



Gum Tips

Quarterly Magazine of the
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

2nd Quarter 2016



Appin Jack



cleaned and where the sunny spots are in the morning. His “maleness” is certainly in evidence as well, that hasn’t been damaged at all! Jack does a fair bit of grunting, hollering and letting the other koalas know he is there.

Again if you go to our Facebook site, there is a short video of Appin Jack announcing his presence to the world. Social media certainly does have a good role at times.

We are very confident Appin Jack will lead a full and peaceful life here at the Koala Hospital. He is a joy to work with and is quite entertaining at times.

In August 2015 a young male koala was taken to The University of Sydney’s Camden campus where the Faculty of Veterinary Science has an Avian, Reptile and Exotic Animal Hospital. This hospital also admits and treats wildlife as well.

The koala named “Appin Jack” was hit by a car and had suffered head injuries which included major trauma to his eyes. Staff at the Sydney University hospital did what they could but were well aware that Appin Jacks chances of survival in the wild were limited due to the damage to his vision.

Interestingly social media played a part here and they posted a picture of him online stating that being a young male still with a good life ahead of him, the post was seeking help for a future for him. It was picked up by Koala Hospital staff who sent a message and voila the rest is history...Facebook brought Appin Jack to the Koala Hospital.

Unfortunately Jacks left eye was not salvageable, and it was decided it was better to remove it, a procedure undertaken by Port Macquarie Veterinary Hospital. Treatment of the right eye was also not successful due to the severe nature of the injury and Jack ended up losing the sight in this eye also.

Thankfully Appin Jack has a laid back “cool dude” nature, accepting all the handling and care with ease and has settled in well to life at the hospital. He well and truly knows the time fresh leaf arrives, when the enclosure is being



Appin Jack resting after his morning meal.

Koala Population in Decline

Steps are being taken to try and stop the current decline of one of the largest coastal koala populations in the country, at Port Macquarie on the New South Wales mid north coast.

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has recently reported that due to rampant development and habitat clearing for urban expansion, there had been a noticeable drop in the breeding koalas in recent years. The Koala Hospital clinical director, Cheyne Flanagan, said last year the facility had treated 60 fewer koalas than in previous years.

Ms Flanagan said previously, Port Macquarie and Lismore had had the only two stable populations in NSW and Queensland.

"If we don't do something about the disturbing

decline, within the next 10 years these animals here, they are doomed" she said.

"If you want to look at it purely from an economic point of view, if we're seeing 100,000 people coming just for the koala hospital particularly, to come and have a look, and think of the dollars that that brings to this town, well you're going to get a huge drop in numbers if there's no koalas to see."

Port Macquarie Hastings Council development and environment director Matt Rogers said the organisation was very concerned and had started taking action.

"We have an expert panel and community panel, and we are looking at broader planning for koalas right across the local government area," he said.

"The information is suggesting that we may be at a threshold moment where we need to do more to manage our koala populations, so we don't end up with a long term decline in the population." Mr Rogers said the council was revising all its policies.

"Koalas are an iconic species and really form part of the place that we call home," he said.

"So, we are taking all the new information on board and we all really need to sit down and re-evaluate what our direction is, and what sort of things we can put in place and even

more importantly, what sorts of things our local community can do on an ongoing basis to ensure the koala population is sustainable."

Article reprinted courtesy of ABC Mid North Coast - Emma Siossian.



What does the future hold for one of our national icons?

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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 Myths, Legends and Facts

Koala myths and legends are no different from the ones we hear about snakes (“oh the snake was soooo big he was as thick as a mans arm!!”) and we certainly hear some very interesting and amazing ones at the Koala Hospital.

Myth: The best one that gets around, is that koalas get themselves drunk on eucalypt leaves and sleep all the time as a result. (Is that why we have so many volunteers here?).

Truth: As eucalypt leaf is very low in viable nutrients, the koala has evolved and adapted over many millions of years and physiological (bodily) changes utilize these nutrients the best way possible.

Koalas have a slightly lower body temperature and consequently lower metabolic rate than most other mammals, to reduce the amount of energy expended per day. By sleeping on an average of around 18-20 hours out of 24 hours, they conserve energy – and their waking hours are used to feed, move and seek out mates during breeding season (hard life isn't it?).

