



Can tree planting benefit koalas and climate change?

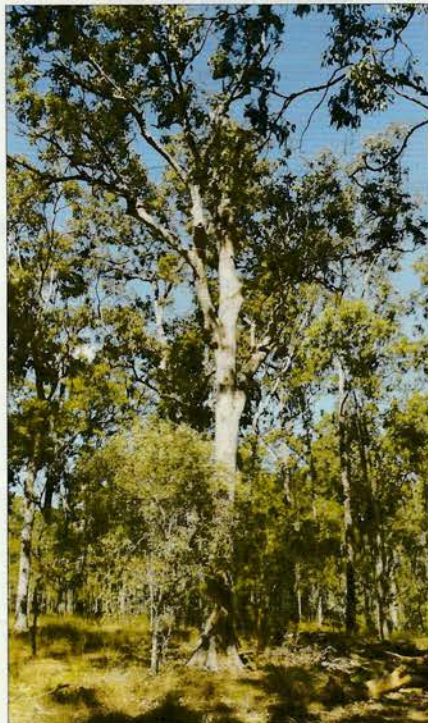
Before European settlement koalas were abundant across the east coast of Australia. We know that koalas like larger trees, older forests and low disturbance from fire and logging. While humans need the modern conveniences of roads, shops and houses and schools, we should be trying to build in places that are not known koala habitat.

Rapid habitat loss and fragmentation via land clearing and urban development is leading to the removal of vital food and habitat trees for koalas. This has resulted in dramatic falls in koala numbers. From a local perspective, koalas are found in a small area of habitat from Camira to Bellbird Park. Just how many we have is not known. If nothing is done to protect and reconnect koala habitat, population declines will continue unabated and extinction seems inevitable.

So it's important that we protect old growth forest and large eucalypts. If we protect their habitat, we also help protect other native animals. Clearing of the eucalypt forests means that all wildlife, including koalas, will suffer from increased disturbance by humans, injury or death from traffic, dogs and cats and increased competition for food and territory because of overcrowding. There is also increased stress on animals, making them more susceptible to disease.



So the solution to helping them is obvious—plant trees. Not only will you be helping koalas and other wildlife but you'll also be reducing climate change as trees curb climate change directly by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Through the process of photosynthesis, forests offset 10 to 20 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions each year. Additionally, trees help protect against climate impacts such as flooding, which is getting worse with more locally heavy precipitation.



Trees in urban areas can:

- reduce urban heat island effect and lower air conditioning needs by as much as 30 percent by providing a natural shade,
- lower energy consumption means fewer carbon dioxide emissions,
- catch rainwater, reducing erosion, and creating more permeable soils—trees are crucial for water and air quality,
- absorb airborne pollutants and intercept particulate matter, helping reduce the throat irritation, asthma, and even premature death that these pollutants may cause.

Planting trees can contribute to a healthier planet while improving our daily lives. So SLNC will be planting some small trees with Lendlease to re-vegetate a section of Regatta Lake to commemorate National Tree Day which is on Sunday July 28th. To find out more about our group and events follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare or on our webpage www.facebook.com/SpringfieldLakesNatureCare or contact us through info@SpringfieldLakesnatureCare.org.au.



What's On @ Gales Community House

30 Karina Street, Gales. Ph: 3879 3004

www.galescommunityhouse.com.au

Monday:	Kidz Biz after school program	3.30pm – 5.00pm	FREE
Tuesday:	Social Cooking Group	9.30am – 12.30pm	\$5 per session
	Card Making class	Noon – 2.00pm	\$4 per session
Wednesday:	Little Gems Playgroup (0-5yr olds)	9.30am – 11.30am	FREE
Thursday:	Sewing and mending group	9.30am – 11.30am	\$4 per session
	Gales BoBs (Bunch of Blokes)	10.30am – 12.30pm	\$4 per session
	Budget Grub Hub	11.30am – 1.15pm	One off \$5 Membership fee
<i>Affordable food shopping to help relieve the financial strain. (For residents of Gales and Camira only)</i>			