

Birkdale Koala Safe Neighbourhood update

December 2021

Hi Neighbour,

The Birkdale Koala Safe Neighbourhood may have seemed a little quiet with the ongoing pandemic affecting our community events, but a lot is going on behind the scenes. Here's an update on what's been happening.

Have you seen our koala awareness campaign?

Our annual koala awareness campaign is currently underway, you may see some of the artwork on billboards, buses, bus shelters and in shopping centres around the area. We're reminding people to:

- slow down and keeping an eye out when driving, particularly at night when koalas are moving around more
- make your backyard koala friendly by planting trees and putting wildlife escapes on your fence and in your pool
- ensure your pet is secured at night and when out walking
- keep your distance and let koalas move about freely if they are not in immediate danger
- call the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue Service immediately on 07 3833 4031 if you notice an ill or injured koala
- submit all koala sightings to Redlands Coast Koala Watch, you can join at www.redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch



What have our Birkdale koalas been up to?

Have you been following our ambassador koalas on Facebook? Our ambassador koalas have been getting up to their usual hijinks, with our research partners from the University of the Sunshine Coast's Detection Dogs for Conservation regularly monitoring their health and movements.

Our current Birkdale ambassadors are Rainbow, Uka, Liptus, Axle and Lorri. Uka and her joey Liptus like to hang around near Tulloch Drive Park and they were named by local residents. Liptus is old enough to be on his own now, but hasn't dispersed far. He likes to stay close to mum. Axle seems to favour the

area around the Birkdale orchard, while Lorri likes the golf course. Rainbow and her cute little joey, Newton, like to hang around Wellington Point State School.

You can follow their adventures on [f/IndigiScapes](https://www.facebook.com/IndigiScapes).

You can also hop on our online koala ambassador map and find each of the ambassador's most recent locations, photos and adventures. We launched the map earlier this year and it already has more than 4,000 views. You can find it on the Koala Safe Neighbourhood page on our website. Go to www.redland.qld.gov.au/koala and click on the 'I want to locate an ambassador koala' link.



Speed signs helping to prevent koala injuries



Koala speed signs have been installed on Old Cleveland Road East that prompt drivers to slow down and be aware of koalas moving through the area. Similar signs have been installed in the other Koala Safe Neighbourhoods as well. Analysis of the signs revealed they are having a positive impact on the community, with cars slowing down after the signs were installed. The project reports are available on our website, follow the 'How we are helping koalas' link at www.redland.qld.gov.au/koala and scroll to research reports.

Redlands Coast Koala Watch in action



Almost 200 people have now joined Redlands Coast Koala Watch. Sightings and photos have started coming through from across Redlands Coast, but we need more members from the Birkdale area so we can increase local sightings.

We've been working closely with QLD Rail on wildlife movements and rail corridors. Our GPS tracking data found that Rainbow was frequently crossing the rail line, but we didn't know exactly where. So, in partnership

with QLD Rail, Griffith University and University of the Sunshine Coast, we set up some cameras along the rail corridor, including the pedestrian underpass near Crossley Drive Park and Kerridge Court. Surprisingly, we spotted another young koala using the underpass, but nothing from Rainbow yet. Her current joey, Newton, is likely getting too big to carry long distances. This information led to QLD Rail requesting data on koalas living on or near rail lines so they could see where other koalas may be in danger. We sent them koala watch data showing a concentration of recent koala sightings near Wellington Point train station, as well as other smaller points along the line.



The data we are collecting from Redlands Coast Koala Watch provides valuable insights for our koala conservation programs. Members are also helping to combat disease and reduce koala deaths by reporting ill and injured koalas to our wildlife rescue service. You can find out how it works and join at www.redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch.

We're hoping to hold koala watch training and maybe even a guided walk to see some of the Birkdale ambassador koalas early next year, so keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

Koala conservation with a twist



We recently collaborated with Griffith University Film School to create two koala conservation awareness videos aimed at a youth audience.

We submitted a brief and the students came up with a brilliantly funny concept that they scripted, filmed and edited. We were very happy with the results, which featured Ranger Stacey and her new koala friend. You can watch the videos at www.youtube.com/user/RedlandCityCouncil

Can your dog ignore wildlife?



The *Leave It* dog behaviour change program has lots of free training resources on their website, including for wildlife avoidance. Making sure your pet knows to leave wildlife alone and to come back when called is an important part of their training. Take a look at www.leaveit.com.au

Leave It is supported by Redland City Council and managed by our research partners at Social Marketing @ Griffith University.

Supported koala conservation in your backyard

Council's Koala Conservation Agreement Program supports residents who live within or near koala corridors with upkeep of mature koala food trees, plantings, weed control, dog management initiatives and modified fencing or pool improvements to allow safe koala movement through the area.



Participants regularly see koalas like this mum and bub duo navigating a safe passage through their properties.

If you would like to join Council's Koala Conservation Agreement Program contact the Environmental Partnerships Team on 3824 8611 to find out more.

Help for wildlife is only a phone call away

A big thank you to any residents or Redlands Coast Koala Watch members who have spotted any ill or injured koalas and called the Redlands 24hr Wildlife Rescue service. If you spot a koala you think may be ill or injured, please call 3833 4031 at any time.

Finding koala information is now easier

We recently created a new web page to bring together all of the koala-related information on our website. It includes some handy quick links to popular actions, as well as information on threats facing our koalas, what council is doing to help and what you can do too. You can also find out how to spot a koala and how to tell if a koala is ill or injured. Check it out at www.redland.qld.gov.au/koala

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