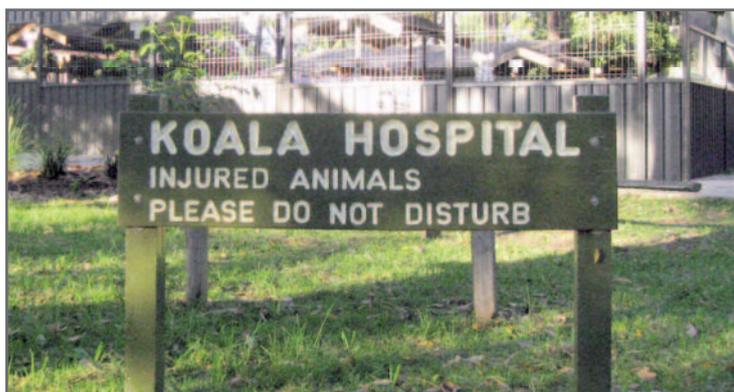




# Guim Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

December  
2009



## Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc.

PO Box 236 Port Macquarie  
NSW 2444 Australia

Licensed to rehabilitate and release sick, injured and  
orphaned native fauna under licence no. 10044  
*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*

## What's inside:

Cover Story <i>Kennedy Tristan</i> .....	<b>2, 3</b>
Education Report.....	<b>5</b>
Supervisor's Report.....	<b>6</b>
Feature <i>Why Habitat Matters</i> .....	<b>8, 9</b>
Friends of the Koala Hospital .....	<b>12</b>
From the President .....	<b>12</b>
Adopt-A-Wild-Koala Report.....	<b>13</b>
Media & Comms Report.....	<b>13</b>
Koala Sightings.....	<b>14, 15</b>
IT Report .....	<b>16</b>
Maintenance Report.....	<b>16</b>
Hospital Report .....	<b>18, 19</b>

# Kennedy



# Tristan

This charming young male koala came to us in early November after being hit by not one car but TWO cars. The majority of the impact was to the head, with some minor trauma to his hindquarters. Consequently Tristan suffered a severe concussion. It was like there was “no-one home” even though, externally, he only had a few abrasions around his eyes (both eyes were blood-filled nonetheless). For the first 24 hours he was in the hospital, the staff felt he was not going to make it at all. He was exhibiting a strong pain response, laboured breathing, was very ‘flat’ in behaviour, non-responsive at times and hyper-sensitive at other times. These are classic symptoms of a badly concussed koala.

Tristan was given strong pain relief, put on fluids and was on a high level of oxygen in the initial stage of his care. Staff are convinced that this is the best therapy for koalas with head trauma, as it has proven itself time and time again.

Amazingly the next day, although still quite ‘flat’, there was a marked improvement. With the supportive nutrition, fluids and pain relief, Tristan gradually returned to normal behaviour and began to eat leaf. He was now responsive and began to look about his surroundings.

It was such an incredible turnaround from a koala that was so traumatised to one that was now on the mend. It looked like Tristan would

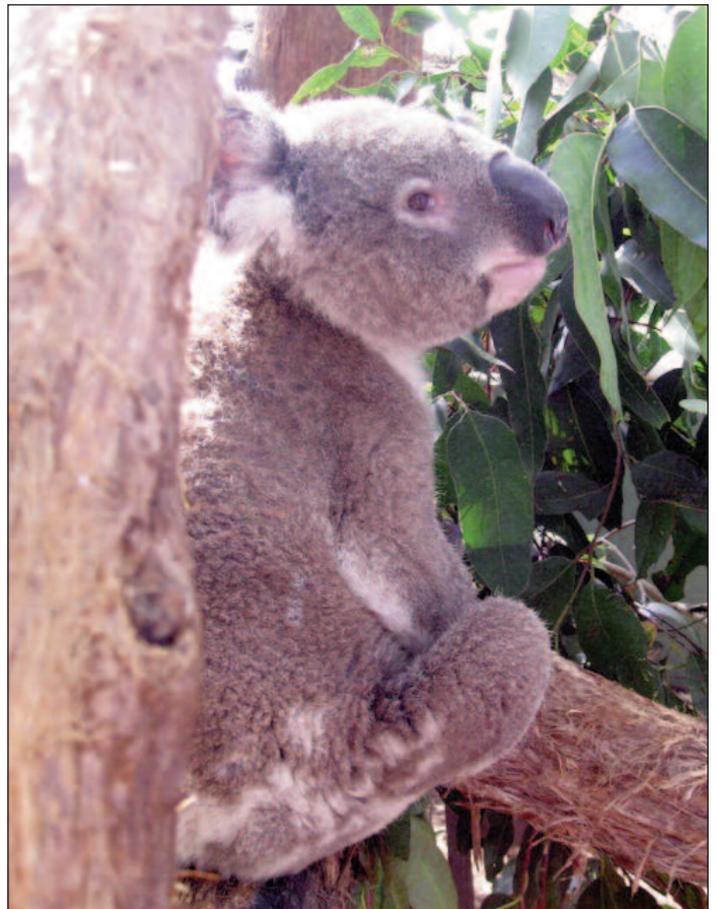
definitely have a good future back out in the wilds of Port Macquarie.

The personality of this little fella is definitely his best feature. The first thing he does when he sees you in the morning is to come forward for some nose-to-nose communication and a lot of face-sniffing. He then proceeds to hoot and holler, getting quite worked up, acting like he is some sort of alpha male announcing his territory to all and sundry (even though his hooting and grunting is a little ordinary at the moment, without much volume and wouldn’t scare anyone).

By koala standards, Tristan is still a “pimple-faced teenager”, with only a very small scent gland to be proud of. But from a character point of view he is already making a name for himself, with all his raucous hollering.



Tristan was placed on oxygen therapy upon admission



Tristan is doing well in one of our recovery yards.



Look out female koalas in Port Macquarie: next breeding season, Kennedy Tristan's going to be hooting and grunting loudly in a tree near you – he is an alpha male in the making.



