



Ipswich Koala Protection Society, Inc.

NEWSLETTER
November 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Another year gone and it's that time again – President's report for 2010.

It's been an exciting year for koalas with the realisation and recognition by the State Government that koalas are disappearing at an alarming rate and now might be a good time to do something about it.

In May this year the State Government released the State Planning Regulatory Provisions and the State Planning Policy for Koalas in South East Queensland. An updated Koala Habitat Values Map was also released.

Our efforts over the past 16 years have finally had an impact on the future for koalas. (fingers crossed). I have reported our progress throughout the year in our newsletters, but for new members I will briefly outline the important "stuff".

The proposed Ebenezer South Industrial Estate announced by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning earlier this year was squashed just as quickly as it was announced. However the "other" Ebenezer Industrial Investigation Area (encompassing Willowbank, Mutdapilly and Mt. Forbes), is still in the pipeline and has been in the Council Plans since 1993.

IKPS representatives (nana Helen and Nana Ruth) attended the 3 day Enquiry by Design workshop convened by Place Design for DIP. We went armed with stats, maps and heaps of information which we neatly laid out all over the floor – not to try and intimidate them. Surprisingly the environmental constraints for this area influenced the mapping and outcomes for the area we have mapped as essential and critical koala habitat.

Sightings entered onto the Government data base, mapping of the Federally protected Melaleuca Irbyana and our willingness to work with and advise government representatives did not go unnoticed. It has been suggested by representatives of DIP that we work on an "Action Management Plan" for the investigation area – something to do in our spare time. This will be an ongoing role that we can all be involved in.

Prior to the workshop I had a brain wave and everyone humoured me. We held an information day at the clinic and folded, stamped, licked and mailed out roughly 1200 fliers to people in the Ebenezer area. It was a great day with lots of interested and concerned neighbours and residents popping in for a chat and a free sausage. Thanks to the Mt. Forbes Rural Fire Brigade who have supported us for many years.

The next big battle for us now is to have the Federal Government reclassify the status of koalas on a National level.

We have welcomed many new members this year and many of them have come on board as wildlife carers. It's encouraging to see so many young (and not so young) people wanting to make a difference. We are always happy to share our passion (or craziness, and as we are not getting any younger I am hopeful that our work will continue when we are in wheelchairs).

We also welcomed Dr. Tony Wood as our Patron this year. Old – or should I say long term members – will remember Ric Natrass who was our President before handing the reigns on and becoming Patron of IKPS. With Rics passing last year we were left with a big hole. Not only was he our Patron, but a passionate and caring wildlife champion. We will never be able to replace Ric and had no intention of doing so. I think they broke the mould on Ric. However out of the blue (spooky) we were contacted by Tony and it was like a bolt of lightning – or a nudge from Ric – that this was just the person for the job. Tonys association with koalas goes back about 40 years as a researcher, advisor and vet.

Displays have become a thing of the past and I can't say I'm too disappointed. We are kept extremely busy with rescues, education by other means and the odd fete/festival here and there. Our commitment to the protection of wildlife and its habitat has meant that we are now koala experts, consultants, mapping experts, computer geeks (maybe), and sleep deprived.

Once again we attended the Rosewood Festival this year and had a great day. As well as spreading the word it's always a good excuse for us to get together socially.

And I had another brain wave – September is Threatened Species Month and incorporates Save the Koala Day. I decided we should have a tree planting day at the clinic. Thanks to everyone who came out and planted trees and a big thank you to Ipswich City Council for supplying us with over 180 trees. Since the planting we have had a lot of rain and the trees are looking great. There are plans also to plant a fodder plantation. This will be done by Rangers from QPWS who will also mow and maintain it.

Helen and I also had two field trips (our Thelma and Louise weekends). The first trip was to Tara to take Redmond (red kangaroo) to a release site and the second one was to Tenterfield. Our unidentified wallaby turned into a brush tailed rock wallaby and had to go back where she came from. Both were very successful releases.

Now to the important stuff – to the committee, members, rescue team and drivers – what would we do without you? Thank you. I would also like to acknowledge other local care groups – it's great to be able to share the load – the local vets and the guys on the RSPCA ambulance and of course Ipswich City Council for their continued support.

This year we are planning something very different for a Christmas get together.

Stay safe over the Christmas new year holiday season.

Ruth.



Christmas Get-together

Our last social function for this year will be a Xmas get-together, (and a very brief meeting), on December 11th at 110 Brass Road, Mt Forbes.
BBQ/spotlighting/camping overnight –from 5.00pm.
Tents supplied or BYO, (caravans also welcome). Bring your own spotlight or torch, sleeping bag, pillow, etc. and enclosed footwear.
Meat and drinks kindly donated by Racehorse Tavern (courtesy of Robert Lewis).
For more information call Ruth on 5464 6274.

Reminder

All memberships lapse on the 31st of December. Membership Fees for 2011 will remain the same, and once again the discount will apply to those paid before the end of February.
There should be a Renewal Form included with this newsletter.



From the Editor:

Sorry, time has not allowed me to include most of our regular features in this newsletter. The Rescues column, Our Orphans, Orphan Update, the list of New Members, will all be back in the next issue, (early in the new year), and yes, there is another Who Rescues the Rescuer story, (for those who find my misadventures funny).

And a very happy Christmas from the rest of us:

Marilyn Spletter Vice President
Helen Darbellay Secretary
Graham Mason Treasurer
Helen Suthers Minutes Sec.
Anne Dull Wildlife Registrar

Heat Pads

The heat pads have arrived. Could all those carers who ordered one please contact Ruth to arrange for payment and pick up.

*We hope you and your loved
ones have a happy Christmas
and a safe and prosperous
New Year.*