



Koala News



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch
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KELLY AND JAZZY

Kelly came into care from North Stradbroke Island in late August 2009. She weighed 177 grams, was about 20cm long, and was just starting to grow fine fur. As with many of her kind, she came into care when her mother died as a result of a vicious dog attack.

She settled down well initially, but developed ongoing problems, partly due to the long distance she had to be transported for check-ups and treatment. After a long struggle her main problem was diagnosed as motion sickness, which caused her to vomit and aspirate milk. The obvious solution was to limit travel unless absolutely vital, so Kelly's health is now improving, slowly but surely.

Jazzy, on the other hand, has had a relatively easy time in foster care. She arrived from the Sunshine Coast hinterland shortly after Kelly, weighing 175 grams. She had been found on her own with no sign of her mother nearby.



Kelly and Jazzy after 3 months in care.

The girls are now 1025kg (Kelly) and 1250kg (Jazzy), and are hitting all of the development milestones when they should, particularly their motor skills. They now fly around their baby trees like a couple of circus performers with only an occasional mishap.



In February 2010, looking great.

Both Koalas are now eating leaf enthusiastically, and their foster mum, Evelyn Coutts, is now finally getting some quality sleep time again.

It's a shame about the rapidly greying hair they have caused their foster mum through lack of sleep due to night time feeds and constant worry about their health. She now looks even more like a mother Koala!



New State Government Policy Affecting Koala Habitat

At the end of 2009, the State Government released a draft document for comment that will affect Koala habitat in South East Queensland.

Biodiversity development offset area policy and program

The state government is working towards biodiversity development offsets as a new planning tool designed to help protect biodiversity in South East Queensland. In theory, these biodiversity development offset areas enable the transfer of development potential from one parcel of land to another in the interest of habitat conservation.

Initially, the government intends that the policy will be used to protect koala habitat in the South East Queensland by transferring development from areas with high koala conservation value to areas identified as having relatively low or no koala conservation value.

The ***Draft South East Queensland Koala State planning regulatory provisions*** replaced the *South East Queensland Koala State planning regulatory provisions* and came into effect on 2 November 2009, putting an immediate ban on development in identified bushland habitat in south-east Queensland until the proposed State planning instruments are finalised.

The Protected Koala Bushland Habitat Maps on which the provisions are based can be accessed on the Department of Environment and Resource Management website by lot and plan number or street at:

www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/koalas/koala_plan/current_koala_plan_maps

Consultation on the new draft koala state planning instruments is open until 28 February 2010. For information go to: www.dip.qld.gov.au/koalas

The 2009 RCC and KAG Koala Phone in Survey results are available:

Suburb	2004	2007	2009
Alexandra Hills	21	9	10
Birkdale	38	18	11
Capalaba	44	33	19
Cleveland	31	19	24
Mt Cotton	1	0	1
Ormiston	67	25	26
Redland Bay	6	3	5
Sheldon	30	23	4
Thorneside	22	5	7
Thornlands	6	7	11
Victoria Point	22	2	3
Wellington Point	29	14	14
North Stradbroke Island			1
Total	317	158	136

While it's hard to draw any conclusions about Koala populations given that it depends on how many people are out there looking on the day, the trend matches the reports of a declining Koala population from scientific surveys undertaken by QPWS.

IT'S TOO DARNED HOT

Those thicker, southern coats seem to have some disadvantages!

Source: www.news.com.au



Don't forget, if there are Koalas in your area, make your pool safe by putting a thick rope tied

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the **Koala News**, please contact Paulette Jones paulette@biodiversity.tv

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