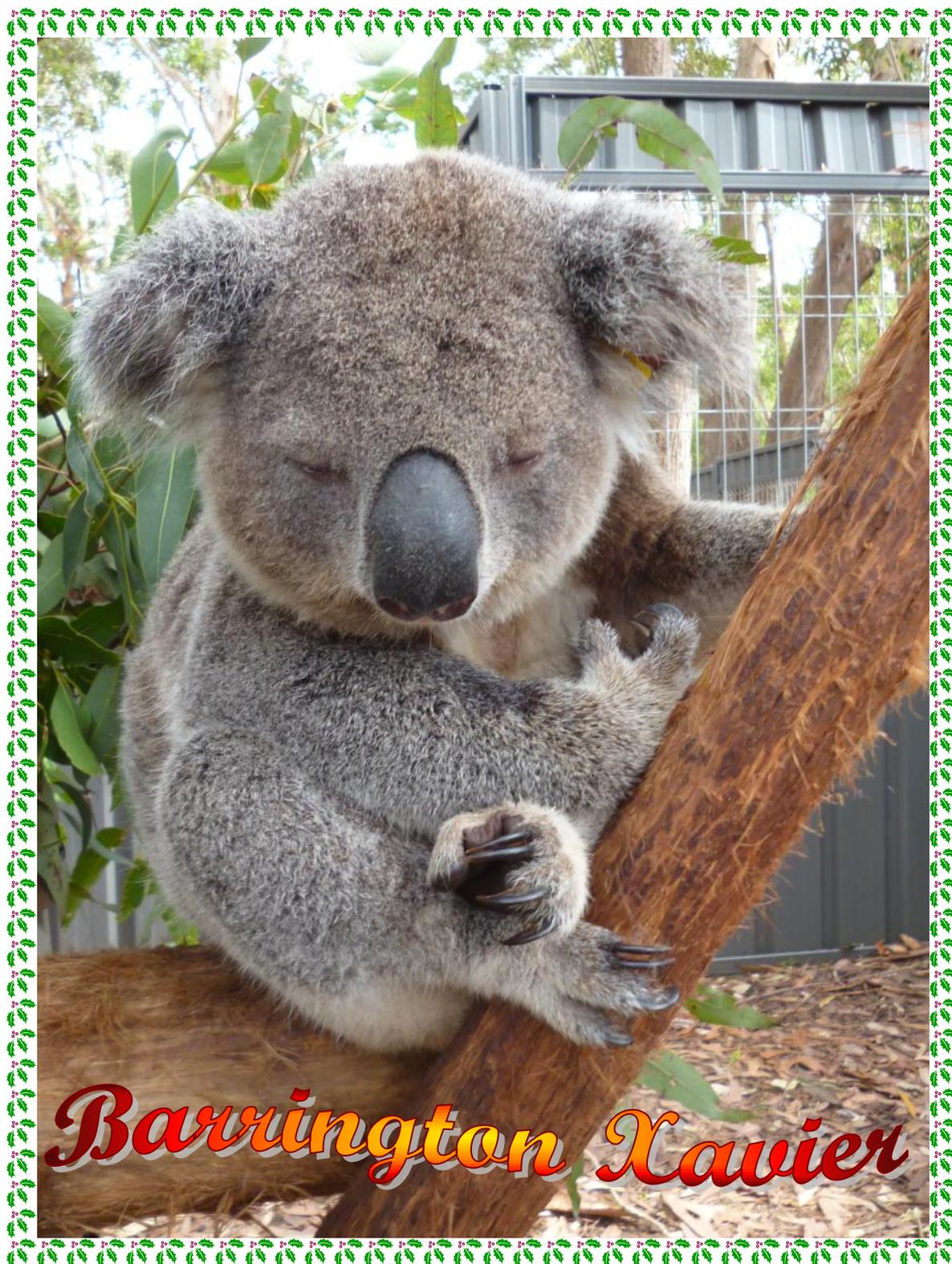




# Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

December 2013



*Barrington Xavier*

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SEEN A KOALA? [sightings@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:sightings@koalahospital.org.au)

# Barrington Xavier

Well with a flash name like this he would have to be a pretty interesting koala and indeed he is.

This big gentle young male came to us in mid winter 2013 after being picked up in the township of



Barrington, which is some 10 kms west of Gloucester, transported to Newcastle and eventually ended up being admitted to our hospital some days later.

Xavier arrived with a shocking case of bilateral conjunctivitis (chlamydial infection in both eyes) and was totally blinded by this. Surprisingly he was still in very good body condition, which was unusual as his case was so advanced and we believe he would probably have struggled to move around for many weeks. They must make tough koalas around Barrington!!!

After a couple of weeks of intense treatment with both eye ointments and injectable antibiotics, Barrington Xavier then underwent surgery to remove the damaged tissue from around his eyes.

Unfortunately during surgery it was discovered that his corneas (eyes themselves) had quite advanced disease too and we were not overly positive that we would end up with a good outcome.

After many months of post operative treatment, Xavier has not responded as well as we thought he might. He appears to be clinically quite free of Chlamydia at this point in time, but his eyes are still taking time to recover.

The hospital has great success normally with eye infections in koalas and we are hoping that Xavier will join this good list.

Nonetheless he has gained a lot of weight, and is a beautiful animal to work with.

Barrington Xavier also highlights what Chlamydia can do to a koala, even big strapping young koalas can succumb to this disease the same as ones that are not so healthy.

We hope with time he will recover enough vision to be able to be released. At this point in time he is still enjoying his five star accommodation and five star service at the hospital.



