

## Sandy Point Koala Action Project – achievements & highlights

Sandy Point's *Koala Action Project* is part of WHiSPA (Wildlife and Habitat in Sandy Point Action) Project, which is about protecting our native wildlife and improving their natural habitat in and around Sandy Point. A community Koala Action Plan was developed. Here's some highlights of what's been achieved from 2017 – 2020:

### What have we done?

### Achievements

1/ Community education through *Living with Koalas* brochures, signage, fridge magnets, community information sessions and stalls and website information:  
<https://www.sandypoint.vic.au/koalas.html>



- ✓ We as a community have a stronger understanding of our koalas, to better inform our future management actions
- ✓ And we even had a visit by Gardening Australia!  
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/koala-corridor/12317612>

2/ Mapping koala habitat and planting new wildlife corridors for habitat and koala food



- ✓ Over **2,700 trees** planted over more than **2.5 hectares** of farm land, coastal reserve, and private blocks

3/ Doing a bi-annual community koala count to estimate koala population numbers



- ✓ We've estimated a local population of **50 koalas** (between 30-60)

4/ Completing a genetic study on our koala population in partnership with Federation University



- ✓ Genetic research suggests that Sandy Point koalas are most likely a remnant population of the larger South Gippsland (Strzelecki) koala population. But having been isolated for a long time, they have a low level of genetic diversity.

5/ Developing a Sandy Point Koalas Community Action Plan



- ✓ A Community Koala Action Plan is in place, providing a legacy for future koala management in our area.

6/ New volunteers involved in working bees, planting days and koala management volunteering



- ✓ Over **100 volunteers** engaged in the project over 3 years
- ✓ Fundraising for our local wildlife shelters and carers, who do amazing work



Koala photo: Josh Pawley