## HELP US TO HELP THE KOALAS



- Become a member
- Adopt a wild koala
- Volunteer
- Donate

# Carla comes back 'home' to the Koala Hospital

*Carla Sluiter, one of our wonderful overseas volunteers, administers the Koala Hospital's Dutch website [www.koalaziekenhuis.nl](http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl). Carla paid us a visit in September and got hands-on with her favourite marsupials.*

As soon as I smelled the warm scent of the gum trees I knew I was "back home". Home at the Koala Hospital!

My previous stay was 6 years ago. I had meant to come back earlier, but due to circumstances it didn't happen until now. "Now" being 8 September 2009. I had arrived in Port Macquarie by Greyhound bus the afternoon before. After a quick inspection of my cabin at the Flynn's Beach Caravan Park I left my backpack and set foot to Lord Street: right on Crisallen Street, left on Flynn Street and right again on Little Owen Street. After all those years I had no problem finding my way. And here I was, reunited with "my" koalas. And boy had I missed them!

It was late in the afternoon so anyone I knew from six years ago would have gone home already. For now I had to settle for a walk past the outside yards. A big male koala had his residence in the first yard near the hospital's kiosk. A sign named him Tractive Golfer. I recognized it from the activity report in GumTips. Little did I know how much time I was going to spend with this old guy.

Opposite Golfer's yard I found yard 9, previously home to our bushfire victims. Only 22 year old Birthday Girl occupied one of the gunyahs. In my mind's eye, I could just see beautiful Bonny Fire, sweet Cloud and queen Miracle sharing the other ones. It felt weird seeing their yard this empty. At the same time I realised the old girls had all enjoyed a good life. The hospital's five star treatment had ensured they reached a good age, with lots of TLC on a daily basis.

I reported for work the next morning. By that time I had only seen the new hospital wing on photos. So the first thing I did was have a good look at the new and improved treatment room. It was so much bigger than the old one

and so much more effective. The large window allows visitors to have a peek inside while the koalas are being treated. Something I would surely appreciate if I was the visitor.

I was surprised at how much I remembered – and also how much I had forgotten – about working in the yards. Waiting for the leaf collector to arrange the freshly cut eucalypt branches, recycling leaves from the previous day in the red containers, arranging the leaves in a way that the koalas would not slip over them, and sweeping the yard were things I remembered well. Viktor from Switzerland was there to help me remember the things I had forgotten, like the best way to cut the fresh leaves how to hold the syringe when feeding the koalas and how to fold towels to cover the horizontal runners in the "wet bottom" yards.

During my refresher course with Viktor I noticed the hospital coordinator making up a laundry basket and I knew what that meant! "Peter, are you going on a rescue?" Peter nodded his head with a look on his face that told me he knew what question was coming next. And sure enough I

asked him if I could join. "You've only just arrived Carla", he said with a naughty twinkle in his eyes. Right then I knew we would become good mates. And we did. Peter is the best! In addition to making my stay enjoyable with his wicked sense of humour, he took me out on several rescues and releases, allowed me to assist him handling some of the koalas and – probably most important of all – filled the cookie box with chocolate cookies on a regular basis.

Peter used to also tease me with my well developed communication skills, or as he preferred to call it: "yap,



**Carla cuddles up to joey Twinkles while Mum Oxley Kaylee is treated.**

yap, yap". At the same time, he didn't mind taking advantage of my yapping by often assigning me to Tractive Golfer's yard, knowing I just loved to tell visitors all about Golfie and the other koalas. On some days it would take me 2.5 hours to finish his yard, whereas it could have been done in 30 minutes.

In between my activities that first morning I also spotted my old (not relating to age :- ) friend Cheyne, our supervisor, in the treatment room. On my "Hey girl!" she turned around and welcomed me with a big hug. Again, it felt good to be back. In the weeks to come Cheyne would involve me in all sorts of things, from assisting in the treatment room, letting me hold a joey at the vet's when mummy koala needed an X-ray, to fair dinkum roo wrestling (as part of a roo rescue). Thanks girl, I so enjoyed every minute of everything!



Whenever I was with the koalas, I wasn't aware that anything else existed in the world. Especially when I was in with my girl Farida, a dog attack victim. Farida is a feisty one who would tell me off when she decided I had fumbled around with her leaf too much. It gave me a warm sensation in my heart whenever she laid her eyes on me.

But it was the people I worked with that touched my heart too. Without exception, everyone had one goal: the wellbeing of the koalas. Everyone helped out where needed, no asking required. And they were all just so nice to me – really, I appreciated it. This group of dedicated volunteers naturally has what is described in books on team work and motivational working conditions. I must come back and make sure it's not going to take me another six years!

*Carla*

## Education report

Since the last General Meeting on 16 August our Hospital visitor numbers have been steadily increasing as the weather warms up.

During this period we have hosted 31 coaches, 5 school groups as well as the Packard Car Club and the Chevrolet Car Club.

Additionally, I have spoken to groups at the Hastings Regis Manor and the Hastings Older Womens' Network.

On Friday 4 September the Koala Hospital was represented with a display at Panthers Club in conjunction with the Hastings Business Awards. The awards group used a

cartoon koala for a logo on slides on a large screen during the evening – good publicity for our furry friends.

The Family Fun Day on 19 September was another great day and provided us with a chance to acknowledge dear old Birthday Girl as probably the oldest wild koala in NSW (at least!).

My thanks to all Education personnel for your continued support. Together we will keep up the good work.

*Geoff Best* Education Co-ordinator



Geoff and Oxley Griffin

adopt  
Seaview  
Farida



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

# Supervisor's Report



Stone the crows! Wasn't it just Christmas a month or two ago? This year has really flown.

