



# Gum Tips

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

2nd Quarter 2017

## Kennedy Easy





# Kennedy Easy



Late Spring in 2003, our rescue team responded to reports of a koala wandering through the front yards of Kennedy Drive, Port Macquarie. The koala was picked up by our ambulance and brought into the Hospital for a thorough screening.

The healthy young female was named Kennedy Easy and released later that same day in a riparian reserve in a side street close to where she was collected. Mid April in 2007 Kennedy Easy reappeared when we rescued her from a dog in a residential yard, not too far from where she was released four years prior. Screening this time showed paraovarian cysts on both sides, with a risk of infertility. Despite this, the otherwise clinically healthy Easy stayed with us for a week of “room service” before her release into the Reading Street reserve once again.

Early the following January in 2008, Kennedy Easy was collected after reports that she had been sitting low in a Bottlebrush tree for two days. Although there were no visible signs of accident or dog attack her behaviour was concerning, so we conducted a full service, including pathology tests.

An interesting and exciting discovery was that pouch evidence suggested she had recently weaned a joey! Easy had no clinical signs of chlamydia, her blood results were normal apart

from thrombocytopenia, and a diagnosis that amounted to abdominal pain, she was released back to her home range after another week long stay.

Eight years later in April 2016, our ambulance rescued Easy again, this time from the busy Pacific Drive. She presented in poor condition, slightly bloated and underweight with a brown coat, which can occur when koalas are malnourished or ill. Her eyes had developed cataracts, there was evidence of thoracic scoliosis developing, and she was walking a little stiffly, possibly from arthritis.

In the following two days Easy was fighting fit, and a unanimous decision was made to release her to the area where she had thrived for so many years. Late last year however, Kennedy Easy joined us one final time when her cataracts were more prevalent. She had suspected arthritis causing her to limp and move quite slowly and a worsening case of scoliosis.

The 15 plus year old Kennedy Easy is still with us today in one of our rehabilitation yards. She grazes on her daily fresh leaves, and appears contented by the restricted security of her enclosure. We will continue her current care and to monitor her condition in the way of our mission statement, and with as little interaction as possible.



# Bunnings BBQ a Success

**A**fter a few weeks of rain and appalling weather, the sun appeared and the sky shone brightly for the Koala Hospital BBQ held at Bunnings on the 1<sup>st</sup> April to help raise funds for the Hospital.

Firstly, many thanks go to Bunnings Warehouse who set up the BBQ, tables and marquee for our use at no expense to the hospital, an extremely generous and community oriented action. Our thanks also go to Coles at Lighthouse Beach, who supplied 35 loaves bread free of charge and

sundry who ventured close enough to be wooed by the delicious aroma wafting through the car-park, be informed about koalas with the help of our mascot in attendance and even be asked if they wished to buy a ticket in our approaching Open Day raffle.

After a slow start to the morning, once the crowds started appearing on a regular basis the sausage sandwiches were disappearing with gusto, to the point that an extra 25 loaves of bread had to be purchased to feed the masses.

The end result to the day was a very tired group of volunteers who had vowed not to go near a sausage sandwich for at least a month. Special mention must go to Gabriella Rivett who was the organiser of the day, responsible for contacting Bunnings, purchasing all the supplies and to be rewarded with a profit of \$1,100 on the day.



Setting up the stall first thing on Saturday morning with the willing help of our koala mascot who drew many admirers.

reduced prices for our other items and the great guys at Wauchope Butchery for supplying 45kgs of sausages (10kgs free) at a very reasonable price, also to Newport Village for the kind use of their walk in freezer to store our supplies until the day of the BBQ.

With the aid of willing Koala Hospital volunteers: chefs David, Ken and Phillip and the amenable front of house staff Margaret, Anna, Amanda, Jo, David, Mary, Jennifer and Gabriella, we were set to appease the gastronomic delights of all and



All the eager volunteers and a couple of avid customers waiting for the rush of the hungry hordes.

## What's inside

Cover - Kennedy Easy.....	2
Bunnings BBQ a success.....	3
The Koala Social Structure.....	4-5
Clinical Directors Report.....	6
Brian Crisp - a job well done .....	6
Presidents Report .....	7
Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.....	7
2017 Hospital Open Day .....	8-9
2 Daughters to make any parent proud .....	10
Kaylee's Gum Drops .....	11
Adopt a Koala.....	11
Hospital Report .....	12-13
Volunteers in Focus .....	13
New faces on the Committee .....	13
Contact Details.....	14
What's happening at the Hospital?.....	15

## 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***



# The Koala Social Structure

**E**ven though koalas are seen as solitary animals, they actually live their lives as part of a stable, ordered and structured hierarchical system. Each koala within the population lives in an individual home range. The home range size is dictated by the age, sex and social standing of each koala which includes the amount of trees, how far apart they are located and what use they have. A koala occupies its home range for life unless pushed out through age, infirmity or habitat removal. All home ranges within each population overlap at various points. Koalas also vocalise to each other, so communication for this animal is an integral part of daily life.