Breeding females certainly require slightly more and better quality leaf during peak lactating times. So, as for being drunk? No way.

Myth: Koalas are lazy, slow and move around like sloths.

Truth: Koalas are highly efficient in their conservation of energy, therefore movement is based on a needs basis. Any sound observer can tell you that a koala can climb up a tree expertly and with considerable speed when necessary.

Koalas on the ground are also capable of reasonable speed over short distances. A male koala fighting with another male or pursuing a female high in the treetops, is neither slow nor lazy.

Myth: Koalas are low in intelligence and are therefore stupid and dumb.

Truth: Any species that has evolved and survived in a harsh, arid land for millions of years must be doing something right. As the brain of any animal requires a considerable amount of energy to function at its optimal level, the koala has evolved an extremely efficient brain that drives the necessities of its basic needs and instincts.

Why drive round in an eight cylinder hotted up car, guzzling up expensive fuel when a clean, uncluttered four cylinder model is far more efficient, economical and longer lasting? Looking at the decimation the human species has achieved in its very short history, one wonders at who is really the “intelligent” one.

Myth: Koalas never drink water.

Truth: Koalas do in fact drink water when they need it. One of their adaptations, from a physiological (bodily) viewpoint, is their ability to make good use of the available stored water in the eucalypt leaf (a sort of recycling strategy) conserving it as much as possible.

When the eucalypt leaf's moisture content is below the threshold, the koala does drink from water holes etc. This is not a situation a wild koala is comfortable with, as being on the ground, head down drinking, places them in a very vulnerable position in being at risk from predator attack.

Nonetheless, if all the eucalypt leaf is below an acceptable level of moisture, the koala must seek water elsewhere to survive. Alternatively, a koala suffering from renal disease for example, seeks ground water, quite irrespective of leaf moisture availability and are known to sit beside a creek or whatever lapping water for a long period of time.

Myth: Koalas always wee on people

Truth: Obviously if a koala has a full bladder, it needs to be emptied! This duty they accomplish more than once a day. From a behavioral point of view, the sudden urine expulsion would usually indicate the “flight or fight” phenomena where an animal urinates/defecates to “lighten the load” before fleeing from a threatening process.

In koalas as with other fauna, it is more than likely a response to fear or stress. Australians tend to joke about koalas “piddling on politicians” a statement that speaks for itself! Nevertheless, whatever the reason, we do recommend that standing underneath a koala who is above you in a tree is not a good idea.

Myth: Koalas are the worlds fussiest eaters, eating only 6 species of eucalypt out of a possible 500 (Guinness Book of Records 2005).

Truth: The koala is one of four Australian marsupials (greater glider, brushtail possum, ringtail possum and koala) that use eucalypts as either a major part or as the principal component of their diet (Hume I.D., 1999). There is no question that koalas are eucalypt specialists, but they certainly do eat and make use of other species of native flora. Paperbark (*Melaleuca* sps), She Oaks (*Casuarina* sps), *Corymbias* (Argyle Apple, Lemon Scented, etc) have been observed and recorded to have been eaten.

Koalas also feast occasionally on flowers, fruits, bark and stems of the above as well. As there are approximately 900 species of eucalypt scattered across the Australian continent, quoting 6 species only is an impossibility! Probably all up, with the different species of eucalypt over the areas that koalas are known to exist there would be a much greater number of eucalypts eaten (there are

and other Koala Tall Stories

approximately 28 eucalypt species recorded in our area alone, that koalas are known to eat).

So when taking into consideration all the other areas of Australia that have koala populations and they would have different eucalypt species to our local varieties, then the total number of eucalypt species in Australia that are browsed on by koalas would be more than likely between 50-100 species. It just goes to show you don't believe all you read.

Hume I.D., 1999 Marsupial Nutrition. Cambridge Press.

Myth: Female koalas have a backward facing pouch.

Truth: Female koalas do not have a backward facing pouch at all. Their pouch is actually vertically orientated on the lower abdominal area (and we should know as we see thousands of them). Female koalas have good strong muscles that hold the pouch tightly closed or open according to the size of the joey and what the joey is doing. They can control the muscles that may give the appearance of the joey "hanging" out of the bottom of the pouch when in fact the top muscles may simply be pulled tighter. Joeys will "hang" out the bottom of the vertical slit when they are seeking "pap".

