



# Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

4th Quarter 2015



**Hollingsworth**  
**Nick**

# Hollingsworth Nick



Nick will be ready for release early in 2016. As he is now a young mature male, he will have to be returned to his home range. We hope when the time comes he doesn't get himself into trouble again!

This of course depends on the care taken by motorists in and around the environs of Port Macquarie and any koala corridor that exists in suburban areas. It has been mentioned before but koalas are very prone to motor vehicle accidents as their natural surroundings are being continuously encroached by increasing suburban development.

In September 2015 a member of the public noticed a koala sitting low in a tree beside a busy road, with a severely damaged left hind foot. On arrival at the hospital the koala was found to be young Hollingsworth Nick who had come into the hospital one year prior as he originally was found just behind the CBD of Port Macquarie sitting in a small Callistemon bush looking quite distressed.

It would seem this time that Hollingsworth Nick had been hit by a car, as his injuries fitted being dragged along under a car. Even though this was awful for poor Nick, it was also alarming that the motorist had failed to notify us of this accident.

Hollingsworth Nick underwent surgery to remove some damaged toes that were beyond repair and to debride some tissue. Hollingsworth Nick then had to endure twice weekly bathing and bandage changes under anaesthesia until this timetable was able to be extended to a once weekly change. Hollingsworth Nick coped well with half his leg encased in bright blue or red bandages – he looked very flash indeed.

Eventually the healing of the wounds was so successful that bandaging was stopped. Nick has now ended up with only two functional digits on his hind foot as the remainder are gone. Koalas survive very well with some digits removed and Nick is now progressing well in both his healing process and learning to negotiate the gunyahs with a “few bits less”.

We are very confident that with a bit more rehabilitation and “tincture of time”, Hollingsworth



*Hollingsworth Nick settling into his new surroundings*

# An alliance to protect the Koalas

**A**n alliance devoted to the survival of our remaining koala populations has been launched recently. The National Koala Alliance is a non-profit network of koala conservation, welfare, advocacy and research groups working collaboratively to bring a national voice to koala habitat conservation and political lobbying and the protection of individual koalas.

Port Macquarie Koala Hospital is a member, the koala hospital's supervisor, Cheyne Flanagan, likened the koala alliance to a brains trust. "If we have all of us together as a group, we have more clout and it's a united voice," she said.

The alliance has already presented a code of conduct for the bluegum industry to the Victorian government. The group will lobby on federal and state level for further protection of koalas.

As koala numbers are rapidly declining and local extinctions occurring, the association believes that without immediate and very urgent political intervention, one-by-one, koala populations will suffer the fate of local extinctions, and if a national approach isn't taken, we are all looking at an Australia without any koalas.

Koalas are under threat from loss of their habitat, disease, plantation logging, mining, dog attacks and from being hit by cars.

"Something has got to be done," Ms Flanagan said. The association launch was timely, she said, as the current situation was now getting worse.

Ms Flanagan said that koalas were a sentinel species. "They are now the canary in the mine ... so it [the alliance] is a win-win for all species," she said.



*Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan with one of her patients.*

*Article reprinted courtesy of Port Macquarie Express.*

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## Help keep our Koalas in Good Hands!

The Koala Preservation Society will gratefully accept bequests to help insure the continued work of the society. You can log on to our website, click on the *Act Now* section on the front page and read all the information under the *Bequest* heading.

***Make a commitment to protect an endangered and unique Australian icon***

# Koala Technical Twists and Tidbits

**There** is a common misconception that the male koala is the only one that bellows and grunts – well female koalas can bellow and grunt as well but probably not as much. Another misconception is that females are the only ones that emit a high pitched shrill cry - males (particularly subordinate ones) can scream along with the best of them!!

**The** loud bellowing sound of a koala on a still dark night is considered to be responsible for the “yowie” myth (the mythical hairy man that is supposed to live in the Australian bush that no one has ever seen)

**Female** koalas pouches do not open backwards as many books say, but are in fact vertical and are found in the lower third of the koalas belly area (midline)

**Female** koalas are capable of breeding from 12-18 months of age onwards, breeding on average every second year. Female koalas are capable of conceiving well into old age but most joeys do not make it as it is too much of a drain on an aged koala.

