



Annual Report 2022 2023



Bangalow Koalas Inc. ABN 89 612 034 324



About Bangalow Koalas

Founded in 2016, Bangalow Koalas Inc. is a registered environmental organisation that's committed to protecting and saving our Northern Rivers koalas by creating a Koala Wildlife Corridor.

As a registered charity and voluntary community group, to achieve its aim, Bangalow Koalas works with local, state and federal government agencies, NGOs, Landcare groups, fellow community groups, landholders and the local community.

The Organisation's Goal

Bangalow Koalas Inc's vision is to educate, involve and inspire the community. Helping communities restore and connect fragmented habitat into corridors for koalas and other wildlife.

We achieve this through community planting days, educational workshops such as Koala Health and Habitat workshops, Kiddy workshops and Landholder workshops. And also by involving community at fundraising and awareness stalls, farmers' markets and regular e-Newsletters, database reachouts and social media interactions.

Our hands-on community-based response to the climate crisis is connecting individuals, families, communities, indigenous and Landcare groups in a collaborative effort to give us all hope, especially our children, that change is possible.

With the organisation's main goal being the establishment of the Koala Wildlife Corridor, it's on track to plant 500,000 trees by the end of 2025.

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Achievements

Trees and Plantings

Properties planted since 2019:

119 plantings on 90 properties in six shires

Plantings 2022/2023 financial year in the following areas:

Myrtle Creek, Dyraba, Clunes, Bangalow, South Gundurimba, Clovass, Possum Creek, Tintenbar, Binna Burra, Bungawalbin, Larnook, Goolmangar, Tucki Tucki, Jiggi, Hogarth Range, Backmede, Meerschaum Vale, Bexhill, Wardell, Doonbah, Fairy Hill.

Trees supplied to the following areas:

Fernleigh, Burringbar, Stony Chute, Pumpenbil, Bentley, Fawcetts Plain, Possum Creek, Wadeville, Ewingsdale, Lismore.

Total trees planted/supplied 2022/2023 financial year:

- By the end of the 2022 fiscal year we had planted/supplied 82,968 trees plus 25,736 flood infill trees.
- In the first half of 2023 we had planted/supplied 54,535 trees.
- During the 2022/2023 financial period, 91,748 trees were planted/supplied.

Workshops

- Landholder Workshop: Casino, July 2022
- Kiddy Workshop: Newrybar Public School, August 2022
- Health and Habitat Workshop: Knockrow, October 2022

Stalls

- Newrybar Fete: August 2022
- The Farm Ewingsdale fundraiser: September 2022
- Green Living Expo Alstonville: December 2022
- Bangalow Markets Christmas Eve parking: December 2022
- Summerland/BK stall: May 2023

Presentations Talks & Conferences

- Long Lunch presentation/fundraiser: August 2022
- Kyogle Koala Workshop: September 2022
- GER Connecting People, Connecting Nature Conference – Brisbane: October 2022
- Bangalow Garden Club: March 2023
- Koala Conservation Australia conference – Port Macquarie: May 2023
- One Tree Planted/Felix Mobile panel – Alexandria: May 2023



Achievements continued

Meetings

- InGrained Board: August 2022
- Jo Green – Koala Strategy: August 2022
- WWF – donor meeting: August 2022
- Tamara Smith: September 2022
- IFAW site visit, Hilary: October 2022
- WWF – USA sponsor: November 2022
- Earthscapes – Flood assessments: January 2023
- DPE: February 2023
- WWF meeting re properties: February 2023
- Jagun Alliance meeting: February 2023
- Githabul Rangers meeting: March 2023
- Broken Head Koala group/Byron Council/BK/FOK re signage: March 2023
- Northern Rivers Koala Network meetings – Linda Swankie represented us
- Koala Recovery Team Community Advisory Committee: April 2023
- Wildbnb/Minyumai: June 2023
- WWF audit: June 2023

Awards Received

- Australian Geographic Society – Conservationist of the Year 2022: October 2022
- Koala Conservation Australia – Community Group Award: May 2023

Membership

- 124 financial members
- 714 database members



President's Report



What a year 2022/2023 has been. We recovered from the devastating flooding events earlier in 2022, where the rain didn't stop until June 2022, to finish off the fiscal year of 2022 planting 82,968 trees plus an additional 25,736 flood recovery infills.

We then began plantings again in March 2023 and have planted every month since. This year the issue was severe frosts at some of our sites but luckily overall it wasn't too bad. If it is not drought, bushfires, floods, it's frost... all we have left to deal with is a locust plague and we'll have covered everything!!!

