

MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday 27 April 2018

GET INVOLVED IN THE 2018 ANNUAL KOALA COUNT

The Annual Koala Count will be held Sunday 15th April 2018 and Narrandera Shire Council is calling on volunteers of all ages to assist in the search for koalas.

The Koala Count is a National Parks event held under the supervision of NSW Parks and Wildlife Service Griffith and starts at 10am in the Narrandera Nature Reserve and finishes with a Narrandera Rotary Club sausage sizzle at 12noon.

This year marks 46 years since the re-introduction of koalas to the bushland at the edge of Narrandera, starting in 1972 when the first koalas were release into the newly established reserve. A second release was also conducted in 1974, totalling an overall release of 19 koalas into the reserve.

President of the Koala Regeneration Committee, Ken Murphy said, "While there have been threats to koala populations in other parts of the state, the Narrandera colony has been very successful and the population is expanding back along the river."

This year marks the 20th koala count, after the annual event began in 1998 and the counts have continued on a regular basis, except in particular circumstances when floods have occurred.

"The koala spotting is a family fun activity which also allows for a check on the health of the flourishing colony and we are looking forward to a good attendance on the day," said Mr Murphy.

Volunteers need to be at the meeting point 500 metres beyond the entrance of the Nature Reserve at 10am wearing sun protection and sturdy shoes, sign posts will guide the public to the meeting point. Don't forget, it's a good idea to carry water.

The "count" is a great family activity and attracts spotters from throughout the Riverina. Remember to be equipped with solid walking shoes, hat, water and sunscreen on what promises to be a fun day for all involved!!

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Precis or Summary: Get Involved in the Annual Koala Count			
Attachments	Nil	Embargoed: N/A	
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