Greening our gardens – Feeding koalas

Pick up FREE trees, plant them and wait for the koalas to come!

The Myall Koala Environment Group has 200 koala food trees to give away to lucky locals. The Dwarf Parramatta Red Gum (Eucalyptus Parramattensis, subspecies decadens)

are given each year by MidCoast Council for the annual Myall River Festival tree give-away. But due to COVID restrictions, this year’s festival has been cancelled, so the group will give the trees directly to you.

It’s important they are planted as soon as possible for this Spring, so get your FREE trees now.

They are available from Woody’s Building & Garden Centre together with a sheet of instructions on planting and care.

Or you can pick yours up from MKEG president Jill Madden in Tea Gardens on 0418 236 582 to arrange a pickup time.

If you have the space to plant more than one tree, you are welcome to take more.

The Dwarf Parramatta Red Gum is a attractive, small (4-6 metre) eucalyptus that koalas absolutely love to eat!

This particular subspecies is classified Vulnerable and MidCoast Council is growing them for the Koala Group's tree giveaway.

The tree thrives in sandy soils and is ideal in urban yards in the Hawks Nest/Tea Gardens area because of its small size, barely reaching your gutters.

Prepare a planting hole slightly larger than the root ball. In heavier soil, make the hole a little wider to help with early root development.

To plant, make sure that the top of the root ball is level with the surrounding soil. Backfill the soil around the root ball, watering in as you go to remove any air pockets.

Make a mounded ring around the base of the tree to direct water to the roots. A good weekly deep watering until the end of summer will establish a healthy tree.

Adrienne Ingram

