

## Press release - November 2009

### Australian beach resort that has it all - gets even better

Couran Cove Island Resort, located on South Stradbroke Island in Queensland, has everything you could want for the ultimate Australian beach holiday. It embodies everything Australian's hold dear about their lifestyle and their country and it's has gotten even more attractive.

On the ocean side is 22 kilometres of dazzling, sandy beach and surf. In the island's centre is ancient rainforest and wetlands. On the accessible side, suspended over the calm Broadwater, is its marine accommodation. It's just 40 minutes from the Gold Coast by ferry - and all those attractions - but it feels like a million miles away.

There is beautiful scenery and lots of places to walk and explore. There are loads of outdoor and water sporting activities and there is so much native wildlife the resort has its own environmental guides who do a variety of tours to inform you about all the Australian animals. You'll see wallabies that nibble on the wild grass around the grounds, enjoy a morning walk to observe the birds and even take a nocturnal walk to view the animals that come out at night. The plants are interesting too, the ones you can eat they call "bushtucker".

The resort is built on best practice principles. The intention of the owners was to create an environmental utopia, where humans exist in harmony with the natural flora and fauna and the cultural history of the site. Every building, every service, every element is designed to be environmentally sustainable. From their wedding chapel canopied by age-old mango trees, to their own LPG gas tankers, to their tented conference centre, there is a sense of belonging, of a resort working in harmony with its environment.

This is the reason their new environmental project will make this resort even more special! As part of their conservation work they have built a koala haven and currently care for three young Koalas. Now guests staying at the resort may have an up close experience with one of Australia's favourite animals.

The enclosure is set amongst mature gum trees, their favourite tree. A tour of the enclosure will take about an hour and will include an educational talk full of koala facts and research.

"The koala encounter will be a very holistic experience for our guests. They will be interacting with the animals in their natural environment. Spending quality time with koalas at the place where they're holidaying. That's a pretty unique experience for anyone" said Scott Hayden, General Manager.

It has taken meticulous planning and the approval of relevant animal protection agencies for the resort to open their "Koala Haven" in November 2009. They will care for these young koalas who will become educational ambassadors for the species to educate Australians about environmental impacts on native animals and how to protect and preserve their habitats.

The resort has attracted the attention of countries around the world with its one-stop Australian experience. There is also a range of nationalities including many young Koreans and Japanese on working holiday visas on staff to assist with cultural and language needs.

With such natural beauty, lots of activities and services and now the opportunity to meet Australia's most lovable marsupials, Couran Cove Island Resort is a destination like no other.

The Koala Haven at Couran Cove Island Resort on South Stradbroke Island officially opened November 2009. Accommodation enquiries and bookings can be made by calling 1800 268 726 or visit the website at [www.couran.com](http://www.couran.com)

## Koala Facts:

- Koalas look like teddy bears. They have soft thick fur, large hairless nose, round ears, no tail, and white stomachs. Their fur is usually grey or brown. They have a vestigial tail, which is so small that it is not visible unless you move the fur away from the backside.
- Koalas sit comfortably in trees because of a bone plate and thicker hair on their behind compared to the rest of their bodies.
- Koalas can run as fast as a human for short bursts to quickly escape from predators.
- Koalas sleep 18 to 20 hours of every day.
- In most cases they sleep during the hotter part of the day, and are active during dawn, dusk, and at night. Even though they spend 18 to 20 hours asleep - they will be awake at different times throughout that 24-hour period.
- The Koalas will consume 10% of their body weight daily.
- They will sleep in trees which offer them comfort, shade and protection from the weather, and will choose different trees at different times of the year. They have feeding trees that they favour and will regularly visit.
- The scientific name for a koala is *Phascolarctos cinereus*.
- The koala is a Marsupial.
- There is only 1 species of koala.
- Koalas in the wild live 10 to 12 years average. Koalas in captivity live up to 15 years.
- The greatest threat to koalas today is humans through habitat destruction, and death by diseases Retrovirus and Chlamydia, both of which are stress induced. Furthermore, when they are unable to find sufficient food their immune system becomes weak and then they are susceptible to secondary infections like pneumonia. Other main threats to koalas particularly the Joeys are large carpet pythons; wedge tailed eagles, foxes, feral cats and dogs - both wild and domestic. The AKF estimate that 4,000 koalas per year are killed by being struck by cars and attacked by dogs.
- Koalas have only 2% body fat. Therefore little in reserve to rely on when they cannot find enough food (from being displaced from their own environment).
- Koalas are classed as 'vulnerable' in Queensland under the Nature Conservation Act of 1992. The AKF is lobbying the Government to have this listing made official and Australia wide. They are also requesting that their habitat be listed as 'endangered'. The AKF estimates that there are 75,000 to 100,000 left in the Wild.
- Gestation for a koala is 30 to 37 days, with 35 day being the average. When a Joey is born it is the size of a jellybean. The eyes have not yet developed, the ears are pinned down, and it doesn't have hind limbs - they are just little buds on the body. They do however have strongly developed forearms, and they use them to climb completely unassisted by the mother from the birth canal up to the pouch and attached themselves to one of two nipples. They will stay in the pouch to continue development, and will begin to emerge from the pouch at 6 to 8 months of age.