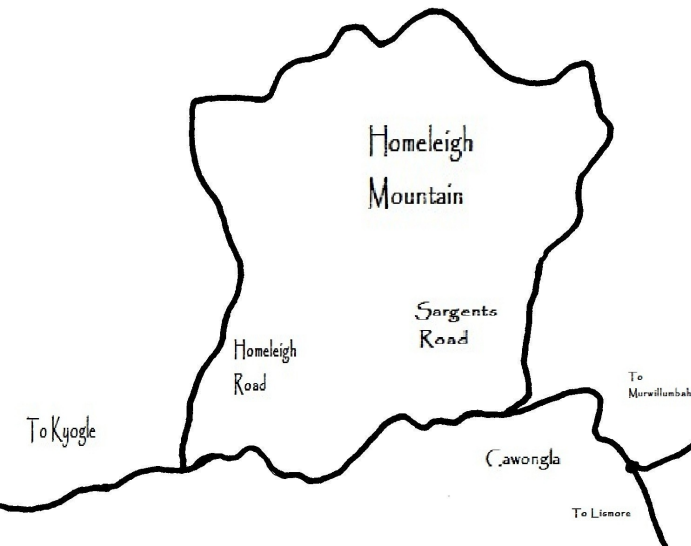


How you can help

- Protect existing koala food trees
- Plant koala trees
- Drive slowing through koala habitat and watch for koalas on the roads
- Be a responsible pet owner, restrain your dog
- Report injured or sick koalas to Friends of the Koala 0266221233



If you don't see a koala your journey will not have been wasted, as the views to the mountains are impressive.

Since European settlement of Australia, koalas have suffered a declining population and a reduction in their home range. The threats to their survival as a species continue and they are currently listed as *Vulnerable* in NSW. This means if we do not act to reverse the trend of decline, Australians risk experiencing the disappearance of koalas beginning with localized extinctions. The main threats to koalas are from habitat clearing, road strike and dog attack but if we all act together to protect the habitat of our koalas we can reverse the trend and ensure the survival of this iconic species for their own sake and for the sake of future generations.



For more information about
koalas

Friends of the Koala
www.friendsofthekoala.org

The Koala Foundation
www.savethekoala.com



Community Koala Watch, developed by
Kathryn Kermode

KOALA COUNTRY

Kyogle's Koala Trail

The Homeleigh Mountain Scenic Drive offers Kyogle District visitors the best opportunity for koala watching. Koala habitat lines much of the roadside verge, supporting a large and well documented koala population. There are ample spots along this picturesque drive to safely pull your car off the road and try your eye at spotting koalas. The expansive views to the mountains extending beyond a quiet rural landscape offering visitors a great view of Kyogle country.

Photographs by Kathryn Kermode.



Look out for signs of koalas



Long scratches will indicate koalas are using particular trees



Koala scats will tell you a koala may be nearby

It can take a little bit of time to locate a koala in the wild, they are very well disguised and as they spend much of their time sleeping, they do little to draw attention to themselves. The presence of scratches and scats will indicate recent activity. The tall white trunks of the Forest Red Gums with their open canopies are often easier to spot a koala in than the dense crowns of the Tallowwoods. To begin your search scan the trees for a large round furry lump. Koalas have evolved with the gum trees and blend in beautifully so don't expect them to be obvious. They will often sleep on main branch or fork near the trunk, heading into the canopy to feed at dusk and dawn.

Koala—*Phascolarctos cinereus*

Meaning

ash-coloured pouched bear

Koalas are fussy eaters and prefer the leaves of only a few species of Eucalypt. The main koala trees around Homeleigh mountain are Forest Red Gum *E. tereticornis*, Tallowwood, *E. microrrys*, Northern Grey Ironbark, *E. siderophloia*, Brushbox, *Lophostemon convertus*, Pink Bloodwood, *Corymbia intermedia* scattered with Rough Barked Apple, *Angophora floribunda*. Koalas will use all the trees available to them in their home range often spending their days sleeping in *Acacias*, *Callistemons* and *Casuarinas*.

Spring, is a busy time for koalas

The breeding season Sept—Feb is a busy time for koalas and it is a great time to see them as well as to be extra careful in areas where they live. The season commences in spring with the bellowing calls of the males. Young males will be leaving the home range of their mother and dispersing to find their own territory in an area where there are koala feed trees and other koalas. Young joeys may stay with their mother for a year or two and the females show great tenderness towards their young.



Joeys cling to their mothers back until they find independence.

Community Koala Watch

The Community Koala Watch (CKW) encourages local knowledge and awareness of Kyogle's koala populations and has been recording information about the koalas living alongside our community since early 2009. The roadside verge of the Homeleigh Mountain scenic loop road provides a small and narrow window into the habitat of the koalas which are located by patient observation and sometimes luck. Each koala is identified and observed according to their individual characteristics. Sightings are mapped and recorded as digital images which are uploaded to a web album for each individual animal, these albums can be accessed online at the following link.

The Koala Gallery

<http://picasaweb.google.com/k.komodo>

