



# Koala News



Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland Bayside Branch  
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## Sheena's Journey

My name is Samantha Longman and this is a little story about reuniting a koala Joey with her mum.

Sheena is a little female koala Joey whose mum was hit by a car on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 on School of Arts Road at Redland Bay. The gentleman Steve that hit Sheena's mum (Midnight) luckily stopped to check her and found that he had run over her front paws. So he retrieved a cage and caught Midnight and took her to Manly Road 24 hour veterinary surgery.

From there the Australia Wildlife Hospital came down to collect her and take her back for assessment and treatment. When they were assessing her they found that inside her pouch she had an elongated teat which meant she had a baby somewhere out there on its own.

The wildlife hospital phoned Steve who had accidentally run Midnight over and asked if he had seen a baby anywhere when he rescued mum. So the search began.

Two koala carers and rescuers named Julie Zyzniewski and Evelyn Coutts were also asked to look for the Joey.

They went out to look for Midnight's baby, and after search for an hour or so and could not locate the Joey. Arrangements were made to meet back at the site at 5pm to do another search.

I got to the site at 4.30pm and starting looking for the missing baby. Three other people joined the search - Steve, his wife Sheena and a friend of theirs, Sally.

By 6.30pm I was starting to think we weren't going to find the baby. So I started packing up and was telling Steve and Sheena that two other carers were going to come out at around 9pm to have another look and listen, when all of a sudden I heard three loud yaps coming from the other side of the road.

I ran across the road to look for the baby that was calling for her mum and located her over a high, electrified fence. She was sitting about 10cm off the ground in a young Lilly Pilly tree.

I climbed over to get to her and was able to capture her without too much stress and place her in a cage. She was around the 2kg mark and looked a bit shaken up but was extremely hungry. I cut some fresh leaf and placed it in then cage with her and a large koala teddy bear and that is where she stayed absolutely devouring the leaf for the entire journey up to the Australian Wildlife Hospital.

Once at the hospital they gave Sheena a quick once over just to make sure she was ok and we then took her in to see her mum.



Midnight must have heard Sheena yapping as we approached because she raised her head and grunted at her baby and Sheena yapped back but wasn't directly looking at her mum, so we turned her around and mum grunted again and bub yapped at mum then her little face just lit up.



She went straight over to mum and put her hands on mums head, shuffled her bottom closer in towards mum and they both looked at us.

This is when I think my heart just melted and I'm sure they were both saying thank you, and just sat there cuddling (I know I had tears in my eyes).

What an absolute wonder and privilege to see these two beautiful girls reunited.

Now Midnight can concentrate on getting better.

Editor's note: Wildlife Carers do an amazing job. They are out there, all hours of the day and night, rescuing and taking injured animals for treatment, and caring for sick, injured and orphaned animals for months on end. All of this is unpaid, voluntary work, and work that they do simply for the love of native wildlife.

### **DRIVING WITH KOALAS IN MIND**

Most people are extremely traumatised when they hit and kill or injure a Koala. In the Redlands, our significant urban Koala population and high speed roads with adjoining bushland is a recipe for disaster.

While the various levels of government work towards solutions to this problem, there are some simple steps that drivers can take to reduce the risk of hitting Koalas on our roads:

1. Always observe road speed limits.
2. Be alert for Koalas crossing roads, particularly on dusk, during night time hours and at dawn.
3. During these hours, scan the road verges as you drive and slow down if you see a Koala – Koalas do not check for traffic before they cross.
4. Don't tailgate other drivers, allow the driver ahead of you distance to stop suddenly and safely if necessary.
5. While Koalas can be encountered anywhere in Redlands, take particular note of Koala warning signs as these have been placed in areas where Koalas are known to cross regularly.

**If you would like to contribute to future editions of the Koala News, please contact Paulette Jones [paulette@biodiversity.tv](mailto:paulette@biodiversity.tv)**

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