

Dear Members

We hope you all had a great Christmas and you are enjoying 2020 so far.

Our thoughts are with those affected by the bushfires across the country and we are saddened by the enormous loss of wildlife. A big shout out to the carers and rescuers who have stepped up during this hard time to rescue and care for our treasured wildlife.

Just a reminder there is no members meeting in January. Our next meeting will be upstairs **at Club Pine Rivers on Thursday, 27 February at 7pm**. We hope to see you there.

Take a quick look below to see some of the important news and events we have coming up before then.

SEQ KOALA STRATEGY DROP-IN SESSIONS | 20 and 21 JANUARY

As a result of community feedback, Shane King MP and Mark Ryan MP have managed to secure drop-in sessions for the Moreton Bay region! We were disappointed that we were left off the list despite our large koala population, but our concerns have been acknowledged and we are pleased that we have now been included. The drop-in sessions will be held at **Morayfield Shopping Centre** from **9:00am to 5:30pm** on **Monday, 20 January and Tuesday, 21 January**. We encourage all our members to go along if you can and ask questions and provide your feedback.



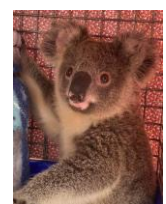
FUNDS FOR FIRIES AND WILDLIFE | 27 JANUARY



The QCWA has selected PRKC as 1 of 4 beneficiaries for their fundraising day at Dayboro on 27 January. They have asked us if we'd like to have a stall. If you are interested in going along and representing us on the day, please let Chelsea know. We require volunteers to help set up and pull down the marquee, sell a bit of merchandise and provide information to the public on who we are and what we do. It's a great opportunity for new members to meet the public and learn more about our organisation.

RESCUERS MEETING | 30 JANUARY @ 7PM

The first rescuers meeting of the year will be held upstairs at **Club Pine Rivers** at **7pm** on **Thursday, 30 January**. If you're already a rescuer or you're interested in becoming a rescuer, please come along and meet the rest of the team and hear about our plans for 2020. We'd love to hear your feedback and answer any questions you might have. Please RSVP to Chelsea by **Tuesday, 28 January** and feel free contact her on rescue@prkoalacare.com.au if you have any questions.



RESCUE MEETING

PRKCAI PRESENTS LINDA SPARROW | 1 FEBRUARY @ 12:30PM

Now this is exciting! We are lucky enough to have Linda Sparrow from [Bangalow Koalas](#) coming up to talk to us about the amazing work she has done in NSW. What started out in 2016 as a handful of concerned neighbours, determined to prevent a 400-metre stretch of 30-year-old koala food trees from deteriorating or being forcibly removed, has now grown into an active, change-creating group with more than 100 members. Their long-term goal is to create a koala wildlife corridor, to encourage koalas out of urban areas and away from threats. Come along and find out how we can do this in Moreton Bay and across SEQ.



The event is free, but we are asking for a gold coin donation to cover costs. Tell your friends! Tell your neighbours! Everyone is welcome. Please find more information and RSVP by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BHTDM>

BLUE CARDS – VOLUNTEERING WTH CHILDREN



We are currently in the process of drafting a Child Safety Policy and we will publish that in due course.

In the meantime, if you volunteer with children in Queensland you must now hold a blue card.

Many of our fundraising and educational activities include working with children, and even though they're not that frequent, it will be our policy that all volunteers who wish to participate in events with children must have a blue card.

Apply for your blue card here:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card/applications/apply>

If you already have a blue card, we still need to link you to our organisation. Please complete this form: <https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/pdf/forms/DJAG008-Link-an-applicant-or-cardholder.pdf>

Please send all applications to: vicepresident@prkoalacare.com.au

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS – DO YOU HAVE A COPY?

The Department of Environment and Science has started conducting audits on Wildlife Carers who hold multiple permits. If you are a registered carer with Pine Rivers Koala Care you must be able to produce the permit at any time. If you don't have a copy of the current permit (we have experienced delays in receiving them this year, but we have managed to sort it out now) please email carer@prkoalacare.com.au to request one.



This is a timely reminder that as a carer, it is your responsibility to advise the Carer Coordinator of any wildlife you receive into care, and how many animals you are caring for at any given time. The fines for non-compliance are substantial – up to \$9,000. Our carers are so vital to our organisation (we wouldn't exist with you!) and we want to help you help us to do the right thing.

If you are not a registered carer with Pine Rivers Koala Care, you are not covered under our permit and you cannot tell the DES that you are caring for wildlife on our behalf.

Please familiarise yourself with the Code of Practice:

https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/87829/cp-wl-rehab.pdf

Lastly, we understand that rescuing and caring for wildlife can take its toll on your mental health, especially in these hard times of drought and bushfires. We are hoping to hold a workshop in mid – late February for anyone who wants to share their stories or chat with others who might be feeling the same way. In the meantime, here are some services that you can access if you are feeling overwhelmed or just need to talk.

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636

Take care of yourselves and each other

Chris, Sam and Angela

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Angela Barrett | Treasurer | treasurer@prkoalacare.com.au

