

The Strzelecki K al a needs your help

The Strzelecki Koalas are the original Victorian koala and they have much to contribute towards the future management of koalas in Victoria and elsewhere in south-eastern Australia. Because of this the Strzelecki Koalas arguably constitute Victoria's most important koala population but they need our help if they are going to survive into the future.

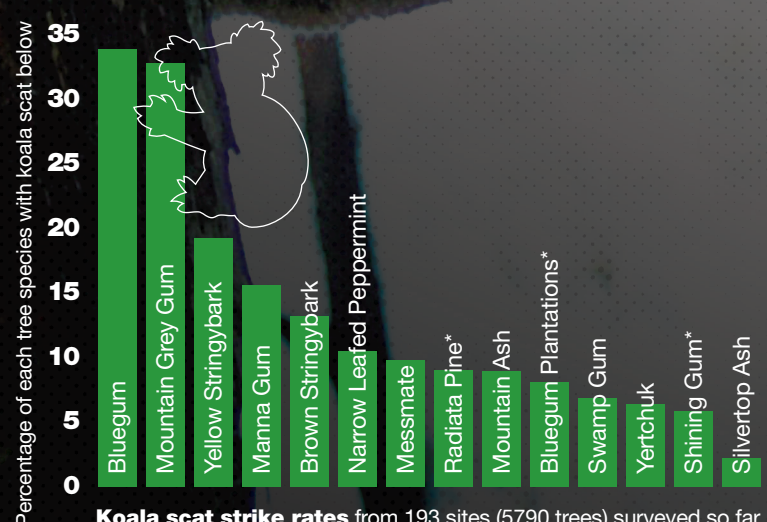
Between November 2013 and April 2014, a team from the NSW Office for Environment and Heritage surveyed 141 locations in the Strzelecki Ranges for koalas. Each site consisted of 30 trees. The koala survey was the first conducted in the Strzelecki Ranges using a scientifically sound methodology. The survey results revealed that the 3025ha of forest surveyed contained ~811 koalas.

Mountain Grey Gum and Southern Bluegum were the most preferred trees for koalas. Yellow Stringybark and Messmate were the next most preferred species based on statistically relevant samples.

Soil types also had a major bearing on koala numbers, with higher numbers on the better quality Strzelecki soils.

The initial surveys targeted the best remaining stands of native forest in the region. Since May 2014, FoE and FoGB have assessed an additional 52 sites or ~1050ha of fragmented forest which is more typical of the region. Lower numbers of koalas have been found in these surveys.

It is necessary to look further afield to better determine koala numbers of the region, including South Gippsland. *Friends of the Earth* and *Friends of Gippsland Bush* are now interested in surveying native forest on private land.



Koala scat strike rates from 193 sites (5790 trees) surveyed so far

*These are plantation species which koalas also utilise, particularly if the plantations are in close proximity to native forest.



If you have native forest on your property and are interested in seeing if it can be surveyed for koalas please contact us by email at ajamis50@gmail.com

Tax deductible donations are also most appreciated.