The fittest, biggest and most virile male koala is the alpha male. He occupies the best quality habitat, which is usually the largest in size with his territory overlapping the home ranges of 3-4 higher ranking breeding females.

Often there is an alpha female, a healthy, fit, fertile breeding koala who occupies prime habitat adjacent to the alpha male. It is necessary for all breeding females to obtain good quality habitat. Lactation takes a lot from an animal living on low energy/low nutrient foliage, so a breeding female's range must be able to sustain both herself and her young.

One of the alpha male's jobs is to protect his females' good quality habitat in exchange for mating rights. Lower ranking males usually occupy lower quality ranges that are often located adjacent to and overlapping habitat belonging to the alpha male, alpha female and other lower ranking koalas. Younger females are often better accepted in finding habitat within or adjacent to the core breeding colony. If available resources are limited this is not always the case as they can be marginalized.

Young subadult males tend to be pushed out onto the edges of the population to exist on poor quality marginal habitat. They tend to "lie low" for a number of years until they are sexually mature. It is during this vulnerable period of dispersal from their maternal home range that many young males have great difficulty surviving and often die. It is not unusual to find young subadult males a very long way from their maternal range (some have recorded 30km plus away) and it is these young animals that are commonly found in a distressed state, in poor condition and running up busy urban roads desperately seeking unoccupied areas to inhabit.

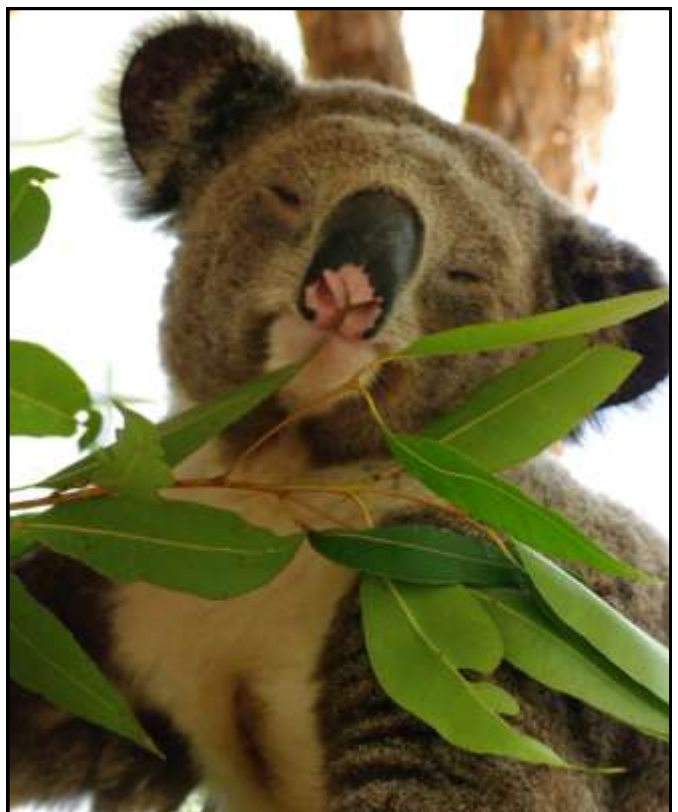
Where forested areas are plentiful, subadult animals can disperse and radiate out into unoccupied habitat and thus new colonies can develop. When immigration and emigration

between populations occurs naturally and freely, this outsourcing of blood lines invigorates each population and maintains healthy genetic integrity. As more and more vegetated areas are removed, it increases the pressure on koala populations to remain genetically viable and healthy. Urban populations can sometimes become genetically poor "islands", with koalas unable to disperse, radiate and mate with unrelated animals. Koalas are also forced to live closer together with not enough food trees to sustain them.

This genetic and social pressure adds to the multitude of problems koalas face daily due to habitat loss. A massive increase in disease expression is one obvious result, with chlamydial infections being a prime example. As the koala's low metabolic rate does not allow for lengthy periods of physical exertion, fighting to defend territory does not commonly occur between male koalas as it is not in their best interests to do so.

Where male home ranges overlap, contact between them is usually avoided, and if it does occur the scuffle is usually short lived. Given that the weight of the alpha male far exceeds that of his lesser counterparts, few lower ranking males would be willing to take him on.

