



Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

March 2013



Stoney Creek Sue



**Koala Preservation Society Australia
Incorporated**

PO Box 236 Port Macquarie
NSW 2444 Australia
Licensed to rehabilitate and release sick, injured and Orphaned native fauna under
Licence No. 10044

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Stoney Creek Sue

This koala hails from Pembroke near Wauchope which is around 20 kms west of Port Macquarie and she has quite an amazing story to tell.

Stoney Creek Sue arrived at the hospital in a state that can only be described as “moribund” which basically means the animal is end stage, flat and non responsive. Staff felt that her clinical signs certainly indicated she probably wouldn’t last the night. Nonetheless they battled on giving her lots of fluids, warmth and good old nursing care which she responded to in quite a dramatic way. Next day much to the surprise of staff, Sue was up and feeding away on the fresh leaf offered to her.

To the uninitiated, this tiny framed, small, shabby little koala looks very much like an unkempt juvenile animal but inspection of her teeth indicated otherwise – Stoney Creek Sue was a



female of advanced age!! It just goes to show that ageing a koala is a very important tool as part of the overall diagnosis of an admitted koala and Sue is a prime example of “a very small koala is not necessarily a young koala”.

Once Stoney Creek Sue was a bit brighter, she underwent anaesthesia and was given a full screening (physical exam, ultrasound, bloods, swabs etc) – and staff found that she was positive for Chlamydia (apart from a few other problems) and treatment was commenced.

Sue was also started on the oral fluid Divetelact which she thought was the best thing since sliced

bread and still really looks forward to her twice daily feed of “koala ambrosia”. Koalas either hate the oral fluid and spit it out or love it so much they just about become “Divet junkies” and its not unusual for staff to be grabbed at by the koala patients – not because they love the volunteers but because of what they have in their hands!!! Its one of those mysteries in life that an adult tree dwelling foliage munching marsupial could have such a love affair with soy based low lactose animal milk!!! Adult possums and gliders who are also tree dwelling foliage munching marsupials don’t think Divetelact is much chop at all, so why koalas love the stuff ...who knows?



Back to Sue.....this scruffy little ball of mischief is doing very well in that she is now bright as a button, has gained weight, loves her fresh quality eucalypt leaf daily and of course her liquid gold twice daily as well.



Stoney Creek Sue disappointingly didn’t respond as we had expected to the medication for Chlamydia and we are trialling another six weeks of treatment to see how she goes.

We are confident we will have a good result at the end of the next six week round and she will be back in the bush at Pembroke by winter.

CHRISTINE ABRAHAMS



Many of the Koala Hospital volunteers gathered together on Monday 18th March to say their last farewell to Christine Abrahams.

Christine passed away last week after a long illness and will be greatly missed by all the friends she made at the hospital.

As well as being a life member, she covered many of the positions at the hospital, including doing 'walk and talk', home care for joeys, and lately had worked in the kiosk.

Christine was passionate about the care of all animals, but had a special place in her heart for koalas, and we at the hospital who knew her, will always have a special place in our hearts for her memory.

KOALA HOSPITAL OPEN DAY

EASTER SATURDAY

30th March 2013 9am – 2pm



Sing Australia

Games

Troppo Bob

Craft

Cakes White Elephant



Devonshire Teas

Popcorn Slushies Fairy Floss

Sausage Sizzle Face Painting



Raffles

Plants



KOALAS AND OYSTERS

The gods who look after the weather must like koalas and oysters, as on the morning of Oysters in the Vines at Cassegrain Winery, Port Macquarie was blanketed by a grey dismal sky, which did not augur well for outdoor festivities. Amazingly, although rain was falling in other areas around the venue, it was not until almost four o'clock in the afternoon before showers began falling in the grounds.

taken with us, as you can see.

The koala hospital was the principal beneficiary of the event, and although the koalas would prefer their eucalyptus leaves to a plate of oysters, they would benefit greatly from the day.



Volunteers from the Koala Hospital had arrived early to set up the stall which had been allotted to them. Wine which had been donated by the winery was to be raffled at

various times during the day, and there was also a beautiful painting of a koala which had been donated by one of the volunteers, to be raffled during the day.



