KOALA RESEARCH AND
REHABILITATION POST-FIRE

15/09 workshop notes and resources
Presented by Science for Wildlife

To recap

- o SFW saw a huge drop in koala populations in areas that experienced medium and hot burns in 2019/2020.
- o They have seen evidence of koalas in areas that were burnt but are concerned that koalas are feeding on trees that have epicormic growth and which may still having potential to die which would force the koalas to move again.
- o SFW is using dogs for tracking koalas and finding scats now and it is far faster and accurate because unlike humans, they are not biased and are unlikely to miss scats in overgrown areas and long grass
- o Ongoing research of scats and tracking is happening.
- o Koalas travel!! Check out Wally, the star and where he has gone
- o SFW is researching koala survival and behaviour after release to ensure more success and improve rehabilitation process and how release sites are chosen.
- o Record you koala sightings! (see below for how)
- o Report a koala that is sick, injured, or in imminent danger (on the edge of a road) to WIRES
- o Look out for chlamydia on koalas and report an animal if you think it is sick
- o Get involved by volunteering, helping identify wildlife pictures, restoring habitat - check the resources below to find more information.

Some things they discovered pre-fire surveys:

- - The Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury koala population is the most genetically diverse in Australia (to current knowledge)
- - Kanangra-Boyd population is of one of two populations in Australia that are free of Chlamydia
- - Kanangra-Boyd is also a growing population, unlike a lot of koala populations (pre-fire, unknown at the moment)
- - SFW discovered koakas using more habitat that we thought they could use and were found at a higher altitudes that we thought was their range (above 1000 m above sea level)

How you can help in the Hawkesbury-Nepean:

- ✓ Commit to helping track koalas
- ✓ Report a koala sighting one of three ways: I SPY KOALA, SFW website or Blue Mountains Facebook page
- ✓ Report a sick koala directly to WIRES, Sydney Wildlife Rescue or Port Macquarie Koala Hospital
- ✓ Restore Koala Habitat on your property

Tips and Tricks:

How to spot a koala?

- Scat: small oval, light green when fresh, dark green when dry, look for the line on the side, bright green inside even when dry, eucalypt smell, finely ground and tightly packed
- Look out for brush tail possum, but the key things are above. Koala scat won't be joined or connected
- Scratch marks:
- Koala bellow – sounds very pig like, check it out.

Key signs of chlamydia to look out for:
- Wet or brown bottom
- Red inflamed eyes, looking dazed
- Koalas that seem to be drinking a lot
- Koalas on the ground for a long time
- Imminent danger: on a roadside, side of a main road, low to the ground and easily visible in an urban area

Get involved and learn more:

- Learn more about Science for Wildlife, how to volunteer, to let them on your property and more at their website https://scienceforwildlife.org/
- Bored? Help identify wildlife captured on camera here: https://www.zooniverse.org/get-involved
- If you are interested in learning how to restore koalas on your own property or helping someone who is part of HNLN, contact us landcare@hrcc.nsw.gov.au

Stay up to date

Don't forget you can become a member of HNLN – it's free, all you have to do is attend two events/meeting per year. REGISTER here. For those who missed it, here is a link to our most recent newsletter. You can also find HNLN on Facebook, Instagram and Landcarer.

Thank you again to all for attending and we look forward to seeing you all again soon! As always if you have any questions, queries or ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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