**Koalas** ages are determined by their premolar and molar tooth wear

**Koalas** belong to the Diprotodont marsupial group (marsupials which have two incisor teeth on the bottom jaw)

**Koalas** have a double layer of fur, which makes them the most insulated marsupial of all

**Koalas** are smaller, lighter built and finer furred in the north east of Australia, getting larger, more solid in build and hairier as latitude increases. Victorian koalas are the biggest, the most solid and the woolliest of all koalas in this country whereas Queensland ones are the smallest. This is called clinal distribution and is to do with adaptation to the different climatic zones

**Koalas** are found from west of Cairns in North Queensland right down the eastern coastline to Adelaide. Koalas are also found in smaller numbers on the western plains of Qld, NSW and Victoria. Small populations were relocated to islands off QLD, Victoria and S.A.

**In** QLD, NSW and the ACT koalas have been listed federally as Vulnerable to Extinction. Some small local populations in Qld and NSW are considered to be endangered. It is highly likely this has occurred through removal of vast areas of koala habitat for human development.

**In** Victoria and SA the koalas are listed as Abundant with major issues occurring with over population in Blue Gum Plantations and other locations. The Victorian koala problem requires some major management changes.

**Koalas** have very few predators – dingoes, wedge tailed eagles, and pythons occasionally take them. Feral cats, foxes and wild dogs impact more on their numbers. Nonetheless the number one cause of the decline of koalas in Australia is human development.

**The** poorer the soil quality, the more toxic the eucalypt leaf can become as a strategy to protect the tree from being overbrowsed during certain seasonal periods. Fresh new eucalypt leaf growth post bushfire is often very sweet and nutritious.

**Out** of the 900 or so eucalypt species found in Australia, koalas eat approximately 50 or so across their known ranges, with around 10 species being preferred at a local level – and up to five of those species being browsed as the main staple of their diet

**Adult** koalas eat up to 500 grams per day of fresh leaf

**Adult** koalas can pass around 200 droppings in 24 hours (or 100 grams or more in weight), with gut transit time being approximately five days (from mouth to passing)

**Koala** scats (droppings) are a unique dark coloured football shape which is one of the indicators used to locate wild koalas in survey work.

**There** are also two species of moth that lay their eggs specifically in koala scats. The larvae feed specifically on koala poo. Once the moths have hatched and emerged, they leave a distinct tube in the centre of the scat which is also used to identify how long ago a koala was in that area.

**Koalas** leave distinctive scratch marks on the smooth bark of trees – another indicator for locating koala populations

**Koalas** share their unique eucalypt diet with Ringtail and Brushtail possums, Greater Gliders and Yellow belly gliders.

**Zoos** in countries such as Germany, Portugal, Scotland, Japan, China, Israel and the USA have captive bred koalas on display for the public

**Most** wild koalas when sick are often amenable to being treated, but once better, exhibit more wild defensive behaviour and are thus more easily returned to the wild

**Both** the wild and captive bred koalas show particular body language signs that can be very helpful in aiding diagnosis of problems. For example: drooped ears – very sick. Flicking ears – “go away”, “don’t do that”. Grinding teeth – in pain. Flicking forearms/wrists – “something is bothering me”. Popping eyes – “I am terrified”.

# Oysters in the Vines at Cassegrain

It was a great relief to be able to uncross our fingers when we awoke on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October this year to a beautiful sunny morning. We had been hoping for good weather for the annual “Oysters in the Vines” festival at Cassegrain winery.



John Cassegrain is a great supporter of the Koala Hospital, allowing us space for our stall, and wines which we raffle throughout the day, and his generosity is greatly appreciated. We arrived early and with a little help from our volunteers, we soon had our gazebo in place and the stall set up with brochures, goods for sale and the wine for our raffles. We also began selling tickets in the raffle of a valuable watercolour of native birds which was donated by local artist Glo Hill. This will be drawn on our Open Day at the Koala Hospital at Easter next year.

It was all go from then on, with Lorraine, Maria, Stefan, Val, Annie, Mick, Jane, Amy, Emma and John arriving at various times during the day. Our stall was well frequented during the day, with many visitors asking for information about the hospital. Gift packs of Cassegrain wines were raffled throughout the



day, and people were happy to buy tickets from our volunteers, knowing they were helping our precious koalas. Who could resist buying a raffle ticket from our cheerful volunteers?

Our first visit from True Blue was at midday, and our Swiss volunteer Stefan did the honours, with his partner Maria steering him through the crowd with his basket of sweets for the children. He was a great hit with children and adults alike as you can see.



Our second visit from our mascot was later in the afternoon, and this time it was John Barber in the hot seat. By this time Maria was aware of all the obstacles in his path, and guided him very ably through the crowd which had grown considerably. The adults were very generous, contributing to True Blue's bucket which was very welcome.



