

# Biosphere Page

Please email your stories to: [noosaed@scnews.com.au](mailto:noosaed@scnews.com.au).

## Thanks for the reminder

### Urgent action needed to help our koalas

By ALEX HARRIS

I APPLAUD Jutta's letter to the editor (Noosa News, March 13) calling for readers to take action with regard to koalas.

There are, however, difficulties in declaring how many or what percentage of koalas we have lost when no one was actually counting or mapping koalas prior to the creation of [koaladiaries.com.au](http://koaladiaries.com.au), launched in February 2010.

There were three questions I set out to answer with the creation of [koaladiaries.com.au](http://koaladiaries.com.au):

How many koalas are there?

Where do they live?

In what general condition?

[Koaladiaries.com.au](http://Koaladiaries.com.au) is a valuable tool for all levels of

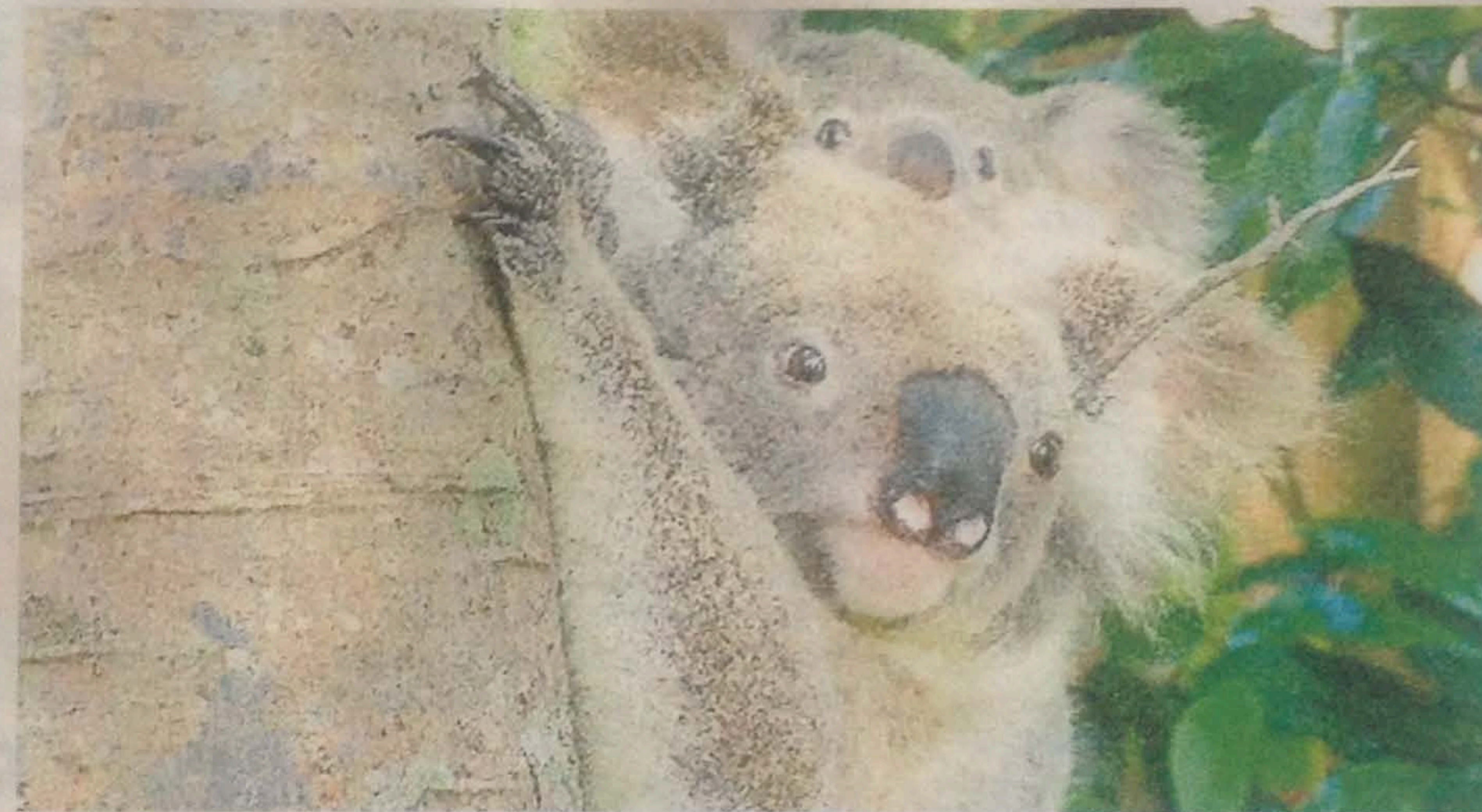
government, researchers, conservation activists and interested individuals, in that it seeks to answer those questions with the help of the community.

A problem might arise, however, when that information is not accurately quoted.

First, in the two years since launching, there have been 377 sightings in the Sunshine Coast Council area of alive, dead, sick and injured koalas, with cause of death and injury, reported on [koaladiaries.com.au](http://koaladiaries.com.au).

Have a look at the map to see the hot spots for deaths and injuries and adjust your night-driving habits accordingly.

While there are duplicate sightings recorded for alive koalas, especially where



**FEEL THE LOVE:** Community action is needed to help koalas.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

people are looking out for them in Noosa National Park, Sunshine Beach and Peregrine Beach koala corridors, such duplicates are often easy to pick.

In some areas, such as Peregrine Beach, the community is familiar with the markings of their regular koalas and have

named them.

There is a search function within the member page that will reveal a great deal of information if one knows how to use it.

Enter a suburb name in the keyword field (ie, Noosa) and select any one of the variables that follow (such as dead by car) to get

an accurate picture of what has been reported by the community for a specific area.

For the record, there have been six sightings of mothers with joeys within the old Noosa shire boundaries in the past two years, with at least two of those likely to be the same

koalas, 10 individual and unrelated reports of babies, and another dozen individual reports of young.

So the real figure of sighted young koalas in the old Noosa shire in the past two years is closer to two dozen.

I urge you to do a search on the keyword, baby, for the photos.

You will fall in love with koalas again and again, as do I every time I view them.

And it will take a lot of love for koalas from the community to ensure the message to our lawmakers, as suggested by Jutta, is powerful and consistent enough to ensure they do something meaningful before it is too late.

The matter is urgent. Thank you, Jutta, for reminding us.

■ Alex Harris is the creator of [koaladiaries.com.au](http://koaladiaries.com.au) and co-founder of Koala Diaries. He is also the managing director of Digital Publishing Australia.

# Power Tools