It's been rather disturbing to see an increase in **dog attack admissions** over the last few months, with almost one a day occurring at one point. It's very frustrating trying to educate dog owners about wildlife/koalas in their backyards, as most home owners want their dogs roaming in their yards at night for protection – such is the world today. Sadly it's the koalas and other wildlife that don't understand this, and this is where the attacks usually occur. Thankfully we have managed to save a few to release which is pleasing. We have also had an increase in motor vehicle accident admissions. The majority of the koalas brought in are young subadult or adult healthy, clean males.

These are “dispersing males” – those looking for a home range, or ones that have already succeeded in finding an unoccupied habitat but who have sadly met their demise via a motor car. Nonetheless, we have found that giving koalas oxygen therapy for the first 24–48 hours is vital to help with severe concussion and other head trauma injuries. All of the supervisory team are now well versed in using oxygen tanks and administering oxygen therapy – another skill for the team!!!

Admissions of **koalas infected with chlamydial infection** are very low at present which is great, with only a few in care. We also have two patients from Armidale (up on the tablelands): one with chlamydial infection (eyes) and the other with a skin condition.



The new **sightings programme**, where the public informs us

when they sight a koala –

see page 14) is working well. It is pleasing to hear that lots of young joeys have been spotted on mothers. We have also see a number of young back-borne joeys when out on rescues and have also brought in a few where the mothers have required only minor attention and were then

released. It's a good sign that there is a lot of breeding going on out there – lots of recruitment to increase the population.

There has been recent media hype over considering the koala for inclusion on the **Federal threatened species listing**. The Australian Koala Foundation's media coverage has also been interesting. The scientific team

involved in presenting all the data and the scientists working on the decision-making process certainly have a lot of work to do before the announcement in September 2010. We all must be very cautious in stating overall numbers of koalas in Australia as at this point in time. The scientific data is still being compiled with a lot of “facts” and “total numbers” out there in the media at present being quite incorrect and not based on sound scientific evidence.

Otherwise all is well, with plenty of volunteers all working well together.

We wish all readers a safe and peaceful Christmas.

*Cheyne Flanagan* Supervisor

# Seaview Farida



*Lois and Dennis  
O'Connor were the  
first people to adopt the  
newest addition to the*

*Adopt a Wild Koala program.*

*Read on to find out why they fell in  
love with Seaview Farida.*

In September 2009, we were in Port Macquarie for a friend's 70th birthday. While there, we paid a visit to the Koala Hospital. We were walking beside the outside recovery yards when a volunteer told us that if we waited by yard no. 3, a koala was going to be released there from Intensive Care.

After a few minutes, she returned with what looked like a 'Santa sack'. She opened the bag and, after some encouragement, Seaview Farida emerged and climbed up onto her new gunyah.

She was a beautiful koala and we fell in love with her! We watched her for a long time and took lots of photos while the volunteer tried to feed her a nutritional supplement. But Farida was only interested in smelling the fresh air, probably after being inside for so long. We learned that Farida could not be released because three of her right claws were missing after a dog attack.

We asked if it was possible to adopt Farida; since we retired, we have been travelling all over Australia in our caravan. We would be able to visit whenever we drive South.

We visited Farida every day we were in Port Macquarie. After we went home, we rang the Hospital regularly to check on Farida's progress. As soon as Farida became available for adoption, we were the first to adopt her. We were so excited by the new 'addition' to our family. No matter where we travel in Australia, we know that we don't have to worry about whether or not Farida is being cared for – the staff and volunteers at the Hospital look after all their charges



wonderfully well.

And as Farida is only about 3 years old, we will be able to visit her for many years.

When we send out our Christmas cards this year, they will be accompanied by photos of Farida in the hope that they may encourage our friends to adopt a koala also.

*Lois and Dennis*

# Why habitat is so

**H**abitat is “the natural environment in which an organism lives, or the physical environment that surrounds (influences and is utilized by) a species population.”  
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habitat>>

For a koala (and any organism for that matter) to live a “natural” life he/she needs warmth, shelter, food, protection from harm and access to others of the same species to reproduce.

Even though koalas live solitary lives, they are actually part of a highly structured hierarchical society. The alpha males and alpha females occupy the prime habitat within the colony and the lower ranking koalas occupy lesser quality habitat.

A koala’s home range is dictated not only by the amount of trees but also the quality of trees within their area. So, if the trees are sparsely scattered or there are not many actual food trees for the koalas to eat from within that area, the home range needs to be much bigger.

Also, not all trees within the home range are used for food. Some are simply used to sleep in (camping trees) and some are for mating (‘romance’ or ‘bedroom’ trees). Eucalypts are notorious for being unpalatable and toxic at various times during the year and also at various stages of their growth. Trees under a certain height and girth around the trunk are not palatable at all (particularly tallowwood trees) and are thus ignored throughout the year until they reach a suitable height. This is important to know for replanted, revegetated areas or areas that have been heavily logged.

The home ranges of alpha males and alpha females overlap, as do those of the lesser ranking females and lesser ranking males. Mostly though koalas avoid contact with each other. Fighting between males is uncommon as the energy involved is too costly to the koala, plus smaller and lower ranking males will not attempt to tackle the much bigger, more robust alpha male. Young subadult males tend to live on the periphery of the colony existing in the marginal poor quality habitat and generally exist “under the radar” of the higher ranking male koalas. Consequently young males are often the ones seen running up roads or getting themselves in trouble as they seek somewhere to

go, and statistically many die during this period when they cannot find unoccupied habitat. This structuring of the koala society works well when the forest is untouched or the habitat is enough to sustain all the koalas living in the population and young animals can radiate out into new areas.



When habitat is removed for housing development or agricultural purposes, the highly structured organised koala society breaks down. Koalas are forced to occupy either very small home ranges with not enough trees to sustain them, or alternatively end up with giant home ranges with trees so far apart that they have to descend from the trees, negotiate urban obstacles such as roads, fences, buildings and walk long distances seeking food. This is not only costly in energy expenditure, but it places the koala in a hugely vulnerable position of danger. Being forced to live close together puts immense social and nutritional pressure on koalas

# important to a koala?

who are thus unable to cope. This can result in lower quality nutritional intake, coupled with a suppressed immune system, which is expressed in diseases such as chlamydial infection.

