



Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens Endangered Koala Recovery Plan

Koala Working Group Achievements & Successes as at year-end 2013

Successes

1. Koala population increased from about 12 in 1999 when the NSW Scientific Committee declared the population endangered, to an estimated 22 in 2013.
2. The number of female koalas observed with juveniles in spring gradually increasing over time: for example, 3 in 2009, 4 in 2010 and 2011, 5 in 2012 and 2013.
3. Natural re-establishment of a (small) koala community in Winda Woppa in 2013 for the first time since 1996.

Achievements

1. Erected koala signage throughout Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens, including “Please slow down, Koalas cross here” signs in two high risk locations (near Jean Shaw Koala Reserve, Hawks Nest and near the Lions Club Lookout, Shearwater).
2. Erected 8 roadside signs across the two towns advertising the Native Animal Trust Fund wildlife rescue telephone number.
3. Ongoing recording and analysis of koala sighting data.
4. Established Koala Telephone Hotline (4997 0878) for the public to report koala sightings.
5. Designed, bought and distributed 2,000 fridge magnets promoting koala protection issues including the hotline and wildlife rescue telephone numbers. Magnets have been supplied to real estate agents for installing in all holiday homes and given to the public at festivals. Magnets are available from the Myall Koala and Environment Group or Hawks Nest Newsagency, Myall Pharmacy, Tea Gardens Hotel/Motel, Hair Dinkum Salon or Myall Fitness.
6. Detailed vegetation mapping of all trees in Hawks Nest.
7. Established an avenue of stands of 11 different specimen koala food trees in Sanderling Avenue, Hawks Nest.
8. Numerous tree planting working bees where more than 2,500 koala food trees have been planted in public open space.

9. Established the “Bitou Busters” community weeding group which carries out weed eradication working bees on public land once a month for 9 months each year.
10. Annual weeding program by about 150 year 9 students from Barker College, Sydney as part of the “community service” component of their year-end camp in Hawks Nest. The College has been volunteering this support since 2003.
11. Annual participation in the Myall River Festival for 9 years where each year 200 koala food trees and numerous native plants are given away to the community. This is the primary strategy to encourage residents to establish koala habitat on their own land.
12. Annual participation in the Wildside Festival for 8 years including talks to educate the community about koala issues and walks to encourage participants to appreciate local flora and fauna. One walk is a “Koala Spotting” walk where walkers can actually see (often for the first time) koalas in their Hawks Nest urban habitat.
13. Regular koala reports in the Myall Coast News Newspaper informing the community of koala activity in the towns.
14. Maintaining a koala information noticeboard outside Hawks Nest Newsagency.
15. Education presentations about koalas to students at Tea Gardens Public School, including fostering their “buy a koala food tree” appeal. Assisted in tree planting in two locations in Tea Gardens.
16. Carried out two surveys (2006 and 2013) to gauge community understanding of local koala issues.
17. Obtained a grant of \$11,500 in 2004 from the Commonwealth Envirofund to remove invasive weeds from the Jean Shaw Koala reserve.
18. Obtained a grant of \$234,500 in 2012 from the NSW Environmental Trust for Koala Habitat Restoration in Hawks Nest over 6 years. The Grant is being administered by Great Lakes Council.
19. Carried out koala rescues in Hawks Nest, Tea Gardens and Pindimar, transported rescued animals to koala carers and returned them for release once rehabilitated.
20. NPWS successfully prosecuted a landholder for inappropriate clearing of his land in a core koala habitat movement corridor.
21. Great Lakes Council rejected a Development Application for a housing subdivision in an area including core koala habitat. Council successfully defended the decision on appeal in the Land and Environment Court.
22. Great Lakes Council rezoned for Environmental Protection (E2), core koala habitat land bounded by Kingfisher, Ibis, Flamingo and Eagle Avenues, Hawks Nest.
23. Great Lakes Council planning instruments (i.e. Development Control Plans) modified to include koala impact assessment for each Development Application and “complying development” fencing in Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens to include “koala friendly fencing”.