Our volunteers had a great time and our thanks go to all of them for their help. A special thanks goes to Tracey, without her help and expertise, it would not have been the resounding success that it was, with the koala hospital funds reaping the benefits.

# Clinical Director's Report



**G**oodness, Christmas is upon us again, wasn't it five minutes ago it was last Christmas? Its been a mix of very busy and very quiet at the Koala Hospital in the last twelve months. Admission numbers are well and truly down for 2015. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Historically admission numbers have been relatively the same for the last ten to fifteen years but this year numbers are much lower. Is this an indication of a crash and decline of the population, an unexplained anomaly or is all well out there? We will need to see what 2016 and possibly 2017 produce first, but nonetheless it is quite disturbing.

From a chlamydia perspective it has been what we call an "eye year" where we see the majority of patients suffering from the ocular form of the disease. From a treatment perspective this has a far greater chance of successful treatment than the urogenital form of the disease which often has a very poor prognosis. We have been trialling another drug for chlamydia which so far has not been overly promising.

Admissions as a result of dog attacks are still occurring. No matter how much we endeavour to educate dog owners, some just don't seem to care. Of course many dog owners are extremely distressed when their dog causes injuries to a koala and certainly try very hard to prevent this occurring.

The new yards and other infrastructure have all been completed and everything is in place for the licence changes but at the point of writing we are still waiting for this to be completed "from the other end".

We are certainly bulging at the seams with volunteers these days which is great. Our work experience programme is very popular and is booked out as well as our overseas section (two year waiting list). We also take on NSW Corrective Services clients who are doing their community hours with us, doing maintenance and cleaning so everything is looking ship shape and shiny.

Some of the highlights of this current year have been the completion of the 4th Edition of the Koala Rehabilitation Manual which is selling very well. We also hosted the WIRES NSW rehabilitation workshop in July, we visited our colleagues at the Adelaide Koala and Wildlife hospital for a week (plus had talks with the SA government) and we also have personnel sitting on the Expert Panel for The Biodiversity Strategy, The Feral Deer committee and the Koala Plan of Management for our local government area.

We are also collecting samples and continue to work with the University of Sydney, the Australian Museum, University of the Sunshine Coast, Qld and Murdoch University in WA and the University of Western Sydney. Thankfully we have had plenty of rain, so the forested areas are flourishing. If we get the predicted extreme hot weather from the El Nino all of this will change rapidly.

On behalf of the koalas, I personally would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for their hard work. Without our volunteers this hospital simply would not exist. I would like to thank Dr Chris Livingston, Dr Tim Reed and the team at the Port Macquarie Veterinary Hospital who again have excelled themselves in all the amazing surgical procedures performed this year, you are all champions!!

And on behalf of all of us we would like to thank all the very generous and wonderful financial supporters. Again without you, we simply could not afford to keep this hospital going.

We wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and a peaceful 2016 and we send our wishes to the wild koalas out there to stay safe!

*Cheyne Flanagan*

## A Volunteers Thank You

**J**ust recently two of our overseas volunteers from Switzerland, Stefan Theiler and Maria Kovac said thank you in a very "sweet" way. They had a special koala cheesecake made from a local bakery and presented it at morning tea for the volunteers. They both have a great affection for the koalas, volunteering for the last 3 years, the cake may be an inducement for making it 4 years in a row.



# From the *President's* Pen



**T**he Koala Hospital is recognised as a world authority on the koala and is in constant demand from Universities, government organisations and many conservation groups to provide advice, data and to sit on committees relevant to the future of the koala, its habitat and the effect of development.

I am sure that the effectiveness of our organisation has led to its recognition of the rehabilitation and study of the koala and giving opportunities to educational providers with hands on experience and also to secure important conservation areas.

Our team of experts headed by our Clinical Director, Cheyne Flanagan who is ably supported by the Supervisors and Team Leaders, who coordinate our incredible volunteers provides this service to our remarkable icon 'the koala'.

The support we receive from our members and the community at large to carry out this work is unequalled.

Our volunteers in all areas of the work are passionate about what they do and together experience the unique teamwork that is the Koala Hospital.

I am proud to be a part of the team that is focused on teamwork in order to achieve the best outcome possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the visitors to our hospital throughout the year and the patronage our website receives from a worldwide public.

All the staff and volunteers of the Koala Hospital wish you Seasons Greetings and all the best for a happy and safe festive season.

