

KOALAS OF PHILLIP ISLAND (MILLOWL)

A joey develops inside its mother's pouch for around six months.

It spends another six months staying on or close to its mum, sometimes riding on her back.

Gurrborra is the Bunurong name for koala and **koala** itself is an Aboriginal name for the species, from Country around Sydney.

A gristly bone plate acts like a built-in bean bag, allowing koalas to sit comfortably in trees.

Large ears and a well-developed nose ensure great hearing and a powerful sense of smell. These senses are required to detect predators or threats, and males will also listen for the bellowing challenge from others.

Aside from sleeping, another favourite activity is eating! Koalas can feed for hours on eucalypt leaves everyday, sometimes they can eat up to about one-tenth of their body weight in a single day.

Strong, sharp claws assist in climbing and grooming.

Eucalyptus leaves are low in nutrients hence the koalas' low energy lifestyle — they sleep for around 20 hours out of every 24.

FAVOURITE FOODS

Manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*)

Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)

Swamp gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*)



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Victoria's Koala Conservation Journey: FROM ORPHANS TO PRESERVATION

THE BEGINNING

Koalas were first introduced to Phillip Island (Millowl) and French Island in the **1870s**.

These koalas were orphans rescued from logging activities and survivors of hunting for their pelts, which continued in Australia until **1927**.

In the early **1900s**, koalas thrived on Phillip Island (Millowl) thanks to ample suitable bushland forest.

However, **habitat pressure from farming, tourism, and residential development began in the 1940s** leading to a decline in the koala population on the island.

TODAY

REFUGE, RESEARCH AND REHAB

The **KOALA CONSERVATION RESERVE** now serves as a refuge for a small number of koalas.

Managed semi-wild enclosures at the reserve aim to provide a natural existence for resident koalas.

The reserve plays a crucial role in education, research, and tourism.

The reserve's koala population recently participated in a study on the effectiveness of mange medication.

Additionally, the reserve has the capacity to receive and care for injured koalas from across Victoria, offering medium to long-term rehabilitation.



BUSHFIRE SURVIVORS

Koalas that survived the 2019/20 bushfires received critical care and recovered at the Koala Conservation Reserve for nearly a year before being released back into the wild.

Both the studies on disease treatment and bushfire recovery are vital for the conservation of this species and allows our pool of island koalas to benefit the mainland populations.

HOW TO HELP KOALAS

UNDERSTAND YOUR PAPER PRODUCTS

Choose recycled paper products and look for FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) approved products.

These products come from sustainable plantations which are purposefully grown to be harvested.



BUSHLAND BIODIVERSITY

The Koala Conservation Reserve and the Oswin Roberts Reserve are among the last areas of remnant bushland left on Phillip Island (Millowl). This is critical habitat for koalas and other species such as wallabies, echidnas and many native birds.