



Quinclans

RESEARCH STATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE

The Australian Koala Foundation

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**Primary
Habitat**



**Secondary
Habitat**



**Other
Vegetation**



Introduction

Quinlans came to the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) as a remarkable bequest from two people, Peter and Julianne Quinlan, who loved their 100 acre Sunshine Coast property so much they entrusted it to the AKF to be maintained as a pristine wildlife refuge in perpetuity. AKF took on the task in the spirit which it was given. In February 2014, Koala scat was sighted near The Big House and field work continues to find Koalas. The Koalas at Quinlans are keeping a low profile and given the size of the landscape, it is difficult to find them. We will continue to seek them out on each and every visit.

Ian Harling manages to keep Quinlandia (the Bush Camp and Research Station) ready for research teams and other visitors. No one but Ian could do what he has done. His energy is incredible and the Board of the AKF knows what an important team member he is in keeping Quinlans in safe hands.



Above: Rainforest regrowth, how exciting!



Ian: one of the most dedicated people on our team.



The Quinlans bush camp is now fully operational and we have had many visitors. There are no flushing toilets and it is like walking back in time to a bygone era. Everyone who leaves Quinlans has a renewed respect for hot showers and running water. AKF wants Quinlans to stay in its primitive form. It is good for everyone to go “off the grid” for a day or two. No internet is available in the bush except on a “good day”.



Top: Quinlans' Cob Pizza Oven **Above:** Lunch at Quinlans



One of the things we did with visitors in April 2016 was to take them into the bush to sit quietly and listen to nothing. One of the participants felt that his life changed forever. Having been brought up in a big city with lots of noise, he loved the feeling of being in the wilderness, but also feeling safe because we were there to get him back to camp. This made our whole team so happy and we are thrilled to have this bit of paradise to get away from the maddening crowd. Quinlans will become ever more important to people in the future and with AKF as the custodian, it will be there for many years to come.

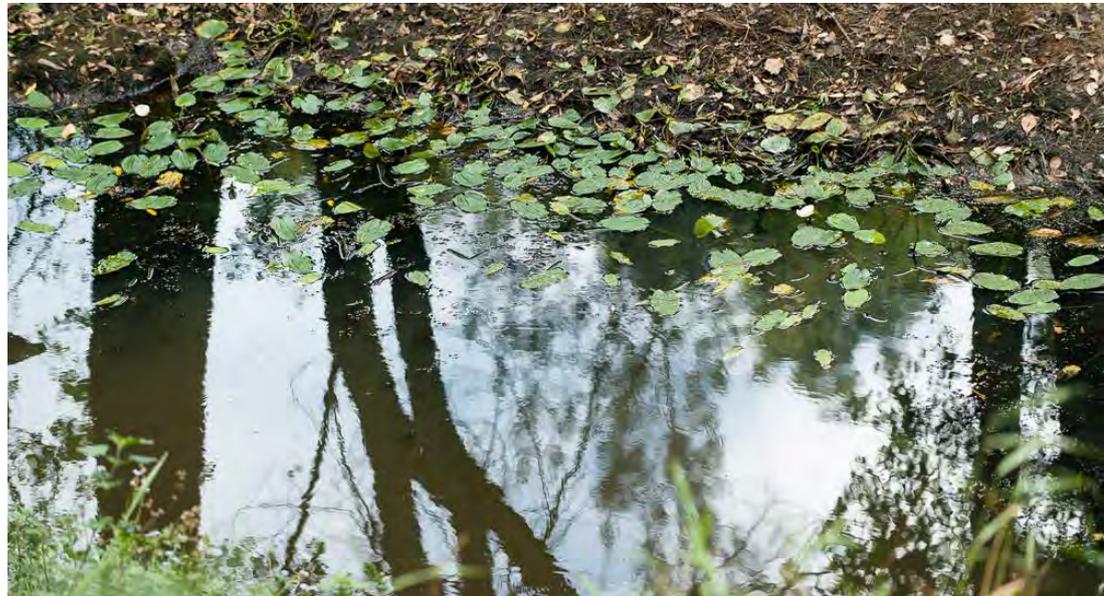
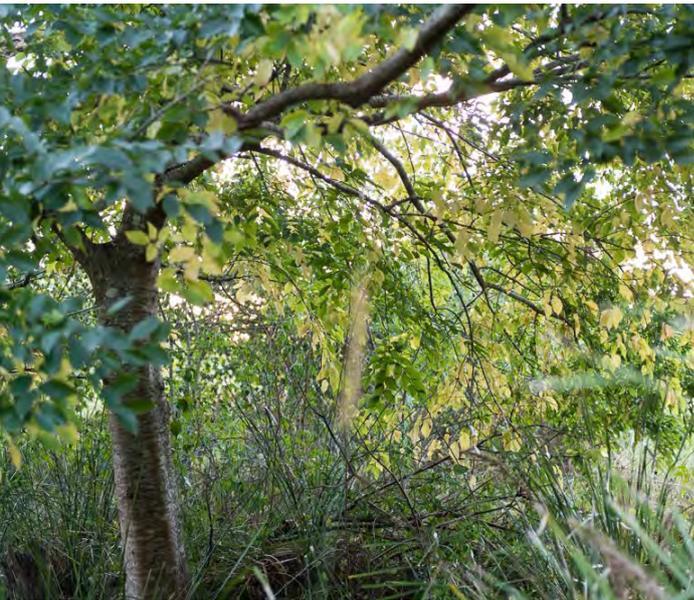
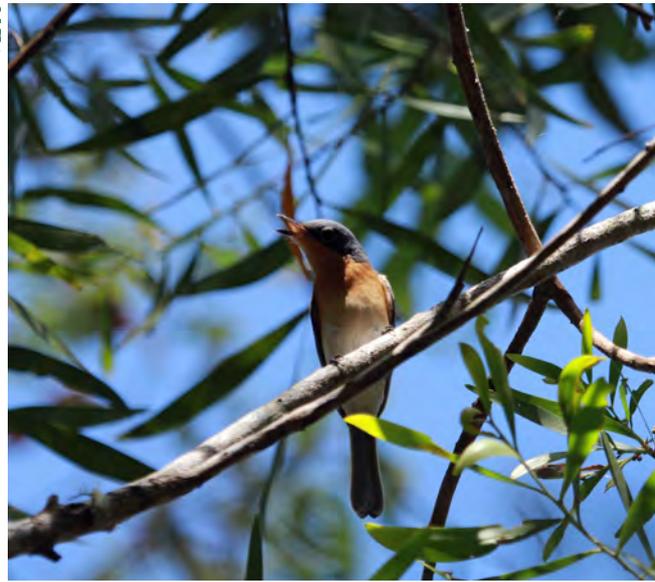
'Deb's Cabin' is now pretty much finished and in the coming years we look forward to having our first honeymooners having a bath outside with a fire under the stars.



