Annual Report 2025-2026

BANGALOW KOALAS

Bangalow Koalas INC ABN 89 612 034 324

Contents

About Bangalow Koalas 2
Our Mission 3
Achievements 4
President's Report 6
Financial Report 8
Acknowledgements 12
Our Committee 12



About Bangalow Koalas



Founded in 2016, Bangalow Koalas is a community group which started as a handful of concerned neighbours determined to protect a 400-metre stretch of 30-year-old koala feed trees from deteriorating or being forcibly removed. From humble, small-scale beginnings, Bangalow Koalas Inc is now at the frontier of biodiversity conservation, revegetation and regeneration in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. No other organisation is making such a large-scale and community driven impact in our region.

Celebrating ten years this year, we started by planting the seed to protect our koalas, which grew into an idea to create a Koala Wildlife Corridor, which culminated in November 2025 reaching our goal to plant 500,000 trees by the end of 2025. This huge milestone was celebrated in style over two consecutive planting days with the landholders, volunteers, members, bush regeneration teams, nurseries, Minyumai Rangers, Byron Shire council staff and Mayor, funding bodies, State Government DCCEEW staff, Local State Member, Bangalow Lions and the crew from ABC Landline all joining us to plant the 500,000th tree.

We are now planting hope on a game-changing scale – hope for koalas and other threatened species, hope for the planet and in the face of climate change and the loss of biodiversity on a grand scale, hope for the future for all of us. Bangalow Koalas is now a successful model for community based environmental action.

We are a grass-roots, high-impact environmental not-for-profit creating real results in the long-term rehabilitation of native habitat for endangered species. Bangalow Koalas' mission is to restore native habitat for koalas and other endangered species in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

As a registered environmental organisation/charity and voluntary community group, to achieve its aim, Bangalow Koalas works with local, state and federal government agencies, NGOs, bush regeneration teams, nurseries, Landcare groups, fellow community groups, Indigenous Ranger groups, landholders and the local community.

With the organisation's main goal being the establishment of the Koala Wildlife Corridor, it's on track to now plant 850,000 trees by the end of 2030, subject to funding.



Our Mission

With a mission to create a wildlife corridor across the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, we are connecting vital habitat in strategic locations benefiting koalas and other native flora and fauna species. The aim of the corridor is to allow koalas to live and move around safely, reducing the main threats they face from decades' worth of habitat loss, from disease to deforestation to dog attacks and fatal vehicle strikes.

Bangalow Koalas Inc's vision is to educate, involve and inspire the community. Helping communities restore and connect fragmented habitat into corridors for koalas and other wildlife.

We achieve this through community planting days, working with schools, community groups and Indigenous Ranger groups. Also, by involving them at fundraising and awareness stalls, and regular e-Newsletters, database and social media.

Koala habitat across much of the Northern Rivers region is highly fragmented, existing largely as riparian areas, small pockets of trees or isolated paddock trees in a landscape dominated by plantations or cleared grazing land. Bangalow Koalas' ambitious Community Koala Wildlife Corridor project seeks to create links between remnant pockets of koala habitat, reconnecting areas at a landscape level and providing the endangered koala and other threatened local wildlife with large blocks of interconnecting habitat and safe routes to move between them.

Our hands-on community-based response to the climate crisis is connecting individuals, families, communities, indigenous and Landcare groups in a collaborative effort to give us all hope, especially our children that change is possible.

Achievements

Trees and Plantings

Properties planted since 2019:

185 plantings on 134 properties in 7 shires.

Plantings 2025/2026 financial year in the following areas:

Bungawalbin, Bangalow, The Channon, Booyong, Meerschaum Vale, Myocum, Jiggi, Clovass, Possum Creek, South Gundurimba, Coraki, Bexhill, Byron Bay, Tyalgum, Alstonville, Coffee Camp, Ocean Shores, Whian Whian

Trees supplied to the following areas:

Minyumai IPA, Coffee Camp, Tucki Tucki, The Channon, Burringbar, Pumpenbil, Bangalow, Doubtful Creek, East Corak.

