

FOLKLAW

Friends Of Local Koalas, Land And Wildlife inc

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 1999

INSPIRATION FOR CARERS OF WILDLIFE

This coming Sunday May 23rd, Folklaw (Friends Of Local Koalas, Land And Wildlife) have invited Denise Garratt to be guest speaker at their third annual general meeting. The meeting will be held at the R. W. Stone Reserve, Camphill Road, Somers at 2pm.

Denise has more than 20 years experience in caring for wildlife and is a founder of 'Help for Wildlife', a network of community volunteers who devote countless hours to caring for injured and orphaned wildlife.

For the past nine years Denise has attended the opening of duck shooting in Victoria and along with Hurstbridge vet Dr Chris Andrews has tended injured wildlife including protected species such as swans, pelicans, tortoises and even the occasional hunting dog.

Folklaw encourages people in the community with an interest in our wonderfully diverse wildlife and its habitat to come along to hear how they can make a difference in its protection.

For anyone who would like to become involved locally, there will be vacancies on the Folklaw committee and people wishing to contribute in areas such as community awareness, revegetation, koala counts or raising funds to support wildlife carers will be welcomed with enthusiasm.

Phone 5983 1034 for more information, apologies or if you are willing to join our committee.



THE
'AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION'
PRESENTS
"A CONFERENCE ON
THE STATUS OF
THE KOALA IN 1999"

THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF THE KOALA IN 1999 WILL BE HELD AT
PHILLIP ISLAND, VICTORIA ON
THE FOLLOWING DATES:

MONDAY 6TH, TUESDAY 7TH, WEDNESDAY 8TH
SEPTEMBER, 1999

WITH AN OPTIONAL FOURTH DAY ON
THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1999

THIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE AKF BRINGS TOGETHER ANYONE CONCERNED WITH THE CONSERVATION OF THE KOALA AND IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES.

PARTICIPANTS USUALLY INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH COMMUNITY, KOALA CARERS, LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, PLANNERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, FORESTRY; MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION, ACTIVISTS, EDUCATORS, ZOO PROFESSIONALS, JOURNALISTS, CONSULTANTS, STUDENTS, TOURIST OPERATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON A NUMBER OF THEMES INCLUDING:

- MANAGEMENT OF ISOLATED KOALA POPULATIONS
- LEGISLATION
- LOGGING AND ITS EFFECT ON KOALA POPULATIONS
- HABITAT IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING
- KOALA BIOLOGY AND HABITAT UTILISATION
- CARERS AND EDUCATION
- RESTORATION OF DEGRADED HABITATS

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PAPERS, GENERAL DISCUSSION AND FIELD TRIPS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE FIRST THREE DAYS WITH AN OPTION TO JOIN THE AKF TEAM FOR KOALA HABITAT ATLAS FIELDWORK ON FRENCH ISLAND ON DAY FOUR.

THE AKF ARE NOW REQUESTING SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES TO PRESENT 20 MINUTE PAPERS AT THE CONFERENCE ON THE STATUS OF THE KOALA IN 1999.

Judy's Jottings

KOALA RESERVE

The Koala Nature Reserve in Somers is looking great. Plantings done for 'Save the Koala Day' in June and the 'Spring Planting Festival' last year have put on fantastic growth. Groups such as the Somers Brownies, Somers Primary School and Folklaw volunteers can be proud of their achievement in the restoration of wildlife habitat at the reserve.

Although working bees were put on hold during the hot summer months, track work, weed control and pruning continued with paid workers.

Working bees have a great social atmosphere and are followed up by a delicious morning tea provided by a neighbour of the reserve, Sue Holland. If you have been intending to come but just haven't made it yet, call me on 5983 1034 and I will let you know what projects we have got coming up. Attendance at one or two working bees a year can make a big difference to the reserve and the morale of other volunteers.

The next working bee is on Sunday 30th May, & then 27th June will be a planting day. Save the Koala Day 1999 will be Friday 30 July.

-Judy Jack, FOLKLAW President

SOMERS KOALA RESERVE

10 MARCH 1999

11:00 - 12 NOON

I searched the reserve extensively for birds during this period. I recorded only one bird, a single starling, flying overhead.

7:00 - 7:30 P.M.

I repeated the exercise, and again recorded no birds in the reserve.

However, in the historic flowering coastal banksias along The Boulevard, numerous Brush Wattlebirds and a few Red Wattlebirds, Magpies, Ravens, Mudlarks, Indian Mynahs and Masked Plovers were heard in the vicinity.

