





# Koala sculptures to form trail

IT'S not everyday you can see 50 koalas in one place. Especially koalas that stand 1m tall.

From September, Port Macquarie will become home to a bold new event, the Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail, featuring 1m tall koala sculptures oozing cuteness and creativity.

The Trail is a new way for visitors to explore the region and see each of the koalas, which are hand painted and decorated by local and interstate artists. The koalas will be set up at various tourism attractions and popular recreational spots from the coast to the hinterland.

Highlights are Kalido, a mosaic koala at the performing arts centre Glasshouse (artist Francessca O'Donnell), Bago Blossum the Amaze-ing koala reflecting the new maze at Bago Vineyards (artist Kellie Mobbs), and Stoney surrounded by his real koala cousins at Billabong Zoo (artist Bruce Whittaker).

Designed to celebrate local art and creativity, and the importance of environmental sustainability, koalas hold a special place in the heart of our southern neighbours.

Port Macquarie is the koala capital

of Australia, home to the world's only Koala Hospital and one of the largest coastal koala populations.

Billabong Zoo has an accredited international koala-breeding program.

Country singer John Williamson, who is a patron of the Koala Hospital, is painting a special koala to be located at the hospital.

Australian artist Sophie Corcoran will paint a koala sculpture with Parisian scenes while in France, before sending it home to Cassegrain Winery.

"Public art is a wonderful way to engage with a broad range of members in the community, from childhood to older age and from diverse backgrounds it encourages interaction, participation and contribution," executive Director of Hello Koalas Margret Meagher said.

Hello Koalas is a free event and will be open September 2014 until December 2015.

 **MORE INFO:**  
[www.hellokoalas.com](http://www.hellokoalas.com) or  
like the Hello Koalas  
Sculpture Project on  
Facebook.





**DOUBLE TAKE:** A Billabong Zoo resident checks out one of the Hello Koala sculptures, painted by artist Bruce Whittaker.

PHOTO: LINDSAY MOLLER