

# KOALA SMART – TEACHER ACTIVITY GUIDE FRAMEWORK

Idea 6 – Technology  
monitoring program

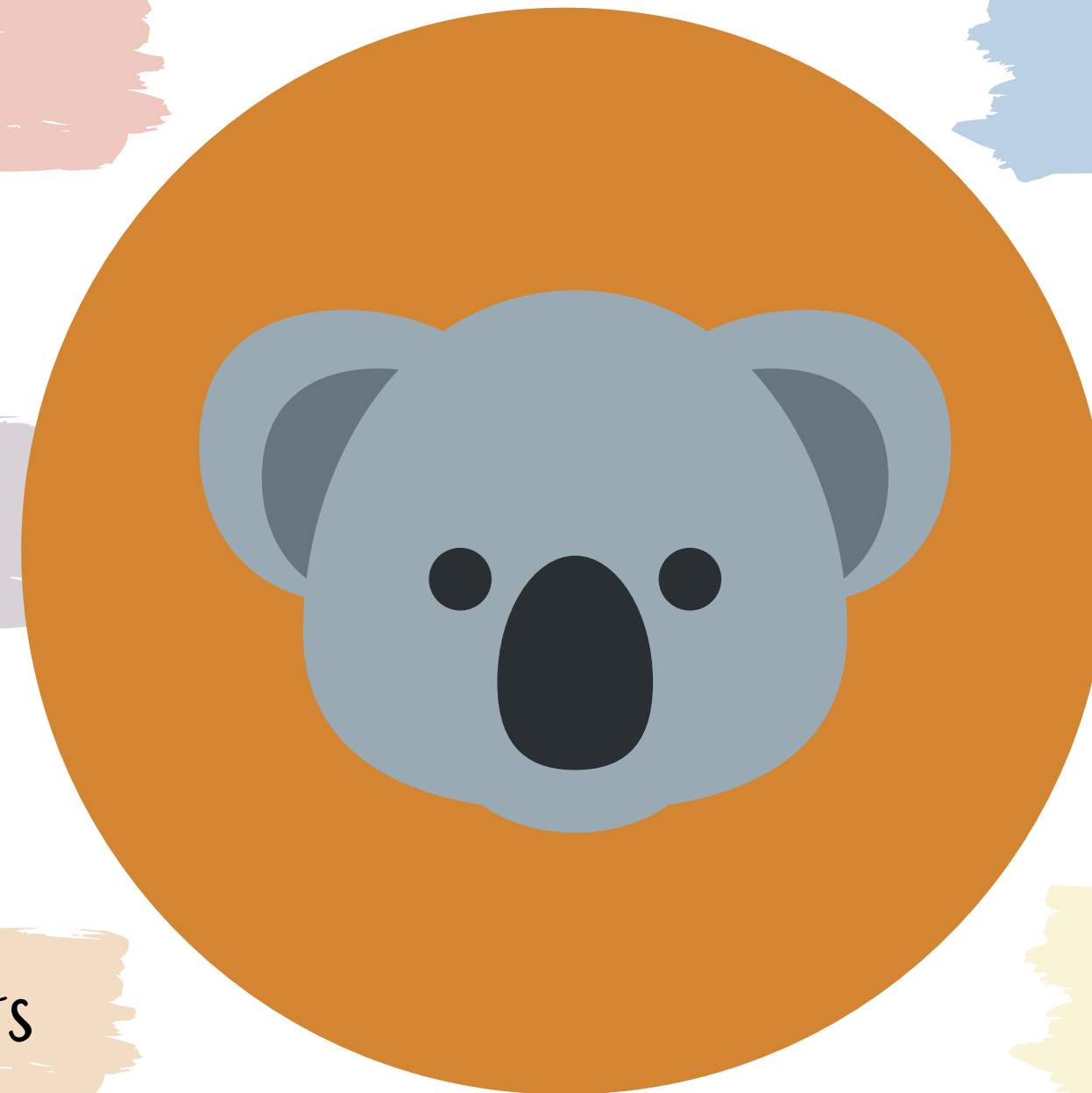
Idea 1 – Koala tree  
planting/water station program