The absence of native birds within the reserve is possibly due to the lack of water and food. Also, the late Summer to early Spring is usually a lull time for birds as many breeding species move out of the southern areas. As food stocks diminish, the birds move north - some to the Great Divide - to Winter. These birds return in late August - early September to take up breeding territories.

- Brent Hall

(It should be noted the prolific amount of lorikeets (Musk and Rainbow) and galahs feeding in the area over the Summer months)

FOLKLAW

FRIENDS OF LOCAL KOALAS,
LAND AND WILDLIFE
INC.

OFFICE BEARERS/COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT JUDY JACK
VICE PRESIDENT PHIL BIRCHALL
SECRETARY ALISON KAIN
TREASURER ROGER RICHARDS

MINUTES SECRETARY CHRIS DODD
EDUCATION OFFICER ALISON KAIN
NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR
MICHELLE WOOD

SUBSCRIPTIONS OFFICER
TRISH BIRCHALL
GENERAL COMMITTEE ALAN LIM JOON
KOALA WILDLIFE CARER

JENNIE BRYANT
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FOLKLAW

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Website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~folklaw/>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 PM

HABITAT DAYS

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, FROM 9:30 TO
11:30 AM AT KOALA NATURE RESERVE MELWAY
REFERENCE 193 K9

AUSTRALIAN KOALA FOUNDATION

GPO Box 9899, Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone (07)3229 7233

HELP FOR WILDLIFE 0417 380 687

P.O. Box 181, Coldstream 3770

WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK 0500 540 000

Website: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~envir/wildnet/>

Jennie's Corner

Over the last few months numerous lactating females died on our roads. In January I was called out to a number of injured koalas on Frankston-Flinders Road, Merricks.

One of them was an adult female who had a 3-4 week old pouch young (dead). She was found crouched on the side of the road, head injured and her tongue extended. I was unable to work out why her tongue wouldn't pull back in and eventually found it was wedged over her bottom teeth. The pain would have been shocking. I was able to rectify this easily but her unseen injuries took her life soon after.

Another adult female hit and left to die in the middle of the same area, was moved from her pool of blood to the side of the road by a kind couple who then waited for me to arrive. On removal of the blanket her face revealed a shocking sight. Top teeth an inch to the left of her nose, broken jaws - a mess, yet she was alive and aware of her dilemma. I had her put down immediately.

A young adult male in Balnarring (shopping Centre side) was attacked by dogs - a Heeler X and Staffordshire Bull terrier when he entered the back yard where they resided. He remained up a tree there until I arranged his rescue. The owner of the dogs was not at home, but promised to have them locked up so there would be no problems for us entering the yard and removing the koala. Mick Douglas noosed him and I assisted from the ground, eased him down and was in the process of lowering him into a container when - all hell broke loose. The dogs had escaped & both were lunging at the koala while it was noosed & Mick was holding him up. The next 10 minutes were indescribable. Trying to fight off the dogs while hoping they wouldn't attack us as well. It was a nightmare. However - unbelievably we succeeded thanks to the strength & perseverance of Mick. I released this lucky koala 2 weeks later. Due to his trauma, he was almost impossible to handle. I had never seen anyone fight so desperately to save an animal.

Thanks again Mick!

An elderly male was seen sitting in an outdoor spa and had been swimming and drinking alot. Sounds like he was having fun and I wished I'd been able to photograph him, but when I arrived he'd got out. He was suffering from kidney disease as well as old age - his coat was dull & he was very thin & lethargic. He was put down.

One of my Long term patients is an adult female who was bought to me in the middle of the night back in March. The man had hit her doing 100 km and she looked bad. Very head injured, semi conscious, hardly moving. I gave her a warm bed and sedated her but I didn't think she'd last until morning. It turned out she had a break in her left femur, usually fatal due to koalas inability to cope with pain & capture. However something made me feel she had a chance, then while under anaesthetic the vet rang to say she had found another serious problem

- her tongue was severely torn open all over the back of it. The vet wondered if it was worthwhile pinning the leg if the tongue was so damaged. But - I thought - I'll feed her until it heals.

So, as I write this, she's doing very well, eating lots of leaves. The pin will be removed in a week or 2, then she must build up strength.

Thanks to a dedicated vet, Kate, and the Hastings Veterinary Clinic.

-Jennie Bryant, Koala Wildlife Care

Koala Death Tally TALLY

Figures for July 26, 1996
to May 17, 1999:

89 DEATHS

68 injured/released

These are only the koalas that we know about - and for each of these there is another somewhere that we haven't heard of. Often injured koalas will crawl into the bush and die.

**Take Care On Our Roads and
Restrain Dogs At Night**