To put this in human terms, if someone came along and bulldozed our house and all our neighbours houses and we were then taken off our land, and dumped in the backyards of some other peoples homes – imagine the result!!! This would create great stress and pressure on humans with all sorts of health issues emerging, even to the point of outbreaks of disease (which sadly occurs in third-world countries in war, famine and refugee camps).

It's a well known fact that violence, poor health and other social problems arise when humans are forced to live in large numbers too close together (eg, high-density estates). Apart from the fact that koalas are not violent animals, being forced to live too close together or translocated to another area results in similar problems.

Sadly, many people think that when forested areas are stripped bare for development, koalas can simply be caught and released "into the bush somewhere else and they will be live happily ever after". It doesn't work that way. Koalas stay in their home ranges either for the entire period of their lives or until a higher ranking animal pushes them out.

Removing koalas after their habitat has been destroyed and taking them "somewhere else" usually results in the death of the koalas, as they are not set up in the new areas in the same hierarchical system or, alternatively, the trees in the area are simply not suitable or palatable for the koalas. They may also be placed in areas that already have an existing population of koalas. Dumping "foreign" koalas into another social population will cause huge conflict and the new animals will be forced out, usually to starve.

As more and more valuable habitat is removed and koalas are forced into living too close together in the remaining viable habitat, the pressures on

the population will continue to result in koala contracting disease, being hit by cars and attacked by dogs, etc.



Port Macquarie Independent, 1/10/2009, p9 (photo).

Paradoxically the hot topic today (excuse the pun) is climate change – what does that involve? A rise in CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide), amongst other things. What do trees do? Absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. So why are we continually removing habitat, when we need trees for managing carbon levels? It doesn't make sense!!!

Preservation of the remaining habitat and restoration of old, destroyed habitat is critical to ensure the long-term survival of the koala. It's all still very possible to achieve this goal and it's up to

all of us to make sure this occurs.

*Cheyne Flanagan* Supervisor

## Become a koala 'friend'

**Do you have a few hours to spare?  
Would you like to help the Koala Hospital?**

"Friends of the Koala Hospital" is a small group which raises funds and promotes the activities of the Koala Hospital.

We attend markets and functions at various locations, run raffles and arrange evening cruises on the Chinese Junk.

We need just a few extra volunteers to spread the workload. If you would like to help

on the odd occasion,  
please call 6582 2327 or email  
[friends@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:friends@koalahospital.org.au)

*Robyne Leadbeater*  
Friends Co-ordinator

# A lovely email from a supporter in Berlin...

We were so sad to hear that brave Bonny Fire left us this year, but she'll be in our hearts for ever – and we will renew our adoption with another koala – perhaps with one of her offspring. We cannot thank you enough for your care of the koalas.

My husband and I had a wonderful tour around the Koala Hospital when we spent two days in Port Macquarie in Summer 2008. This was part of a round trip through Australia (our honeymoon).

For me, this journey was like a dream came true, because I fell in love with koalas a long time ago: In 1981, when I was a 2-year-old-girl, my father gave me a stuffed koala toy which is still with me and has become my oldest friend now :-).

About 10 or 15 years later – as a teenager – I read an article about the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital in a German newspaper. From that moment on it was clear to me: I will visit the hospital if I ever get a chance to see Australia. Last year I finally got that chance and I was so glad

and honored to see you and your cute residents. So thanks again so much for your caring work and engagement for our animal friends! YOU ARE GREAT! It's so important to care about this wonderful species.

By the way, your Gum Tips article about your engagement and your experiences during the devastating bush fires in Victoria this year moved my husband and me to tears. We were so proud of you and all the other colleagues and volunteers in Victoria who helped to rescue as many wildlife as possible. You all did an amazing job in this horrible situation and we just want to let you know

that even so far away in Germany there were a lot of people who recognised and really really appreciated that. Our newspapers and TV news were full of reports about “down under” and these horrible fires which put humans and animals “into hell”. We all felt with you.

Take care! All the best

*Sandra* from Berlin



**adopt**  
Bonny  
Blaze



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

# A young adopter checks in on Bonny Blaze



*Dear Koala Hospital*

*Hi my name is Maddie. I adopted Bonny Blaze in December 2008 and I would like to know how he is doing? Please rite back. I live in the U.S.A. I am 8 years old. THANK YOU! Maddie*



**Dear Maddie,**

Thanks for asking about Blaze. We run just like a human hospital in many ways. We fix up all the koalas we can and then let them go so they can continue their lives in the wild.

In the case of Bonny Blaze, he was born in captivity (instead of being sick and having to come to us for care). The reason Blaze's mother (Bonny Fire) was with us is that she was unable to fend for herself in the wild due to injuries she received in a bush fire some years ago. It is actually against the law in Australia to keep wild/native animals in captivity without a special licence. So we were given special permission to keep her at the Hospital. Only rehabilitation facilities like the Koala Hospital are allowed to carry this licence. In Australia, no-one is allow to keep a native animal as a pet. Since there was nothing at all wrong with Blaze, as soon as he was big enough (about 3-4kg) to look after himself, he was released to a safe, bushy area of Port Macquarie. This occurred not long after you adopted him, on 4 February 2009.

So as we have not 'heard' from Blaze since his release, we are assuming that all is well. We are hoping that he has now established his own home range and might soon be looking for a mate to keep the wild koala population going in Australia.

**Best wishes from the Koala Hospital**

## A different way to help the Koala Hospital



The easiest way to support the Koala Hospital is to save! Go to your closest BCU branch, open a Community Saver Account (CSA) and nominate us as your recipient organisation. Not only will you earn a great rate of interest, but each year BCU will donate the equivalent of 1% of your average annual savings to the Hospital.