Myth: Male koalas cover great distances seeking female koalas during breeding season and will actively defend and fight for their territory.

Truth: Male koalas are locked into their home range for life. The size of their home range is dependent on their status in the population (eg: alpha male (top dog) or lower ranking male) and the quality of the food trees in that home range.

Males do not leave their home range seeking females as they then not only stand a chance of losing their home range but may encounter higher ranking males elsewhere. The females in that population (or colony) have overlapping home ranges with the dominant males and are also able to move around within.

There are alpha females (top dog females) that do most of the breeding, and thus occupy the best quality home ranges and the lesser females who live on less quality areas. Males do occasionally fight with each other but, that is only when they come across each other (in overlapping home ranges). Males try to avoid fighting as it costs them a lot in energy expenditure, so they do not actively defend their territory marching up and down – they would be totally worn out when they live on poor quality tucker. If male koalas defended their territories actively fighting, we would certainly see a lot more injuries than we do. More often than not, the screaming, growling and yelling that goes on

at night in trees in the Port Macquarie area (and elsewhere) is a virile male trying to get hold of a not too happy female.

Myth: The koala is a cute and cuddly, quiet fluffy animal that loves to be cuddled.

Truth: Koalas have a good set of razor sharp claws (used to climb trees), and very strong powerful teeth (for biting off stems). Wild koalas will certainly defend themselves if cornered or threatened, but certainly prefer to take off up a tree to get away from danger as soon as they can. Koalas can give a powerful deep bite and a nasty laceration with their claws when needed (and usually are quite vocal (growling) when they do). Interestingly, many (and definitely not all) wild koalas will calm down in captivity and allow a human to treat their injuries or to handle them when required.

Wild koalas usually revert back to their wild state (commonly called "going feral" here) as soon as they are released back into the wild. Adult koalas no matter how quiet they become do not "love to be cuddled" but simply see us as a food source and somewhere comfortable to be. The young hand raised joeys need to be "cuddled" as it's simply a form of warmth and security for them – we humans are merely surrogate koala mothers, nothing more, as given the choice they would certainly prefer a proper koala for a mother!. So no, adult koalas do not like to cuddle – in fact they prefer to be left alone.

Myth: That koalas are the only animal to live on a diet of eucalypts.

Truth: The koala has other marsupial relatives that feed either exclusively on eucalypts or include eucalypts as a major part of their daily diet. The Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*), the largest of the gliding possums, is found up and down the eastern seaboard of Australia and is also a threatened species, the same as the koala.

Greater Gliders feed exclusively on one or two species of eucalypt in the area it lives in, and has an enlarged caecum (the same as the koala) to cope with the eucalypt diet. Yellow bellied Gliders (*Petaurus australis*) another very large gliding possum, (and on the endangered list) feeds mainly on eucalypts (flowers, leaf, bark and kino) and also includes insects in their diet.

Brush-tail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) also include eucalypts in their diet, with Ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*) feeding almost exclusively on flowers, fruit and leaf of eucalypts but will include other flowers and fruits of other trees in their diet also. All also have enlarged caecums – a common structure found in all arboreal leaf eaters.

Clinical Director's Report



The last three months have been disturbingly quiet at the hospital with minimal admissions. Yes, you may say that's a good thing but in actual fact it's not. Historically we have had a relatively stable amount of annual admissions for many years. The last three years have seen a steady decline in numbers and we should in fact be seeing a lot more by this time of year. This unpleasant fact has been flagged to the Port Macquarie Hastings Council and to koala ecologists and university researchers.

"Crunching the numbers" as in correlating the statistics with computer models have certainly confirmed our fears - the koalas of this region are potentially going into serious decline.

All is not lost though - we do have a window of around five years to reverse this decline and we, along with many others will do everything in our power to bring numbers back up.

The Port Macquarie region has always been able to lay claim to having the biggest coastal population of koalas in Australia and our work with the Australian Museum also confirms we have some of the most genetically diverse koalas in Australia also (good genetics). This makes this population of National Significance to this country.

We have always endeavoured to reduce the major problems which is being hit by cars, attacked by dogs and of course the dreaded chlamydial infections. We are now going extra hard and will be working closely with the both the local council, and hopefully the State and Federal governments to protect this vital population of koalas for future generations. How shameful for this country to continue to lose our precious and unique wildlife. Not if we can help it!