At various intervals, True Blue, our koala mascot, thrilled children and adults alike as he wandered through the crowds, with plenty of microphone coverage from Simon Marnie, the MC for the day from ABC radio.



Barry is not sure about oysters—they didn't taste like eucalyptus!!



Mayor Peter Besseling is a patron of the hospital and called in to the KPS tent to say hello while Gum Tips editors, Marilyn and Mary were there. He only just fitted in to the gazebo to have a photo



KH Parking Police at Cassegrain

Tacking Point Lions & Koala Hospital Working together for the environment

Tacking Point Lions Club Environment Group has hit the ground running this year in a joint project with the Koala Hospital Habitat Group to plant koala food trees.



An excellent first response by volunteers from both groups resulted in 38 new trees being planted near Ruins Way. Lions Environment coordinator, Peter Mercer expressed admiration for the regular work of



volunteers in establishing trees suitable for koala food and hopes to build a continuing relationship with the Koala Hospital.

Koala Hospital representative, Milicia McCosh said that without the generous contributions of businesses and individuals in restoring suitable habitat, our local koala populations would continue to decline. In



addition to wild habitat, the Koala Hospital cares for up to 30-40 sick or injured animals daily, each of which consumes 1kg of fresh leaf daily, requiring leaf collectors to spend longer and drive further to source leaf.

In April 2012 the koala was listed as a threatened species throughout eastern Australia. Specific threats include widespread clearing of food trees, fragmentation of urban and bushland areas, domestic and feral dogs attacking koalas, this results in injuries, illnesses and death.

The Koala Hospital can advise on suitable trees to plant and other matters related to helping our local koala population and is available by telephoning 6584 1522.

Adopt
Seaview Farida



www.koalahospital.org.au/sdopt

Supervisor's Report



Goodness life at the hospital has been busy since the last issue!

We have had a large spike in admissions of koala patients, mostly from Chlamydia infected animals, but also have had quite a few joeys come in as well.

Some of the joeys haven't been in good condition which indicates an abandonment issue by their mothers. As koalas are such excellent mothers, its highly likely these orphaned animals have resulted because something traumatic has happened to their mothers such as motor vehicle impacts or amorous male koalas splitting them up. Our dedicated team of home carers are working hard at the moment raising some of these little joeys whilst the remainder are now in the "dehumanising yard" learning to be wild koalas in readiness for release.

Preparations for the upcoming National Koala Conference are in full swing with everything so far chugging along nicely. Great praise should go to Marilyn Lees for her sterling computer skills

which are so important in the preparation work for this conference!

There are lots of interesting plans on the drawing board at the moment especially with the Australian Museum with whom we have been working for some time now. All will be revealed shortly!

Its been" media central" here at the hospital over the last few months hosting Sydney Morning Herald reporters, German film crews and other media crews as well. Busy busy busy!!!!

We have such an excellent team of volunteers here at the hospital at the moment – all 190 of them. I don't know what we would do without all their excellent contributions.

See you at the National Koala Conference – very exciting.



IS THIS A RECORD FOR AN OLD KOALA?

When the koala hospital put an appeal for eucalypt leaf in Port News, we received a response from Debbie at the local crematorium.

Thanks to her offer, we now have permission to gather leaf for the koalas from two sites there, for which we are very grateful. It is becoming more difficult to find the correct food trees to keep the koala patients at the hospital satisfied.

Debbie also informed us about the koala she was given by her parents when she was born. She named him 'Little Billy', and although he has lost a bit of fur over the years, and has had a 'nose job', she loves him dearly. Is this the oldest koala at 52 years? He still looks pretty good!!



from the President's Pen

This is our 40th Anniversary year, a year of preparation for what is ahead for the Koala Hospital.

With the support of our local council, Port Macquarie will have flags around town celebrating our anniversary for the

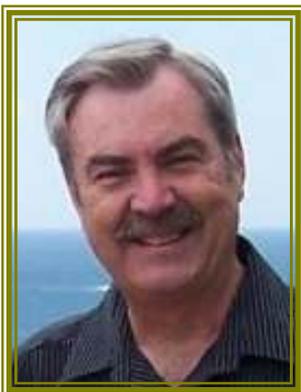
weeks leading up to our Open Day on Easter Saturday and for the National Koala Conference here in May. A display leading up to these events can also be seen at the PMH Library

A book on the history of the Koala Hospital has been presented to the Port Macquarie Hastings Library.