**Bob Sharpham**

## Thumbs Up

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



Thumbs up to Paul and Tony who managed to catch Kennedy PT 101 on Kennedy Drive. PT was limping badly and it was discovered that he was the victim of an MVA which had occurred 1–2 weeks prior.



Thumbs up to all the people for keeping their dogs in at night while the koalas are about.



Thumbs down to the 'gentleman' who took the time to verbally abuse the volunteer in our souvenir shop. There was no need for the abuse and you only made a spectacle of yourself.



Thumbs up to the German lady who bought 7 koala adoptions & another person who bought an adoption for a 'secret Santa'. Please remember, it's a great gift to give those with everything or are hard to buy for.

## Overseas Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Stefan Theiler and Maria Kovac

**Resides:** Erlenbach (Zurich), Switzerland

**Occupation:** IT Specialists

**Why did you Volunteer and for how long?:**

We have volunteered 3 times now in 2013, 2014 and this year 2015 for a one month period each time. The great work everybody does and how they care for the koalas is really impressive and we decided we wanted to help the koalas as well, so what better way than volunteering

**What was your experience like?:**

It is always a great experience and we learn so much. It is always appreciated that we are allowed to do such wonderful work and be part of the team, alas for always "too short a time".

**Who was your favourite Koala?:**

Stoney Creek Sue, Barrington Xavier, Ellenborough Howard, Gunnedah Martine and Maria River Road Ian, all so very special and so cute in their own ways.



*Barrington Xavier still suffering from infected eyes, but getting better. Still one of our very favourite koalas.*

# Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

**D**id you know that at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie, where Barry lives in between his world travels, they have a dedicated Koala ambulance? It's on call 24/7 for rescuing koalas from all sorts of dangerous situations and driven by Hospital volunteers on a roster basis.

Sometimes it's used for happier occasions and Barry gladly hitched a ride recently when a koala was being driven out of town to the bush to be safely released after successful hospital treatment. Enjoying his role as



a Wildlife Warrior, Barry joined Robert, a 'once-a-year' volunteer at the Hospital. Barry caught the bus to Sydney to help Robert take care of a tiny little possum named Tiger who had been orphaned when his poor Mum was hit by a car. Together they nursed Tiger back to health and released him into the bush. Good luck, little Tiger!

Keen to start his world travels again, Barry jetted off to meet his friend Anne in Africa. They got together at Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. It may not be the highest waterfall in the world but it is certainly the longest – more than a kilometre long and the sound can be heard 40 klm away. Barry & Anne enjoyed a pleasant river cruise and were interested to learn that the famous explorer, David Livingstone had named the falls after Queen Victoria in 1855 - presumably to avoid any more ZZZZZZds?



Heading to the Northern Hemisphere, Barry caught up with Paul and Alex in Dubai in the Arab Emirates. Together they climbed up to the 555.7 metre-high observation deck of the towering Burj Khalifa skyscraper, the tallest



artificial structure in the world. Barry thought it was great to get his climbing certificate but would have appreciated an oxygen mask and a good lie down after that monumental effort.

Vienna was his next stop to catch up with Sabina and Harald at the Prater, a huge amusement park in the middle of the city since 1866. It had a museum of historical amusement park items and one of them was a statue of the Lindworm that once was part of the Lindworm Grotto Railway. Barry was a bit wary of the Lindworm's huge teeth as he heard the terrifying Old Norse story of the giant wingless dragon and its adventures.



It was just a hop, skip and a jump for Barry to join Blandine in the picturesque medieval town of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Barry thought the charming old bell tower in the Cathedral Square looked like it belonged in a fairy tale and they spent hours admiring the ancient and elegant architecture of all the surrounding buildings.



Always eager to learn new skills, Barry joined his good friends Jenny, John, Heather and Andreas in the small town of Emstal just west of Berlin in Germany. They enjoyed themselves at a community baking day using traditional outdoor ovens to bake some



delicious sourdough bread. Barry took great care to see that they only used only non-eucalyptus wood to fire up the big ovens, because eucalyptus trees have to be protected for Koalas to eat and to sleep in.

From there, Barry hurried over to London, one of his favourite places to visit, to



join Christopher on an exciting, fur-raising ride on the London Eye. This was Barry's first ride on the giant Ferris Wheel and he was thrilled to get a bird's eye view of the River Thames and all the famous landmark buildings of London. It felt just like being up a gum tree at home!



Creepy stories and castle ruins were next on Barry's itinerary. He met up with Caroline on the



Northern Yorkshire moors at Whitby Abbey, a ruined aged Benedictine monastery from the Dark Ages. Located high on a cliff, the old Abbey had been a very

prominent landmark for sailors for hundreds of years and helped inspire Bram Stoker's *Count Dracula* stories. Barry wasn't worried though, because Dracula did not seek Koala blood. At least he hoped not.