## *Farewell to our Juveniles*

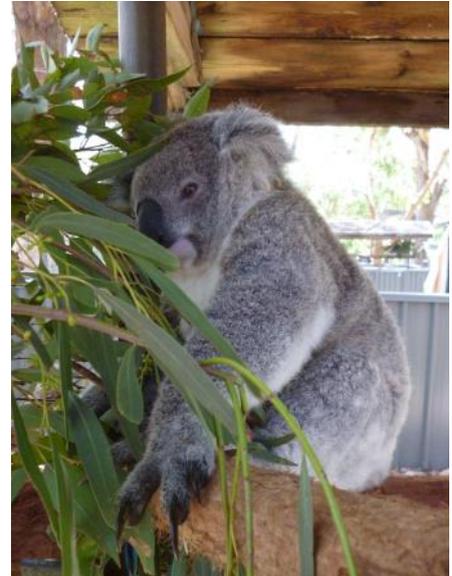
By the time you read this our family of juveniles will have been released to an area west of Wauchope. We wish them a happy relocation and a good life.



*Lake Geobbrie*



*Ocean Josie*



*Kennedy Mark*



*Hibbard Alex*



*Ruins Way Dallas*

### **What's inside**

Barrington Xavier .....	2
Farewell to our Juveniles .....	3
Moving Koalas is not that easy .....	4-5
Flowers for Amber .....	5
Supervisor's Report.....	6
President's Report .....	7
Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down .....	7
Barry's Adventures in Wanderland.....	8-10
Gum Drops from Kaylee.....	11
Jimmy the Joey .....	12-13
A Volunteer's Story .....	14
Puzzle Page .....	15
The Many Faces of Roto Randy .....	16-17
The Case of the Missing Microchip.....	18
Special Thank You .....	19
Letter from Matilda.....	19
Hospital Report .....	20-22
Rescue Tales.....	22

## ***Moving koalas is not that easy!!!***

A common question that the public asks is ....if habitat is destroyed why can't we simply move the koalas to another patch of bush and let them go? We truly wish it was as simple as that and please allow us to explain why.

Even though koalas live solitary lives per se, they actually belong to a well ordered colony of animals that operate within a well defined social hierarchy. In each colony of koalas there is an alpha male (the biggest, strongest and healthiest male) and the alpha female (healthy strong breeding female). These animals occupy the best habitat (the best real estate!). The size of this home range is dictated by both how many food and non food trees are there and the quality of those trees. A home range must have both food trees and non food trees as the non food trees are often used to sleep in and mate in (called bedroom trees). Not all food trees are used in these home ranges.

The lower ranking koalas occupy home ranges that are adjacent to the alpha animals and all of these home ranges overlap at various locations. Naturally the alpha male will have lower ranking females' ranges overlapping his to ensure that he has his girls safely within reach. Young males, sub-adult males once they have left their maternal home range (their mother has weaned them) tend to live "under the radar" well away from the higher ranking males and often are found struggling to survive in marginal habitat at the fringe of the home ranges of the other members of the colony. There is a high mortality rate in young males who often cover large distances seeking unoccupied areas to live. Young females tend to either live on the outskirts of the more dominant animals' home ranges or they too also can cover some distances seeking males and home ranges to occupy. It can be a trying time for these young animals in good habitat let alone habitats disturbed by humans.

Once a koala is established in that home range, that's where they stay for life or until age or infirmity removes them from this location, or a male is challenged by another male. Fighting over home ranges is not common as it's very costly in energy expenditure but nonetheless it's not unusual to see a lower ranking male challenge and come off second best. We occasionally have males admitted to the hospital with infected wounds to the hind legs that are probably attributable to a bite or claw from another animal.

Adult koalas do not go wandering around outside of their home ranges in spite of what the media often says. Adult or juvenile koalas running up and down busy roads or many kilometres from where they had been found previously have lost their home range and are not simply "going walkabout". Something is very wrong for them to be doing this.

So when a tract of bushland is logged, clear-felled or interfered with, that has housed a population of koalas, then that disturbs that colony of animals greatly. Koalas are forced to move closer to each other, their home range size is greatly reduced, they have less trees, huge stress loads and competition for the dwindling resources occurs. Koalas don't like being forced to be too close together. This is one of the reasons why the disease Chlamydia is expressed far more in areas where humans have disturbed the habitat. Untouched pristine bush that has koalas living in it does not have much in the way of Chlamydial disease evident.

Picture a classic human suburban environment where Mr and Mrs Average live in their brick home with a fenced boundary alongside rows and rows of other houses, street after street of homes occupied by individual families. Then along come giant excavators, bulldozers etc and they knock

***Adopt***

***Edwards Montana***



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

down large numbers of these homes. All the human occupants are then told they have to go and live in the backyards of the houses that other people live in. What do you think will happen? This is exactly what happens to koalas when we remove their habitat for our uses.

We cannot simply pick up these koalas whose habitat has been destroyed and take them to another tract of bushland that an existing population of koalas live in. The koalas that live there would object severely to these foreigners. The newcomers would also smell that this area is occupied, become very distressed and would end up travelling great distances in an effort to get back to where they came from.

The only way adult koalas can be successfully relocated to a new habitat is when a proposed tract of land is surveyed prior to ensure it is indeed empty of a current population of koalas or has a very low occupancy of animals. Then it can be done but you cannot simply put one koala in there all by himself!! It is quite a complicated process and the correct scientific methodology for doing this must be strictly adhered to (we will leave discussion of this at this point).

This is why we always release adult koalas back to where they were originally picked up from. We have old records of koalas travelling up to 80 kms over a period of many months in an endeavour to get back to their home ranges. If an animal is moved from their home range in an urban environment and is forced to travel large distances to get back there, then they are put at great risk with all the obstacles that an urban environment offers such as roads, fences and of course the domestic dog.

A koalas home range is his castle for life.