Our Koala Adoption Certificates for 2013 is a special 40th Anniversary Edition.

Our staff and volunteers at the Koala Hospital do a tremendous job, not only looking after our iconic koalas but in the way that they help and inform our many visitors to the Koala Hospital from all over the world.

Although we are a not-for-profit association without government funding I would like to thank all our supporters from Australia and Overseas for their ongoing support, without which we would not be able to raise the funds needed to continue the work started by Jean and Max Starr in 1973.



Thumbs Up

(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)



Thumbs up to the Cassegrain staff member who visited the koala hospital and purchased some koala food trees which he planted to replace some cut down by council beside his house.



Thumbs down to the unknown locals who poisoned them as they were in the way of their view. (do they just sit and look at the view all day?) He says he won't give up and will continue to plant more trees. Good for him!



Thumbs up to all the people who responded to our call for fresh leaf for the koalas. We had a great response and thank everyone..



Thumbs up to all the people who continue to support the Koala Hospital with donations of towels, newspapers and other items.



Thumbs up to the man who picked up a koala in Bay St and took her to the local Police station. After a week of R&R she has now been released back into her home range.

Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

Barry recently took a day-trip down to the beautiful Camden Haven to visit the Diamond Waters Nursery – he wanted to check out the eucalyptus varieties the Nursery was selling to be sure that there'll be an ongoing supply of leaves in the future. While there he met up with Monique, Cedric and Sebastian who were staying in the nearby Treehouse Retreat Eco-Resort; a lovely tranquil spot by the river and the beach where the proprietors really care about preserving the environment.

He enjoyed their company so much he joined them on a trip to The Great Barrier Reef in Far North Queensland. They went out on a cruise boat to the reef where they were swimming and snorkelling, seeing all the beautiful fish and colourful corals. He tried to find

Nemo but there were just too many fish to recognise just one, even a famous one! Barry was quite impressed to learn that the

reef is one of the Seven Wonders of the natural world and that it is the only living thing on the planet that can be seen from outer space – not that he thought he would ever get to chance to go space-travelling.

Getting back to Cairns Barry met Kate who took him to a crocodile farm but he didn't like the look of all those sharp teeth so they beat a hasty retreat.

Kate had come to Cairns, along with lots of people from all over Australia and the world, to see the solar eclipse which is a rare and spectacular astronomical



phenomenon. Barry didn't quite know what those big words meant but he was quite excited to look

through his special protective binoculars to see the moon block out the sun and everything go dark for a while. He had a rather distressing altercation with Facebook celebrity and NASA SDO's mascot chicken, Camilla, and the fur and feathers were scattered from one end of Cairns to the other.



Heading west in outback Queensland, Barry travelled with his friend, Gary, to the town of Richmond which is on a large plain that was once part of an ancient inland sea. Here they were both gobsmacked to see the Pliosaur skeleton and the marine fossils that date back 100 million years to the Cretaceous period. A couple of visiting moose from Canada were as excited as Barry was to see such interesting fish fossils and they spent quite a while together

studying one of the best examples. When Barry was asked, "What do you call a fossil that never wants to work?" he

thought very hard and then answered with a giggle, "Lazy bones!"



After being in the desert for a while, Barry hitched a ride with Corinna to Switzerland for a bit of a cool change. He was chuffed to be so fussed over by the lovely attendants on the Emirates flight and thought



that he could get quite used to travelling this way.

Stefan asked Barry to join him in Hiddinghausen in West Germany where the



temperature went down to minus 8 degrees Celsius and the snow was very thick. Even though he was wearing his own comfy fur coat, Barry's nose went all tingly in the extreme cold so he headed off to Vienna to see his old friends, Sabina and Harald.

At the natural history museum in Vienna they were excited to see one of the oldest and largest collections of meteorites in the world. One of the earliest pieces was a 39 kilo piece of a meteorite that



fell to earth in Croatia way back in 1751. Of course, back then people did not know about space and meteorites and such and they were very afraid of the

'thunderstones that fell from the sky' but a modern chap like Barry took it all in his stride.