Total trees planted/supplied financial year:

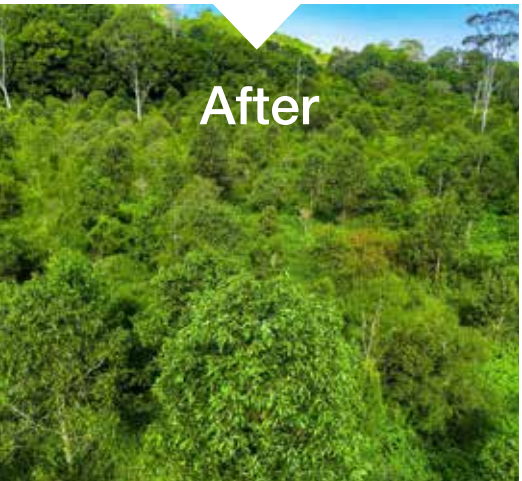
- By end of fiscal year 2025 we had planted/supplied 88,210 trees.
- In the first half of 2026 we had planted/supplied 33,483 trees.
- During the 2025/26 financial period 89,848 trees were planted/supplied















Achievements continued

Stalls/Events/Community Plantings

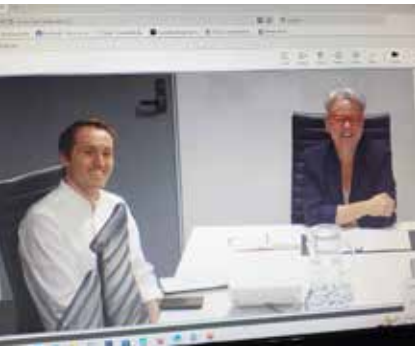
- Community planting Bungawalbin – July 2025
- Community planting Booyong – August 2025
- Community planting Myocum – September 2025
- Community planting Bangalow x 2 days – November 2025 500,000th tree
- Nature Co Art Auction – December 2025
- Corporate planting Myocum – March 2026
- Community planting Coraki – March 2026
- Community planting Byron Bay Arakwal NP – March 2026
- Community planting Myocum – April 2026
- ABC Landline episode aired April 2026
- Billy Cart Derby – May 2026
- Community planting Ocean Shores – May 2026
- Community planting South Gundurimba – May 2026

Meetings

- WWF Thailand site visit Hilary Herrmann – July 2025
- WWF Zoom meeting – August 2025
- OTP Zoom meeting – September 2025
- WWF interview EFN – September 2025
- NPWS/Byron Council/FOK/BK The Pass – September 2025
- Penny Sharpe and policy advisor Zoom meeting – November 2025
- WWF/Byron Wildlife Hospital photo shoot – November 2025
- ABC Landline filming – November 2025
- Richard Douglas donation from proceeds Return and Earn – December 2025
- Veritree online meeting – January 2026 x 3 meetings
- Restor online meeting – January 2026 x 3 meetings
- James Kirby Foundation online meeting – January 2026
- Veritree online meeting – March 2026
- URCP online meeting – March 2026
- Fidelity UK online meeting – March 2026
- Seaton Foundation meeting – March 2026
- IFAW meeting – Hilary Herrmann – March 2026
- EveryWill Zoom meeting – April 2026
- UNCCD Zoom meeting – May 2026
- WWF/Australia Post meeting – June 2026
- UNCCD Zoom meeting – June 2026
- Ma Earth Zoom meeting – June 2026

Membership

- 197 financial members
- 1053 database members












President's Report



There is no doubt every year is as challenging as the one prior. 2025 was by no means different, with Cyclone Alfred causing havoc in the first half of the year.

The new financial year also coincided with the end of NSW State Government funding our koala trees, at this point we also had no funding secured for plantings in 2026, with the last half of the year working tirelessly to make sure we had secured trees. We were applying non-stop for every grant to secure funding for plantings in 2026, only securing funding in the first quarter of 2026 thanks to our wonderful new partnership with Canadian NGO Veritree. And we have not stopped since then!!

August 2025 we were encouraged by our partners at Restor to apply for accreditation with UNCCD to enable us access to global grant opportunities. In February 2026 we received acknowledgment of the receipt of our documentation and after careful review by UNCCD the secretariat submitted our request to the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, held in Mongolia in August 2026. As you may be aware Saul Goodwin (vice president) and myself attended COP17 in Mongolia where our accreditation was ratified as Civil Society Organisation (CSO).

During the 2025/2026 financial period, 89,848 trees were planted/supplied. Since 2019 up to the end of the 2025 fiscal year, we have completed 171 plantings on 123 properties in seven shires across the Northern Rivers of New South Wales. That took our total number of trees planted/supplied to 501,947 trees!!

In November we were fortunate to arrange a Zoom meeting with the NSW Minister for Environment the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC and her policy advisor Jaden Harris. We had a fabulous meeting and have been in talks since then. The Hon. Penny Sharpe also made mention of Bangalow Koalas work in the Legislative Council on 12th November 2025.

