



APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

At the time of writing, pubs and clubs are still closed, so there will be no monthly meeting again this month. We'll try to keep in touch by email, phone and WhatsApp. Reports will be sent out later in the week.

If there's anything you need to discuss urgently, please reach out to one of us. Our contact details are at the bottom of this email.



WILD KOALA DAY VIRTUAL EVENT | 3 MAY



Unfortunately, we've also had to postpone our Wild Koala Day Celebration at Old Petrie Town due to COVID-19. We are hoping to reschedule it to later in the year.

Wild Koala Day is a nationally recognised day, so we will be running with some 'virtual' ideas in the lead up to the day. We'll be asking our 9,300 social media followers to choose a photo from our website and use it as their profile pic for the day and include these hashtags.

#wildkoaladay #pineriverskoalacare

Thank you to Moreton Bay Regional Council for their support of this event.

NATIONAL TREE DAY | 31 JULY & 02 AUGUST 2020

SAVE THE DATE!

SCHOOLS TREE DAY **31** JULY 2020 | NATIONAL TREE DAY **02** SUNDAY AUG 2020

National Tree Day is coming up! At this stage we are hoping that the Coronavirus is long gone, and we can go ahead with our planned events at Rob Akers Reserve. If you're interested in joining the committee and helping on National Tree Day please let us know and we can put you in touch with Janet or Trish. Watch this space for updates!

RESCUE NEWS!

RESCUE COORDINATOR

On 25 March, our Rescue Coordinator Chelsea announced she was moving interstate and was resigning from her position. During her time as Rescue Coordinator, Chelsea worked tirelessly to get our records and statistics online and streamline our roster. We wish Chelsea all the best and she will be sorely missed!

The COVID-19 restrictions have made it difficult for the exec committee to meet with the entire rescue team, but rest assured we are working with some of the key team members to ensure our rescues continue to run smoothly until we can put some more permanent changes in place. If you have availability to transport wildlife during this time, please email rescue@prkoalacare.com.au.

BREAKFAST CREEK HOTEL RAISES OVER \$5000 FOR OUR KOALAS!

The Breakfast Creek Hotel held a fundraiser for Pine Rivers Koala Care throughout the month of January and they raised over \$5,000! What a fantastic result. We have already purchased 12 new koala cages and 10 new poles. A new trap will be arriving shortly.

After the cages were delivered, we put the call out on facebook for our followers to sew some cage covers and the response has been amazing. We think you'll agree that our koalas will be transported in style!



We can't thank the Breakfast Creek Hotel enough for this donation. Thank you also to the creative sewers amongst us!

RESCUE KIT AND HANDOVER



It is more important than ever that rescuers clean and disinfect all cages, towels, poles and nets after each rescue and before handing the kit over to the rescuer on the next shift.

Having said that, because we were fortunate enough to receive such a large donation from The Breakfast Creek Hotel, we have been able to order enough equipment for 6 full kits. Stay tuned for more news on this!

SIX GOSLINGS RESCUED FROM THE BRUCE HIGHWAY

These fluffy little cuties were rescued trying to cross the road with their mama in Murrumba Downs this week. Unfortunately, mum had been hit by a car and her injuries were so severe that she couldn't be saved. The six goslings will stay in care until they are old enough to be released. Good luck little ones!



If you have a news story you want to share, please email vicepresident@prkoalacare.com.au

CARER NEWS!

CARERS GRANT RECEIVED FROM DES



Earlier this month we were advised by the Department of Environment and Science that our application for a \$5,000 Carers Grant was successful. The conditions of the grant are that we spend the funds on a 'project' and we are excited that the "2020 Koala Joey Succession Project" is already underway! As many of you know, our long-serving, award winning, amazing carers, committed rescuers and trusted advisers, Jo and Gary have been trying to semi-retire for some time now. And even though they promise us they will still be on hand to help and provide advice when needed, the association must start to take steps to continue their great work and allow them to enjoy the retirement they so deserve. These funds will be used to build a joey enclosure and provide training to selected carers so that we can keep on providing expert care for our treasured koala joeys for many years to come. Thanks DES!

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMITS – DO YOU HAVE A COPY?

Madonna has been busily contacting all our carers and organising copies of 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, please email Madonna 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.

The Department of Environment and Science has started conducting audits on Wildlife Carers who hold multiple permits. If you are not a current member AND a registered carer with Pine Rivers Koala Care, and we don't know which animals you have in care, you are not covered under our permit. The DES has advised us that they will remove wildlife from your care if you are audited and cannot produce the permit.

Please familiarise yourself with the Code of Practice:

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



BLUE CARDS – VOLUNTEERING WITH 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.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/blue-card-employment-changes/resource/7f263d63-3bf6-417f-8f68-24f1bb15b12a>

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

COMMITTEE ROLES AVAILABLE

If you've ever wanted to join the Pine Rivers Koala Care Executive Committee, you're in luck! We are searching for a new Secretary and Treasurer.

We are also looking at starting committees for things such as Habitat Care / Tree Planting, Events and Advocacy.

Please email vicepresident@prkoalacare.com.au if you are interested in joining any of the committees.