Cheyne Flanagan

Can a Koala do What!!

This came from Science Canada in 2007, a quite serious question asked by Rob a 22 year old male via the internet.....Enjoy!

The Question: Is it possible for a wild koala bear to ignite as a result of the suns radiated heat igniting the eucalyptus oils found on and within the koalas fur? If so, is this quite a common occurrence? I don't think there is any scientific evidence to support the theory but due to eucalyptus having a relatively low ignition point at approx. 110 degrees F and the suns temperature exceeding this in certain parts of Australia the eucalyptus oil present on the fur and the skin of the animal may ignite. Do you think this is possible? It's very much a split decision in the office at the moment.

Cheyne Flanagan, the Clinical Director of the Koala Hospital responded to the question. This a condensed response to the question.

The Answer: What a ripper of a question! We have been asked some absolute beauties in our time, but this one is up there with the best. The staff here at the Koala Hospital have visions of koalas exploding in trees all over the Australian bush when temperatures get too high and the eucalyptus oil within their bodies and on their fur ignites. We can just picture balls of flaming fur flying through the air with stunned smoking koalas landing on the ground with a thud, shaking the soot, ash and cinders out of their

blackened fur and in a weak, dry crackling voice saying "Stone the crows, it's bloody hot today!"

If this was a true fact, there wouldn't be any grey, fluffy, furry koalas in Australia, only black balls of smouldering smoky marsupials sitting in the forks of leafless crispy eucalyptus trees. First we must note that koalas are NOT bears. They are not a placental mammal but a marsupial mammal with pouched young. Koalas have evolved alongside the Australian eucalypts for thousands and thousands (probably millions) of years and have developed not only strategies to cope with the volatile oils in the eucalyptus leaf but also have developed strategies to cope with the high temperatures.

No, they most certainly do not ignite. When temperatures in summer reach about 40C (104F), koala behaviour dictates that they move to lower, more cooler areas of the trees, they even move to trees that are not eucalypts, that may offer more shade. Their fur has double thickness, which insulates them from both cold and heat. Temperatures of 40-45 degrees would not be hot enough to cause ignition anyway. Eucalypt oil does not ignite in the leaf due to the suns heat radiating on them, if eucalypt oil was able to ignite at these temperatures then we wouldn't have any eucalypt forests in Australia and there are no recorded cases at all of spontaneous combustion in koalas.

From the *President's* Pen



Just over a week ago we lost one of our incredible workers at the Koala Hospital. Chris Rowland joined our society in 1999 and was our Habitat Coordinator for most of that time until recently when he retired due to ill health. He finally succumbed to cancer on the 28th April.

Chris was passionate about the koala and their environment. He represented us on many committees including attending Council meetings, and he was responsible for planting hundreds of koala food trees, also educating and training volunteers, school children and our community groups at the same time. His knowledge and experience was invaluable earning him a nomination for the Environment and Landcare Business Awards.

This quarter sees the changes made to our yards where our visitors can see the koalas that are unable to return to their home territory. Thanks to the contractors and especially our maintenance team who produced an excellent facility.

The new committee has some new members on board and with a new President in Jane and Vice President Gaby, I know the Koala Hospital is in good hands. My thanks to those remaining and those retiring for their commitment over these past years. We also welcome Yon, as the Assistant Clinical Director, now part of the team with Clinical Director Cheyne who provide an amazing service to our koalas and to our community.

A Job well Done!

Our retiring President Bob Sharpham joined the Hospital as a volunteer in 2004 and helped in the raising of \$20,000 for outfitting the kitchen and office for the new building and was one of the members that helped instigate the Koala Hospital website, a committee that still exists today. Bob became president in 2006 and after an attempt to retire in 2014, has managed to pass on the reins this year. He has been instrumental in changes to the workings within the hospital in regards to Constitution and Policy documents, introduced eAdoption and eShop, registered the "Koala Hospital" and "Friends of the Koala Hospital" names and constantly helped to oversee the smooth running of what has become a worldwide and local institution. ***Job well done Bob!***

Editor

Thumbs Up

(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)



Thumbs up to the Port Tree Fella and his team for rescuing 2 koalas with their cherry picker. One was injured when he fell from a tree and then climbed back up and the other was attacked by a dog and climbed back high in the tree to escape.



