Koala News

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What happens to sick, injured or orphaned Koalas in South East Queensland?

The following information has been derived from the Queensland Government website:
http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/koalas/care/moggill-koala-hospital.html

Volunteer wildlife rescue groups and government Wildlife Rangers rescue sick, injured and orphaned Koalas. The rescued animals are taken to the Moggill Koala Hospital, Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Currumbin Wildlife Hospital or to private veterinary surgeons. Information on all rescued Koalas is provided to the Queensland Government's Moggill Koala Hospital and the data is used to produce maps and reports which guide koala management decisions.

Between 1997 and 2010, the Moggill Koala Hospital alone received over 10,000 Koalas. Many of the Koalas that are taken to the hospital are dead on arrival, or must be euthanased on arrival - the victims of disease, dog attack or vehicle hit. A proportion of the admitted animals go on to care. Around 85 per cent of koalas admitted for treatment to Moggill Koala Hospital are released back into the wild.   Orphaned juvenile Koalas are cared for by a small group of experienced and highly-dedicated volunteer Koala carers for hand-raising.

Once rehabilitated, Koalas are returned as close to their point of rescue as possible. Released Koalas are micro-chipped so that they can be identified in the future. It is believed that rehabilitation of a single Koala back into the wild can make a significant difference to the survival of the South East Queensland Koala population.

The Moggill Koala hospital does not only collect information on sick or injured Koalas, but also gathers information on **healthy** Koalas to add to population data. Sightings of healthy Koalas in South East Queensland should be reported.

During business hours (8.00 am–4.30 pm) contact:

Moggill Koala Hospital (07) 3202 0231
Daisy Hill Koala Centre (07) 3299 1032

Sightings of all **sick, injured, orphaned and dead koalas** in South East Queensland should be reported.

During business hours (8.00 am–4.30 pm) contact:

Moggill Koala Hospital (07) 3202 0231
Daisy Hill Koala Centre (07) 3299 1032

After hours (4.30 pm–8.00 am) contact:

RSPCA 1300ANIMAL (1300 264 625)

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GREAT KOALA COUNT

Here is a great way technophiles have used their newfound love of smart phones to provide valuable data to Koala and Koala habitat managers. South Australia had a **Great Koala Count** in November last year, and to assist CSIRO and the Atlas of Living Australia developed a smart phone "app" to allow citizens to feed data straight into the Great Koala Count Database.

Source: http://csironewsblog.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/koala-count-app.jpg

The app made taking the necessary observations very simple: take a photo, record the observation, and the phone's inbuilt GPS recorded the specific location to generate a data point. A video was made to demonstrate its use. For those of you interested, you can view the youtube video at http://csironewsblog.com/tag/great-koala-count/

Following the count, the ABC reported that over 1,000 participants made over 1,300 submissions and 950 koala photos were submitted. The use of the app was considered to be a great success.

Part of this success was that the software removed the need to transfer recordings from notebooks to computers, which is time-consuming and increases the risk of error, and importantly for scientific rigour, it provided verifiable data through photos and GPS recordings.

One of the most successful aspects of the program was that it allowed the community to get involved in scientific research about Koalas.

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

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and/or contributors and are not necessarily those of the Society.