*Cheyne Flanagan*

## Flowers for Amber

Picked a flower for you today  
Because it reminded me of you  
Like its colours  
So vibrant and cheery  
You touched the hearts of many

Picked a flower for you today  
Because its life is short like yours  
But in its limited time  
It brightened someone's day  
The way you always did

Picked a flower for you today  
But I wished I'd done it every single day  
To thank you for coming into my life  
For your funny ways  
And your cheeky face

Picked a flower for you today  
But it wilted along the way  
It must have known you'd left this place  
Silently  
Stoically

Said a prayer for you today  
Knowing you've gone to your home far away  
A home full of eucalypt trees  
Where you'll while away your days  
That will be pain and suffering-free  
And each time I look up into a sea of green  
I will remember why I  
Picked a flower for you today

*By Valerie Looi  
Overseas Volunteer*

# Supervisor's Report



Well what a year it has been!!! We have had everything from heavy flood events earlier in the year to severe heat and bushfires towards the end. Thankfully for us we have not had many admissions due to these events ourselves but we have certainly admitted a number of burnt koalas from the Hunter/Newcastle region to assist our colleagues down there who have been overwhelmed with lots of koalas to care for. So far they are progressing well.

In most other respects this year has been quite normal in what we have admitted here. Quite a number of Chlamydia cases with many successful releases of the ocular (eye) form of this horrible disease, but not such good successful releasing with the urogenital form. Unfortunately we tend to see the urogenital cases once it has been affecting the koala for quite sometime and often the damage is too severe to have a "win".

Dog attack admissions appear to be much less this year which is excellent news and we have had some successful outcomes from some of these patients.

We have also had a number of koala patients this year from Gunnedah, Armidale, Werris Creek and the Tamworth areas.

We have also had some excellent releases of our hand-raised joeys – the breeding animals of the future and all being well there will be more being released shortly.

On the home front – our maintenance men have

been super busy this year with lots of yard redesigns and repairs. The maintenance team excelled themselves in late May by building us a magnificent post mortem room which is not only user friendly but built very professionally. Even though this is for many an "unpleasant" place, it is an essential part of understanding why koalas become so ill and helps us in treating other patients in the future.

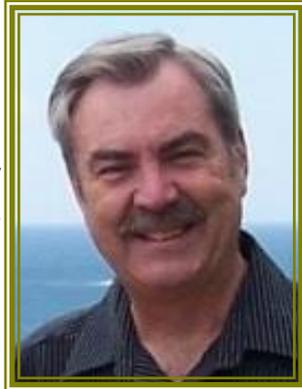
It's also been a sad year for us personally – losing volunteer extraordinaire, Peter Schulties. Even though he was "Mr Grumpy", he was very dear to all of us. For me I miss him terribly. We also lost two other long standing volunteers: Chris Abrahams – who lost her long battle with cancer; and Kathy Day – who sadly lost a short battle with cancer as well.

On a brighter note, the weather at the moment is superb. We have had excellent rain, which will thankfully prevent bushfires occurring for quite a while.

We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



## *from the President's Pen*



In this report I would like to acknowledge our volunteers and the work they do as individuals and within their teams. With over 150 volunteers giving time to the Koala Hospital it was even more apparent the works they do when Cheyne required additional help with 'hands on' work at the hospital.

I recognise that it's not only the team leaders and their teams who work directly with the koalas that are so necessary, but also the support areas in the office including record keeping and our adoption program; the education programs, maintenance and upgrading of our facilities, the souvenir kiosk and keeping the community informed through local media. The very important area of planting koala food trees is an area in which our volunteers are extremely active, however we are seriously looking to purchase land with help from the wider community to conserve, protect and restore habitat areas for koalas and prevent their extinction or reduction.

Without our fantastic volunteers there would not be a Koala Hospital, so a huge thankyou to the executive, management committee and to all our volunteers.

*Bob Sharpham*

## **Thumbs Up**

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



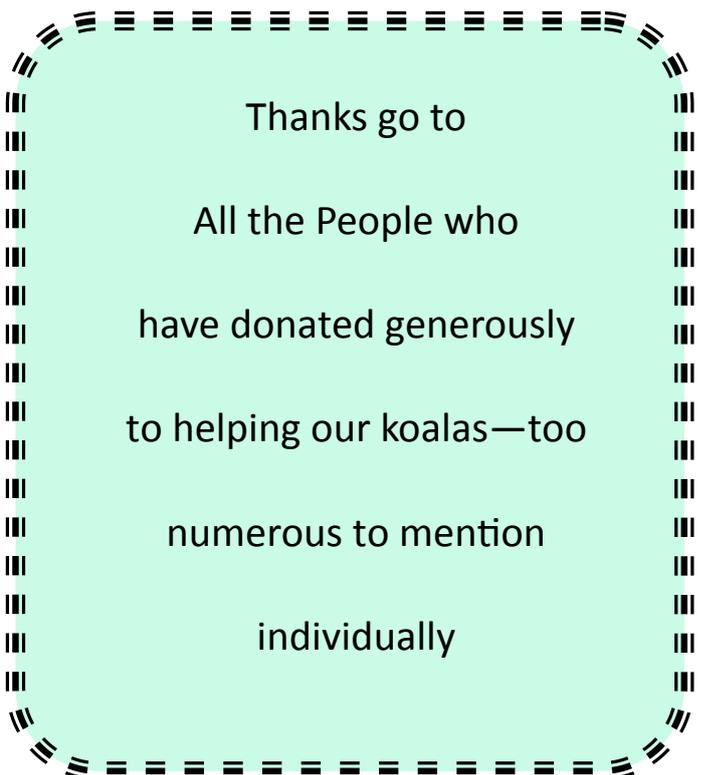
Thumbs up to Beth who rushed out in her slippers to stop the traffic on Lake Road to allow a mother and joey to cross the road safely. (Photos Page 6)



Thumbs up to Dean who phoned in about a young koala running into the water on one of the canals. Dean managed to throw a basket over the koala and keep it safe till we arrived.



Thumbs up to the gentleman who on Tuesday 3 December accidentally hit a koala on the road and then rushed the koala to the Hospital. Sadly, the koala didn't make it.





find there were no other koalas there – and no gum trees! He had to make do with eating the local bananas.