Thumbs up as well to Tim's Tree Service for coming out to check if they could get the koala who had been attacked by the dog.



Thumbs down to the driver who slowed down after hitting a koala then quickly left the scene. Please stop and check the koala for injury and call us – we are always thankful for the call.



Thumbs up to the people who have phoned the hospital to let us know that they have leaf available for the koalas. If you know of a tree that has fallen, or is to be removed and there is available leaf please phone 6584 1522 that day.

The Team Leader

Pam Whippy (pictured) has from May 2016 been a volunteer at the Koala Hospital for 18 years, Pam is a Team Leader on Monday mornings.

She comes into the Koala Hospital at 6.30am on Monday mornings, rain or shine and sometimes, in darkness!

Here she is making her way home again, at end of shift, complete with broly, shower cap and the mobile headlight – ON!!

Congratulations Pam!



Pam on her way home — Rain, hail or Shine!

Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

It's that time again, thought Barry, as he woke up one sunny morning at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie. It was time for him to be on the move, to get out into the big wide world and catch up with friends as he travelled the globe.

First he had a stop to make before leaving Australia. His pal Mary offered to take him to Questacon in Canberra, the capital city of Australia.



The National Science and Technology Centre on the shores of tranquil Lake Burley Griffin has more than 200 interactive exhibits and Barry had so much fun solving problems, designing robots and testing his scientific knowledge that his mind was boggling!



After all that mental activity he needed to get moving to clear his head. What better way to start his trip than meeting up with his dear friend Bea in Durban on the East

Coast of Africa? Together they visited the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of St Lucia and the iSimangaliso Wetlands Nature reserve where they saw many iconic wild animals. Barry particularly liked the huge hippos but was amused to see warnings that hippos roam the streets at night and were dangerous. They had even been found drinking out of swimming pools!



On an early morning walk in St Lucia, Bea and Barry came across some really fabulous sand sculptures of animals where he got up close and personal with one of the tamest hippos he'd ever met!



Brushing all that sand out of his fur, Barry remembered he had to catch up with Ben in Riyadh where there was a lot more sand. The city was once a walled, mudbrick

station along desert trading routes but today is the capital and financial hub of Saudi Arabia. He had some very important work to do there, assisting Ben as his translator – just one of his many talents.



Those sandy deserts seemed to be a big part of his schedule - next he was to join his old friends

Sabina and Harald in the Agrigento Valley of Temples in Sicily. Barry was so amazed to discover the ancient Greek, yellow sandstone Concordia Temple, built about 2,500 years ago, still had some medieval tombs inside it. Being a



very amiable chap himself, Barry was pleased to learn the name of the temple means Harmony.

Out of the desert now, Barry hurried off to meet Sonia in wintry Bratislava.

They met by the fountain to watch the changing of the Guard at the Grassalkovich Palace. It's known as the Slovakian 'White House', being the home of the President. It may have been built as a Summer Palace way back in 1760 but it was definitely winter when Barry and Sonia were visiting.



Checking his itinerary, Barry saw he was due to meet Caroline in Madeira on the North West Coast of Africa.

Four lovely, mountainous subtropical islands that were settled way back in the 1400's and now are part of Portugal were a welcome stop for them.



Barry spent time walking the levadas – great stone aqueducts that were built by convicts and slaves to bring fresh water down to the towns and usually with steep walking trails beside them. Intrepid Barry safely navigated the slippery slopes.

While there, Barry thought he should store his surplus gum leaves for safekeeping in a branch of the Bank of Portugal. He thought

the building was really cool – not like a boring old bank at all.

Barry had been introduced to new friends David and Jane by volunteer Tony when he showed them around the Koala Hospital. He now returned their visit and joined them at their home in Stockport, part of Greater Manchester city in England. It's where the Mersey River starts and was famous for producing rope and textiles in the past. The winter snow was very pretty but Barry was keen to get to warmer climes.



A quick trip across the Atlantic and Barry caught up with Joanne in the Florida Keys in the USA.



There was a lot of sunshine and tall palm trees in this chain of skinny islands that stretches south of Miami. Called Islamadora, meaning 'Village of Islands', this resort area even brewed its own beer which Barry decided was not as refreshing as his favourite eucalyptus juice.

