction become protocol. The Director General will be questioned by Koala Action Gympie to address this issue.

Advocacy

Noosa Council requested input into the annual budget being evaluated and information has been shared by the Noosa Koala Rescue Team and QKC members to write a submission. Our policy advisor, Vanda Grabowski is attending to this matter.

Noosa Council supports Climate Week in the region this week which begins today.

This week is full of activity that leads up to Earth Hour committing to renewable solutions for a healthier planet #switchfornature

<https://www.noosa.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/2771/noosa-climate-week-events>

Please join me on Saturday 27th March from 8:30-9:30pm and switch your lights off for our koalas!

Today is World Forest Day or International Day of the Forest.

It is also Harmony Day in Australia. Across the world this means the International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination.

As I reflect on what this means, it brings me to the thought of our collective deep connection to forests and the people who have maintained their respect and honour for these forests, flora and fauna across this country. We all need to be a part of this solution. As ambassador, I speak up for koalas, forests and all the animals that depend on these fragile ecosystems on earth.

Thanks for your ongoing support,
2020 is nearly at our backs.

<3 Meghan

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