Having enjoyed his taste of exotic island life, Barry took up an invitation to join his mate Jack for a resort holiday at Playa Blanca at Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. He thought it was a good opportunity to brush up on his Spanish language skills as he enjoyed the relaxed living on this volcanic island, although he wasn't too keen to join the others on a climb up the volcano.



So close to Europe now, Barry was eager to get to Hungary to catch up with his dear friend Bea. They made a special visit to Budapest Zoo to visit the Wombats who lived there such a long way from their Australian homeland. There were several adults in the group but Barry was especially pleased to see the baby wombat – the first that had been born there in thirty years. Just like their closest marsupial relatives the Koalas, baby wombats are called 'Joeys' and are also born blind and almost hairless before they crawl

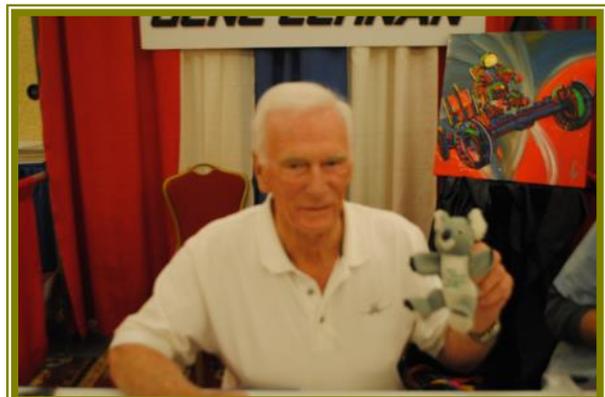


into their mum's pouch to develop. Barry had a bit of a giggle as he asked other zoo visitors "Why do Koalas carry their babies on their backs?". No-one knew the answer – "Because Mum Koalas can't push a pram up a tree!" Naughty Barry!

Barry's friend Janne invited him to Oslo to join in the celebrations of Constitution Day when the town goes into holiday mode and there are parades and festivities all day. The day is to celebrate the adoption of Norway's own Constitution in 1814 to declare it a separate nation. Barry was really excited to wear the colours of the national flag as he joined the crowds flocking to the Palace as the Royal Family waved to everyone from the palace balcony.



Barry now received an invitation he just didn't want to refuse – a trip to meet a real live astronaut. Kate, who is a colleague of Barry's in his scientific endeavours, took him along to Washington DC in the USA to meet Astronaut Gene Cernan, who was the last man to walk on the moon when the USA sent up its last moon Mission, Apollo 17. Gene had also been a naval



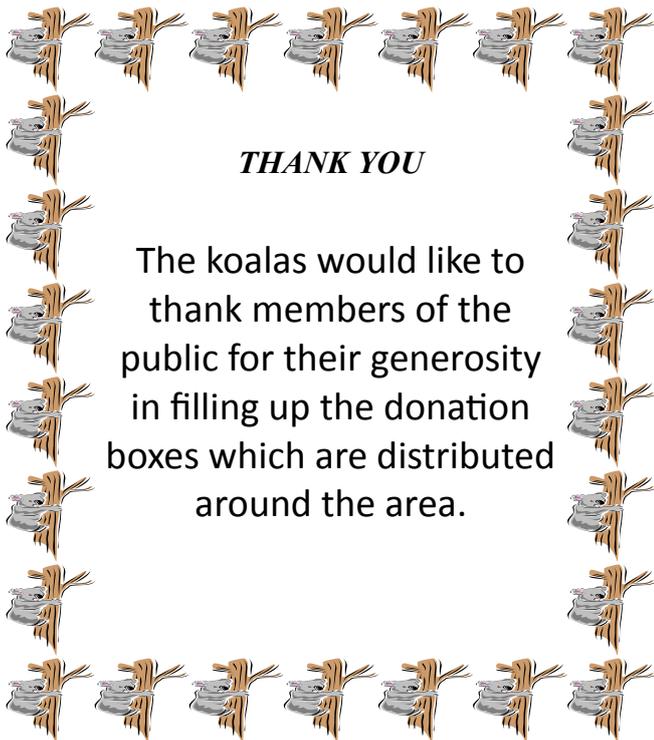
officer and a fighter pilot and shared stories of several of his dare-devil exploits with Barry.

With his head filled with dreams of space travel and time warps and black holes Barry was thrilled to see the model of a space traveller and was very sorry that he would never have the chance to travel to the moon – and maybe he didn't have



the necessary 'koalafications!'

He just couldn't wait to get back home to Port Macquarie and tell all his friends at the Koala Hospital about his meeting with the moon man – and to have a nice dinner of gum leaves and a sleep in his own tree. Holidays are fun but home is the best place.



## MORE TREE PLANTING

Great news! PMHC recently gave us the ok to plant some food trees on council land in McLaren Drive.

With the help of the Tacking Point Lions Club, 26 koala food trees were planted between McLaren Drive and the reserve in Banksia Ave. This is a connecting area where koalas will be able to find some good tucker.





## GUM DROPS

from  
KAYLEE

Oh, dear, it hasn't been a very happy year for the Koala Hospital. I noticed a memorial service being held in our grounds lately for another of our volunteers; this time it was for Kathy Day, one of the volunteers who has helped to look after me every Wednesday afternoon since I arrived here. I heard she was a life member, so she had been here for quite a while. We have lost three of our long-standing volunteers this year. Chris, Peter and Kathy, we will always remember you.

Little Geobbrie, who lives in a yard near me, seemed very interested in the ceremony, as he sat on the top of his roof and closely watched all that was going on.

Actually, if it hadn't been for the care he has been given at the hospital, he may not have been here to watch it at all. He was in a very sad and sorry state when he first arrived here, and we weren't sure he would make it. Just look at him now! I'm not usually given to paying compliments, but he is looking really beautiful now (if a male koala would like being called beautiful: maybe I should change that to handsome).