Off to Canada now, Barry crossed the ocean to join Nigel and Janet in Montreal to see an ice hockey game.

Barry then asked to be introduced to Goofymoose who is the mascot of the Montreal Canadiens who are a National Ice Hockey Team. The idea of being the mascot for a hugely popular sporting team really appealed to Barry and he wondered which team he might represent back at home. Hmmmm?



Heading south to sunny California, Barry joined his pal Amanda at the San Diego Zoo. The zoo



boasts the largest koala colony and the most successful koala breeding program outside of Australia. The original pair of koalas sent there way back in 1925 were Snugglepot and Cuddlepie, named after the well loved children's stories by May Gibbs. Barry felt really at home in the koala quarters as they looked just like his apartment at home! He had a good feed of

gum leaves as he chatted to his American cousins.

Barry had a quick stop-off in New Zealand with Andrea on the way home to check out the Wellington Zoo but was disappointed to find that he was the only Koala there. They have 100 species of animals from across the globe – but no Koalas!!



While he'd thoroughly enjoyed his world-wide travel, Barry was happy to get back home to catch up with all his mates and hear the latest gossip. Sweet little Zenani gave him a welcome-home kiss and whispered a few koala secrets to him. There's no place like home!

## Join in Barry's Worldwide Adventures

We are always happy to receive photos from people all over the world on their travels. All it takes is a Where's Barry plush toy valued at \$15.00. It can be purchased directly from the hospital kiosk in Port Macquarie or purchased online at [www.koalahospital.org.au/shop](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/shop) so that he can be incorporated in your photos then snap away at your favourite travel destinations and send the photos to us.

The travel photos can then be emailed to [barry@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:barry@koalahospital.org.au) along with some copy of where the photos were taken and your information and we can add them to our Barry's Adventures in Wanderland column.

So now you have the information you can become a selected member of the Where's Barry travel team and add to the list of inspiring sights that we have seen over the years.

Our fearless furry friend beckons you to take him with you on your next holiday so that he can report to all his friends from new and exotic locations across the globe.

# Koala Hospital - Year in Review

## Media

The year started well with the planning approval and eventual building of our new interpretive/education building which was completed in early March. Although it has served as a handy merchandise storage facility for the kiosk at night time, it is hoped that it will be 'commissioned' early in the New Year.

Regarding interest from foreign media companies to film at the hospital, it's been a relatively quiet year. There were various enquiries but only two responses, the more notable one being a film and TV company from Ireland who visited the hospital on November 23rd and had a great time (for which I accept no credit...well maybe just a little).

As ever our local media: TV, print and radio have been so wonderfully supportive during the year in getting our message to the community in regards to vulnerable koalas who live amongst us. An IFAW promotion (International Fund for Animal Welfare) for mittens to help burnt koalas was launched at the hospital and had received great support from the media.

The response from the public nationwide was enormous. There were some notable visitors to the hospital, John Williamson, who paid a quiet visit one Saturday morning with no fanfare, so typical of the great man. The Hon. Mark Pearson MLC (Animal Justice Party) on a 'fact-finding' visit which saw him impressed, an International Jurists group who were spellbound by our koalas and recently Mr. Nobuharu Hirota who is The Deputy Managing Director of Mitsubishi (Australia) who presented the hospital with a cheque for \$3,000. There have been visits to local schools/pre schools and Probus Clubs and we've hosted several schools at the hospital.

These are always rewarding, if sometimes slightly demanding events, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Two pre schools and a Probus Club accepted my invitation to visit the hospital and were well rewarded. That covers the year 2015 with a promise of a fascinatingly interesting 2016 with the fit-out of the new education facility.

At the time of going to print I've been informed by Uncle Bill of the Biripai People that the mural to be erected on the interpretive building is ready to be installed. In finishing I want to personally thank Helen Towers and all the 'vollies' who contributed to a great year.

*Mick Feeney*

## Adoptions

Adoptions (December 2014 to November 2015) total 2709, comprising 2085 full AAWK adoptions and 624 eAdoptions. Slightly less than last year which was 2881. Most adoptions originate from Australia, but we also had adoptions come from a cross section of countries Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy and Japan with Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Thailand, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

Sadly, Westhaven Barry's health deteriorated badly around July, and he was euthanased. As he was an extremely popular adopted koala due to being a long term resident at the Hospital, we notified all his adopters personally and received a large number of emails from people expressing their sorrow at his loss. Those who had adopted him during the last 3 months were offered a new koala and 11 people took us up on this offer.