November was a huge month as we planted our 500,000th tree thanks to funding from Cherish the Environment and celebrated over two consecutive planting days with Pip Courtney and her lovely crew from Landline filming over three days. The episode aired in April 2026 and immediately the feedback was massive, we are so chuffed to have appeared in two episodes for Landline with the first episode in 2021.

In the first half of 2026 we carried out a very important project along the riparian zones of the Richmond River in Coraki funded by Veritree, IFAW Australia and WWF Australia Koala. The project was connecting four neighbouring properties and planting total of 6,705 koala and rainforest trees. To date we have completed three of the four properties, with the fourth one to be completed in October 2026.

We also did another important project in the Arakwal National Park in Byron Bay; it was our first planting within a National Park and vital for koalas in The Pass, Byron Bay where they are over browsing and been over loved. Funded thanks to Veritree, and IFAW Australia. All plantings' trees were funded once again by our partners at One Tree Planted and koala trees were supplied through collaboration of FOK Native Nursery and Eastern Forest Nursery funded by Foundation for National Parks Wildlife.

In the first half of 2026 we were successful in a grant application with James N. Kirby Foundation for funding a Thermal Drone and carrying out surveys of 100 sites since 2019. This is a game changer for Bangalow Koalas, and we have already started training and commencement of surveys, with four recorded koala sightings on four out of eight properties!

In the last financial year, we were able to plant because of the following grants: Veritree a Canadian NGO that have been game-changing for Bangalow Koalas, WWF Australia in partnership with proud supporter Koala, IFAW Australia, King Living Foundation, Cherish the Environment, One Tree Planted and funding through donations.

Thanks to Humphrey at Eastern Forest Nursery (EFN) for growing the koala seedlings and Mark Wilson from Friends of the Koala Native Nursery for also lovingly nurturing other koala and rainforest trees and working with EFN in 2026 to supply the shortfall through their funding with Foundation for National Parks Wildlife. Thanks also to Mark Dunphy and his wonderful crew at Firewheel Nursery for supplying all our other species required, thanks to funding from One Tree Planted and in 2026, 20,000 trees funded through Foundation for National Parks Wildlife.

President's Report continued

We would not be in the position we are today planting hope on a game-changing scale without our trusted partnerships with the wonderful father/son team of Rossco and Seamus Faithfull from East Coast Bush Regeneration. We also are working with the Lennon Bros Bush Regeneration Paddy Lennon, and Jake Lennon Regeneration as well as James Middlemiss from Paddock to Rainforest Bush Regeneration which has allowed us to keep up with the enormous numbers, we are planting. We also have been working with Minyumai Rangers, and we could not have had such a successful year without all of them.

As always there are so many people that make up Bangalow Koalas that I would like to thank. The volunteers who turn up to planting after planting, help with fundraising, and constant encouragement. Thank you is not enough to express our appreciation for your support in bringing our crazy aspirations to life.

A big thank you too, to those who find time in their busy schedules to contribute their expertise – Ishwin Thind and his staff at CM Partners for all their financial assistance; Jamie-Lea Johnson, our bookkeeper; as always Jeannine and Dom from 2 Camels for the ongoing creative help; Saul Goodwin for photography, videos and amazing drone photography, Lindy our Secretary who with her partner Phil have been volunteering at plantings; Dale Viola champion of koalas, keen volunteer and working closely together with Byron Shire Council, Linda Swankie working on grants, writing grant reports, monitoring and survey work; Seamus Faithfull our tree man for all of his expertise and advice regarding tree species and selection; Marcia Palazzi who joined our team in April 2025 as administration one day a week; Charlotte Gittins who is still working remotely helping with our website, helping write newsletters, and so much more. Glen Wallis from Road Hire for supplying us two VMS boards.

Finally, to our landholders, we are always grateful for your willingness to be a part of this mission.

Yours in all things koalas,









Financial Report

2025
2026

Bangalow Koalas INC
ABN 89 612 034 324

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Prepared by Curtis Partners Pty Ltd



