

Ormiston Koala Safe Neighbourhood update

November 2020

What a year it has been so far. Despite COVID-19 doing its best to derail our conservation efforts, as a community, our love for our local koalas has seen us persevere. After having to cancel our April 2020 Science In Action community event, we have implemented health and safety measures for our upcoming programs so we can continue the important work we are all doing to protect koalas in Ormiston.

Council's partners from the research team at the University of the Sunshine Coast have also continued to conduct health checks on our tagged Ormiston koalas including Bruce, Banjo and Kimo. Sadly, we lost Poppy earlier in the year, due to a fast acting illness, but the next generation of Ormiston koalas appear healthy, including Kimo's new joey, Nibbles, and Poppy's last joey, Pip.



Poppy passed away earlier this year.



Kimo and Nibbles hanging out in Ormiston.

Redlands Coast Koala Watch

Council is developing a koala watch program so the community can help track and monitor local koalas. We will be asking you to record koala sightings, as well as information on location and signs of illness or injury. We need this information so we can help our local koalas. Injury and disease are two of the biggest threats to urban koala populations so timely help can make a big difference to their survival.

A working group has been helping us to develop the Koala Watch program. The group is made up of our koala conservation team and representatives from the University of the Sunshine Coast, Social Marketing @ Griffith University, the Koala Action Group and local residents. A big thank you to everyone involved in getting this project started.

If you attended the neighbourhood BBQ late last year at Ormiston State School, where we spoke about *citizen science* projects, and showed interest in these projects, you will be emailed an invitation to take part in a wider trial of the koala watch program. The project will then be launched in Ormiston in 2021.

For more information keep an eye on

 [/IndigiScapes](https://www.facebook.com/IndigiScapes) or www.redland.qld.gov.au/koala



Our kids, leading the way

Ormiston State School is a proud Koala Conservation Agreement Program partner and the school has been working closely with our environmental partnerships team to care for our local koalas. Earlier this year, the team planted blue gums on school grounds that will grow to become koala food trees. The team have recently helped regenerate a site in the school's bushland area and together with 100 year six students, we planted 114 koala habitat trees. Well done to the teachers, staff and students at Ormiston State School for their support.



Speed signs helping to reduce speed and prevent koala injuries

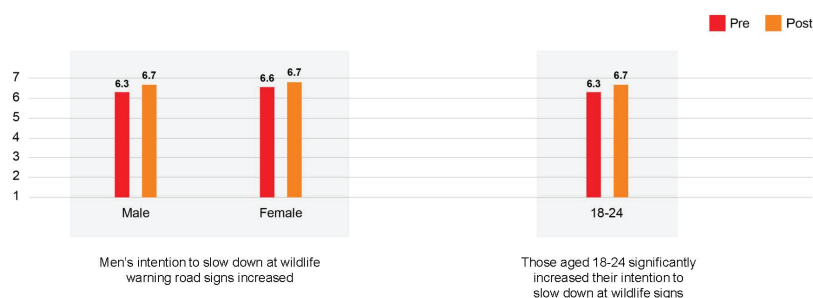
Research results have showed that the koala awareness speed signs trialed in Ormiston have had a positive impact on the community:

- ✓ 64% of Redlands Coast residents and 92% of Ormiston residents recall seeing the signs.
- ✓ Attitudes about speeding improved after the signs were installed.
- ✓ The intention to slow down by men and 18-24 year olds increased significantly, with both of these groups traditionally being hard to engage with safety messages.

The full report is available on our Koala Conservation Program webpage, follow the link from our koala page www.redland.qld.gov.au/koala



Attitudes, intentions & norms to slowing down at VMS (cont.)



Variable Message Sign (VMS)

* The scales are from 1 to 7. The changes are significant.



New koala neighbourhoods

With the success of the Ormiston Koala Safe Neighbourhood, Council is working to introduce three new neighbourhoods at Birkdale, Thornlands and Mount Cotton. Our partners from the research team at the University of the Sunshine Coast have been out tracking koalas in the new locations. Following our recent IndigiScapes Facebook koala naming competition we can now introduce Uka and her joey Liptus, and Rainbow and her joey Tilly.



Tilly keeping a close eye on her mum while receiving a health check.

What have our Ormiston koalas been up to?

Do you follow IndigiScapes on Facebook? It's the best way to stay up to date on what's happening with our Ormiston koalas. We post regular updates and photos from our partners from the research team at the University of the Sunshine Coast. We have also recently posted about local koalas that were rescued, treated and returned to the Redlands Coast. Check out our post about River, an orphaned joey who is now happily back home after being released near the Hilliard Street Park Playground.

We are in the process of developing a Facebook group for the Koala Safe Neighbourhoods so residents can post pictures and any information about ill or injured koalas who can't be easily rescued. For information about when the groups open, check our IndigiScapes newsletter or [f/IndigiScapes](https://www.facebook.com/IndigiScapes)

A big thank you to all residents who spot any ill or injured koalas and call the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue service. We also thank our volunteers and carers who rescue and care for our koalas. If you spot a koala you think may be ill or injured, please call 3833 4031 at any time.



River coming home

[indigiscapes](https://www.indigiscapes.com.au)

3824 8611