In 2022/2023 we planted 39,130 trees for the final third year of our initial WWF Regenerate Australia – Koalas Forever grant. Thankfully, in August 2023 we signed another WWF Regenerate Australia grant for \$1.21 million for two years, taking us through to 2025.

We've also launched our 500,000 Reasons for Hope campaign, which is our goal to plant 500,000 trees by the end of 2025. From humble, small-scale beginnings, now we're planting hope on a game-changing scale – hope for koalas, hope for the planet and, in the face of climate change, hope for mental health and wellbeing of our younger generations.

Since early 2020 we have developed a partnership with One Tree Planted which has enabled us to plant the number of trees we have over the last four years and we are looking forward to working with them ongoing into the future. For 2023, One Tree Planted have also co-funded all our plantings at \$2.18 per tree, which means the ability to make all our grant funding go much further.

NSW State Government DPE funded the growing of 50,000 seedlings in 2022 for this year's plantings and will be again for our 2024 planting season. Thanks to Humphrey at Eastern Forest Nursery for nurturing the seedlings and Mark Wilson from Friends of the Koala Native Nursery for lovingly nurturing other koala and rainforest trees. Thanks also to Mark Dunphy and his wonderful crew at Firewheel Nursery for supplying all our other species required, thanks to funding from One Tree Planted.

In the last financial year, we were able to plant as a result of these grants:

- WWF Australia's Regenerate Australia Program
- IFAW
- InGrained Foundation
- NSW State Government DPE
- Allied Express
- Seaton Foundation
- The Australian Federal Government
- Afends
- King Furniture.

With these collaborations, and in particular the WWF Australia funding, it therefore comes as no surprise that 2023 saw us reach a monumental milestone – more than 300,000 trees planted since July 2019.

Also, I have been working hard trying to fundraise to keep employing Linda Swankie two days a week, as our admin/ecological support.

We updated a Gofundme page in May 2023 to try and raise \$40,000 to employ Linda, and although it has only raised \$7,140 so far, we did get other donations direct to us including another \$10,264 from a fabulous member who wishes to remain anonymous, \$10,000 off the Lloyd Martin Family Foundation, and \$5,180 from Sims Ltd.

This help is essential for Bangalow Koalas to continue to grow and thrive into the future and can never be underestimated. I am truly thankful to have Linda take so much pressure off me as we continue to grow and thrive.

As always, it was a busy year applying for grants, writing reports (and now that we have so many grants, that means even more reports!!), administering the grants and hosting events such as Landholder, Koala Health and Habitat and

President's Report continued

Kiddy Workshops. We presented at the Great Eastern Ranges 'Connecting People, Connecting Nature' conference at Brisbane in October 2022 and then the week later I was down in Sydney at the Gala Awards night for Australian Geographic Society where I picked up Conservationist of the Year award 2022. Such a huge honour and the best night of my life to receive this prestigious award, I was so honoured and humbled. Linda Swankie also represented Bangalow Koalas at the Koala Conservation Australia Conference at Port Macquarie in May this year, where unbeknownst to us ahead of time, we picked up another award – Community Group Award – which to Linda's shock and horror, meant she had to go and accept the award from Minister for Environment, Penny Sharpe.

We are now partnered with three Indigenous groups, Minyumai Rangers, Githabul Rangers and Jagun Alliance. We have been working with all three groups doing maintenance, plantings and mentoring of the Minyumai Rangers. It has been a wonderful experience and we only hope we can get more funding from the Australian Federal Government to continue this work into the future.

We would not be in the position we are today planting hope on a game-changing scale without our trusted partnership with the wonderful East Coast Bush Regeneration. We are also working with the Lennon Bros Bush Regeneration, Jake and Paddy Lennon, as well as James Middlemiss from Paddock to Rainforest Bush Regeneration, which has allowed us to keep up with the huge numbers we are planting. We keep demanding more of them and they keep delivering. We couldn't have had such a successful year without them all.

As always there are many people that make up Bangalow Koalas that I would like to thank. The volunteers who turn up to planting after planting, help with fundraising, man market stalls and knit koalas. Thank you isn't enough to express our appreciation for your support in bringing our crazy aspirations to life.