Idea 5 – Creative Arts exhibition  
and showcase program

Idea 2 – Parent Involvement  
school-based program

Idea 4 – Fundraising events

Idea 3 – Vehicle Strike awareness  
& prevention program



# Koala Smart Teacher Guide Framework – Activities Ideas

## Pre-formed ideas and basic steps to assist teachers with step 4 (onwards)

### THEMES :

#### Idea 1 – Koala tree planting/water station program



### RESOURCES :

#### Activity 1 – Primary/Secondary

- Restoring koala habitat – school fundraising enough money to purchase or support
- Planting trees within school grounds – endangered species of plants for koalas to feed on and eventually a home site
- Installing water station on schoolgrounds for koalas

#### Planting trees and water stations within school grounds

Step 1: Undertake an assessment to find a suitable place for either planting trees or setting up a water station (can do both), whether that would be on school-grounds or in a local council approved site

Step 2: Research local nursery, local seed stocks, local carpentry business – inquire if Bunnings can donate seeds or equipment/materials to set up water stations

Step 3: Acquiring equipment – inquire if Bunnings or local hardware shop can donate equipment or teachers to encourage students to bring their own shovel, gloves, etc.

Step 4: Reach out to a critical friend who is an expert in tree planting – having a day with the critical friend to show the students how to plant the trees

Step 5: Paperwork – risk assessment, parent permission/consent, parent invites

Step 6: Secure older students who want to take a photo (pending on permission/consent) – upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write a school article report about the tree planting event

Step 7: Send summary and pictures to Koala Smart! Send the coverage to bunnings, local newspaper, council, tv crew – local news = communicate success through social media platforms

Step 8: Ongoing management for taking care of the trees, watering seedlings, checking for pests, taking care of the ‘tree guards’



**Idea 2 – Parent Involvement school-based program**

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Community/Pets/Dog-leashing>



- Activity 1 – Primary/Secondary
- Forming a Koala conservation protection program/committee...
- Activity 2 – Primary/Secondary
- Prevention of dog attacks towards Koalas & other wildlife – responsible dog ownership

**The intervention to prevent Koala dog attacks**

Step 1: Teachers inviting parents for a “parent day at school” to discuss the topic 'koalas attacked by dogs' and showing both parents and students the Bow Wow! Look at me Now campaign

Step 2: Asking a critical friend to help reach out to Byron Bay Council to inquire about the program Bow Wow! Look at me Now! event and help teachers to access the BioNet Atlas to support research on close locations where koala dog occurs

Step 4: Involving students to sit with parents in a ‘yarning circle’ to discuss the seriousness of koala dog attacks, who to ring if they witness an attack and what solutions can be implemented by the community to reduce this key threat?

Step 5: Paperwork – risk assessment, parent permission/consent for photos and parent involvement

Step 6: Students/Parents can write a letter to local council asking to implement Bow Wow! Look at me Now! program to be implemented in their local area

Step 7: Homework for students: Print out an easy-to-follow worksheet to encourage parents, family members and other students to examine their backyards (if they live in a koala zone) while using a survey criteria checklist.

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**Prevention of Dog Attacks (continued).**

- Step 8: If pupils live in a koala zone and they fit into the criteria check list, Teachers provide students with the koala safety toolkit which may contain magnets with the emergency wildlife rescue contact details, a poster with instructions as to what parent/guardians must do if witnessing a koala dog attack occurs, and a torch to take home as most koala movement occurs during dusk/dawn times
- Step 9: Secure the students who want to take a photo (pending on permission/consent) – upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write a school article report about the success of preventing Koala dog attacks
- Step 10: Share your experience with Koala Smart so that other schools and communities can benefit.
- Step 11: Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, TV crew – local news = communicate success through social media platforms

## THEMES :

### Idea 3 – Vehicle Strike awareness & prevention program



## RESOURCES :

Activity 1 – Primary/Secondary

A sign/poster design – grab the attention of drivers to slow down and bring awareness and education about Koalas

### Vehicle Strike awareness & prevention program

Step 1: Teachers will outline what a vehicle strike toward wildlife actually is and, with students, develop solutions to reduce and eventually prevent vehicle strikes occurring within their local area

NOTE: Find an educational information fact sheet aimed at children in both primary/secondary schools or use the NSW vehicle strike fact sheets

Fact Sheet 1

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/koala-vehicle-strike-fact-sheet-1-wildlife-vehicle-strike-contributing-factors>