Cheeky Barry decided to surprise Charlotte and Ed by hitching a ride in their own rucksack as they spent their holiday honeymoon travelling through lovely South America. They had scaled the heights to see Macchu Picchu in Peru and clowned around on the salt lakes in Bolivia, but Barry had the most fun imitating the statue Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro. He was overawed by this colossal mountain-top statue and gob-smacked by the fabulous views. He thought it deserved its reputation as Rio's most recognisable landmark.



Keen to see more of exotic South America, Barry caught up with another Koala Hospital volunteer who was on holiday. Elga and Barry cruised the Chilean Fjords and travelled through Argentina down to Cape Horn. The highlight for Barry was finding a wonderful tribute to Eva Peron, who had been the wife of the Argentinian President and



much loved by her people for her political activity and charitable acts. Of course, Elga and Barry just had to sing more than a few of the moving choruses of "Don't Cry for me Argentina" as they admired the lovely statue of Evita.

Elga reminded Barry that the Walk and Talk volunteers at the Hospital needed Barry back at home to assist them with the daily tours so he headed back across the wide Pacific. Travel was great, he decided, but he really felt at home with Sheena, one of the hospital tour guides, as they showed all the Hospital visitors around and introduced them to his koala mates. It was so good to be among the gum trees again.



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 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 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 Open Day 2016

This year our Koala Hospital Open Day looked like being a non-starter. As usual at this time of year, many of our staff of volunteers would either be away or have family staying over for the long weekend, and unfortunately the school holidays which bring in so many visitors to the area, would not be on call for at least another 2 weeks.



With a lot of thank you's to a few dedicated members who volunteered their services, it was then decided to hold the Open Day as usual, as it had become an expected Easter time event over the years, and locals would be ready for it.



It turned out to be a very successful day, despite a few setbacks such as the road works on Lord Street that threatened to obstruct the parking spaces at the hospital, at least the sun shone down on us all day.



Our four regional wineries, Bago, Cassegrain, Innes Lake and Rose's, donated the wines for the raffles which were held during the whole day, and also our local artist, Glo Hill, who donated a beautiful painting which had



realised a substantial amount of money towards our ongoing work at the koala hospital.

Volunteers and local businesses as usual were very generous with goods for the many stalls, and the BBQ, manned by Mark Bully, and aided by Tracey and supporters, were kept busy all day. Troppo Bob was there to keep the children entertained, and a very good job he managed as always.



Elephant charging along at a great pace.

Morning teas were available for those needing sustenance and the chance of a rest, while the girls at the kiosk gave all of their customers happy smiles and great service all for free!



Our many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who gave their time to helping make this a memorable day, and special thanks to all those people who came along and gave support to us and the work we do for the koalas. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.





Kaylee's

GUM DROPS KOLUMN

Hi everyone so good to see you once again! Life here at the Hospital is just forever busy and our enclosures are looking different once again! This time, certain yards have been screened off and I often hear visitors ask why and this is my explanation.

It's because the rehabilitation yards need to be more 'private or patient friendly' for our very sick koalas. The koalas that can be seen are exhibited koalas! There, I just simplified the explanation of this very complicated situation.

Okay, now for something different. I often talk about Walk and Talk guides, Koala Care yard volunteers and the leaf collectors, but there are many other volunteers that do important duties here at the hospital. Let's take James and Mike. They're very friendly and happy fellows that look after the composting (and so many other of the environmentally friendly things!).

It's a rather smelly, dirty job but none the less, important! You see, when the yards get cleaned every morning - what happens to all our skats (poo pellets) and fallen leaf? It gets recycled into fertilizer.

James and Mike turn the compost regularly so it breaks down and finally sifts it so it becomes manageable. It will be bagged and ready for use, so our young eucalypt plantings will benefit from this compost (that job will be tendered by other volunteers) so they grow big and strong. Later on, these trees will be trimmed by our leaf collectors for our breakfast. Isn't that interesting!

Also, I've noticed that James is very strong – he can lift a big 'wheelie' bin full of offcuts and branches into the leaf tip trailer! Didn't know we had a weight lifting champion in our midst! In our last edition of Gum Tips I mentioned that we were going to have an Open Day on Easter Saturday.

It was a very successful day and you'll be able to read more about it in this current issue – I don't want to steal all the limelight. But I must say one of our new volunteers (Carole Grant) looked very cute in her koala ears – you certainly turned Elparra David's and Barrington Xavier's head. I heard a few bellows and grunts too!

