

Quarterly Koala Report for August 2014

Myall Koala & Environment Group



Koala being taken into care, Perrumba Street, Hawks Nest
(Photo: Ian Morphett)

Sightings

Sightings reported to us on the Hotline (4997 0878) over the last three months are very down on last year: 17 compared to 40 last year. One of the sightings was of the now-resident Winda Woppa koala. We would love to hear from anyone who sees a koala (or hears their distinctive bellowing) in or near their house.

The issue of the two widely reported deaths near the Jean Shaw Koala Reserve has been taken up by all interested parties and traffic calming measures are being planned for Kingfisher Avenue. In late July we collected a very young koala in a bad way from a Hawks Nest residence. She was taken to Medowie vet but sadly died on the operating table, despite being given mouth to mouth resuscitation and heart massage. The autopsy was inconclusive as to the cause of death but she did have non-life threatening Chlamydia and unexplained abdominal injuries.

Wildside Festival (www.wildsidefestival.com.au)

The Koala Group is very involved with the Festival on September 12, 13 and 14. Christian Patteson is doing a spotlighting walk on Friday night and a koala spotting walk on Saturday, Jill Madden is leading a wildflower walk in the Michael Rowe Memorial Walk on Saturday and Anne Haskew is doing a Bush Tucker walk in Swan Bay on Sunday. Talks will be given on Saturday by Gail and Ian Morphett on koalas and Anne Williams from Native Animal Trust Fund about wildlife rescue.

Myall River Festival

We have already ordered 200 Swamp Mahogany and 150 Parramattensis koala food trees as well as 200 assorted native plants. These will all be given away at the Festival on 25th October. Come and see us at the Big Koala: take a photo and take away a free tree or plant for your yard.

Thank you to those who rang to report their koala sightings on the Hotline answering machine (4997 0878). To get help for any sick or injured wildlife, call Native Animal Trust Fund on 0418 628 483 (0418 NATIVE). Calls for koalas, turtles, penguins, echidnas and platypus are usually referred on to us. If anyone would like a free fridge magnet including the Koala Hotline and NATF phone numbers, we will have them available at both Festivals.

Gail & Ian Morphett (4997 1550)
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