Talking about compliments, I have been paid a lovely one myself lately. My photo is on some of the Christmas cards that have been printed for the hospital. I have to admit they look pretty good too, but I usually take a good photo. I suppose it may be some sort of compensation for losing one of my limbs, but you get used to it after a while. I'm just as agile as some of the other koalas here.

The volunteers at the hospital are really quite

dedicated. Even on Christmas Day, although the kiosk will be closed and we won't have a 'Walk and Talk' available, some of them will be here to make sure we koalas are all looked after. All of us appreciate this as well as the care we receive all year round, as we realise that without them we may not have survived.

We would like to wish them all a very merry Christmas and may they have a safe and happy new year. The same is also wished to all our Gum Tips readers, as without them I would just be wasting my time writing this. I hope you have enjoyed reading my column this year, and I look forward to carrying on with it next year.

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### FOR KIDS (Young or Old)

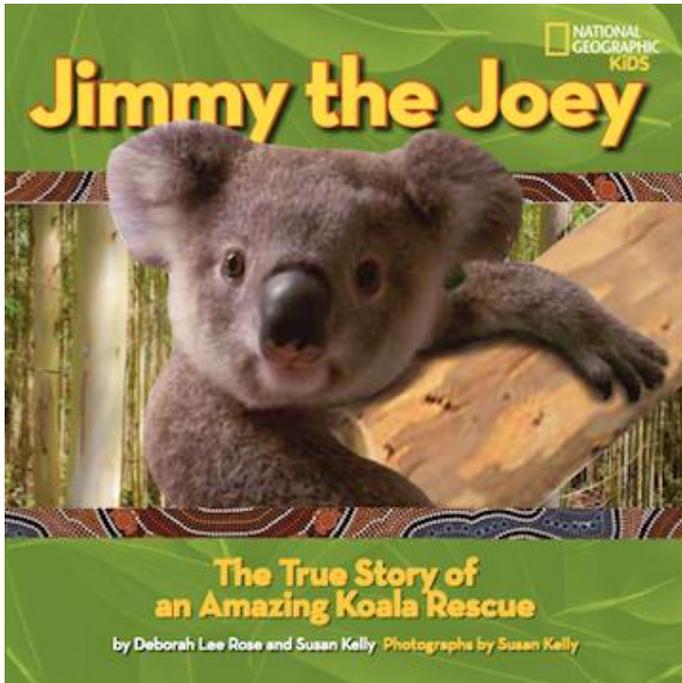
- Q. What is an ig?  
A. An eskimo's home without a loo!
- Q. What do you call a snowman in summer?  
A. A puddle!
- Q. What do you get if you cross a snowman and a shark?  
A. Frost bite!
- Q. Why are Christmas Trees bad at knitting?  
A. Because they always drop their needles!
- Q. What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?  
A. Tinsel-itis!

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*Findlay  
Xena*



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\$24.99

Cover Credit: Keattilkorn/Shutterstock  
Cover Koala Image: Susan Kelly

Jimmy the Joey just won the Eureka Silver Book Award given by the California Reading Association



Credit: Susan Kelly



Credit: Susan Kelly

**J**immy slept in a laundry basket filled with soft blankets. When he woke, he was always hungry and slurped down the baby koala formula Barb gave him.

"That's my boy," said Barb, just as if he were her very own baby. Barb brought Jimmy to the Koala Hospital each week for his checkup. First, he touched noses with everyone to say "hello." Then, Cheyne weighed and measured him to see how fast he was growing.





## American Reviews

### *School Library Journal*

**“This is a terrific choice for libraries and can be paired with other books about wildlife rescues... Irresistibly adorable photographs and a clear, lively text capture the charming story of an orphaned koala infant** taken in and raised by a remarkable rescue team at an Australian koala hospital until he was ready for reintroduction to his natural habitat. Sadly, readers are informed, koalas are finding those habitats dwindling, as eucalyptus forests are increasingly being toppled to make way for homes and roads. It was a traffic mishap, in fact, that took the life of Jimmy’s mother. This incident is presented in a nonfrightening way for a young audience who should be heartened by the sight of a “koala ambulance” rushing the new orphan to the hospital. Eventually, with the help of expert hospital workers and the loving, home-based care of a devoted volunteer, Jimmy was strong enough to return to the forest. Young readers will be captivated by his tale and cheer for him and his new loving family. The book’s attractive design heightens the Australian setting. An endnote explains that the pages’ bright background colors reflect those found on the bark of certain eucalyptus trees, and the photo borders include traditional Aboriginal designs. Helpful features include a map of Australia depicting the koala’s range; facts about koalas; notes from the photographer; where one may see koalas in the U.S. and around the world; and ways readers can help these animals.”

### Kirkus

**“Stories of animal rescue abound, but the cuteness factor here gives Jimmy’s story special appeal.”**

"This heart-warming, true story of an irresistible marsupial, not a true bear but with all a bear cub's appealing qualities, is illustrated with photographs taken during the filming of a documentary about the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie, Australia. While recording the joey's growth and development in the smoothly told narrative that accompanies the photos, the authors also weave in some general information

about the species: where they live, what they eat, how they grow first inside their mothers' pouches. The design suggests a scrapbook of the joey's life, decorated with traditional Australian Aboriginal designs and using the colors of eucalyptus bark and patterns of eucalyptus leaves as page backgrounds. Final pages include maps, a few facts about koalas, a photographer's note and extensive suggestions for learning more about this iconic but little-known species.”

### Goodreads review

**“The text sparkles and is sure to evoke empathetic reactions from readers while the large photographs show how adorable Jimmy is and how carefully Barb, his caretaker works with him.”** When his mother is presumably killed, a baby koala named Jimmy is rescued by an ambulance from the Koala Hospital. After being fed, nurtured, and taught to climb, Jimmy is released into the wild. Back matter from the photographer describes the environmental threats to koalas such as Jimmy as their habitat is increasingly destroyed and global warming makes life even more challenging for them. Readers will be surprised to learn that koalas are one of the species at most risk due to changes in Earth’s climate.”

