



## Iona joins forces with the Queensland Koala Society to help protect our koalas

Iona College have committed to becoming the first educational institute to partner with the Queensland Koala Society in their fight to conserve and rehabilitate koala populations for future generations.

In supporting the incredible work of the non-for-profit organisation, Iona College have pledged to establish a fodder farm on the College grounds in the green space between The Provence Centre and the Lindum train station.

The planting and eventual harvesting of over 500 eucalyptus trees will provide feed for a growing number of rescued koalas who require rehabilitation after becoming injured, sick, displaced, or orphaned.



Ms Angela Christodoulou, co-founder of the Queensland Koala Society, has lobbied for fodder farms to be established within Southeast Queensland, and is delighted to partner with Iona College in promoting a sustainable future for koalas.

Ms Christodoulou explains, "Fodder farms play an essential role in the koala's rehabilitation process. Currently, fodder farms are supported in very few local government areas and are difficult to access. On a typical week my team travel up to two hours per day, seven days per week to collect fresh fodder. The collaboration with Iona is exciting and not only provides us with a valuable resource but also provides the potential for the establishment of a habitat for koalas and other local wildlife."

Principal, Mr Trevor Goodwin, and Rector, Fr Michael Twigg OMI as well as the College Board have fully supported this use of College grounds as it clearly aligns with the College strategic values of 'respecting and nurturing our local community and environment.'

"We have been blessed with a large and expansive campus that compels us to share with others. This is a true expression of our Christian Catholic community in action and is at one with our belief in God," describes Fr Michael.



Supporting the college's investment into sustainability is Federal Member for Bonner, Mr Ross Vasta MP. Iona College are the beneficiaries of a community-based tree planting grant, which has been initiated to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth.

"It is fantastic to see a partnership forming between Iona College and the Queensland Koala Society through this fodder farm to help our local koala population," Mr Vasta said. "I think it's an exceptionally fitting way to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and I am proud to have advocated on behalf of Iona College for this tree planting grant."

Long serving Ionians, Peter and Leann Holmes have advocated strongly for the formation of a relationship between Iona and the Queensland Koala Society. "Providing an opportunity for our students to actively contribute towards a sustainable future for koalas is a unique and meaningful way to educate our next generation of leaders," explains Mr Holmes.

In the coming days, students will be involved with the planting of trees that will be nurtured and cared for by generations of Ionians to come.

Further information will be shared over the next period of time as these new trees continue to grow.

