

Annual Koala Report for 2013-14

Myall Koala & Environment Group



Mother and Baby in Winda Woppa

(Photo: Bob Howard)

Sightings

The majority of our sightings are from September to April – the koala breeding season. The number of mothers with babies seen each year is an important tool for us to gauge the viability of our koala population. In Spring 2013, 5 mothers with babies were seen, as was the case in 2012. In 2011/2010/2009 we had 4, 3 and 3 babies respectively. This is a good trend for the recovery of our endangered population. One particularly good news story is that a mother with baby was seen in Winda Woppa in April last year and she is still being seen in the area. She has established Winda Woppa as her new home. Hopefully, this Spring there will be another new baby which will be the beginning of a resurgence of the koala population in Winda Woppa.

This year we have had slightly fewer numbers of sightings than last year: 184 (208 koalas) compared to 189 (218 koalas). The advertising of our Sightings Hotline phone number in the newspaper continues to help our sightings reports on the Hotline in Spring: 63% this year and 62% last year.

One significant shift in the sightings statistics has been that the "Magic Square" (52 koalas) was not where most koalas were seen this year but central Hawks Nest (88 koalas). Most sightings were in Yamba Street, Binda Street, Mermaid Avenue and Kurrawong Avenue. Swan Bay (24 Koalas) and North of Kingfisher Avenue (26 koalas) also had good sightings numbers. Not one koala was reported from Tea Gardens this year.

Koala Rescues

There were three koala rescues in the past 12 months: two with a happy outcome and one not. In September we unsuccessfully attempted a rescue of a koala with very bad conjunctivitis in Pindimar Road (he eluded us) but then a month later, a Pindimar resident caught him and we took him into care. He was in care for a month and released, Chlamydia-free, in Clarke Street. In March a juvenile female koala was hit by a vehicle in the regular crossing point in Kingfisher Avenue near the Jean Shaw Koala Reserve but sadly died on the way to a carer. We ask all residents to please drive carefully in the stretch of Kingfisher Avenue between the bridge and Ibis Avenue. Later in March a young koala inadvertently strayed into a dogs yard in Hawks Nest and was attacked. Fortunately, his injuries were not fatal and a week later he was released in the Koala Reserve.

Koala Sightings Hotline (4997 0878)

We have continued to hand out our fridge magnets (with the Hotline and wildlife rescue phone numbers) at every available opportunity such as our Easter Stall, Wildside Festival and Myall River Festival. We still have plenty of these fridge magnets available so contact us if you would like one or pick one up at Hawks News Newsagency, Hawks Nest Pharmacy or the office at Tea Gardens Hotel/Motel.

We ask everyone in the community to report every koala they see on our Hotline answering machine – 4997 0878. Please call the Native Animal Trust Fund wildlife rescue phone number (0418 NATIVE) for any sick or injured wildlife, including koalas.

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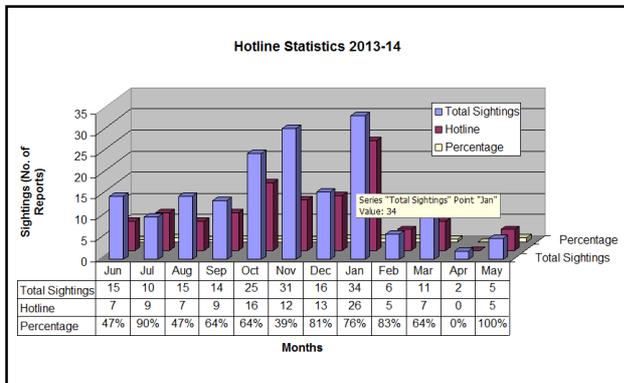
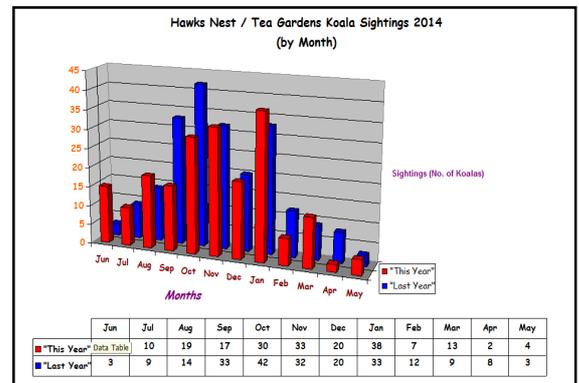
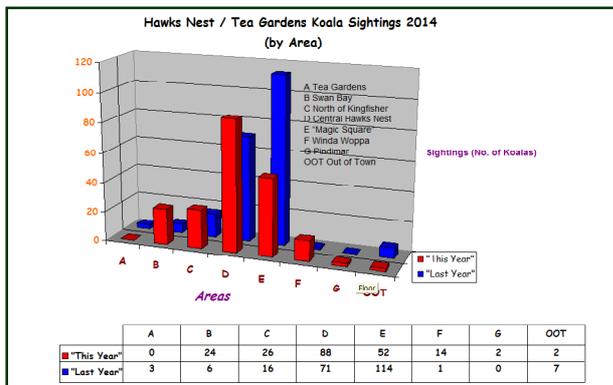
Myall Koala & Environment Group

Kevin Haskew

We would like to mention the retirement of Kevin from the presidency of the Group. Kevin (and Anne) joined the Group in 1997 and he took on the role of President from Randle Pritchard in 2002. He has been President ever since except for two years when he was not well. Kevin has been a wonderful leader of the Group and been instrumental in establishing us as a highly regarded community group. He has been particularly effective in preparing submissions to various levels of government, which has frequently resulted in change for the better. Thank you Kevin and we look forward to you continuing to be an active member of the Group for years to come.

We also welcome Jill Madden, our newly elected President.

Gail and Ian Morphett, Koala Co-ordinators (4997 1550)



Koala Sightings Summary 2013/2014

Area	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	2013/14	2012/13
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
B	8	0	0	0	7	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	24	6
C	0	0	2	0	4	3	2	12	0	2	1	0	26	16
D	5	2	9	4	12	16	11	15	5	6	1	2	88	71
E	2	8	6	6	2	8	3	10	1	4	0	2	52	114
F	0	0	2	4	4	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	14	1
G	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
OOT	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Total Koalas	15	10	19	17	30	33	20	38	7	13	2	4	208	218
Total Sightings	15	10	15	14	25	31	16	34	6	11	2	5	184	189
Hotline	7	9	7	9	16	12	13	26	5	7	0	5	116	118
Percent	47%	90%	47%	64%	64%	39%	81%	76%	83%	64%	0%	100%	63%	62%
A	Tea Gardens													
B	Swan Bay													
C	North of Kingfisher													
D	Central Hawks Nest													
E	"Magic Square"													
F	Winda Woppa													
G	Pindimar													
OOT	Out of town													