### Smart Books for Smart Kids

**“This true story is told in such a way that is perfect for young children to learn and understand the challenges koalas face, while the excellent photographs are a heart-warming delight to study; it’s a winning combination.** This is a book you will love to read with your kids. After all, who doesn’t love koalas?”

## *A Volunteer's Story*

My husband and I moved to Port Macquarie from Perth in April. We had done an extended trip around Australia a couple of years ago and this had whet our appetite to see more of this beautiful country of ours. However living in Perth made this very difficult due to its isolation from the rest of the country. So we decided to bite the bullet and move east. We chose NSW as the place to move to as we had been taken with its beauty and we chose Port Macquarie because my sister already lived here.

Having spent my whole life up to this point in WA the only encounters I had experienced with koalas were in wildlife sanctuaries. Whilst I always thought they were very cute I have to admit I hadn't ever bothered to find out much about them – very sad really given they are one of our most recognized native animals. On our travels we saw our very first wild koala on Magnetic Island off the coast of Townsville and I remember how special that felt to finally see one in its natural habitat.

A couple of weeks after arriving in Port my sister took me to visit Roto house and the Koala hospital. What a special place! I could not get over how super cute these guys were and was amazed by the incredible job being done by the hospital. I decided then and there that I wanted to be involved too!

First of all I was assigned to work in the little kiosk one afternoon a week. I was made to feel very welcome by Robyn and Margaret who showed me all the ropes, took me round to meet the special residents and along the way told me more and more about the hospital and how it functioned. The more I learned about the hospital and the extent of the work that the volunteers did to ensure its success, the more I realized just how special this place was. I have to admit too that I really enjoy being surrounded by all things koala and have done quite a bit of *spending* as well as *selling* while working in the shop!

Every now and then we receive a phone call telling us about a koala in trouble. This message is relayed to the rescuers who go out to check on him/her and very often return with a koala who needs their help. They may have been hit by a motor vehicle or maybe have very sore eyes due to a case of conjunctivitis. My heart goes out to the poor little things but at the same time I think time and again how lucky they are to have these special people to care for them. What on earth would be their fate if the hospital wasn't here? I am also always touched by the concern and care on the faces of the volunteers as they gently handle the koalas trying to cause them the least amount of distress as possible.

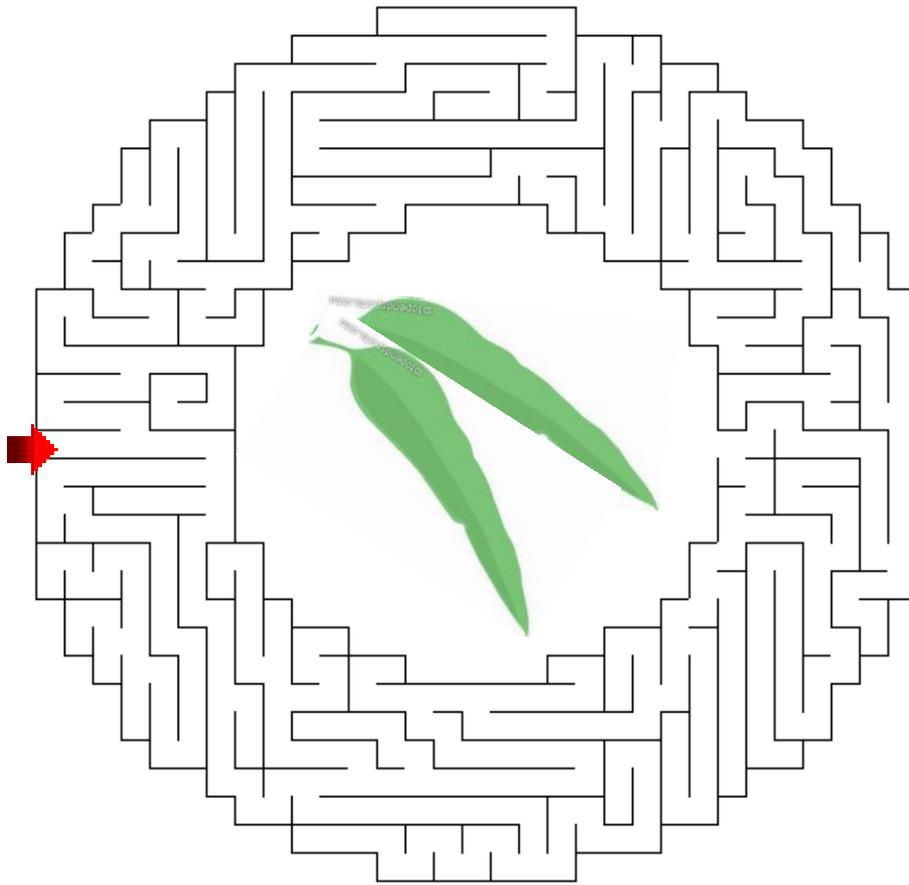
When I was approached about helping out with the 'walk and talks' I was more than happy to accept.



The longer I had been at the hospital the more I loved being there but, because of my work commitments, the time I could offer was limited. With the 'walk & talks' an email is sent out each month asking for the days we are available and I am able to nominate the times that fit in with the rest of my life! I began my training which entailed attending 10 'walks' given by other volunteers and reading up on the information provided by the hospital.

And now I am out there and I love it! What do I love? I love the excuse to come in just because it is such a beautiful environment to be in. I love to see the progress of the koalas from when they come in till when they are well enough to be released again and I love sharing their stories with our visitors. I love to see the look of excitement and wonder on the faces of our visitors as they encounter these beautiful animals for the first time. And I love the sense of community among the volunteers – people who come from all walks of life but who are all here for one common goal. Life these days can get oh so busy just doing our day to day things but when I come to the hospital I feel like the treadmill slows down and I can just enjoy the moment with the added benefit of knowing that the little bit I contribute helps to make a difference.