A enterprising NSW company ("Koala Mattress") are offering all their customers a complimentary eAdoption (paid for by the company) with every purchase made. This was launched a week ago and this has really taken off with 42 eAdoptions already.

There will be a media release leading up to Christmas, which will be focussed on the koala Horton Harley D, who was a recent admission and had an interesting story. We have hopes it will promote an increased interest and support for the Hospital and encourage people to purchase adoptions as Christmas gifts, the media release is being arranged by Mick Feeney, our very able Media Coordinator.

We are expecting increased adoption numbers for the Christmas and holiday periods and hoping for a successful year in 2016.

*Jan Campbell*

## Education

Unfortunately, the Education report for 2015 was not ready in time for the printing of this edition, but will appear in our first Gum Tips edition for 2016.



# Kaylee's

## GUM DROPS KOLUMN

**B**onjour! Guten Nachmittag! Goedemiddag! Buena tarde! God eftermiddag! G'day! That's pretty impressive wouldn't you say? I'm learning all these ways of how to say 'hello or good afternoon' from all of our friendly visitors that come to our daily walk and talks.

The numbers are certainly increasing and it isn't even the Christmas/New Year holidays! Our guides will certainly be earning koala brownie points! We enjoy seeing visitors, who doesn't while they're in hospital – and we koalas are no different!

In the last kolumn I mentioned our enclosures were being 'renovated' and I'm happy to say that they have almost been completed. From what I hear from our patients in the ICU, they have been updated there as well! Well done and thank you to all – someone must be an avid 'Lifestyle' or 'The Block' series fan to construct all these great gunyahs.

Did you know that I'm also a part time 'security watcher' during the evenings? That's if I don't fall asleep, remember I only have one eye and I get pretty tired. Anyway, I have noticed quite a few rescues coming in overnight. Some of these are 'repeat offenders' and while I'm more than happy to say hello again to my friends, I'm also sad to see them so unwell.

Being our mating season, koalas are more active and are getting in all sorts of trouble with dog and car encounters – so please watch out for us. On behalf of the koalas I would like to say a big thank you to every one of our rescue volunteers, they are so wonderful and dedicated. It is not always easy to rescue koalas from some situations and

at times can be very sad and heartfelt. Let alone the hours we get you out of bed. You guys rock!!!

So now, I need to go higher in my tree and enjoy the beautiful breezes and the warm sunshine. Please drive safely, take care on the roads not only for all our native wildlife but for yourself and your families. Hope to see you soon at the koala hospital and from all of us we wish everyone a very happy festive season. *Bye until 2016!!*

## An Unusual Visitor!

NATF Zenani received quite a shock recently when a baby Tawny Frogmouth decided to pay her a visit, as the photos attest she knew it wasn't another koala, but just wasn't sure what she was looking at!



All photos are courtesy of Carole Grant AFIAP, FAPS

### Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winner for December 2015



Caroline – Photo of Barry at Dracula's castle in Whitby North Yorkshire

*Congratulations!*

### Positions Vacant - The Koala Hospital Night Phones

One night each week, take details regarding koala rescues and answer any calls for information.

#### Night Rescues

Staff wanted for night rescues, there is training that will be required and you work in a team.

*For all details contact Marilyn Lees at the hospital and all applicants must be local to Port Macquarie*