On 12th May, Port Macquarie had a Volunteering Day, held on the lawns of the Historic Courthouse and some of our vollies were seen there, ably recruiting volunteers (so they said) – more likely they were getting bailed out of trouble! Anyway, it was a lovely sunny day and as I hear they've had a very successful day! So thanks to Helen Mac, Jennifer, Carole (yep, with the koala ears), Cherie, Mick and Gaby. Also thanks to 'donation box David' for all his help and wisdom?

That's all from me at the moment I need to rest my aching digits and I'm getting confused at which thumb to use for the space bar. I have four of them and they all want to take a turn!

Take care and I hope to see your smiling faces next time here at the Hospital.

Honeymooning Visitors

Say hello to Daniella and Juan, they were visiting the Koala Hospital in Port, when our cub reporter Gerry Walsh (one of our volunteers) happened upon them, bailed them up and said "Smile for the camera!"

They were enjoying their honeymoon in Australia, after being married in Guatemala, South America on Saturday 9th April and arrived in Sydney on Tuesday 12th April.

They were visiting the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie on Saturday the 16th April and then travelling up to Brisbane via campervan to join up with a cruise.

This is one couple that were not letting the grass grow under their feet.

Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winner

June 2016



Charlotte and Ed
Photo of Barry
in Rio de Janeiro

Thanks for letting him
share your Honeymoon

Congratulations!



Daniella and Juan enjoying the natural wildlife surroundings



Koala Hospital Activity Report

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
26.09.09	Oxley Kaylee	Left leg removed, damaged eye	Treating
20.10.12	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Treating
16.07.13	Barrington Xavier	Limited Sight	Treating
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.08.14	Pappinbarra Solange	Aged	Euthanased 06.02.16
04.10.14	Reading Steffi	Conjunctivitis left eye	Euthanased 15.02.16
13.11.14	Watonga Wonder	On ground	Treating
19.02.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
08.10.15	Bellangry Wombat	Conjunctivitis	Treating
11.10.15	Elparra David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
07.11.15	Kennedy PT101	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 04.03.16
01.01.16	Ocean Jesse	On ground	Treating
30.12.15	Shelly Beach Scratchy	Swollen left ankle and foot	Treating
20.01.16	Wyandra J.J	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
22.01.16	HKPS Cookie	Juvenile	Died 22.04.16
25.01.16	McLaren Pam	Chlamydia	Released 08.04.16
04.02.16	Littlejohn George	Poor condition	Died 09.02.16
06.02.16	Ocean Girl	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
07.02.16	Lake Lawson	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 08.02.16
13.02.16	Byabarra Place Faith	4 days in wrong trees - observation	Released 15.02.16
17.02.16	Settlement Point Pam	4 weeks in same trees - observation	Released 19.02.16
17.02.16	Hudson Libby	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
18.02.16	Jonas Absolom Nugget	On ground	Died 20.02.16
27.02.16	Lake Max	On ground	Euthanased 03.03.16
27.02.16	Kempsey Steve	In dangerous area - checked	Released 01.03.16
29.02.16	Ellenborough Mystery	Eye injury	Euthanased 17.03.16
02.03.16	Oxley Lucky Two	Poor condition	Euthanased 02.03.16
07.03.16	Wires C.Harbour Megan	Juvenile	Released 29.04.16
18.03.16	McLaren Rango	Fall from tree	Treating
18.03.16	McLaren Henry	Fall from tree	Euthanased 18.03.16
21.03.16	Petrostrum Bella	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 22.03.16
22.03.16	Iluka Bonaparte	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
24.03.16	Binnacle Tess	Conjunctivitis	Euthanased 16.04.16
26.03.16	Leander Cheyanne	Chlamydia	Euthanased 29.03.16
27.03.16	Rowland Plain Troy	On ground - moribund	Euthanased 29.03.16
30.03.16	Gilmore Ruby	Dog Attack	Treating
02.04.16	Reading Nettie	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 02.04.16
04.04.16	O'Briens Chlaura	Chlamydia	Euthanased 05.04.16
04.04.16	Barrington Stephanie	On ground	Died 26.04.16
09.04.16	Kennedy Easy	Limping	Released 11.04.16
10.04.16	Comboyne Wally	Suspect lymphoma	Died 18.04.16
13.04.16	McLaren Pam	Suspect chlamydia - checked	Released 13.04.16

