



Hi Everyone,

2020 is behind us and most everything seems to be returning to "normal" or perhaps we should say, the "New Normal"! I hope this sees everyone fresh and ready for a restart in 2021 as the planet and the koala will truly need our help in the months and years to come. If everyone does one thing to consider our footprint on this earth, we can perhaps turn the tide of climate as we work collectively for a better future. I have been very busy in the past few weeks as for forests and future that comes to mind.

Collaboration and Future Partnership

In collaboration with a letter of support from the Noosa Environmental Education Hub (NEEH), I was able to submit an expression of interest (EOI) for QKC to State Government regarding the Sanctuary to be considered for the TAFE site in Tewantin. I have also had conversations with WWF and IFAW regarding potential partnerships and match funding and both were interested in having further conversations in the coming months. In response to the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation (NBRF) "Bring Back the Koala" symposium solutions for koala conservation measures in our region, I will also be presenting to their board and continue ongoing conversations in relation to the EOI for the TAFE site in March 2021.

QKC Mgmt. will continue to add to our Strategic Business Case document regarding governance issues.

Josey Sharrad from International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) has requested that we consider a collaborative planting effort, and this would be a good follow up to consider connecting the landscapes of our local region.

Bernard Jean and I met with David Rogalsky, owner of Land-n-Sea Brewery in Noosa. He has offered presence for QKC on his newly purchased property in KinKin. The property is fully treed and has evidence of koalas onsite. He has also offered to have a fundraising event at the Brewery for our organisation.

Events

19th January was the day for the incredible book launch of "Karla to the Rescue" at the Fairshore Noosa Resort on Hastings Street Noosa. Committee members and volunteers joined me for the incredible fundraiser supported by Elizabeth Reynolds, Author of "Karla, the Coolest Koala in Noosa" Local Noosa Fire Brigade were recognised and the launch was opened by Noosa Mayor Clare Stewart. Sandy Bolton read excerpts to the children onsite and "Arlo" from Wildlife HQ Zoo (WHQ) stole the show with photos and an opportunity to discuss koala conservation with children and their parents.

On the 26th January "Australia Day" was celebrated or boycotted across Australia. I attended an event sponsored by Eumundi Rotary (Grow Like a Tree Breakfast) where locals were provided with 2 trees or native plants to add to their property. Indigenous speaker and founder of Social Enterprise SevGen leader, Terri Waller spoke and addressed the crowd with a poignant speech honouring her heritage. An incredible performance by Caleb from Didgeridoo Music Therapy also showed the spirit of the day which brought me to tears.

Donations

On the 15th December, newly elected President, Stefanie Fishel and I, met with Commonwealth Bank to receive a \$500 donation check initiated by the Noosa Heads branch team to donate to the charity of choice through their employee giving program. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of community for their generous donation.

Rescue and Road Mitigation

Timbeerwah was the site of a rescue and release of a gorgeous male koala after a short visit to Australia Zoo where he was given a clean bill of health. I am grateful to Bernard Jean to have witnessed his quick climb to the canopy where he overlooked a great expanse of habitat on a private property.

Habitat loss

The Noosa Civic site was the focus of destruction in our region with many concerned citizens after the clearing began, contacted me to see what I could do. Unfortunately, as long as pre-approved development applications and essential infrastructure exemptions exist, there is very little that can be done by Council or State Government to stop the clearing. This is something that I believe should be re-assessed as a "Voice for the Koala".

I also was notified of the destruction of habitat in the Redlands where Councillor Wendy Boglary has attempted to save a corridor that provides food and shelter for 2 koalas at Cowley St in Ormiston. The koalas watched their habitat come down from the trees above and local residents continue to push to save the home trees that they call their home.

I am working on a film with Paul Hilton photographer: kalamunda.org

This film aims to showcase the destruction of habitat in Australia and through a data-driven approach, find solutions for future protection and preservation across Australia.

I am grateful to be part of this community and will continue to do my best to speak up for the voiceless for whom I serve.

Thanks for your ongoing support and membership,
For the Koala
<3 Meghan

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