Travelling north to England, Barry caught up with Rachel, who had visited the Koala Hospital a few months earlier. Rachel lives in the seaside village of Freckleton on the west coast of Lancashire. Barry was interested to learn that way back in the 19th century the people who

lived here made rope and sailcloth for all the sailing ships built at nearby dockyards. Barry was sad to hear that such a pretty town was also the site of the



Freckleton Air Disaster in August 1944 when an aircraft crashed while attempting to land at a local airfield and many people lost their lives. He didn't let it get him down though, and decided to head further north to beautiful Scotland.

Being a Koala of many interests, Barry had heard all about the popular Harry Potter stories and when he

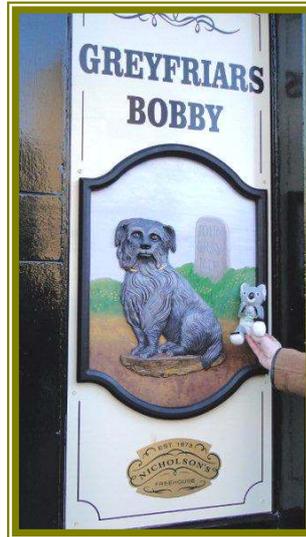


met up with his friend, Bea, in Edinburgh they stopped for a pot of tea at *The Elephant Tea & Coffee Shop*. This is one of the cafes where J K

Rowling is said to have written parts of the first Harry Potter story that made her a famous and wealthy writer. Barry was hoping some of her fame and wealth might rub off on him! He was just a little disappointed that nothing magical happened while he was there.

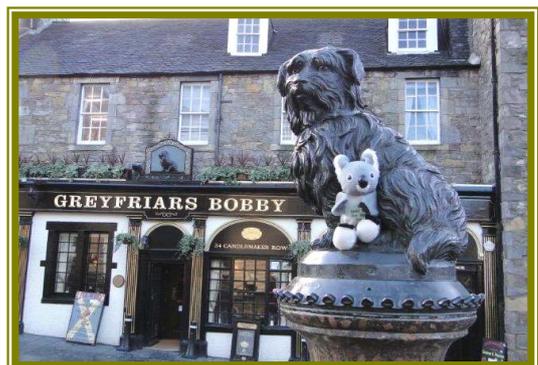
Now Barry is usually quite wary of dogs, but Bea said

that while they were in Edinburgh she'd take him to see the most famous dog in Scotland. Barry was greatly relieved to see that it was a life-size statue of a Skye Terrier called Greyfriar's Bobby. They both had a tear in their eye as they heard the story of the little dog who became known in the 19th century for spending 14 years guarding the grave of his owner in Greyfriar's Kirkyard.



Not long after Bobby's death, a local aristocrat, Baroness Burdett-Coutts was so touched by his story that she paid for a statue of Bobby to be erected near the entrance to the Kirkyard. This monument is Edinburgh's smallest listed building and originally included a drinking fountain for humans and a lower one for dog's. "What a sympathetic lady she was," thought Barry, to think of the comfort of animals as well as people.

The sign on Bobby's monument reads 'Greyfriar's Bobby Died 14 January 1872 Aged 16 years. Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all'. This made Barry feel a bit homesick as it reminded him of the care



and devotion that all the Koala Hospital carers and volunteers show to him and all Koalas that need assistance, so he decided to hurry back home to Port Macquarie and see them all again.

On the way home he had a stopover in India for quick catch-up with his friend, Gerry, who is a volunteer at the Koala Hospital. Barry was quite miffed when he accompanied Gerry to the Taj Mahal and was denied entry as a 'security risk', but later he thought it made him a bit of a mystery man and that it was a feather in his cap.