One local organisation received \$450 at the end of their first year. The next year, they increased the number of members who held CSAs and received over \$3,500 from BCU. Fundraising for the Koala Hospital, fund saving for you.

Put simply, the more supporters we get to open CSA accounts with BCU and who nominate us as their recipient, the greater the donation we receive from BCU each year.

**Do YOU have a CSA yet?**

For details, see: [http://www.bcu.com.au/personal/savings\\_accounts/community\\_saver\\_account](http://www.bcu.com.au/personal/savings_accounts/community_saver_account)

# Friends of the Koala Hospital

Hello Friends,  
Well we have been busy since the last *Gum Tips*. We had our Family Fun Day on 19 September What a day! The weather was perfect, the crowds were great, and we raised over \$3,500 – well over last year's total.

We also attended the Wood Workers Guild on 25-26-27 September and we met a lot of people with stories to tell about the koalas in their areas. It is always good to get feedback.

On 4 October we had the Carnival Of The Pines. It was a bit on the wet side but it didn't seem to deter too many people as there was quite a crowd.

We have also been doing the local markets & shopping centre with our raffles and are doing well, with donations on the increase. We

are still getting a lot of feedback on sightings, as it's the breeding season and they are out and about.

On Tuesday 10 November we went aboard the Chinese Junk for a sunset cruise. It was beautiful and everyone had a great time. I have another one booked for those that missed out the first time around.

I have two more markets to do before Xmas and another shopping centre. So far we have raised over \$500. I am hoping to double that by Xmas.

We hope you all have a merry Xmas and a very happy new year cheers !

*Robyne Leadbeatter*

**Friends Co-ordinator**

## From the President

As most of you know, the Hospital was honoured by winning the Mid North Coast Tourism Award for ecotourism earlier this year. This placed us in the running for the NSW State Award. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, but our achieving finalist status nonetheless attests to the dedication of our staff and volunteers who make the Hospital not only a well-run rehabilitation facility but also an important tourist attraction for the region.

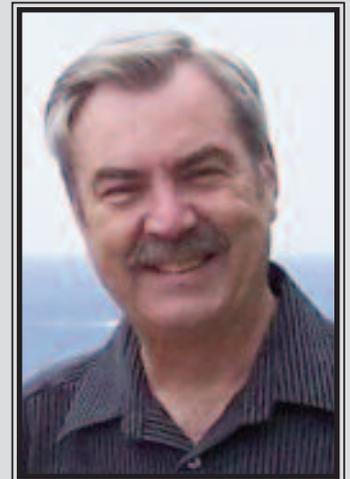
In terms of changes over the last quarter, we have done some tinkering to the website <[www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au)> so that we can capture information we need to service our members

better online. We also anticipate a complete design refresh to the site some time in 2010.

We've also entered the digital age with our wild koala sightings program. If you see a koala in the Hastings region, please email the time, location and even a photo to [sightings@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:sightings@koalahospital.org.au) or call the Hospital on 6584 1522.

On that note, I wanted to advise emailers that have phased out the old midcoast email account; the preferred Koala Hospital email addresses end with [koalahospital.org.au](http://koalahospital.org.au) – see page 17 for the full directory.

For those local members who wish to attend the Christmas Party on 13 December, please RSVP to



the Hospital 6584 1522.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays – especially our supervisors, team leaders, leaf collectors and all the volunteers who give up hours of their time. Many thanks also to all our supporters both locally and overseas. Your support of the Hospital is what keeps us going.

*Bob Sharpham* **President**

# Adopt-A-Wild-Koala report

Since our last report we have been busy processing around 600 adoptions, more than one third of which were renewals.

We have sent out renewal reminders to the vast number of people who adopted during December last year. As overseas mail from Oz for Christmas delivery closes end November, we have notified those adopters in time to give them the chance to receive their renewal packages for Christmas giving.

Following on from our hugely successful promotion last year, we are once again arranging a press release, suggesting people "Adopt A Wild Koala" for Christmas, and help a threatened species. We are not sure what the response will be like this year, but have been getting ourselves as ready as we can for the anticipated rush of orders.

Sadly, we lost Kempsey Carolina during this time – there was an article in the September issue of *Gum Tips* about her.

We now have two more helpers in the Adoption section – making a grand total of four part-time volunteers. The latest to join Jan and me are Robyn and Marilyn, and we welcome them with open arms.



*Lorraine Best* AAWK Co-ordinator



# Media & Comms Report



## Local media

- Once again we have had great support from the local media. Peter Garrett's and John Williamson's visits, the Family Fun Day – Birthday Girl being the star, dog attacks and MVAs, Carnival of the Pines and the Regional Tourism Awards – all attracted reports both in print and on TV.
- *Focus* will be featuring a story on the Hospital in their December issue.
- *Lifestyle* is also featuring a story on Cheyne. We watch with interest!
- Cheyne also presented to **Rotary** about the experiences of the Victorian bushfires.

## Visiting media

- *River and Reef* filmed at the Hospital during October and this will be aired sometime after November in their program: Channel 10 and the Lifestyle Program being the places to watch.
- The Hospital was also included in the *Travel Oz* (ABC) program on Port Macquarie at the end of August.
- French TV will be visiting the Hospital in December.

## NSW tourism awards

- After winning the Mid Coast Regional Award for Eco Tourism, Bob Sharpham attended the State Awards presentation in Sydney on 19 November as we were a finalist. However, we didn't win. The honour went to the Blue Mountains National Park.
- A big thank you to Sam Carroll for producing the upgraded submission – we just got it in, in time.

## Media release

- A release is to go out "Adopting a Koala for Xmas", hopefully repeating the success of last year's successful campaign.