Fact Sheet 2

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/koala-vehicle-strike-fact-sheet-2-how-to-keep-koalas-off-road>

Fact Sheet 3

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/koala-vehicle-strike-fact-sheet-3-how-to-change-driver-behaviour>

Fact Sheet 4

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/koala-vehicle-strike-fact-sheet-4-how-to-record-koala-vehicle-strike-monitor-mitigation-efforts>

Step 2: Paperwork – risk assessment, parent permission/consent for photos and parent invites (optional)

Step 3: Asking a Critical Friend to access the BioNet Atlas to support teacher and students to search for a close location where koala vehicle strike occurs

Step 4: Task: come up with a creative way for pupils to create awareness and educate their local community, or bypassing vehicles around their school grounds, about inhabited koala zones.

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<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-and-transport/roads-infrastructure-and-bikeways/road-and-intersection-projects/wildlife-awareness-monitors>

Examples could include:

- Students to design and create posters to bring awareness for drivers in the nearby common vehicle strike location such as *'honk if you care for koalas'*
- School-based petition and/or fundraising events held – signatures for koala dynamic sign and road surface marking in school speed zone or in a known koala 'hotspot' zone
- Step 5: Organise a weekly or fortnightly school excursion to the nearby local/common vehicle strike location and start a successful monitoring program with a Critical Friend

Using the NSW Vehicle Strike Fact Sheet 4 – How to record koala vehicle strike and monitor mitigation efforts <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Animals-and-plants/Threatened-species/koalavehiclestrikefactsheet4howrecordkoalavehiclestrikemonitormitigation200232.pdf>

Step 6: If teachers/pupils decide to do a petition: Approach school principal with signed petition about installing a koala dynamic sign and road surface marking within school zone area

Step 7: Involving critical friend to support teachers to send petition to local council

Step 8: Ask permission from private landholders or council for students to place their designed awareness posters to chosen koala 'hotspot' zone in their rural/urban local areas that have high traffic levels

Step 9: Secure the students who want to take a photo (pending on permission/consent)– upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write a school article report about the success of preventing Koala vehicle strikes

Step 10: Share your experience with Koala Smart. Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, tv crew – local news = communicate success through social media platforms

**Idea 4 – Fundraising events**

<https://www.facebook.com/elmorebakery/posts/sundays-donut-is-a-caramello-koala-available-at-our-new-shop-in-east-bendigo-and/4947950971881757/>

<https://hungryhappenings.com/koala-oreo-cookies/>

Step 1: Teachers identify 3 local koala charities, organisations or Critical Friend and reaches out to them to invite them to their school

Step 2: Following the presentations, the students can hold a vote as to which project, they wish to support. Choose from the following:

- Caring for koala land/habitat
- Koala health & wellbeing
- Rehabilitation
- Koala safety (dog attacks, vehicle strike)
- General lifestyle
- Cultural significance – spiritual connection to koalas and the history

Step 3: Parent Permission for participating in event, photo taken and risk management assessment

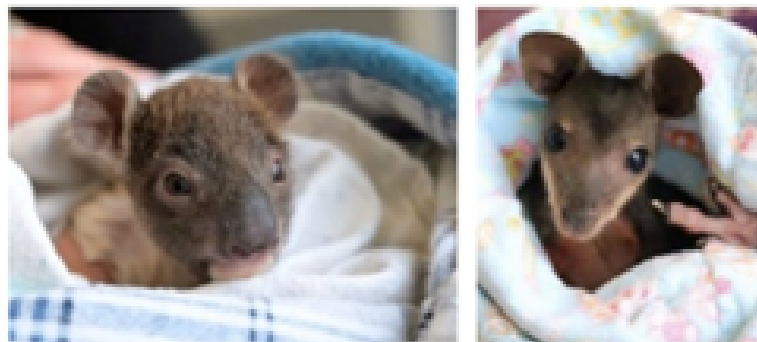
Step 4: Students come up with ideas on Fundraising events, which might include:

- Gold coin donation  
Lobby school council to donate money
- Design and create wildlife rescue pouches  
(see page 8)
- Carnival/Fair event – getting student council to help fund event  
<https://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/article/1131-school-carnival-planning-basics>  
<https://signup.com/fundraising-ideas/best-carnival-planning-ideas-fun-profitable-school-church-community-festivals>
- Wheel of fortune - spinning wheel