There is also a fallacy that only males bellow—this is incorrect. Female koalas at times can emit a low, repeated bellow which is usually heard during the peak of breeding season.



*A male koala with the distinctive scent gland prominent on his chest.*

# The Koala Social Structure

More often she will emit a high pitched screeching scream when a male approaches which continues throughout mating and to the uninitiated can sound quite terrifying. Home range boundaries are identified by trees with scratch marks up the trunk, droppings on the ground, urine and scent gland marked indicating that these trees are favoured food trees within the range and are therefore used regularly.

Not all trees within each animal's home range are used, with some non-food trees and even exotic tree species favoured simply for sleeping or shelter. Particular trees on home range boundaries are critical as social interaction trees, are used for mating and are nicknamed "bedroom trees". This is confirmed by reports from tired, cranky home owners who often complain of suffering sleepless nights during koala breeding season. The sounds of grunting, amorous male koalas advancing on protesting female koalas are broadcast from the same trees on and off for several weeks with repeat performances every year. Such is the joy of living alongside both rural and urban koalas.

Mating season varies but usually commences in late winter and goes through until late summer, with the peak of activity in early spring. The male koala rubs his sternal scent gland (a useful tool for identification of sex from a distance) along branches and trunks to mark boundaries. Juvenile males do not have a prominent gland, instead possessing a crease in the centre of their chest area.

Sexually mature, higher ranking males tend to have prominent glands, which can become very greasy and sometimes even exhibit hyperplasia (an enlargement and/or overgrowth of normal cells) during breeding season. The glands of lesser ranking males are not usually as large, nor do they glisten as excessively with oil. Although the scent emitted by this gland is obviously attractive to koalas, it is rather offensive to humans with a smell akin to an entire football team's week old footy socks.

The highly stylised diagram is an approximation of how colonies of koalas are ranked and how the home ranges are organised on hierarchical grounds. Note that the dominant, higher ranking animals have the biggest area. These ranges overlap each other, forming the nucleus the population.

Removal of habitat destroys this social order, forcing koalas closer together, reducing the availability of resources and increasing the chance of disease expression. Alternatively it can force them apart from any normal contact. Taking out large tracts of habitat creates a domino effect

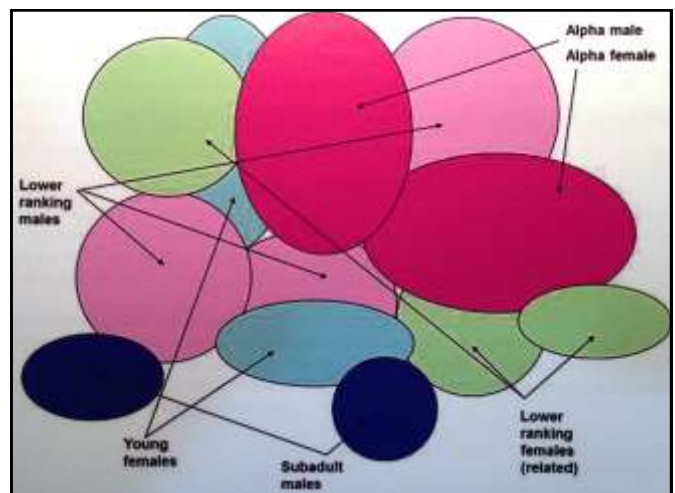
that influences all koalas in the population and will easily have repercussions on neighbouring populations. The Urban and peri-urban koalas become "refugees" when their habitat is continually removed.

Home ranges can vary in size from a few hectares to a square kilometre or more, dependent upon the amount and the quality of trees available to them. The social order of a koala population must be taken into consideration when translocation/relocation of adult koalas is to be carried out. The length of time an adult koala is out of their range in human care carries significant implications for their ranking in the population as well.

We cannot simply move an adult koala many kilometres (particularly a male) and dump it into a patch of bush and consider that this koala will be fine. There is a great likelihood that the new site will already be occupied and therefore this relocated koala will be forced to leave.

If the new site is unoccupied questions must be asked as to why it is empty. Has there been major fire events, are the tree species simply not suitable or is the country too dry, are some points to consider.

It is also not a good practice to relocate one animal into a new unoccupied location - if a koala realises it is alone in this area, it is highly likely to leave. The translocation of koalas is not a simple procedure, but requires a high level of prior research into suitability of the new location and an understanding of koala social behaviour and structure and it must be undertaken following good sound scientific protocols. The vast majority of well meaning but poorly planned relocations result in fatalities.