**Help the Koala find the Gum Leaves**



**Try and Solve this Wuzzle**

MUSICALLY	13579... <b>COME</b>	<b>DOG</b> ----- <b>THE</b>
<b>cut</b> <b>rest</b>	another one thing	GOODBYE

Puzzles courtesy of [www.wuzzlesandpuzzles.com](http://www.wuzzlesandpuzzles.com)

Answer to Wuzzle on Page 19

## The Many Faces of “Roto Randy”

How many faces can a koala bear –oops, sorry; Randy will have a piece of me for calling him a bear. Of course we all know that koalas are marsupials, not bears, don't we?

There is a very special marsupial living in the wilds of the Macquarie Reserve, right next to the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie. His name is Roto Randy; one part of his name being from Roto House, which is located in the grounds of the reserve, and the other part from his notorious reputation.

We believe that he stays in the reserve due mainly to the close proximity to the female koalas who are either patients or residents staying at the hospital for treatment of the various conditions which koalas are unfortunately confronted with due to many different reasons.



Randy has managed to breach security in previous years to pay nocturnal visits to some of the females there, resulting in a pregnancy or two. Why he continues to hang around now is unfathomable, as the hospital's maintenance team, among others, has made it virtually impossible for Randy to continue with his visiting rights. Obviously hope lives eternal in the koala's breast as well as a human's.

Perhaps he enjoys the public adoration which he receives when he decides to go for a walk around the grounds of the reserve. He seems to enjoy keeping an eye on the hospital and its residents, and is often to be seen strolling around the perimeter fencing, checking out the inhabitants of the many yards at the hospital. As they are constantly changing, due to rescues and releases, he finds new koalas frequently on his travels. He has been known to climb one of the trees adjacent to the yards, doing his surveying from above.

If he finds it tiring walking around during the day, he appears to have another means of transport at his disposal. There is a car which is occasionally seen in one of the hospital's parking spaces with

his personal number plate – RANDY ONE –who else could this belong to but ??????. He was once noticed sitting in the tree overhanging the car but was too wary of the consequences of being caught without a licence, to actually try to drive it.

Randy is a much loved koala by the hospital staff and



they try to make sure he is kept in tip top condition. Occasionally the hospital supervisor, Cheyne, will admit him for a check-up and it must be very frustrating for him to be in a hospital yard so close and yet so far from the female koalas he is so fond of.

Randy's many faces include: looking for a mate: checking out the hospital for security reasons: relaxing in the trees during the day: frustration as a patient: parading for the visitors to the hospital: eating eucalyptus leaves at night: just being a beautiful koala. There are probably many more of which we are unaware. Let's keep looking!!

*Mary Stewart*

# The Many Faces of "Roto-Randy"

Garry Welch



## The Case of the Missing Microchip

It's a universal truth that everyone loves a mystery and the unravelling of clues to find the answer. Here's what happened in Port Macquarie recently.

It was a dark and stormy night – well actually, it was just a dark night – the storms have been thin on the ground lately. Anyway, one night, just after dark, a local resident was driving on Pacific Drive near Shelley Beach and felt a bump on the car. Fortunately she was a responsible lady and she stopped to see what had happened. Her heart was in her mouth as she realised her car had hit a koala which had probably been crossing the road.

Another kind lady also stopped to assist and they put in a call to the Koala Hospital's 24-hour emergency line. The ambulance was duly despatched and the volunteer rescuers were so pleased to find that the two ladies had stayed with the dazed koala. One of them was being clutched on the arms by the koala and its claws were digging in to her. After some manipulation, the rescuers got the dazed koala into the rescue bag, but not until one of them had been given a nasty cut on her hand which later involved a four hour wait at the Public Hospital emergency department and a painful injection. But our volunteers are hardy folk and often make similar sacrifices to save koalas.

Back at the Koala Hospital, the injured koala was found to be an older male who had suffered some damage to his eye and his nose but was otherwise in good condition. There was no tag in his left ear – the ear that males are tagged in, but his left ear was badly tattered as if an earlier ear tag had come loose. The mystery deepened as it was discovered that no microchip could be found on the koala so it was assumed that his first visit to the hospital had been in the years before microchipping had become a regular procedure for all incoming koala patients. So who was this mystery man – what was his original name? Impossible to tell without an ear tag and microchip!

Meanwhile, Jack and Jill (names changed to

protect the innocent), some koala-loving residents near Shelley Beach have a Tallowood tree in their front yard that is regularly visited by several local koalas including one particularly pretty female. The well-known Shelley Beach koala, *Lookout Harry*, had also been their regular guest until in early 2012, after a noisy night-time battle, he was ousted from the tree and the area by another male that they named Victor. Victor had not been there before but decided to stay around and often shared the tree with the female koala.

Unbeknownst to them, but just about the time of the reported accident, they noticed that Victor did not appear in their tree for about ten days. When he did reappear – to their astonishment he had a yellow tag in his right ear. But only females get tagged in the right ear (because the ladies are always right!) so they were confused. Especially when Victor and the pretty female were exhibiting mating behaviour in their favourite tree! So they rang the Koala Hospital hoping to solve the puzzle.



Some clever sleuthing by Koala Hospital volunteers who looked for clues in the Hospital's daily records of koala patients solved some of the mystery. The koala that had been hit but could not be identified had been treated for his injuries and held in intensive care for about a week until being released back to his territory. He had been microchipped and a tag put in his right ear because his left ear was too tattered to hold a tag! He had been named *Pacific Schulties* in honour of Peter Schulties, a long time Hospital volunteer who had recently passed away. Peter had been affectionately known as the "Grumpy Old Man" and the koala also was old and had a grumpy demeanour so seemed well-named.