Further on, Barry's sense of self esteem was polished up when he and Gerry visited "Karni Mata", the Rat Temple at Bikander just west of Delhi. While many of the other tourists were quaking and shrieking at the sight of hundreds and thousands of rats running around and being fed from bowls of milk, Barry just recognised fellow creatures being attended to by

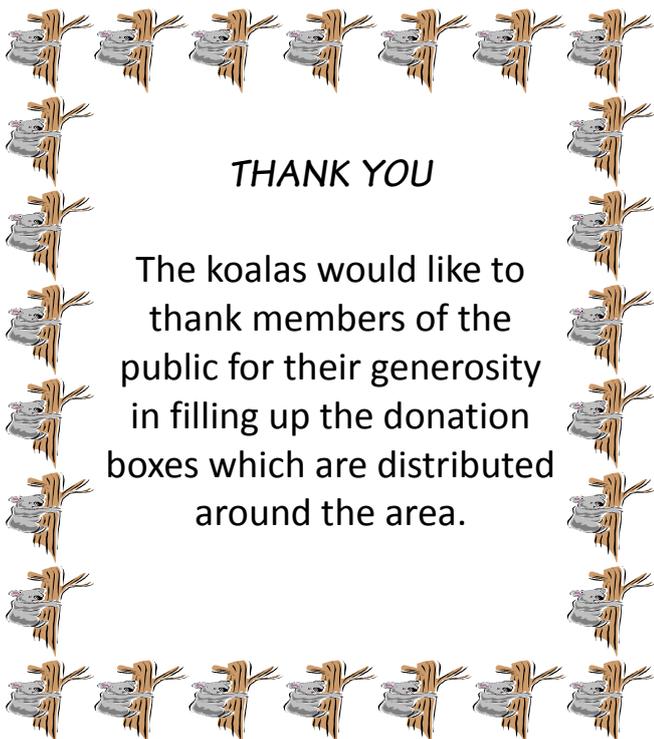


humans just as he is usually fed milk formula as a diet supplement when he is at home at the Koala Hospital.



While Gerry was a little uneasy about taking off his shoes to walk in the Temple, and having to make sure his backpack had no hitch-hiking rats in it as they left, Barry was content to sit and make chat with some of the friendlier rats.

Once home again in Port Macquarie with his Hospital friends, and having got such a laugh from his fossil joke back in Richmond, Barry couldn't resist asking them, "Why are fish so easy to weigh?", and he was chuffed that no-one knew the answer. "Because they carry their own scales!" he replied, happy to have the last laugh!



THANK YOU

The koalas would like to thank members of the public for their generosity in filling up the donation boxes which are distributed around the area.



Thanks go to

All the People who

have donated generously

to helping our koalas—too

numerous to mention

individually



GUM DROPS from KAYLEE

Hello friends! What a summer it has been here in Port Macquarie, with more rain falling than I ever remember and sadly, even floods to make life difficult for animals and people.

Despite the many days of rain, the visitors kept coming to the Hospital, always interested to find out about the work that's done here for me and all my koala mates. Sitting up in my tree in my nice waterproof fur coat, it was interesting to see visitors so keen to see us that they would stand in the downpours to hear every word from the tour guides.

The good thing about having so many visitors is that many of them joined in the 'Adopt a Wild Koala' program and adopted koalas either for themselves or as gifts for family and friends. That is such a generous thing to do and the funds enable the Hospital to keep up its good work.

The not so happy result to having lots of visitors and tourists in town is that many more koalas are involved in motor vehicle accidents and this has caused a large increase in the number of Koala Hospital patients over the holidays. People are not always aware that that koalas need to cross roads at dawn and dusk to find eucalypt trees with fresh leaves – they don't know to look at the sides of the roads to see if koalas may be crossing and this is often how accidents happen.

Thank goodness we have a fully equipped Koala Ambulance and dedicated people to drive it to try and rescue injured koalas and get them back to the Hospital promptly for care. One such accident had both a happy and sad outcome. Little Lake Batesy, a female joey, was picked up on a main road by two police officers (one's nickname was Batesy!) after her mother

had been killed in a motor vehicle accident. Batesy, the koala, that is – not the policeman, was taken into home care until she was old enough to be put in the Hospital yards where she is now learning to fend for herself.

Batesy is one of several young orphaned koalas with similar stories being prepared for release in the wild. They are being what the Hospital staff call 'dehumanised' – it means they are given all care and attention but limited access to people so that their natural instincts will take over and they will eventually live their lives in the wild. It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy (pardon the pun!) to know that people care so much for us.

