

BULLETIN 7 – 19 August 2021

Our club member Lesley Freeman kept us entertained and well informed with an excellent Zoom presentation on the Port Stephens Koala program.



Port Stephens Koalas consists of volunteer carers, members and board of directors who are committed to protecting, caring and rehabilitating koalas so they continue and thrive in their natural habitat. Leah Anderson from Salamander Bay Rotary was a guest at our meeting. Leah was recently appointed CEO of Port Stephens Koalas.

In 1987 the koala population across the Port Stephens area was facing loss of habitat due to continued development in the local area. A small group of Anna Bay residents formed the Koala Preservation Society with the goal of saving injured koalas, rehabilitating them and releasing them back into the wild.

The Hunter Koala Preservation started a comprehensive data base in 1995 to monitor sick and injured koalas and their location. The organisation was renamed Port Stephens Koalas in 2016.



The Australian koala population numbered in the millions during the 1800’s, so large that culls were carried out to reduce the population. The area of habitation is illustrated above. Clearly this area coincides with the most desirable agricultural and residential land. As a result of clearing and habitation the koala population has been reduced to an endangered level over the past 150 years. The establishment of the Port Stephens Koala facility and similar protection groups throughout the region helps survival of the species.

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LUCKY WINNERS.
Virtual H&T won by
Warwick.

BIRTHDAYS:
23 Aug: Yvonne Stuhmcke
24 Aug Tanya Martin
27 Aug: Margaret Bairstow

ANNIVERSARIES:
None this week.

ZOOM MEETING
PLEASE PLACE
MICROPHONE IN
MUTE MODE IF
NOT SPEAKING

DUTIES 26 Aug:

Speaker: DG
Amanda Roach,
David Roach and AG
Christine Walmsley
Welcome: Warwick Mathieson
Introduce Speaker:
President Doug
Thank Speaker:
Phill Smith
Bulletin: John Cropley.
Photos: Phill Smith
Binoculars: Lesley Freeman



Eucalyptus leaves are harvested from plantations managed by the local group. These have been planted on formerly sand mined land. Leaves are supplemented from private trees by arrangement. Recovering koalas are fed with a paste made from ground eucalyptus leaves and supplementary products. A hospital has been established on site where visiting vets are able to treat sick and injured animals. The photo (left) shows a recovered koala being released by carers.



The centre and project require approximately \$500,000 p/a to remain operational. It was established with the help of Government and Council grants and public donations. There is no ongoing finance available other than assistance from Port Stephens Council. There is therefore a heavy reliance on fund raising, public donations and a small percentage of visitor fees.

COMING EVENTS.

Thursday 26 Aug – DG Amanda Roach and David zoom visit – Area Governor Christine Walmsley will also be a guest at the ZOOM meeting

Sunday 29 Aug – Bunnings barbeque - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday 13 Sep – Board meeting