# Koala Hospital Activity Report

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
26.09.09	Oxley Kaylee	Left leg removed, damaged eye	Treating
26.09.09	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Treating
26.10.12	Barrington Xavier	Limited sight	Treating
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.08.14	Pappinbarra Solange	Aged	Treating
04.10.14	Reading Steffi	Conjunctivitis left eye	Treating
16.10.14	Watonga Wonder	On ground	Treating
16.02.15	Links Gordon	Abandoned Joey	Released 01.09.15
18.02.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
26.02.15	Glen Innes Kelly	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Released 01.09.15
25.06.15	Lake Geobbrie	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 21.08.15
08.07.15	HKPS Flash	Eye cataract	Treating
21.07.15	Hassal Chris	Conjunctivitis right eye	Released 25.08.15
21.07.15	Mayworth Stannis	Conjunctivitis left eye	Released 28.08.15
20.07.15	Herschell Dylan	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 05.08.15
30.07.15	Trial Bay Gaol Pete	On ground	Released 05.08.15
30.07.15	Bonny Hills Parker	Renal failure	Died 04.08.15
01.08.15	Emerald Downs Dickie	On ground	Released 03.08.15
02.08.15	Uralla David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased 20.08.15
03.08.15	Ocean Don	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 04.08.15
04.08.15	Hastings River Rd. Betty	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on arrival
04.08.15	Hastings River Rd. Ben	Joey of Betty	Died 05.08.15
04.08.15	Ocean Drive PD	On verandah - very quiet	Released 07.08.15
06.08.15	Alkina Flash	Distended abdomen	Euthanased 06.08.15
06.08.15	NATF Premier	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 04.09.15
07.08.15	Ocean Drive Joe	On ground - lethargic	Euthanased 26.08.15
15.08.15	Elkhorn George	Paralysed	Euthanased 15.08.15
18.08.15	Wauchope Shaz	Bleeding from cloaca	Died 28.08.15
19.08.15	King Norm	Suspect Chlamydia	Euthanased 24.08.15
19.08.15	Allunga Jack	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 20.08.15
20.08.15	Kennedy Wesley	In dangerous area - checked	Released 22.08.15
23.08.15	Appin Jack	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
25.08.15	Tameringa	Abscess left elbow	Released 11.10.15
01.09.15	Armidale Josh	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
01.09.15	Tasman Crawler	Found on ground - unknown	Dead on arrival
10.09.15	Armidale Allan	Conjunctivitis	Died 20.10.15
10.09.15	Armidale Shawn	Chlamydia	Euthanased 14.10.15
10.09.15	Hollingsworth Nick	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
11.09.15	Marsden Rolly	Moribund	Died 12.10.15
12.09.15	Herschell Dylan	In dangerous area - checked	Released 13.10.15
14.09.15	Tameringa	Abscess left elbow	Died 12.10.15
16.09.15	Guyra Angus	Conjunctivitis	Died 21.10.15

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
16.09.15	Gunnedah Rhonda	Chlamydia and conjunctivitis	Released 10.10.15
16.09.15	Moree Gwydir	Conjunctivitis	Treating
17.09.15	Oxley A.J.	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on arrival
22.09.15	Lake Max	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 23.09.15
26.09.15	Jade Jan	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 28.09.15
28.09.15	Inverell Debbie	Chlamydia	Died 12.10.15
01.10.15	Bennett Boof	Dog attack	Dead on arrival
04.10.15	Herschell Dylan	Dog attack	Euthanased 04.10.15
04.10.15	Cathie Jock	On ground - unknown	Dead on arrival
06.10.15	Acacia Tim	On ground - moribund	Euthanased 07.10.15
06.10.15	Currawong David	Dog attack	Dead on arrival
07.10.15	Blair Lainey	Chlamydia	Treating
08.10.15	Bellangry Wombat	Conjunctivitis	Treating
08.10.15	Waniora Imogen	Dog attack	Euthanased 09.10.15
11.10.15	Elparra David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
12.10.15	Moruya Jacob	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 13.10.15
14.10.15	Koala Neale	In front yard - observation	Released 16.10.15
18.10.15	Jasmine Carla	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 19.10.15
20.10.15	Capalla Maggie Mae	Chlamydia	Treating
21.10.15	Ocean Drive Libby	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 23.10.15
26.10.15	Hillcrest Ashley	Dog attack	Died 26.10.15
27.10.15	Horton Harley	In dangerous area - checked	Released 28.10.15
28.10.15	Bonny Hills Beauty	Dog attack	Died 29.10.15
29.10.15	Lake Rhona	In dangerous area - checked	Released 29.10.15
29.10.15	Chatsworth Oakden	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 29.10.15
29.10.15	Oxley Thor	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
30.10.15	Lake Cathie Zoe	Fell from roof - dazed	Treating



*Dunbogan Dave*

### ***Adopt Dunbogan Dave***

In late 2010 a scruffy female koala with a small joey on board was noticed wandering in a distressed fashion on the edge of a very busy road quite a distance from any stands of eucalypt trees. They were brought to the hospital for a "check up" with the mother found to be in very poor condition and the joey also appeared to be malnourished.

A decision was made to separate mother and joey and to give both Audrey and Dave individual five star treatment, thus giving them both the best chance of recuperation and recovery. Audrey was released weeks later into a high quality habitat area not too far from her original pickup location. Dunbogan Dave was placed with one of our star home carers and received lots of TLC. Dave responded so well, that in a matter of weeks he put on a lot of weight, had soft dark fur and he looked a totally different joey. Audrey probably wouldn't have recognized him!!