Home ranges showing social hierarchy.

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# Clinical Director's Report



Over the last 12 months there has been some major changes within the hospital. The "almost" completion of the education exhibit the "Koalaseum". This has been well received by the visitors and the staff. As expected we have had a few teething problems but these appear to be ok now.

Thanks to the maintenance team we have split up a number of the rehab yards which has given us another six yards. All of this will be very useful in peak seasons. The maintenance team have nearly completed the "Tree of Knowledge" to be erected in the Jean Starr Walkway, plus a myriad of other jobs as well - thanks fellas.

We have a lovely new (well almost new) ultrasound machine in the treatment room which we are still learning to drive. Thanks must go to Noni Collins, Phillips Australia, and Port X Ray for this kind donation. For those of you who may be unaware we have donated our previous machine which is still in good working order to Cedar Creek Wombat Hospital in the Hunter region plus the humidicrib, another portable ultrasound we don't use and a few bits and pieces. They are very chuffed with this, and it's great to help others for a change.

The preparations for our upcoming 2nd National Koala Conference are well underway and it's shaping up to be another very interesting three days. Port Macquarie Hastings Council have been brilliant in donating a fantastic new data base designed by the council ecologist Rebecca Montague Drake (who will be speaking at the conference). Rebecca and I had many meetings deciding on what should go into this new data base and after some teething problems its going really well.

The whole concept of this database design is so that it marries with the Koala App that the Council have also designed and that data can be swapped. All of our data goes to Port Macquarie Hastings Council to aid in decisions with development plans. By the way this Koala App will be a presentation at the conference as well. The Koala App is not available to the general public as it is to be used by government agencies and the Koala Hospital.

Life has changed for us as we now sit on a number of expert panels for the NSW government. This is something the Koala Hospital should be extremely proud of, as the hospital is recognised as being a not only a research centre, but a rehabilitation facility as well.

From a koala perspective numbers are still down on previous years. The greatest concern is we are not seeing many joeys around the district and none have come into care for a very long time. As usual chlamydial infection is still the number one reason for admission. The current regime of drug therapies is not very successful and research still hasn't come up with anything more suitable.

Consequently we have been losing a number of koala patients - whether it is the drug therapies causing this or simply these koalas were just to unwell to survive is still under research consideration. Our education guides, kiosk staff, rescuers, maintenance and yard volunteers work in such a professional manner that everyone should be so proud of themselves. Well done team. We look forward to a better year from a koala perspective.

***Cheyne Flanagan***

## Brian Crisp - a Job Well Done!

In April this year, members of the retail Donation Box team gathered with their partners to honour the retiring Team Co-ordinator Brian Crisp. Brian has been in the position since 2007 and has done such a sterling job that the Koala Hospital has seen its total of donation boxes grow through construction and repair from approximately 45 to 129 during his time in charge.

Brian was also responsible for sourcing new locations and for several years was responsible for all the collections. Brian now has a team of 5 collectors who regularly service the boxes, filling them with brochures and banking the contents.

For the financial year of 2016-17 the total receipts exceeded \$11,000, definitely a job well done!



*Brian hard at work with his construction and repair of the donation boxes during his time as Team Co-ordinator.*



# From the *President's* Pen



**T**he last three months have gone by very quickly. We have had a steady stream of visitors both local and overseas and they have expressed their enjoyment at seeing our patients and learning more about each of them and our hospital. Our patient intake has been steady as this is normally our quieter time of year - there have been a variety of issues to attend to.

Our Open Day on Easter Saturday was a resounding success. The great support of our local community was evident by the crowds that turned up, also the support of the local business community who donated many gifts and vouchers as prizes for raffles, chocolate wheel and auctions.

Our overseas and interstate visitors also enjoyed the activities in and around the hospital at this special yearly event. I know all who work at the hospital and of course our koalas were very appreciative.

Our new Education display is nearly complete and it looks really good. We opened it up to visitors at Easter and we have received many compliments and it is a great learning tool. The official opening will be held shortly.

Next on the agenda is our 2nd National Koala Conference to be held from the 2nd to the 4th June and the committee is working very hard to make it an event to remember. It will bring together a group of people hungry to learn and eager to work with this wonderful animal.

We welcome many visitors from far and wide to the Koala Hospital and we love to tell you all about it, so come to our Guided Tour which is held every day, except Christmas Day, at 3pm.

When you're here keep a look out for our local koalas as you may see one wandering around town if you are lucky, as it is their home range.