Balance Sheet

Bangalow Koalas INC
As at 30 June 2026

	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets		
Bank		
606 - AUD PayPal	2,743	389
602 - SCU - BK Admin ***4404	651	760
600 - SCU - BK Inc ***5257	250,848	400,833
605 - SCU - BK Public ***9501	24,320	2,655
603 - SCU - BK Tree ***4831	11,889	4,586
604 - SCU-DRCARD****540	-	83
Total Bank	**290,450**	**409,305**
Current Assets		
610 - Accounts Receivable	258,513	82,564
610a - Other Debtors	52	1,994
615 - Term Deposit	300,000	300,000
Total Current Assets	**558,566**	**384,559**
Fixed Assets		
711 - Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(7,708)	(390)
710 - Office Equipment	7,708	390
Total Fixed Assets	-	-
Total Assets	**849,015**	**793,864**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
800 - Accounts Payable	42,819	7,626
810 - Accrued Expenses	9,500	5,000
820 - GST	(60,682)	(4,878)
835 - Income In Advance	250,848	400,833
604 - SCU-DRCARD****540	4	-
Total Current Liabilities	**242,489**	**408,581**
Total Liabilities	**242,489**	**408,581**
Net Assets	**606,526**	**385,283**
Accumulated Funds		
Current Year Earnings	221,243	3,050
960 - Retained Earnings	385,283	382,233
Total Accumulated Funds	**606,526**	**385,283**

Exchange rates used to convert foreign currency into AUD are shown below. Rates are provided by XE.com unless otherwise stated.

- **30 June 2026**

  0.688535 USD (United States Dollar)

- **30 June 2025**

  0.653147 USD (United States Dollar)

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Bangalow Koalas INC
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Donations Received	117,304	81,880
Fees Received - Project Management	20,023	-
Fund Raising	-	22,161
Grants Received	1,061,708	1,051,708
Interest Income	12,538	4,833
Membership Fees	2,900	2,363
Other Revenue	1,334	311
Sales	-	352
Total Revenue	**1,215,806**	**1,163,608**
Operating Costs		
Cost of Goods Sold - Fundraising Expenses	-	9,554
Cost of Goods Sold - Advertising & Promotional Costs (grant related)	1,659	1,750
Cost of Goods Sold - Merchandising	403	1,884
Cost of Goods Sold - Planting & Maintenance Costs	811,393	949,523
Total Operating Costs	**813,454**	**962,711**
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	**402,352**	**200,897**
Overhead Costs		
Accounting & Audit Fees	13,250	8,500
Admin Support	35,293	65,106
Advertising & Marketing (non-grant)	11,239	5,772
Bank Fees	-	1
Conferences	855	-
Consulting Fees	-	325
Depreciation	7,318	-
Educational & Workshop Expenses (non grant)	-	139
Equipment	851	1,871
Facebook Advertising	447	812
Insurance	688	688
Light, Power, Heating	1,037	499
Motor Vehicle Expenses	2,203	1,748
Office Expenses	3,373	1,405
Paypal Fees	420	238
Postage, Printing & Stationery	182	19
Project Management	80,408	81,300
Realised Currency Gains	(1,015)	(826)
Rent & Hire Costs	25,206	23,908
Repairs and Maintenance	133	-
Subscriptions	3,855	2,021
Telephone & Internet	1,749	1,516

Statement of Income & Expenditure continued

Bangalow Koalas INC
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Travel - National	-	1,804
Currency Gains/ Loss	(7,304)	-
Website Expenses	920	1,000
Total Overhead Costs	**181,109**	**197,847**
Net Surplus (Deficit)	**221,243**	**3,050**



Acknowledgements

To all those who have volunteered their time and effort, donors from all over Australia and the world, the community and community groups that have supported us. And to our wonderful partners/sponsors in particular WWF Australia – Koala and Australia Post, Veritree, IFAW Australia, King Living Foundation, Cherish the Environment, bush regeneration teams, nurseries and local, state and federal government agencies who play a part in our success – NSW State Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, Byron, Lismore and Ballina councils, Minyumai Rangers, Githabul Rangers, Jagun Alliance, Eastern Forest Nursery, Firewheel Nursery, FOK Native Nursery, Brunswick Valley Landcare, Richmond Valley Landcare, Kyogle Landcare, Friends of the Koala, Bangalow Lions, Summerland Bank to name a few.

Without the financial support, guidance, mapping, sightings and research sharing that we've gratefully received from these organisations and government bodies, we most certainly would not be where we are today.

Our Committee

Thank you for all your support and encouragement. We had a change of guard at last years AGM with Saul Goodwin voted in as Vice President with Peter Doherty becoming a committee member before resigning this year. Greg Legg-Bagg also stepped aside after all his hard work over the past few years, with Zachary Hennessy contractor with East Coast Bush Regeneration filling the position.

President: Linda Sparrow

Vice President: Saul Goodwin

Treasurer: Ishwin Thind

Secretary: Lindy Stacker

Public Officer: Ishwin Thind

Committee member: Dale Viola

Committee member: Linda Ambrose

Committee member: Zachary Hennessy
























www.bangalowkoalas.com.au

Follow us on Facebook

BANGALOW KOALAS

Bangalow Koalas Inc. ABN 89 612 034 324