A big thank you too, to those who find time in their busy schedules to contribute their expertise – Jeannine and Dom from 2 Camels for their ongoing creative help; Greg Legg-Bagg and Saul Goodwin for photography, videos, advertising, marketing and big ideas; Karen Fittall, still our wordsmith extraordinaire; our clever ecologists, Linda Swankie and Renae Baker; Lindy our Secretary/committee member who with her partner Phil has been manning farmers' markets and volunteering at plantings and helping me out in the office; Seamus Faithfull our tree man for all of his expertise and advice regarding tree species and selection; Charlotte Gittins who is still working remotely helping with our financials, helping write newsletters, and so much more. And last but not least, the father and son duo of East Coast Bush Regeneration, Rossco and Seamus Faithfull, for their sense of humour, indispensable work ethic and selective answering of my calls and emails, Jake and Paddy Lennon for continuing to support us and for the first time this year James Middlemiss for stepping up to assist us plant all these hope trees.

Finally, to our landholders, we are always grateful for your willingness to be a part of this mission.

Yours in all things koalas,

Linda Sparrow





Financial Report

2022
2023

Balance Sheet

Bangalow Koalas INC

As at 30 June 2023

	30 JUN 2023	30 JUN 2022
Assets		
Bank		
606 - AUD PayPal	211	137
602 - SCU - BK Admin ***4404	1,558	1,684
600 - SCU - BK Inc ***5257	834,805	794,356
605 - SCU - BK Public ***9501	4,007	6,037
603 - SCU - BK Tree ***4831	100	14,390
604 - SCU-DRCARD****540	1,147	1,618
Total Bank	841,829	818,221
Total Assets	841,829	818,221
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
800 - Accounts Payable	5,824	94,121
820 - GST	(32,308)	(2,113)
Total Current Liabilities	(26,483)	92,008
Total Liabilities	(26,483)	92,008
Net Assets	868,312	726,213
Accumulated Funds		
Current Year Earnings	142,099	120,471
960 - Retained Earnings	726,213	605,742
Total Accumulated Funds	868,312	726,213

Statement Of Income & Expenditure

Bangalow Koalas INC

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Revenue		
Donations Received	47,928	98,029
Fund Raising	232	-
Grants Received	1,151,831	824,399
Membership Fees	3,187	3,488
Other Revenue	143	3,856
Total Revenue	1,203,321	929,772
Operating Costs		
Cost of Goods Sold - Fundraising Expenses	(2,329)	-
Cost of Goods Sold - Advertising & Promotional Costs (grant related)	250	4,242
Cost of Goods Sold - Merchandising	(1,647)	3,003
Cost of Goods Sold - Planting & Maintenance Costs	932,120	667,871
Total Operating Costs	928,394	675,116
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	274,927	254,656
Overhead Costs		
Accounting & Audit Fees	4,154	6,855
Admin Support	26,640	43,407
Advertising & Marketing (non-grant)	4,047	4,054
Bank Fees	55	40
Conferences	1,335	-
Consulting Fees	1,709	1,084
Donations & Subscriptions	-	450
Educational & Workshop Expenses (non grant)	502	-
Entertainment	-	119
Equipment	-	1,449
Facebook Advertising	2,142	907
General Expenses	107	-
Motor Vehicle Expenses	1,557	673
Office Expenses	1,312	1,184
Paypal Fees	182	311
Postage, Printing & Stationery	137	59
Project Management	82,094	69,276
Rent & Hire Costs	2,951	-
Repairs and Maintenance	-	2,175
Subscriptions	41	454
Telephone & Internet	3,406	1,605
Travel - National	455	83
Total Overhead Costs	132,828	134,186
Net Surplus (Deficit)	142,099	120,471



Acknowledgements

To all those who have volunteered their time and effort, donors from all over Australia and the world, and all the community groups that have supported us. And to the community and local government agencies who play a part in our success – Byron, Lismore and Ballina councils, Minyumai Rangers, Githabul Rangers, Jagun Alliance, Brunswick Valley Landcare, Richmond Valley Landcare, Border Ranges-Richmond Valley Landcare, Friends of the Koala, Bangalow Lions, Bangalow Community Children’s Centre, and Belinda Seaton to name a few.

Without the support, guidance, mapping, sightings and research sharing that we’ve gratefully received from every one of those organisations and local government bodies, we most certainly would not be where we are today.

Our Committee

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. We had a change of guard in May this year when our Secretary Lynne French resigned due to spending more time in Brisbane than down here, so Lindy Stacker once again stepped in to fill the void. Thank you, Lynne for all your work, and thank you Lindy for coming back to the role.

President: Linda Sparrow

Vice President: Pete Doherty

Treasurer: Ishwin Thind

Secretary: Lynne French/Lindy Stacker

Public Officer: Ishwin Thind

Committee member: Greg Legg-Bagg

Committee member: Lindy Stacker

Committee member: Dr Jane Reffell





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