

Bayside Bulletin, Tuesday June 1, 2004

Koalas hold key to future

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Redland residents risked losing their environment-supporting lifestyle if they did not act now to protect koalas and their habitat.

That's the warning local environmentalist Simon Baltais in the lead up to World Environment Day this Saturday.

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on June 5 is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

"If you look at what we have and other countries don't, we should consider ourselves very lucky and have much to celebrate," Mr Baltais said.

"It is no secret that the Redlands supports one of Australia's largest koala populations (a minimum of 3000 animals).

"It is the koala that makes the Redlands unique.

"Many regions throughout Australia have lost or are losing their koalas, we still have them in our backyards," Mr Baltais said.

He warned Redland people not to be complacent about the significance of koalas to the future well-being of the Redlands.

"The koalas they are the reason why we have a great lifestyle and environment.

"By protecting the koala we protect many other species, we protect our bushland, landscapes and the health of our waterways.

"If we lose the koala then it is likely our bushland is all but gone, our open spaces will have been filled with houses, our landscapes made artificial, roads congested with traffic and waterways polluted," Mr Baltais said..

"We stand at the cross roads where the koala and ultimately the well-being of our community and many other species are at jeopardy of being lost due to the outcomes of development driven by greed.

"It is likely that if we don't awake soon from our complacency, all that we cherish will be lost.

"World Environment Day this year should remind all us of this reality, that the future well being of the koala and our community are very much entwined," he said.