Also we appreciate reports of any sightings of koalas, we are ready to rescue twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

**Jane Duxberry**

## **Thumbs Up**

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



Thumbs down to the driver who hit a koala on the Oxley Highway and left the koala on the side of the road.



Thumbs up to the Council worker who stopped and picked up the same koala and brought it into the Koala Hospital. Sadly the koala had died.



Big thumbs up to two young Belgian girls who spotted a young koala walking along the middle of the road. These two girls did such a wonderful job of catching the koala with a blanket and kept it in their car boot till the rescue team arrived.



Thumbs up to all the volunteers and local businesses who helped to make our Open Day a resounding success.



Thumbs up and a big thank you to all the people who help us care for all the koalas by phoning sightings as well as all the sick and injured koalas. Without your help we would not be able to treat some of these koalas. Keep up the good work.



Thumbs up to a couple from the Wauchope area who found a koala sitting on the road at Ellenborough Falls. The koala was so quiet and ill he was easy to pick up. He was in a very bad way. Thanks to the couple bringing him as far as Wauchope he was treated sooner. Sadly he was released from his pain.

*Safe, responsible and alert driving around the environs of Port Macquarie to protect our unique koala colony.*

# The Annual Koala Hospital Open Day

The Koala Hospital's 'Open Day' is an annual event to raise funds towards the running of the Hospital. The Hospital requires just under \$500,000 per annum to help care for up to 250 sick or injured koalas every year.

With the event two and a half months in the planning, a small group of volunteers began the task of approaching local businesses for their support towards our annual fundraiser. The response was - *Overwhelming Generosity* - and support for our Koalas and the Hospital. Businesses donated goods and vouchers, also items that could be used for raffles, the chocolate wheel and auction.



L-R: Surfboard winner Katie Walker with 3rd place getter Natalie Sprattford.

An \$820 surfboard donated generously by SFD Custom Surfboards, which was raffled by the volunteers for the two months leading up to and on Open Day, was won on the day by a lucky Katie Walker.

The Koala Hospital also has a unique tradition. For just 50 cents you can guess how many koala poo pellets are in the jar. Did

you know that a Koala can do up to 200 of these a day! This years winner was happy Gabriella McKay who was 'spot on' with the correct number of 777. Lucky Gabriella won vouchers to the value of \$50.

Many locals and volunteers donated items for the white elephant stall and crafts. Our education shed was full of items for sale which kept the volunteers busy for weeks as they all categorised and priced. Leading up to the day, volunteers were busy baking scones, cakes, jams and pickles while others packed raffle boxes and



L-R: Jennifer Baker with the lucky pellet guesser Gabriella McKay.

chocolate wheel boxes full of goodies. This is the day when it's 'all hands on deck' as we call for our volunteers to help 'man/woman the stalls'. Visitors arrived early for the yummy breakfast of egg and bacon rolls and also a sausage sizzle, then continued to stroll around the many varied stalls.

'Uncle Bill' O'Brien opened the proceedings with welcome to country from Birpai. Children were entertained by Troppo Bob the magician and face painting was also very popular. There was also pin the leaf on the koala and 'catch the rat' as it shoots out of the drainpipe. A very novel game which was enjoyed by the all who had a try, with every child winning a prize for each game.



Children enjoying the chance to "alter their appearance".

Devonshire tea, coffee and scones were provided by our volunteers, whilst guests enjoyed being serenaded by Daniel on guitar. We were all entertained with the wonderful voices of 'Sing Australia' and the fun melodies from 'The Z Chords'.



Mayor Peter Besseling taking a spin.

A big thank you also to Tony Dekker, his assistant and the LJ Hooker bear for auctioning off many of the great goodie baskets on the day. Our Mayor Peter Besseling was put to work as he had a turn at spinning the chocolate wheel.

The Hospital mascot 'True Blue' was there handing out Easter eggs for all the children. The Koala Hospital has approx. 149 volunteers, so a HUGE thank you to all who helped make the day so special and successful, \$13,385.18 was raised on the day, our best result to date.



# Fun, Festivities and a Great Day for all!

The Open Day committee of Jennifer Baker, Sheila Bailey, Scott Castle, Carole Grant, Anna Kyle, Helen McKay, Phillip Moore, Susanne Scheuter and David Smith deserve mention for their efforts in approaching the local businesses in the local Hastings area to raise as many items for sale, raffle and auction which led to such a magnificent result on the day. Special thanks to

all the maintenance team who helped on the day to make sure everything was where it should be and finally to the amazing support of our own community for their generosity on the day. Please mark your 2018 calendar for our next Open Day, which will be Easter Saturday. It is going to be even bigger and better next year and we hope to see you there again!