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## THEMES :

## RESOURCES :



<https://piccolostudio.com.au/2019/11/13/making-a-wildlife-pouch-tutorial/>

Step 5: Students plan the fundraising event and invite family, friends, local media, and produce promotional materials using the support from a critical friend to advise dollar handles. Examples:

- \$20 will buy a carry cage
- \$100 will buy a microchip/ear tag for koalas
- \$500 will hire a drone and experts to use

Step 6: Hold the event and communicate the success

Step 7: Teacher will reach out to charity with images and ask to be featured on social media channels (pending on parent permission/consent)

Step 8: Share your story with Koala Smart! Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, TV crew – local news



## THEMES :

### Idea 5 – Creative Arts exhibition and showcase program



<https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/see-do/hello-koalas-sculpture-trail>



<https://iheartcraftythings.com/koala-crafts-for-kids.html>

## RESOURCES :

- Activity 1 – Secondary
- Woodworks project for Highschool students

### Koala-friendly furniture class assignment

Step 1: Teachers assign their pupils an individual or group assignment to design and craft a backyard wooden escape ladder or a wooden 'escape pole' for school or take-home project to install

Step 2: Paperwork – risk assessment, student & parent permission/consent for photos and to send their creative portfolio or report to their local MP.

Step 3: Contacting local wood/timber yard for materials – asking a critical friend to assist with what is the best timber to use to support koalas to climb

Step 4: Secure the student/s who want to take a photo (pending permission/consent) – upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write a school article report about the success of koala conservation campaign assignment

Step 5: Share with Koala Smart. Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, TV crew – local news => communicate success through social media platforms

- Activity 2 – Primary/Secondary

### Koala Creative Arts Fair – Awareness of Koala Conservation

Step 1: Teachers contact a critical friend to talk about the importance of Koala Conservation and how students can be creative by showcasing this awareness in a school arts fair

Step 2: Parent Permission for participating in event, photo taken and risk management assessment

(Continued on page 10)

## THEMES :

## RESOURCES :



<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/14/us/boy-makes-clay-koalas-australia-fires-trnd/index.html>

Step 3: Students come up with ideas for Fundraising events, which might include:

- Koala clay sculptures, paintings, drawings, pottery, badges
- Koala musical, play or performance
- Koala school mural – teachers are encouraged to participate

Step 4: Students plan the art fair event by inviting family, friends, local media, and promoting and marketing produced materials. Examples:

- Clay sculptures = \$10 per item
- Paintings = \$10 per item
- Drawings = \$5 - \$10 per item
- Pottery = \$15 per item
- Badges = \$2 per item
- Musical, play, performance: Theatre programs = \$10 per programme (depending on budget and production value)

Step 5: Hold the event and communicate the success

Step 6: Teacher will reach out to Koala Smart and critical friend with images and ask to be featured on social media channels (pending parent permission/consent)

Step 7: Step 8: Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, TV crew – local news

**Idea 6 – Technology monitoring program**

<https://koala.nsw.gov.au/i-spy-wide/>



Activity 1 – Primary/Secondary  
Koala monitoring game

**Where's Wally the wandering Koala activity**

Step 1: Teachers to engage with critical friend to help communicate with National Parks to visit their local Reserve or National Park to find koalas

Step 2: Paperwork – risk assessment, parent permission/consent for photos and parent invite (optional)

Step 3: Organise bus service or use school bus

Step 4: Teachers instruct students to connect to their class-room device (iPad or mobile device) and download the I Spy Koala app or encourage students to bring a camera to take photos and spot their Koala

Step 5: Buddy system – divide students into small groups to buddy up with their Critical Friend, National Parks Ranger/s and Teacher/s or parent/s to search for koalas

Step 6: Critical Friends, National Park rangers, teachers and students come together after the activity to form a 'yarning circle' and discuss the importance of koala conservation, identifying the health and safety of spotted koala/s

Step 7: Secure the students who want to take a photo – upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write an article report about the success of the school excursion spotting koalas in habitat

Step 8: Share with Koala Smart. Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, tv crew – local news = communicate success through social media platforms



Activity 2 – Secondary  
High school conservation assignment

**Conservation & Biodiversity campaign assignment - Koalas**

Step 1: Teachers assign their pupils an individual or group assignment to create a space for students to critically analyse, interpret and have creative thinking by choosing one or two key topics that is currently a threatening issue that Koala’s face within the student’s local region.