Stoney Creek Sue, a small female koala who has been put in a yard next to mine was also lucky to be rescued by some good people. Volunteer Gaby went out to a rescue call one day and met four strapping young country lads at the Telegraph Point Service Station. They were all huddled around a green shopping bag on the ground and obviously distressed about the sick koala they had found on the road, very weak and suffering from Chlamydia. One of the boys named her Sue, after his Mum, and they were so pleased that she would be well-cared for here at the Hospital. She's a cheeky Miss – I've seen her grab the syringe while the carers are trying to give her a supplementary feed of formula. She's doing fine.

Our resident Tawny Frogmouth family raised three chicks this year – I often saw them sitting in a line on the gunyah in yard 10, which made a perfect photo opportunity for visitors.

Now I've seen a lot of activity around the Hospital lately, and have heard that we'll be celebrating our 40th Birthday with a special Fun day on 30th March and a Conference with many important international guests in May. I do so love to see everyone having a good time and enjoying the friendships made through caring for me and all my koala mates.

Hope to see here during the celebrations!

Kaylee

Adopt

**Amethyst
Simon**



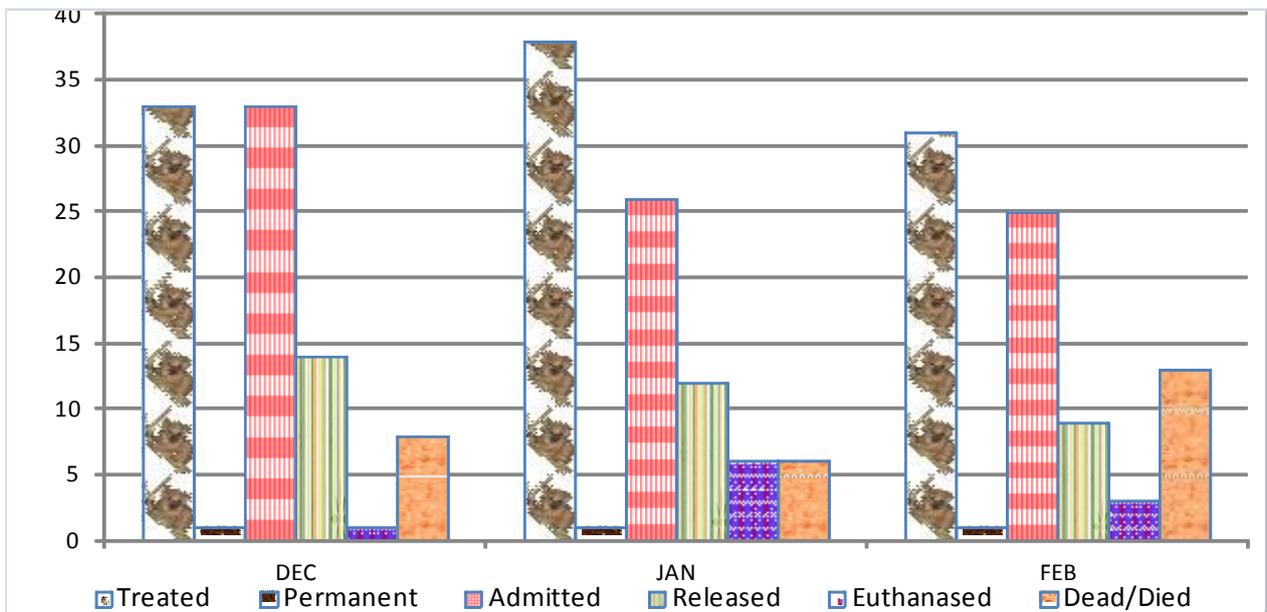
www.koalahospital.org.au/sdopt

Hospital Activity Report



Admission	Name	Reason	Result
11.07.08	Westhaven Barry	Scoliosis of spine	Permanent Resident
26.09.09	Oxley Hwy Kaylee	Hind leg injury	Treating
12.03.10	Emerald Downs Barbara	Blind R. Eye - limited vision	Treating
24.04.12	Lookout Harry	On Ground	Euthanased 12.12.12
01.09.12	Curlew June	On Ground	Euthanased 07.01.13
19.09.12	Lake Batesy	Orphan joey	De-humanising
11.10.12	Telegraph Pt. Matt	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
15.10.12	Uralla Clyde	De-humanising	Released 05.12.12
15.10.12	Gunnedah Tommy	Locked Left Hind Leg	Released 05.12.12
24.10.12	Cairn cross Gerry	Abscess under Right Eye	Treating