The amazing Z Chords entertained on the day with their interesting renditions and their enthusiasm to entertain.



Sing Australia also provided entertainment on the day with harmonies and a collection of wonderful voices for an appreciative audience.



Asst. Clinical Director Scott Castle and volunteer Jennifer Baker with our sponsors board watched on by a local resident.



"Unbearable affection" Mr Hooker Bear and True Blue the hospital mascot both joined together to help raise funds on the day.



Auctioneer Tony Dekker and his assistant from LJ Hooker did a great job on the day with a lot of participation from the crowd.



It's Open day and the sign says it all!



# 2 Daughters to make any parent Proud

## A Marvel in Minnamurra

In the quiet hamlet of Minnamurra, situated in the Illawarra region of the south coast in New South Wales lives a very special 8 year old girl named Zoe Mandelson.

Zoe adopted Oxley Kaylee in 2016 and over the Easter Holidays this year Zoe, along with her family visited Oxley Kaylee at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie.



*Zoe proudly displaying her Oxley Kaylee adoption certificate*

After visiting the hospital and on her return home Zoe had decided to do another adoption and so embarked on earning more money to adopt as many koalas as she could. She has already had two successful stalls in May this year, selling her old clothes, books and cupcakes and has even managed to get funds from her grandmother as well to help with the adoptions.

Zoe is planning on doing a stall to help raise funds for the Koala Hospital every year in September, starting this year as September has been allocated as "Save the Koala Month". To date Zoe has adopted 8 koalas and who knows when this determined girl will cease adopting.



*Locals checking out the goods for sale at Zoe's Stall.*

## Libby the Koala Crusader

Libby Fisher is an extremely dedicated 12 year old who hails from Diamond Creek in Victoria and can rightly be called a Koala Crusader! Libby had first heard about the vulnerable listing of the species back in July 2016 and immediately wanted to do something to help their plight.

Since then, she has raised more than \$1,800.00 for koala conservation and rescue groups across the country. So far she is half way to reaching her current goal of \$1,400.00.

In January 2017, she began collecting linen for wildlife groups after a Victorian Sanctuary put out a call for some donations.

Since that time she has donated more than 600 towels and hundreds of sheets, pillow cases and blankets to rescue groups throughout Victoria.

On ANZAC day this year, she put out a call in her local community for people that sew. She has currently more than 20 people sewing rescue pouches and has already donated just over 150 completed pouches to assorted wildlife rescue groups across the country.

Libby also continues to raise awareness for all koala's and wildlife through conservation talks at local guide groups, kinders and within her own school as well.

Libby also has her own blog on her website so you can follow what this amazing girl is doing at the present time.

If you would like to follow Libby's journey or want to support her cause, visit her own website as: <http://libbyskoalacrusade.weebly.com> and you can see the length that Libby has gone to with her devotion to koalas and wildlife.

Is it any wonder her parents consider her a Koala Crusader!



*Libby recently spent the day removing bone seed weed from a koala habitat in the You Yang area of Victoria.*





*Kaylee's*

## **GUM DROPS KOLUMN**

**H**ello once more to all my avid readers!!! There's now a change in the air so that instead of complaining how hot it was this past summer, we'll be saying how chilly it is – are we ever happy?

I much prefer it cooler as I can climb high in my tree to be closer to the sun and curl up and be nice and warm. The volunteers at the hospital have been very, very busy in the past few months organising and hosting fund raising events.

Our main event – Open Day – was such a major success – the biggest and best so far – just like our hospital it keeps getting bigger. I had a great vantage point up high in my tree and could tell that the vollies started preparing the grounds very early in the morning – 5.30am!

They were like ants rushing about making sure food, BBQ's, musicians, singers and countless other stalls were set up in the right positions and areas. I couldn't believe the amount of people that came to the Open Day, they were just about everywhere – I was dizzy just moving my head around trying to see everything.

The volunteers were so relieved that the weather turned out to be a beautiful sunny day because if you remember we had a few very wet weeks leading up to it. I think our alpha ancestors had a word in Mother Nature's ear! As the festivities continued throughout the day we had a visit from a big bear – Mr Hooker Bear and he made friends with True Blue and I even saw them cuddling.... there's a photo in the magazine.... but ssshhh let's not spread it around Port Macquarie.

Later in the afternoon when all the visitors left I did notice that the volunteers weren't moving around as quickly as they were in the morning. Some were limping, others held their hands on their backs walking slowly, some even seemed to be dazed – I wonder if they were just trying to conserve energy? Maybe they should sleep more often like me.

