



## *Koala Conservation Volunteer Day*

*Help create koala habitat & learn about koalas!*

*Meet Melbourne's most famous wild koalas!*

*Learn how koala researchers identify koalas*

**WHEN:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014

**WHERE:** the You Yangs Regional Park, 45mins west of Melbourne (pickup from Melbourne city available for 10 adults, book early)

**COST:** free! Donations to our Koala Research are welcomed.

**WHAT TO BRING:** lunch, drinking water, gardening gloves, binoculars and your passion for nature and wildlife!



**HOW TO BOOK/MORE INFORMATION:** call Echidna Walkabout Nature Tours & Wildlife Research on 03 9646 8249 or email: [enquiries@echidnawalkabout.com.au](mailto:enquiries@echidnawalkabout.com.au)

[www.echidnawalkabout.com.au](http://www.echidnawalkabout.com.au) Tel:+61 3 9646 8249



Enjoy a day helping Koalas in the wild. Search for koalas, monitor their behaviour, remove weeds from their habitat and take records of all other wildlife seen, all in the company of a highly experienced Koala Researcher.

Part of the day is spent assisting our Koala Researcher to find wild koalas in their natural habitats. Once found, each koala is photographed, GPS located, their behaviour and tree species noted. Most of the koalas in the area are known to us – some for many years – and all are part of our 15 year citizen-science Koala Research Project. This important study is delivered to National Parks Rangers, Wildlife Carers, Hospitals & Veterinarians, Field Naturalists Clubs and Wildlife Scientists for the betterment of wild koalas.

As important as the koalas themselves is their environment. One of your activities during the day will involve recording each species of wildlife seen, and helping prepare to submit these sightings to the Atlas of Australian Birds, and CSIRO's Atlas of Living Australia. The data we collect provides an enormous resource that helps monitor changes in populations over time.

Koala habitat improvement is the focus of the rest of the day. Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is an invasive weed of National Significance. Wild koalas in the You Yangs avoid areas thickly infested with Boneseed, so by removing the weed we make areas suitable for koalas. Weeding is easy, chemical-free, and requires no special tools or equipment.

**Duration:** approx 6 hours      **Grade/Difficulty:** easy\*

**Kids?** This day is suitable for children over 7 years old who can be quiet around the koalas, can restrain themselves from running around and can be entertained by pulling weeds for periods of around an hour at a time. Families with kids of 7 to 15 years old should drive their own car and meet us at the You Yangs, so that they can leave at any time if the kids get too restless to continue the activities. Please note: to protect the koalas and the interests of the whole group, noisy or disruptive behaviour will not be accepted.

For more call 03 9646 8249 or email: [enquiries@echidnawalkabout.com.au](mailto:enquiries@echidnawalkabout.com.au)

\* participants should be able to walk 3km easily without assistance, and bend over to pull out shallow-rooted weeds.