26.10.12	Ocean Summer	Joey of Ocean Therese	De-humanising
03.11.12	Nowendoc Jack Juv	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 05.12.12
09.11.12	Kempsey Ralph	Dog attack	Died 10.12.12
19.11.12	Stewart Joanne Juv.	On Road	Released 04.12.12
20.11.12	Glenn Innes Ash	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Released 04.01.13
21.11.12	Kamona Andre	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 15.12.12
24.11.12	Moondara Ken	Wet bottom	Released 27.12.12
29.11.12	Hart St. Tracey	In yard with dogs	Released 03.12.12
02.12.12	Marbuk Sue	Old eye injury	Released 04.12.12
04.12.12	Denehurst Pavel	In Pine Tree - observation	Released 05.12.12
07.12.12	Hibbard Alex - Joey	Orphaned	Home Care
10.12.12`	Ocean Ezza - Juv.	Tick Infested	Treating
10.12.12	Crescent Head Pete	In burnt fireground	Released 10.12.12
11.12.12	Crescent Head Bill	In burnt fireground	Released 11.12.12
11.12.12	Lake Lindsay	MVA	Euthanased 12.12.12
11.12.12	Ocean Drive Cutey	Suspect chlamydia	Released 14.12.12
16.12.12	The Meadows Neil - Joey	Abandoned	Home Care
18.12.12	Spinnaker Hutcha	In yard with dogs	Released 18.12.12
18.12.12	Pallamallawa Yvette	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Died 26.01.13
18.12.12	Bangalay Jordan	Mouth abrasion	Released 20.12.12
18.12.12	Koala Laurie	Badly damaged right eye	Treating
18.12.12	Roto Randy	Conjunctivitis	Released 11.01.13
19.12.12	Ocean Shaun	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 21.12.12
20.12.12	Ocean Gussy	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 24.12.12
20.12.12	Acacia Callum	Chlamydia	Treating
20.12.12	Crestwood Rose	Possible Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
21.12.12	Dunbogan Carl	on ground	Died 21.12.12
21.12.12	Lady Elliot Troy	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 27.12.12
22.12.12	Garage Girl	On busy road - checked	Released 22.12.12
22.12.12	Chisholm Chris - Joey	Orphaned	De-humanising
23.12.12	Gilmore Dave	On ground	Died 23.12.12
26.12.12	Settlement Pt. M & M	Trapped in tree - checked	Released 26.12.12