*Helen Meers* Media Co-ordinator



# Koala

[sightings@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:sightings@koalahospital.org.au)

Sep 221    Oct 201    Nov 138

## Have YOU seen a koala today?

“There is a small koala in one of our backyard trees, at Lyndale Avenue. We spotted it this afternoon.” ~Karen & Chris, 25 October



“We sighted a koala this morning in the reserve between Grandview Parade and Regent Street.” ~Mark & Lesley, 17 October



“Image of a koala in my back yard in Elparra Close.” ~James, 21 October

“This koala was spotted in the gum tree approximately 150m along the track at the Junction of Paul Clancy Court and Kinchela Street, Crescent Head. Is there any way they can be protected as there are no signs on the road side indicating they are living here?” ~Marg, 27 November

We want to hear from YOU each time you **SIGHT A KOALA** in the Hastings. Please **EMAIL** details (time and place), plus a photo if you like, to: [sightings@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:sightings@koalahospital.org.au) or **CALL** in your sighting to 6584-1522. We will record and use this information to locate koala habitat areas in the Port Macquarie-Hastings District. Thank you!



# Sightings



“This koala was at the corner of Moruya & Braemar Drive today at approx. 12.13pm. It had a green tag in its right ear.”  
~Bethany, 6 October



“We had Koala in our back yard today at 4pm at Lighthouse Beach. We do get them out the front quite often as we have a large eucalyptus at the front of our house and are quite close to Mariners Way where we see them often.

We had two in our tree out the front about two weeks ago but only just found out about you wanting to know of sightings. We see them going up the road to our neighbour who also has a couple of trees that they seem to like. We often hear them at night also. It is much less common for us to see them in our back yard but recently have had them there a few times.” ~Elizabeth, 12 October



“Just letting you know there was a koala with an eartag at Yarrabee Park this morning.  
~Kristy,  
11 November

# IT report

## New printing of Koala Manual

- We have received delivery of the new printing of the Koala Rehabilitation Manual, which is designed to last us for the next couple of years until we update the current edition.

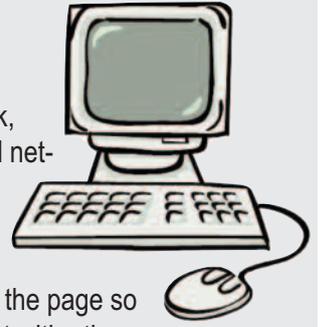
## DonorTec

- I have discovered a wonderful organisation called DonorTec which supplies software to eligible charities for only a small admin fee. DonorTec have already advised us that we are eligible; the only catch is that we can only make one order every 2 years.
- Companies such as Microsoft donate the software and licences; DonorTec only charges a small administrative fee per licence.
- I will be compiling a list of requirements and their asso-

ciated costs during December.

## Facebook presence

- We have launched a Koala Hospital fan page on Facebook, the world's most popular social networking site.
- It would be great if more Koala Hospital members could join Facebook and become fans of the page so that they can comment, interact with other members and post photos.
- This is what keeps the page current and encourages participation.
- The page is located at [www.facebook.com/pages/Koala-Hospital-Port-Macquarie/144006674661](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Koala-Hospital-Port-Macquarie/144006674661) or just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Koala Hospital Port Macquarie" and click on "become a fan".
- Encourage your friends and family to join too!



*Sam Carroll* IT Co-ordinator

# Maintenance Report



- The escape-proof enclosures in yard 10 are finally finished, apart from re-arrangements to gunyahs. This project, I understand, has been nick-named "The Great Wall" because of the length of time needed to complete the work. Surprisingly, although started in July last and worked on for only 3-4 hours each Wednesday, the time taken equates to approximately 3 weeks!
- The clean-up behind maintenance and Education Shed facility has also been done and now looks a lot tidier than previous. Some materials have been retained for possible future use and more neatly stacked.
- Thanks to Viktor from Switzerland for the great job he did on remaking the joey koala sign outside yard 1. Also for the larger table-top in the treatment room – complete with rubber top – making it much more user-friendly.
- Another thank you goes to Jack (Maintenance team) for the attractive shelving under the white-board

outside of kiosk for containing info pamphlets etc.

- Damage sustained to gunyah roofs in yards 9 & 10 have been temporarily patched. Western Red cedar planks have been purchased for a more permanent repair.
- Leaf trailer mechanism again repaired and lights fixed. Improvements to door of enclosure 9A to (hopefully) prevent escapes. Umbrella also repaired. Ridge capping fitted to gunyah roof in yard 4. Light in kiosk re-connected (outside electrician). Various and many ongoing jobs done.
- Most materials for office partition have been purchased. Frame work erected for two walls and one outer wall lined.
- Still in abeyance are the bike rack and painting of the wooden shelving in storage for white ants!

Thanks again to all the team for their efforts.

*Brian Westoby* Maintenance Co-ordinator

## Tribute to A Life Member

Betty Burrige (11/10/1924–2/11/2009)

Betty worked Saturday afternoons in the Koala Hospital kiosk until a couple of years ago when her health began to worsen. Betty passed away in November.

She will be remembered for her love of her dogs and, of course, the koalas.

One of our visitors sent her nephew, Archer, who lives in San Diego, California, some books and info about the koala hospital. He had saved six dollars from his allowance, and when he heard about the koalas, he sent his aunt four dollars from it as a donation to the hospital.

*Thank you!*



**Brian Crisp is the Koala Hospital's Donation Box Coordinator. Here is Brian in his workshop repairing and building donation boxes.**

## Notice of Future Meetings

11<sup>th</sup> December 2009 Management mtg  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2009 Christmas Party!

## Koala Hospital Christmas Party!



**Where:** Port City Bowling Club  
**When:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December  
11.30am – 5.00pm  
**Cost:** Members: \$5  
Non-members: \$10  
Includes buffet lunch  
**RSVP:** 6584 1522

## Koala Hospital WORLDWIDE WEBSITES

Netherlands – Carla Sluiter <http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl/>  
Germany – Lutz Michel <http://www.koalahilfe.de>  
Liechtenstein – Viktor <http://www.koala.li>  
Switzerland – Viktor <http://www.koalahilfe.ch>  
Europe – Viktor <http://www.koalahilfe.eu>  
Australia! <http://www.koalahospital.org.au>

**Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc.** ABN 74060854479  
PO Box 236, Port Macquarie NSW 2444 AUSTRALIA.

