

RESTORING & REVEGETATING KOALA HABITAT

Central Tablelands Landcare Inc



PROTECTING BUSHFIRE AFFECTED KOALA HABITAT AND WILDLIFE REFUGIA.

The issue

To revegetate areas where koalas have been sighted and provide flora stepping stones to enable safe movements through their wildlife corridors. We needed to recruit volunteer land holders who were willing to plant and protect tubestock for the 'long game'. This project would not show instant results. The challenge is to ensure that there will be fodder and shade trees available for the koalas of the next generations.

We have a little known koala population near Bathurst. Koalas are regularly sighted on properties and some koalas, mainly young males, have been taken to WIRES as they have been injured either crossing paddocks and coming into contact with a curious cow, or being collected by vehicles as they try to cross roads.

The koalas' habitat was being compromised through urban development and increased road traffic. As the drought progressed we saw their fodder trees being severely impacted and then the smoke from the Black Summer bushfires also affected their habitat.

The solution

The Central Tablelands koala population is fortunate for a number of reasons.

One is that CTLC has its own nursery where we grow tubestock from locally sourced seeds and it is staffed by a wonderful manager and her team of volunteers.

Another is, **we received funding** from the LLBGR grant which enabled us to grow **5000 tubestock** to distribute to landholders to plant in the koala area. We also held some seed collecting and propagating workshops.

We put the call out through our newsletter as well as local radio and TV news. The response was amazing. From small landholders to larger properties, people are willing to plant tubestock to ensure the continued existence of the local koalas.

Watch the Prime7 news item here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=658577908628323&ref=sharing>

The impact

Our community worked together to protect the local koala population through revegetating their environment. Over **30 landholders** have planted out **5000 tubestock** ensuring the koala population continues to inhabit the Central Tablelands.

An indirect benefit of this project is the increase in biodiversity that will occur due to these plantings.

Increasing awareness of the koalas in our area will lead to more on-ground works protecting this lesser known population. This resulted in 2 fully booked *Seed collecting and propagation* workshops. The information gained at these workshops will enable people to collect their own seeds and propagate them.

This initiative made possible by the NSW Landcare Program. watch people connect over their shared interest in supporting protecting NSW habitat.



Key facts

- The koala is a perennial favourite with everyone. Its survival is of the utmost importance for rural and urban Australians.
- People care about their environment and are happy and willing to help where and when they can- "Thinking global, acting local"

Project Partners



People were shown how to use the **ISpy Koala app** to record koala sightings in the area. These recordings will contribute to the up-to-date information needed for ongoing protection