

Noosa News

Tewantin – Boreen Point – Kin Kin – Cooran – Pomona – Cooroy – Eumundi – Doonan – Marcupia – Sunrise & Sunshine Beach



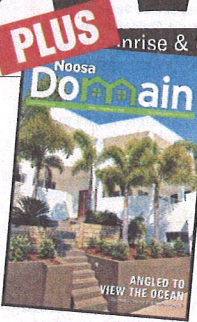
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The latest in Domain



THRILL HILL: The Noosa Hill Climb roars to life this weekend at Tewantin.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Drivers hyped for king of The Hill

THERE will be a need for speed, acceleration and altitude at the Noosa Beach Classic Car Club's 14th annual Historic Noosa Hill Climb at Gyndler Dr at Tewantin tomorrow and Sunday.

Throw in a mountain of attitude from the gun field and excitement levels do not get any more elevated than this.

One of the premier hill climb events in Australia, "The Hill" takes no prisoners as some of the racing cream have not always risen to the top quite as smoothly

as they would like

Past class acts to roar up the range in full-throttle anger have included Dick and Steve Johnson.

The large field of racers will be driving the likes of XU1s, Jags, Minis, Fiats, GTs, Jags and open-wheel hill climb specials.

There are several spectator areas to catch the action with catering and licensed bar.

Organisers say car enthusiasts are free to wander around the pits and talk to drivers and get up close to the cars.

Racing starts at 8 am and finishes about 4 pm.

Parking is available at the Tewantin Sports Ground with a shuttle bus to all entrances, with buses run from 8am to 5pm on both days.

As the event is held within a National Park dogs are not permitted and smoking is also prohibited at the event.

Enjoy the thrills at The Hill with \$15 day tickets and \$20 weekend tickets available at the gates. Info: www.noosacarclub.com.au

Noosa road-kill sparks carer outcry

Alarm at koala carnage

By PETER GARDINER

NOOSA'S koala-killing road tragically claimed another victim on Saturday night, a strapping, healthy male called Bedford whose chance of helping his species defy local extinction was abruptly ended by a car bumper after 7pm.

And worse was to follow with a former road victim Prince Valiant struck on Noosa's Eenie Creek Rd on Tuesday morning and rushed to Australia Zoo, where it is hoped he will survive injuries including head trauma and a broken clavicle.

Six-year-old, 8.3kg Bedford became the third koala to be struck and killed along Eenie Creek Rd in 13 months and the fifth fatality since the relatively new road was built to connect Noosaville to Sunshine Beach and Noosa Heads.

For Carolyn Beaton, co-founder

of the online Koala Diaries, this was another costly blow in the battle to save Noosa fast-disappearing koalas.

Ms Beaton said horrified motorists watched helplessly as the koala was struck trying to cross the road not far from the Noosa Civic shopping centre.

"Two motorists immediately pulled over to render assistance," Ms Beaton said.

"Sadly, being bumper bar height, koalas rarely survive car hits at speed."

The koala, christened Bedford as it lay helpless by the roadside, was rushed by the Sunshine Coast Koala and Wildlife Rescue to Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, but died overnight from internal injuries.

Ray Chambers of SCKWR had travelled about 500km that day across south-east Queensland to rescue four other koalas.

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Planting dismay

AN ENVIRONMENTAL organisation has called for an overhaul of the vegetation management system on Fraser Island and labelled the artificial plantation at Lake McKenzie as a misguided attempt at beautification.

Fraser Island Defenders Organisation will put a petition before parliament this month asking that all trees planted by rangers at Lake McKenzie beach be removed.

The petition, put forward by FIDO president John Sinclair, also called for the removal of fences around the trees as they seriously detracted from the natural beauty. Department of Environment and Resource Great Sandy Region manager Ross Belcher said Mr Sinclair was on the community committee that supported the project which supported planting and fencing vegetation.

Visit www.parliament.qld.gov.au to see the petition.

Editor's note



IN Tuesday's Noosa News we reported the concerns of a local family who questioned council permission given for the lopping and chopping of Gum trees in their neighbourhood.