There is lots of news to tell but I won't spoil it for you – you'll need to read it for yourselves! Before I go, I need to welcome some more of our new volunteers. I have noticed them in the Kiosk,

yards and maintenance team areas.

Oh! NATF Zenani has just reminded me to tell you that the new education display area is going to be called.....KOALASEUM! What a clever name! It's in the finishing stages and we will be having an official opening very soon – around the time called Post Koala Conference.

Not long ago the volunteers at the hospital said everything runs on 'koala time' but not lately – the Alpha female (Cheyne) keeps saying - it's Pre Conference and Post Conference - some sort of code I think! Too confusing for me so I'm going back up my tree to sleep (in koala time).

*Until next time – take care of yourselves and us!*

## ***Adopt a Koala***



*Amethyst Simon*

A local home owner Simon, went out into his garage one morning to do a few odd jobs, heard a noise, looked around and there was a small koala sitting on the tyre of one of his children's bikes. Staff from the Koala Hospital "rescued" the offender and he was subsequently brought in for assessment.

Amethyst Simon turned out to be in quite good condition and as he had been found in an area not known for having a good koala habitat, so he was assigned for re-colonising.

As staff at the hospital had decided to release three other koalas all of similar age and health into a new area for re-colonising, our Amethyst Simon certainly fitted the criteria to be part of this new venture. He with another young male, and two juvenile females were released into what is arguably some of the best koala habitat in NSW.

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



# Koala Hospital Activity Report

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
26.09.09	Oxley Kaylee	Left leg removed, damaged eye	Permanent
20.10.12	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Permanent
16.07.13	Barrington Xavier	Limited sight	Permanent
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Permanent
19.02.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
08.10.15	Bellangry Wombat	Conjunctivitis	Permanent
11.10.15	Elparra David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Permanent
30.12.15	Shelly Beach Scratchy	Swollen left ankle and foot	Treating
03.06.16	Emerald Downs Mary	Glaucoma right eye,damaged left eye	Permanent
26.07.16	HKPS Jo Lo	Cryptococcosis	Treating
24.08.16	Guyra Allan	Both eyes injured/diseased	Treating
18.10.16	Kennedy Easy	On ground	Treating
01.01.17	John Oxley Emily	MVA	Euthanased
01.01.17	Laurieton Scott	On road	Released
12.01.17	The Meadow Koko	Disoriented	Released
14.01.17	Muston Yogi	Diseased eyes	Released
17.01.17	Armidale Amy	Conjunctivitis	Died
18.01.17	Lake Geobbrie	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Released
24.01.17	Amira Boo Boo	Wet Bottom	Released
30.01.17	Elparra Sam	On ground	Euthanased
31.01.17	PSK Tolley	On ground	Treating
01.02.17	Armidale Sebastian	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased
01.02.17	Uralla Dean	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased
01.02.17	Kadina Adrienne	Wet Bottom	Euthanased
04.02.17	Bilbungra Merche	On ground	Euthanased
04.02.17	McLaren Andrew	In yard with dog	Released
05.02.17	McLaren Lockie	Wet Bottom	Released
06.02.17	Pacific Sharyn	MVA	Died
12.02.17	Hastings River Dve Guttred	MVA	Died
14.02.17	Kempsey Mikaela	Possibly blind	Released
15.02.17	Tele Point Jill	Conjunctivitis	Died
16.02.17	Reading Leslie	Limping	Released
17.02.17	Rollands Plains Laura	Sitting on road	Died
18.02.17	Kempsey Rhiannon	On ground	Euthanased
19.02.17	Pacific Drive Henry	Limping	Released
22.02.17	Laurieton Gavin	Drowned	Drowned
22.02.17	Herschell Buddy	Wet bottom	Euthanased
26.02.17	Googik Storm	Unknown	DOA
01.03.17	Ellenborough Mickie	MVA	DOA
03.03.17	Walcha Danae	Left eye injured	Died
03.03.17	Lake Cathie Kurtiss	Sitting on road	Died
10.03.17	Rushcutter Sandra	Wet Bottom	Euthanased



Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
16.03.17	Granite Matt	On road	Released
21.03.17	Barton Lake	MVA	DOA
26.03.17	Morcombe Rick	Wet Bottom	Treating
01.04.17	Ocean Drive Pat	MVA	Released
04.04.17	Chisholm Bo	On road	Released
07.04.17	Oxley Highway Kit	On road	Died
10.04.17	The Meadow Koko	On ground	Died
11.04.17	Long Point Drive Mitch	On road	Euthanased
16.04.17	Crestwood Glenn	On ground	Died
16.04.17	Crescent Head Michelle	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased
18.04.17	Bestglen Place James	Dog attack	Died
13.04.17	O'Brien's Zali	Injury to both eyes	Released
21.04.17	Stewart Theo	Sitting on road	Released
24.04.17	Granite Matt	In yard with dog	Released
27.04.17	Waniora Kobi	In yard with dog	Released
27.04.17	Mariners Cathie	Possible wet bottom	Treating
27.04.17	Lake Geobbrie	MVA	Released