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
16.04.16	Reading Nettie	On Ground	Released 18.04.16
18.04.16	Lake Settler	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
21.04.16	Wauchope Lisa	On ground	Euthanased 23.04.16
23.04.16	Reading Nettie	On ground	Died 03.05.16
24.04.16	Grandview Hemsley	Dog Attack	Treating
27.04.16	Sherwood Robyn	On ground	Euthanased 29.04.16

Vale Chris Rowland

Chris Rowland made it a personal mission to help educate the people of the Port Macquarie area in the maintenance of koala habitat and the environment. He inspired an involvement and confidence in the prescription for the recovery and reversal of the evident trend toward the extinction of our beloved koala population.

He showed that this is not only possible, but it is very achievable and established a group of 12 volunteers including commercial nursery people, who germinate his collected seeds to tube stock, then organised another group of dedicated and committed volunteers who plant out these koala food trees. As well as media coverage of one-off community tree planting events, he also ensured persistent and tenacious follow up maintenance programs to make sure that the new trees were successfully established.

Chris had an objective to plant two koala food trees in all of the 585 streets in Port Macquarie. He worked tirelessly to promote an ecologically sustainable future for our town, which will include the preservation of our urban koala population.

As well as being the habitat coordinator for the Koala Hospital for many years, Chris collected leaf for our koala patients on a daily basis, which gave him a sound knowledge of koala food trees. Chris organised a volunteer operated, charitable enterprise run on sound business principles that is widely recognized and attracted a \$4,000 grant from the local government for construction of a greenhouse nursery facility at our hospital, as well as ongoing contracts from property owners and developers to construct and implement low maintenance and ecologically sound koala wildlife corridors. He has established a viable and a very comprehensive "seed bank" of koala food trees of local provenance that have been tested and then selected by the koalas themselves.

Chris attended to the planning of tree planting and organised a team to assist with this. He was an instigator of the council's Tree Day request to all schools in the Hastings area to order trees for home planting or home grounds. He was familiar with the laws relating to the environment and had attended council meetings on behalf of the Koala Preservation Society.

Summarising the achievements of Chris Rowland due to his continued efforts:

- Collection of seeds from koala food trees and grown to planting size.
- Hundreds of koala food trees planted in Port Macquarie and environs.
- Education on environment preservation to school children and organisations.
- Liaison with local Council which resulted in the environmental protection for koalas.
- Training and education of volunteers to assist with planting and growing.
- Koala corridors included into new development areas.
- Gaining 3 tier level of land tenure to protect the vital koala food trees.
- Inclusion of Provisions into Local Environment Plan that binds current and future Councils.



Chris spreading the gospel about trees and the environment

2016 Calendar

June 21	Management Meeting	10.00am
July 19	Management Meeting	10.00am
August 16	Management Meeting	10.00am
August 21	General Meeting	10.00am
September 20	Management Meeting	10.00am
October 18	Management Meeting	10.00am

Gum Tips

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

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DISCLAIMER

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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

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What's Happening at the Hospital?

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



Find us on Facebook
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie



Maria River Road Ian just sitting and watching the visitors pass by.



Watonga Wonder and volunteer Sheila Wonder just loves her formula as the photo attests.



Lake Max looking a little bemused "Hello - there is supposed to be lovely gum leaves in this container"



Wyandra JJ Enjoying his rest and recreation leave after a motor vehicle accident left him sore and sorry.



Three hospital volunteers Gaby, Jennifer and Helen manning the booth on the recent Volunteers Day



A Magpie visiting the hospital enjoying a spider for breakfast



It might look like Oxley Kaylee is winking at you, but she lost her eye in a freakish accident.



NATF Zenani says "Now I'm only counting to 10 so hide well"



Barrington Xavier being tended to after his morning feed "I only dribbled a little bit!"



Another visitor at the hospital a Kookaburra wondering if he can be as lucky as a Magpie



**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

Gumtree Gallery



Westhaven Barry



Reading Steffi



Roto Randy



HKPS Tallimba



Roto Cherokee



Pappinbara Solange



HKPS Cookie

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 **Web:** www.koalahospital.org.au