Now we have to report koala deaths. It's impossible not to connect the general clearing of trees with these tragic accidents.

■ Noise and red tape. Some people say they are sick to death of red tape, while others can't get enough of it.

Live music, talking parrots, big Gum trees – they don't just go - community members have asked government to intervene.

■ Don't forget to send us your local legend nomination.

- Gail Forrer

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Road to ruin

Noosa koalas battle against extinction

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He said the death of Bedford was gut-wrenching and galling. "What really was tough to take about this was that he was so healthy - he had no chlamydia," Mr Chambers said. "I go home from every one of these call outs and cry."

Ms Beaton has been in contact with the Sunshine Coast council about improving fencing protection along Eenie Ck Rd as part of an overall survival management plan for the three small sub-populations of koalas living in the area.

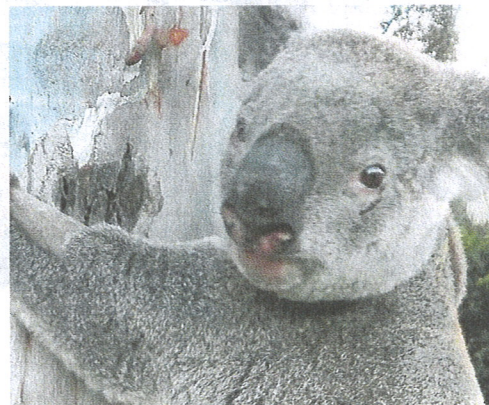
She said Prince Valiant had been released at Noosa Springs last December after being hit by a car - a painful lesson that failed to install road sense.

"This is the second time this Noosa boy has been hit by a car in his short life," she said. "Fragmentation is death to the koala.

"Compounding that issue, koala-proof fencing exists in only a couple of sections east of Monks Bridge (on Eenie Creek Rd) and that is often compromised by overhanging tree branches that need regular maintenance.

"The only (other) known koala to have survived a car hit on Eenie Creek Rd with its 80 km speed limit, has been koala Footscray," Ms Beaton said.

Footscray suffered a broken collarbone on September 9



SAFE HAVEN: Footscray at his December release.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

after being struck at the eastern end of the road where it meets Heathland Dr on the approach to Sunshine Beach.

"He was released within the Noosa Springs resort precinct on the banks of Lake Weyba only two weeks ago," Ms Beaton said.

The resort is considered to be the last remaining "semi-safe" release site in the district by the koala rescuers.

Ms Beaton said the Noosa koala population affected by the road, was once significant but koala numbers are now so low that "their long-term viability is very unlikely without management intervention".

Ms Beaton said to achieve a sustainable koala population in the Noosa Biosphere Reserve, a multi-faceted koala recovery and existing management plan

involving some of Australia's leading koala experts, needs to be implemented.

"The plan mirrors several of the key recommendations that came out of the recent senate inquiry that investigated the health, status and sustainability of Australia's koala population over several months," she said.

"We know we are on the right track and that the experts we have waiting in the wings can greatly improve the poor situation for koalas that exists here presently, but we need a financial commitment to make it happen.

"Our local, state and federal governments are not answering the call and I fear that if we cannot give koalas a future within our Biosphere they do not have a future anywhere," Carolyn said.

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Noosa News is printed by APN Print, 54 Pioneer Road, Vandina, Qld, for Sunshine Coast Newspaper Co Pty Ltd (ABN 56009 795 859) of Newspaper Place, Maroochydore, Queensland 4558, an APN Australian Publishing publication and has a CAB Audited circulation of 25 722* (*CAB October 2010 to March 2011) The Sunshine Coast Newspaper Co. Pty. Ltd Community Newspapers also publishes Coolool & North Shore News, Nambour Weekly, Maroochy Weekly, Buderim Chronicle (incorporating Buderim Weekly), Kawana Weekly, Caloundra Weekly (incorporating Caloundra City News), The Range News, Caboolture News, Island & Mainland News and Brisbane Weekly



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