Telephone: (02) 6584 1522 Fax: (02) 6584 2399  
Email: [info@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:info@koalahospital.org.au) Web: [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au)

Adoptions	Lorraine Best	<a href="mailto:adoption@koalahospital.org.au">adoption@koalahospital.org.au</a>
IT	Sam Carroll	<a href="mailto:techie@koalahospital.org.au">techie@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Supervisor	Cheyne Flanagan	<a href="mailto:supervisor@koalahospital.org.au">supervisor@koalahospital.org.au</a>

### Management Committee

President	Bob Sharpham	<a href="mailto:president@koalahospital.org.au">president@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Vice President	John Barber	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au">vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Secretary	Beth Gabriel	<a href="mailto:secretary@koalahospital.org.au">secretary@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Herbie King	<a href="mailto:treasurer@koalahospital.org.au">treasurer@koalahospital.org.au</a>

### Co-ordinators

Hospital	Peter Schulties	<a href="mailto:coordinator@koalahospital.org.au">coordinator@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Habitat	Chris Rowlands	<a href="mailto:habitat@koalahospital.org.au">habitat@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Education	Geoff Best	<a href="mailto:education@koalahospital.org.au">education@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Media	Helen Meers	<a href="mailto:media@koalahospital.org.au">media@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Maintenance	Brian Westoby	<a href="mailto:maintenance@koalahospital.org.au">maintenance@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Souvenir Kiosk	Hazell Sellers	<a href="mailto:kiosk@koalahospital.org.au">kiosk@koalahospital.org.au</a>
Friends	Robyne Leadbeatter	<a href="mailto:friends@koalahospital.org.au">friends@koalahospital.org.au</a>

## Gum Tips

Gum Tips, the official newsletter of the Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc., is published quarterly.



Editor:  
**Cheyne Flanagan**  
[supervisor@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:supervisor@koalahospital.org.au)

Designer:  
**Samantha Carroll**  
[techie@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:techie@koalahospital.org.au)

**DISCLAIMER** *The Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc. 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.*

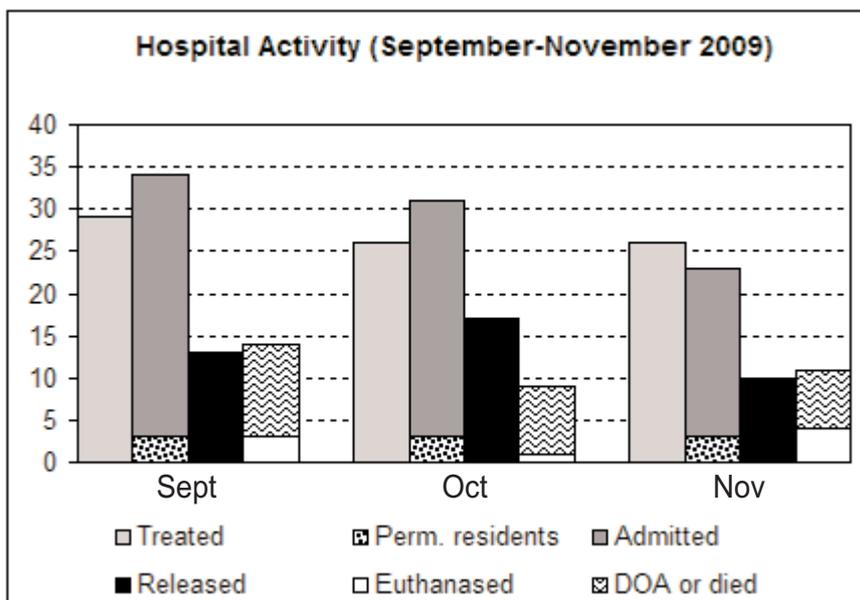
*Any opinions expressed in reports/articles published in this newsletter are not to be necessarily taken as being the opinion of the Society but rather the author's personal opinion. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of any information in the newsletter published in good faith as supplied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