Step 2: Task – Writing up a creative portfolio or report about koala conservation and finding solutions to these threatening issues:

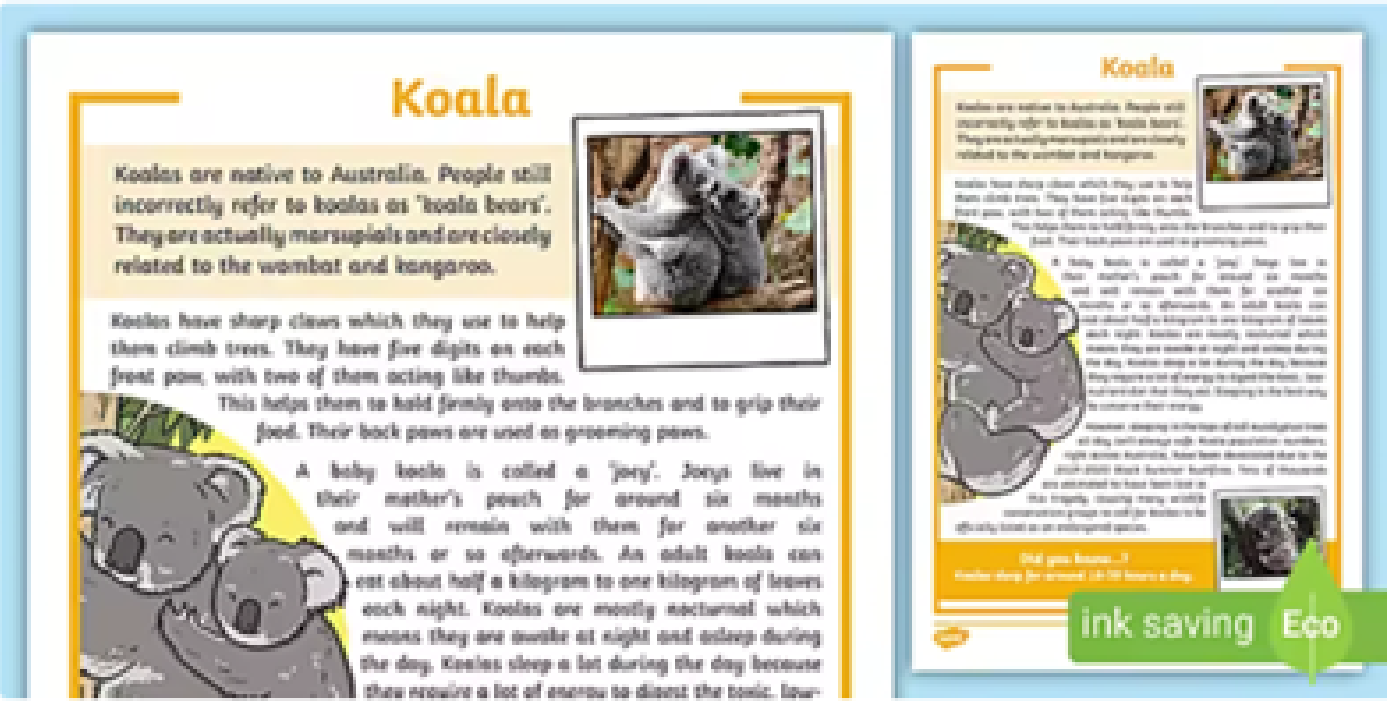
- Capturing the devastation of koala habitat loss
- Koala safety (dog attacks, vehicle strike)
- Health, wellbeing, and diet
- General lifestyle
- Cultural significance – spiritual connection to koalas and the history
- Policy and planning to protect Koalas and their habitat

NOTE: Really highlighting and identifying a key threatening issue and finding the best solution to these threatening issues:

Step 3: Paperwork – student & parent permission/consent to send their creative portfolio or report to their local MP.

Step 4: Secure the student/s who want to take a photo (pending permission/consent) – upload photo to the school newsletter or website, write a school article report about the success of koala conservation campaign assignment

Step 5: Send the coverage to local newspaper, council, TV crew – local news = communicate success through social media platforms. Share your story with Koala Smart!



<https://www.twinkl.com.au/resource/koala-fact-sheet-au-t-10000924>