## New faces for Koala Hospital Committee

The AGM of the Koala Hospital was held on the 21st May with the Management Committee positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Media vacated by Gabriella Rivett, Mary Stewart, Marilyn Lees and Mick Feeney who all did a great job while in office. Marilyn Lees is now Vice President and we welcome Lyn Lee-Archer as Secretary, Glenn Broomham as Treasurer and Margaret Bell to Media.

### Overseas Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Natalie Preuss      **Age:** 31

**Resides:** Zurich, Switzerland

**Occupation:** Mathematician

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

I volunteered for one month and you get a very good overview of the hospital, but if you enjoy working with the koalas you wish it was longer. I love animals and I wanted to do something that proved worthwhile.

I'm really not a supporter of keeping animals in captivity, so it was important for me to choose a project where the animal and its well being was the focus.

**What was your experience like?:**

I have learned a great deal about koalas, their characters, diseases and treatments. And to be involved in the care, treatment and even a post mortem, to work with the koalas and get to know them it was all amazing.

I also met a lot of lovely and helpful people who are doing a great job. I would have really enjoyed participating in a rescue and/or release during my stay, but unfortunately the opportunity never arose.

**Who was your favourite Koala?:**

Wonder, Pam and Scratchy, they are adorable, gentle, cute and very special in their own ways.

### Local Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Sheila Bailey      **Age:** 64

**Resides:** Kundabung

**Original Occupation:** Club Supervisor

**What attracted you to the Hospital and how long have you been a Volunteer?:**

I have been a volunteer for three years. I first started at the hospital because I was receiving a Newstart allowance and know I am so glad that I managed to get a placement here, I wouldn't have it any other way.

**What areas do you work in at the Hospital?:**

I work in the Kiosk and also do Yard duties. I am also available for day rescues when rostered.

**What has your experience been like?:**

It's great to meet some really nice people. I now have made some special friends and also when it comes to the koalas who would not want to be able to care for them.

**Who is your favourite Koala and why?:**

Too hard to answer, they are all favourites!

Volunteer Sheila Bailey.



## 2017 Calendar

June 20	Management Meeting	10.00am
July 18	Management Meeting	10.00am
August 15	Management Meeting	10.00am
September 19	Management Meeting	10.00am

## Gum Tips

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

Editor in Chief:  
**Ken Rivett**

Contributors:  
**Jan Campbell**  
**Marilyn Lees**  
**Gaby Rivett**  
**Jennifer Baker**

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**Natalie Spratford**



### 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

Germany—Lutz Michel  
Liechtenstein—Viktor  
Switzerland—Viktor  
Europe—Viktor  
Australia

<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>	Jane Duxberry	president@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Vice President</i>	Marilyn Lees	vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Secretary</i>	Lyn Lee-Archer	secretary@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Treasurer</i>	Glenn Broomham	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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#### **Co-ordinators**

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<i>and Work Experience</i>		
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<i>Koala Sightings</i>	Sightings	sightings@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Website</i>	Bob Sharpham	site_manager@koalahospital.org.au



# 2017 Open Day at the Koala Hospital

Great weather, entertainment, stalls, auction, raffles, volunteers and an enthusiastic crowd made it the best day for all!



Find us on Facebook  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie



The Australian version of Pin the tail on the Donkey is Pin the Leaf on the Koala.



The Sponsor Board on display on the Open Day - our success would not have been possible without their great assistance.



True Blue the hospital mascot with a couple of young admirers who stopped to ask how he was enjoying the day.



Tropo Bob with an admiring audience as he enthralls them with magic tricks and a myriad of feats.



Auctioneer Tony Dekker getting help from Mr Hooker Bear raising funds for the Hospital.



One of the exhibits in the "Koalaseum" that was open to the public on Open day.



Some of the Goody Baskets on display prior to the start of the Auction and raffles on the day.



Koala Hospital volunteer Ken making sure the egg and bacon sandwiches keep coming.



True Blue and Mr Hooker Bear teamed forces with volunteer Mary Garvey and wandered through the crowd gathering donations.



Volunteer Jennifer Baker displaying one of the items on sale at the auction.



**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*



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

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