

# KOALA SMART<sup>®</sup>

A Project Of The Tacking Point Lions Club



## Teachers' Guide

All of us on the Koala Smart Team are delighted you are here with us.

Koalas are an iconic and important part of our Australian identity. Yet they are facing possible extinction and now, more than ever, need our protection. So what do we do?

Koala Smart has been created to **share knowledge, inspire creativity, and motivate change in communities throughout Australia.**

Koala conservation is complex but Koala Smart is about looking to the future with hope. Students CAN take an active role in caring for their environment while meeting targets set by the curriculum.

**The Koala Smart model is centered on making it easy for you, the teacher.**

At a glance, this TEACHER GUIDE shows you how Koala Smart works.

Page 1. The JOURNEY – simplifies the way forward.

Page 2. See an explanation of all SIX CORE LESSONS and their links to the curriculum.

Page 3. Access to the EXPERTS. See who we have interviewed to inspire and engage your students.

The goal is to take the lessons learned beyond the classroom. The size of the class or school or the age of the student is immaterial.

**Koala Smart schools have the potential to make an impact in their community. Koala Smart teachers are able to enrich their class time while simplifying the task of programming for the year.**

Koala Smart provides you the option to connect with our "Critical Friends": experts who can help your classroom through direct mentorship and expert knowledge to bring your concepts into your community.

**We have gathered everything you need in one place. The only thing missing right now is you and your students.**

Sincerely,



Janice McGilchrist  
Chair - KOALA SMART  
Port Macquarie – Tacking Point Lions Club

P.S. Got a question? Or want to share your ideas? Talk to us on email or via the website.



[info@koalasmart.org.au](mailto:info@koalasmart.org.au)



[www.koalasmart.org.au](http://www.koalasmart.org.au)

# INSPIRE & LEARN

1

Tune In  
&  
Build Empathy

Reading  
Writing

Engage with experts

Gather knowledge  
by

2

6 CORE LESSONS



3

11 key expert profiles  
& interviews



4

DECIDE ON FOCUS  
+  
PATH

Student takes  
charge of learning

5

Design thinking

OR

Research & Inquiry

6

TEST & SHARE


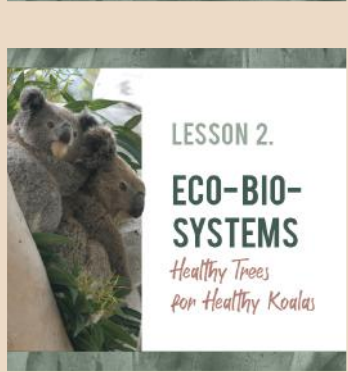


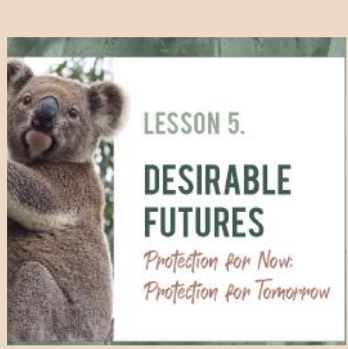



Submit  
your  
solutions












MAKE  
CHANGE  
REAL!

7

REFLECT & DREAM BIG!