Admission	Name	Reason	Result
26.12.12	Stoney Creek Sue	Debilitated	Treating
27.12.12	Oleander Bree	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
28.12.12	Salamander Bay Buster	Orphaned	De-humanising
29.12.12	Macquarie Peter	Poor body condition	Released 18.01.13
29.12.12	Emily Angie	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 29.12.12
29.12.12	Wyandra Gracie	Diseased right eye	Treating
30.12.12	Pacific Hwy Chris	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
30.12.12	Karalee Carla	In dangerous area	Released 30.12.12
30.12.12	Wilson Tyson	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
31.12.12	Byabarra Allison	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
01.01.13	Hassal Ian	Dog Attack	Died 01.01.13
03.01.13	Tasman Brodie	loss of co-ordination - on ground	Euthanased 22.01.13
03.01.13	Treetops Alice	Chlamydia	Treating
04.01.13	Dent Crusty	Conjunctivitis	Treating
04.01.13	Gunnedah Martine	Chlamydia	Treating
04.01.13	Coastlands Steve	MVA	Dead on Arrival
04.01.13	Spinnaker Hutcha	In yard with dogs	Released 07.01.13
06.01.13	Ruins Way Dallas	Co-ordination loss hind legs	Home Care
07.01.13	Horton Clarence	MVA	Released 07.01.13
07.01.13	Catherine Hudson	Conjunctivitis	Released 12.02.13
07.01.13	Lighthouse Paul	Conjunctivitis	Released 18.02.13
08.01.13	Lake Geobbrie	Fungal condition	Home Care
11.01.13	Ocean Geoff	Debilitated - very old	Euthanased 11.01.13
12.01.13	Hindman Maureen	Poor condition	Euthanased 15.01.13
12.01.13	Northbridge Sam - joey	Chlamydia	Euthanased 15.01.13
14.01.13	Allunga Janelle	Low in tree - checked	Treating
15.01.13	Crestwood Brenda	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 15.01.13
16.01.13	Kennedy Biddy	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 16.01.13
16.01.13	Swift Vanessa	Dog attack	Released 18.01.13
19.01.13	Hastings Rr. Drive Grace	MVA	Dead on Arrival
19.01.13	Swift Vanessa	Poor condition - appeared concussed	Died 19.01.13
20.01.13	Gunnedah Toby	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
22.01.13	Oxley Ian	Chlamydia	Died 22.01.13
25.01.13	Hastings Rr. Drive Clare	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
27.01.13	Wayfield Way Berro	In Yard with dogs - checked	Released 29.01.13
27.01.13	Sapphire Dave	Conjunctivitis	Died 02.02.13
02.02.13	Rushcutter Sandy	Chlamydia	Treating
08.02.13	Kadina Bird	On Ground	Died 09.02.13
09.02.13	Ocean Josie - Joey	Orphaned	Home Care
11.02.13	Pacific Drive Thomas	On busy road - checked	Released 11.02.13
15.02.13	Macquarie Peter	On ground - observation	Treating
20.02.13	Oxley Hwy Matt	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 20.02.13
20.02.13	Salt Ash Karli	Chlamydia	Euthanased 25.02.13
28.02.13	Catherine Hudson	On ground - observation	Treating
28.02.13	Kennedy Mark - joey	Orphaned	Home Care



MEMOIRS OF A LONG TIME VOLUNTEER

Kate Hillcrest and Jim Bean

Who remembers Kate Hillcrest and Jim Bean?

Jim Bean was to be released after being a home care koala at my place but he wouldn't come down from the tree during the day. Wendy and I sat in Yard 10 one night, (there were four koalas in the yard at that time), and two were to be released; Jim first, then Kate. Kate had eluded us by staying high up in the trees (this was before cherry pickers). Kate was a wild koala with no previous handling.

This night the mozzies were biting and bats and frogmouths were flying around us. We called and called for Jim to come down to us. We hoped against hope he would come down, but being de-humanised, it may not happen.

Finally, this beautiful koala, oh so big!, came down and we put him in a basket. I took him home overnight and put him in his special basket with plenty of fresh leaf, but of course being Jim, he had the run of the house. He ate on his gunyah, then wanted to sleep in my bed. He pushed me over so that he could be near the window, propped up on pillows. Not the playful joey now, but every time I moved his hand he would reach over and hold me, be it my arm, back or my head (don't have to remind anyone of the sharp claws!), as if to say, "where are you going, don't leave me". I would put my arm around him and he would go back to sleep, then have

another feed of leaves, then come back into bed with me – same old routine.

Next day I took him to KPS for a final check-up with the vet before his release.

SHOCK!! HORROR!! It wasn't Jim; it was Kate. I had slept all night with a totally wild koala. Who thought to look for the "family jewels"? We didn't.

Jim was caught and released, as was Kate, and I survived without a bite or a scratch; a bit shaky, but with loving memories.

Jim would be 14 in 2011.

He did walk 8kms back to the koala hospital 8 months later on Christmas Eve, and was found sitting on the front step. After being released back to the bush, there were no more sightings of him.



Kate sadly died a few years ago back in her own home range after living a full life.

PAM WHIPPY

2013 Calendar

30 Mar 13	Open Day
19 Apr 13	Management Meeting
17, 18, 19 May 13	National Koala Conference
24 May 13	Management Meeting
26 May 13	A.G.M.
15 June 13	Management Meeting
19 July 13	Management Meeting
16 Aug 13	Management Meeting
18 Aug 13	General Meeting
20 Sept 13	Management Meeting

Koala Hospital worldwide websites

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

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Gum Tips

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