Deb's cabin: 'Noddy' bath (named after the Enid Blyton character). There is no hot water at Quinlans so the bath has a fire underneath.



Australian Koala Foundation



Above: A small taste of the biodiversity of Quinlans.



Bush Trails

There is a trek at Quinlandia where you can view rainforest that has started to regenerate because the Quinlans left the land to fallow for over 30 years. It winds around the creek, two dams and Koala habitat which offers wildlife spotting and sensational bird watching. Because the property is large, we have it dividing the property into two parts; **Quinlans**, The Big House, which is a small cottage, and; **Quinlandia**, the Bush Camp and Research Station.

Many new paths have been created and they are named after those that help forge them, including Mr. Darcy and Bandia (Ian's loyal companion).





Walking path

These images show you the dam and some of the eclectic farm machinery we inherited. And this top picture? The wallaby waits at the top of a trail all beautifully green after the floods.



Vision

For the next few years, there will be lots of weeding, planting trees and looking for Koalas.

Weeding and planting go hand in hand. When we weed, seeds that have been living in the soil emerge miraculously and so many species are coming back after nearly 200 years of either logging or agriculture. It is thrilling to watch. Planting will also occur because Koalas still need some significant trees that have formerly been logged.

There is the possibility that Quinlans may be a potential release site for Koalas that have lost their mums. AKF would never do this unless the habitat was safe and that all dogs (that means wild dogs) have been eliminated, and of course that our neighbours would want to ensure the Koalas have a long and peaceful life.

If Quinlans is suitable for release of Koalas, then we would be seeking researchers to visit to Quinlans to set the scene for a thriving Koala colony under the AKF's direction.



September 2019



March 2019



February 2020

Above: This is EK2 - planted in September 2016 by the Nature's Path team and competition winners.



Dave Mitchell: AKF's Landscape Ecologist







Conclusion

There is much to be done, not only at the AKF and Quinlans, but for all citizens of the planet as we face an uncertain future with climate change and energy use.

Quinlans is a marvellous place to learn the importance of clean water, recycling and the opportunity of seeing and watching nature at its finest. We have been thrilled in recent times to have been told that just under 100 bird species have been sighted at Quinlans – this is a great opportunity for the Koala to help out its friends in the bush.