Lesson/Theme	What's it about?	Links to:
 <p>LESSON 1. <b>COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL</b> <i>Koala Home Ranges</i></p>	<p><b>Koala Home Ranges</b> How habitat loss and disruption of one koala affects a whole group of koalas, and why this may not be visible to us (unless we learn to look!)</p>	<p><b>Science</b> – living things and environment / genetic diversity <b>HASS/HSIE</b> – geography / mapping</p>
 <p>LESSON 2. <b>ECO-BIO-SYSTEMS</b> <i>Healthy Trees for Healthy Koalas</i></p>	<p><b>Healthy Trees for Healthy Koalas</b> Why healthy trees mean healthy koalas. <b>Hint:</b> it's what they eat, and it has a lot to do with soil and climate.</p>	<p><b>Science</b> – living things and environment / genetic diversity <b>HASS/HSIE</b> – geography / mapping</p>
 <p>LESSON 3. <b>FOREST SPIRITS</b> <i>The Heart of the Bush</i></p>	<p><b>The Heart of the Bush</b> History and spirituality and their links to koalas. Ancient links to koala and totem. Ways in which people respond to the fascination koalas hold for them.</p>	<p><b>English</b> – persuasive texts and oral debate <b>The Arts</b> – Fine Arts, Media Arts, Drama – interpret and create art</p>
 <p>LESSON 4. <b>OUR PLANET, OUR SELVES</b> <i>The Koala Connection</i></p>	<p><b>The Koala Connection</b> Choosing and exploring one of the complex connections between koalas and the wider environment.</p>	<p><b>Science</b> – biology, ecology, environmental science, plant science <b>English</b> – plan, draft and publish informative texts</p>
 <p>LESSON 5. <b>DESIRABLE FUTURES</b> <i>Protection for Now: Protection for Tomorrow</i></p>	<p><b>Protection for Now: Protection for Tomorrow</b> Sometimes things aren't so simple... students investigate the courses of action realistically available to a series of specific people in a fictional regional town. How will they use policy and planning to protect koala habitat?</p>	<p><b>HASS</b> – Geography: Social and spatial geography <b>HASS</b> – Civics and Citizenship: local and state civic processes <b>English</b> – plan, draft and publish informative texts including oral presentations</p>
 <p>LESSON 6. <b>CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE</b> <i>Shout it to the Treetops</i></p>	<p><b>Shout It to the Treetops</b> The final project! Students choose one thread, theme or message about koalas and conservation, then take the sources provided and create either a podcast or an article about koalas that informs or persuades.</p>	<p><b>English</b> – plan, draft and publish persuasive and informative texts <b>The Arts / Media Arts</b> – creating media productions <b>Science</b> – communicating science concepts and information <b>Careers</b> – explore careers in planning and conservation (Secondary)</p>

To introduce learners to a range of experts, perspectives and interested people related to the issue who set up their wish for how the issue might be solved. These interviews and profiles show the diverse people and careers involved in saving the koala.

			Curriculum Learning Areas	Cross-Curriculum Priorities
Name	Title	Themes/Topics		
	Rebecca Montague-Drake	Koala Ecologist	Science, radio-tracking,soil science,trees, climate change,ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science</li><li>• Technology</li><li>• Geography</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li><li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures</li></ul>
	Linda Sparrow	President, Bangalow koalas	Campaigning, rescue, regeneration & tree planting, koala corridors, traffic safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics and Citizenship</li><li>• Geography</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Margot Law	Project Officer	Regeneration & tree planting, policy & planning, mapping ,citizen science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics and Citizenship</li><li>• Geography</li><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Martin Smith	Parks Ranger	Regeneration & tree planting, koala ranges, genetic diversity, bushfire, climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geography</li><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Billie Roberts	Senior Project Officer, Saving our Species	Climate change, flying foxes, ecology, planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	John Turbill	Threatened Species Officer	Sniffer dogs, mapping, scat, koala diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science</li><li>• Technology</li><li>• Geography</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Kailas Wild	Arborist and Koala Rescuer	Aussie icons, rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Cheyne Flanagan	Clinical Director, Port Macquarie Koala Hospital	Koala health, wildlife biology,threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics and Citizenship</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Chels Marshall	Cultural Systems Ecologist	Aboriginal connection to land / culture, biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HAAS-History</li><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li><li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures</li></ul>
	Jim Kinkad	President, Tregeagle Landcare group	Volunteering, tree planting, school programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics and Citizenship</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>
	Mark Wilson	Trees Officer, Friends of the Koala programs	Volunteering, tree planting, koala carers, community action, landholder liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Civics and Citizenship</li><li>• Science</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>