# Hospital Activity Report



Admission	Name	Reason	Result
22.10.04	Tractive Golfer M	Underweight – scoliosis of spine	Permanent resident
11.07.08	West Haven Barry M	Scoliosis of spine	Permanent resident
	Birthday Girl	Severe Arthritis Right Hip	Permanent resident
10.10.08	Settlement Point Bea Joey	Fell 20 metres from tree onto oyster rocks	
17.06.09	Oxley Hayley F	Dog Attack	
06.07.09	Granite Murray M	Chlamydia	Released 11.09.09
17.07.09	Oxley Hwy Mat M	Motor Vehicle accident – Pelvic fractures	Released 15.10.09
01.08.09	Armidale David M	Conjunctivitis both eyes (chlamydia)	Died 27.09.09
02.08.09	Kempsey Brady M	Bilateral keratoconjunctivits	Released 16.10.09
22.08.09	Golf Blackspot M	Motor Vehicle accident	Self release 02.09.09
23.08.09	Seaview Farida F	Dog Attack	
27.08.09	Links Rob M	Dog attack	Released 30.09.09
01.09.09	Jupiter Cheryl F	Infection right eye	Released 08.09.09
01.09.09	Major Innes Celise F	Chlamydia	Euthanased 05.11.09
02.09.09	Lake Kelly F	Mesotheloma (cancer)	Dead on Arrival
03.09.09	Elands John M	Poor condition	Died 04.09.09
04.09.09	T.A.F.E. Cody M Joey	Abandoned	
04.09.09	O'Briens Fredo M	Found in boot of stolen car	Released 08.09.09
05.09.09	Belah Libby F	Found on ground – examined	Released 06.09.09
06.09.09	Maher Wendy F	Dog attack	Released 08.09.09
06.09.09	Gardenia Odessa F	Dog Attack	Released 02.10.09
08.09.09	Dunbogan Glen M	Found on ground	Euthanased 11.09.09
08.09.09	Diamond Head Kylie F	Found on ground	Euthanased 08.09.09
08.09.09	Kempsey Amarena M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
10.09.09	Capalla Jessie F	Chlamydia	Euthanased 15.09.09
11.09.09	Belah Libby F	On Road	Released 15.09.09
11.09.09	Ocean Dan M	Motor Vehicle Accident – Head trauma	Released 05.11.09
15.09.09	Lord Christopher M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
17.09.09	Hollingsworth Ian M	Wandering in car park	Released 17.09.09
17.09.09	Home Nadia F Juv.	In Yard with dogs	Released 22.09.09
18.09.09	Clifton Helen F Juv.	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
18.09.09	Lake Innes Nicola F	Found on ground	Died 23.09.09
21.09.09	Ocean Staffi F	Dog Attack	Released 13.10.09
21.10.09	McClaren Sharon F + joey	Dangerous area – checked	Released 22.09.09
23.09.09	Hay Billy M	Motor Vehicle Accident –	Dead on Arrival
24.09.09	Riverside Angus M	Dog Attack – home care	Released 04.11.09
26.09.09	Oxley H'way Kaylee +joey	Hind leg injury	
27.09.09	Correa Carla F	Dog attack	Released 09.10.09
27.09.09	Shelly Beach Rotten	Very decomposed	Dead on Arrival
27.09.09	Armidale Frosty M	Hyperkerotosis (skin disorder)	
29.09.09	Dunbogan Susa Juv F	Possible fall from tree	Died 29.09.09
30.09.09	Bonny Leanne	In dangerous area – checked	Released 30.09.09
30.09.09	Cathie Tessa F	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
02.10.09	Settlement City Fireman M	Walking on road – checked	Released 06.10.09
02.10.09	Fernhill Alfred M	Found on ground	Released 12.10.09
03.10.09	Oxley Griffen M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
03.10.09	Marumba Mystery F	Found on Ground	Died 05.10.09
07.10.09	Warrego Joe M	Fighting with another male – fell to ground	Released 08.10.09
09.10.09	Dent Crusty M	Conjunctivitis (L) eye	Released 19.10.09
10.10.09	Fernbank Kyle M	Fell in swamp, harassed by dogs	Released 12.10.09
11.10.09	Regatta Lanaye F	Dog Attack	Released 29.10.09
11.10.09	Cooperabury Squash	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival

Admission	Name	Reason	Result
12.10.09	The Tiller Herbie M	Dog attack	Dead on Arrival
13.10.09	Bowden Stanley M	Kyphosis (skin condition)	Euthanased 15.10.09
14.10.09	Pacific R.T.A. M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
15.10.09	Lee Street Noel M	On fence with dogs below – checked	Released 15.10.09
15.10.09	Pacific Sam M	Fall from tree – checked	Released 19.10.09
15.10.09	Ocean Jeanette F	Motor Vehicle accident	Released 30.10.09
16.10.09	Highfields Zac M	Injured Hind R Leg (old injury)	Released 19.10.09
17.10.09	Ruins Way Margaret F	Found walking on road – checked	Released 17.10.09
20.10.09	Moruya Huggy F	Removed from tree being felled	Released 20.10.09
21.10.09	Belah Libby F	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
22.10.09	Settlement City Fireman M	Possible dog attack	Dead on Arrival
22.10.09	Regatta Joan F	In Yard with Dogs – checked	Released 23.10.09
22.10.09	Pacific Flynnns F	Chlamydia	Released 12.11.09
22.10.09	Dunbogan KK	On fence with dogs below	Euthanased 06.11.09
23.20.09	Oxley Matt M	Chlamydia	
24.10.09	Mardsen Rolly M	Dog attack	Released 08.11.09
25.10.09	Wood St. Rachael F	Fell from tree	Dead on arrival
29.10.09	Bennett Christine F	Dog attack	Dead on arrival
30.10.09	Emerald Downs Dicky M	Limping – old injury	Released 04.11.09
02.11.09	Hastings Grace + joey	In yard with two dogs	
05.11.09	Kyogle Whistler F	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on arrival
05.11.09	Lady Nelson Madge F	Found on ground	Euthanased 12.11.09
07.11.09	Woniora Coastline F	In yard with dogs	Released 10.11.09
08.11.09	Moruya Josie F	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
11.11.09	Kennedy Tristan M	Motor Vehicle accident – head trauma	
13.11.09	Hamlyn Tristan M	Fell from tree – fighting with another male	Dead on Arrival
13.11.09	Skye Pat + Joey	Suspect chlamydia	Released 18.11.09
15.11.09	Cathie Marguerete F	Dog Attack	Dead on Arrival
17.11.09	Ocean Baxamus	Motor Vehicle accident	Died 17.11.09
19.11.09	Calwalla Munchkin M	Suspect Motor Vehicle Accident – checked	Released 19.11.09
19.11.09	Pacific Mackay M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 24.11.09
21.11.09	Armidale Bundy M	Conjunctivitis both eyes	
21.11.09	Oxley Carl M	Found on ground	
23.11.09	Ocean Tamie M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
23.11.09	Lord Jack M	In dangerous area – checked	Released 24.11.09
24.11.09	Dunbogan Larry M	Found on ground – debilitated	
26.11.09	Skye Pat F	Chlamydia	
26.11.09	Granite Murray M	Found on ground – lethargic	Died 29.11.09
28.11.09	Ocean Chelsea F	In Yard with dogs – observation	Released 30.11.09



If undelivered please return to:  
Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc.  
PO Box 236  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444 Australia

Print Post Approved – 242 798/00014

**AIR MAIL**