

Klassic Koalas

Vintage Postcards and Timeless Quotes of Wisdom



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San Mateo, California

Introduction

As one of the most delightful creatures on earth, the koala has a magical way of touching the hearts of people from all walks of life. This phenomenon transcends the boundaries of age, culture, and time. Known as a gentle ambassador to an ancient past, its uncanny ability to make us forget all of our daily concerns for a brief moment in time is captured in these vintage black-and-white postcards that make us want to share in its world of peace and contentment. The photographs are accompanied by quotes of timeless wisdom that reinforce a message of kindness, compassion, and encouragement.

By simply observing these visions of tranquility and taking in the meanings of the Zen-like wisdoms, we can bring calm into our own hurried lives. The quotes serve as a reminder that the best things in life are not things, but matters of the heart—and they are free.

While many of the featured classic postcards didn't list an author, it is safe to state that a large number of those images originated at three staple institutions known to have drawn an inestimable number of tourists over the years: Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane, Queensland, and Koala Park Sanctuary and Taronga Zoo in Sydney, New South Wales. Special recognition deserves to be given for their continued conservation efforts over many years. Summarized on the next page are brief histories about each of those animal parks.

Koala Park Sanctuary | www.koalaparksanctuary.com.au

Koala Park was created in the 1920s and officially opened in October of 1930 by the founder, Noel Burnet. He became alarmed at the high numbers of koalas shot for the large export fur trade. He feared that if such harsh treatment were allowed to continue, this lovable and unique animal would disappear from the face of the earth forever. From that time on he spent his whole life fighting to protect, research, and create a safe environment for koalas, in which they could live and breed naturally.

This was the beginning of a unique family involvement with the koala that continues to this day. Noel Burnet's family (through his daughter Noela, now Noela McNamara) are still owner-operators of the sanctuary, following the same basic principles upon which it was founded.

Koala Park was so successful with its work on koalas, that it soon became world renowned. It is still one of the few places in the world where you can learn about the koala, cuddle one, and see them living naturally in the rainforest, eucalyptus groves, and native gardens of the sanctuary. They share their tranquil home with other Australian animals and birds.

Taronga Zoo | www.zoo.nsw.gov.au

The first public zoo in New South Wales officially opened in Sydney in 1884 in Moore Park, operated by the Zoological Society of NSW. After a visit to Germany in 1908, the elected Secretary of the Zoo, Albert Sherbourne Le Souef, returned with a vision for a new Sydney zoo, based on the barless exhibits of Hamburg Zoo. On April 24th, 1912, the NSW Government granted 43 acres of land north of the harbor.

Taronga Zoo was officially opened on October 7th, 1916. After a critical review in 1967, a new era in the style and philosophy for the operation of Taronga began, which reflected the new emphasis on scientific research, conservation, and education. Many new exhibits were built. The Veterinary Quarantine Centre was built, as was the Education Centre. Previous attractions, such as elephant rides, miniature trains, a monkey circus, and a merry-go-round, gave way to educational facilities such as Friendship Farm and Seal Theatre.

The Trust was replaced in 1973 when the NSW Government created the Zoological Parks Board of NSW (ZPB). The ZPB has dramatically expanded its conservation, breeding, education, and research programs with *in situ* conservation projects active from Mongolia to Antarctica, while supporting a range of koala conservation, international exchange, and research programs.

Lone Pine Sanctuary | www.koala.net

At over 75 years of age, with over 130 koalas, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is officially recognized by the famous Guinness World Records as the world's first and largest koala sanctuary. Lone Pine was founded in 1927 by Claude Reid, a koala enthusiast who was concerned about the plight of koalas in the wild. Koala numbers were rapidly decreasing as a result of widespread hunting for their fur. In 1927 koala culling was banned by law.

It was in the same year that Mr. Reid started the sanctuary with just two koalas, Jack and Jill, fulfilling his childhood dream. Today, clocking up over 75 years in animal husbandry and breeding, the sanctuary boasts not only koalas, but also many other native animals, including kangaroos and wallabies, Tasmanian devils, dingoes, echidnas, wombats, birds, reptiles, and many more. Few people know that Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is actually named after the pine tree that stands next to the souvenir shop entrance. It is a Hoop Pine, planted by Daniel Clarkson in 1865, when Lone Pine was a cotton farm.

Located on the banks of the beautiful Brisbane River, set amongst leafy trees and native flora, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary is the ideal destination for a relaxing day with nature, where visitors can appreciate many of the native wildlife wonders Australia has to offer.



The world is like

a mirror,

you see?

Smile

and your

friends

smile back.

—*Japanese Zen saying*

Other books by Koala Jo Publishing:

Klassic Koalas: Ancient Aboriginal Tales in New Retellings
Klassic Koalas: Mr. Douglas' Koalas and the Stars of Qantas
Klassic Koalas: Vegetarian Delights Too Cute to Eat
Koalas: Moving Portraits of Serenity
Koalas: Zen in Fur

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