***For Adoption details login to [www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt)***

### ***Christmas card range for 2015***

Every year the Koala Hospital produces a range of colourful Christmas cards depicting past and present residents of the Koala Hospital. They are available from September and can be purchased online at [eshop@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:eshop@koalahospital.org.au) or from the kiosk at the Koala Hospital. They sell for \$2.50 each or the complete set of 7 cards for \$15. So this year give a card with a difference and help our fundraising, at the same time helping to protect our unique and precious native icon.



## 2015-2016 Calendar

December	No Management Meeting	
January 20	Management Meeting	10.00am
February 17	Management Meeting	10.00am
February 21	General Meeting	10.00am
March 16	Management Meeting	10.00am
April 20	Management Meeting	10.00am

## Gum Tips

Gum Tips the official newsletter of the Koala Preservation Society Australia Incorporated is published quarterly.



<i>Editor in Chief:</i>	<i>Contributors:</i>	<i>Photography:</i>
<b>Ken Rivett</b>	<b>Karen Brown</b>	<b>Carole Grant</b>
	<b>Marilyn Lees</b>	<b>Maree Smith</b>
	<b>Gaby Rivett</b>	<b>Natalie Spratford</b>
	<b>Mary Stewart</b>	<b>Gerry Walsh</b>

### DISCLAIMER

The Koala Preservation Society Australia Incorporated and the management committee do not accept any liability for the results of any actions taken or not taken, on the basis of information given or discussed with groups or other organised events, meetings and/or for information provided by speakers or for any information published for or on behalf of the organisation, its organs and officers.

Any opinions expressed in reports/articles published in this newsletter are not to be necessarily taken as being the opinion of the Society but rather the author's personal opinion. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of any information in the newsletter published in good faith as supplied to the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to use or edit any article submitted for publication.

### Koala Hospital worldwide websites

Netherlands—Carla Sluiter  
Germany—Lutz Michel  
Liechtenstein—Viktor  
Switzerland—Viktor  
Europe—Viktor  
Australia

<http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.de>  
<http://www.koala.li>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.ch>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.eu>  
<http://www.koalahospital.org.au>

### Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Committee

#### **Management Committee**

<i>President</i>	Bob Sharpham	president@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Vice President</i>	John Barber	vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Secretary</i>	Marilyn Lees	secretary@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Duxberry	treasurer@koalahospital.org.au

*\*Also members of the Management Committee*

#### **Hospital Clinic**

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#### **Administration**

<i>Administration Manager</i>	Anne Reynolds	admin@koalahospital.org.au
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<i>Friends of the Koala Hospital</i>	Friends Co-ordinator	friends@koalahospital.org.au
<i>International Volunteers</i>		
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<i>Koala Sightings</i>	Sightings	sightings@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Website</i>	Bob Sharpham	site_manager@koalahospital.org.au

# Merry Christmas from the Hospital Patients

Every day at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital brings new patients, visitors and activities



Find us on Facebook  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie



*Armisdale Josh just enjoying a leaf and contemplating life at the hospital.*



*Big and boofy, that's Barrington Xavier who enjoys a good feed and then checks out everything that goes on around him.*



*Sweet little Findlay Jill always inquisitive and always eager for her next meal and a horde of admiring visitors.*



*HKPS Flash enjoying a rest after a strenuous morning of eating and climbing around his gunyah, it's a lot of work for a koala.*



*Sweet NATF Zenani who was totally captivated by the tawny frogmouth in her enclosure.*



*Home carer Barbara Barrett saying hello to one of her joeys that she had taken to the hospital for further care.*



*Oxley Kaylee as always just exhausted after all the effort required to eat.*



*Little Horton Harley D. getting a thorough check up after being admitted to the hospital.*



*An inquisitive Telegraph Point Matt asking the question "Are you looking at me?".*



*Bellangry Wombat, just trying to find a comfortable position so that he can catch some shut eye.*



**Koala Preservation Society Australia  
Incorporated**

ABN 74 060 854 479

PO Box 236 Port Macquarie  
NSW 2444 Australia

Licensed to rehabilitate and release sick,  
injured and orphaned native fauna under  
Licence No. 10044

## In Memory of Westhaven Barry



### Koala Emergency Rescue Line

If you sight a Koala in distress — call our Rescue Line it operates 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

**Port Macquarie Koala Hospital**

**Telephone:** 02 6584 1522

**Email:** [info@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:info@koalahospital.org.au)

**Web:** [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au)