So all is well but we may never know *Pacific Schultie's* original name – perhaps it will remain a mystery!

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

We recently picked up 2 trucks full of tallowood from the new airport extension area. This is the second time the airport manager has contacted us with available leaf, which we're very grateful for.



## WUZZLE ANSWERS

From Page 15

1. Musically Inclined
2. Overcome the Odds
3. The Underdog
4. Cut above the Rest
5. One thing after another
6. Waving Goodbye

## Letter from Matilda In the Czech Republic

I am 11 years old. I love animals and that is why I have many pets at home – a parrot, a tortoise, a snake, three lizards, a spider and a small crab.

Now I also care about koalas! At school we often prepare some projects and then we discuss them. I prepared a project about your hospital. My classmates and teacher were fascinated and I got the best mark. I was happy! My friends are also interested in wild koalas and want to see your websites.

I am sending two pictures which I have drawn for you and your cute furry patients.



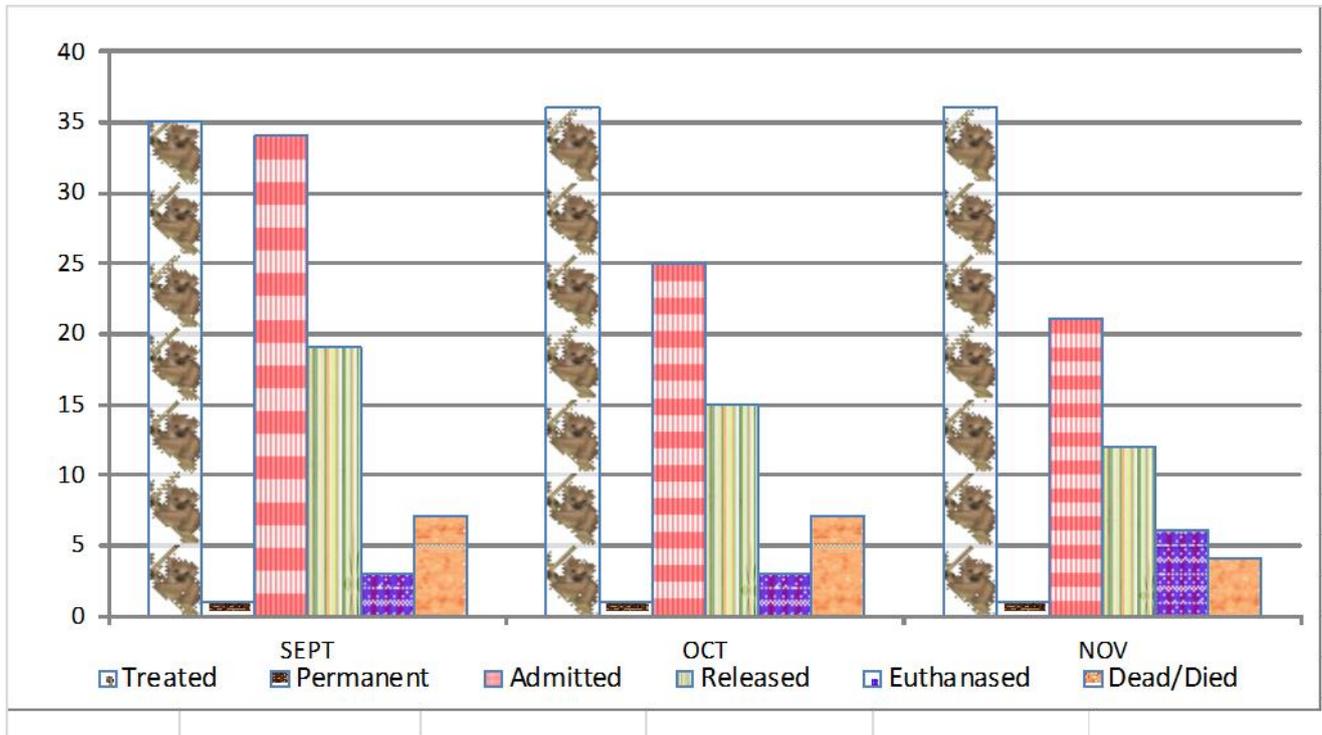
# Hospital Activity Report



Admission	Name	Reason	Result
11.07.08	Westhaven Barry	Scoliosis of spine	Permanent Resident
26.09.09	Oxley Hwy. Kaylee	Hind leg amputated	Treating
12.03.10	Emerald Downs Barbara	Blind R. Eye - limited vision	Treating
26.10.12	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Treating
07.12.12	Hibbard Alex	Orphan	De-humanising
06.01.13	Ruins Way Dallas	Co-ordination loss Hind legs	Treating
08.01.13	Lake Geobbrie	Fungal infection	Treating
09.02.13	Ocean Josie	Orphan	De-humanising
19.07.13	Barrington Xavier	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Treating
25.07.13	Gunnedah Groucho	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Released 14.10.13
10.08.13	Gunnedah Phillipa	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 14.10.13
10.08.13	Werris Creek Sarah	Orphan	Released 14.10.13
15.08.13	Elparra David	Conjunctivitis Right Eye	Released 27.09.13
16.08.13	Wyandra J.J.	Conjunctivitis Right Eye	Released 02.09.13
31.08.13	Macquarie Peter	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 03.09.13
31.08.13	Pacific Schulties	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 06.09.13
01.09.13	Comboyne Ash	Moribund	Died 01.09.13
02.09.13	Lord Jack	Chlamydia	Released 19.10.13
02.09.13	Lord Andrew	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 02.09.13
03.09.13	Koralee Carla	Dangerous Area - checked	Re-located 03.09.13
04.09.13	Lake Rd. Nicole + Joey	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 05.09.13
04.09.13	Clarence Lovely	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 05.09.13
05.09.13	Cathie Clean Boy	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
05.09.13	The Tiller Chris	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 05.09.13
05.09.13	Mitchell Pascoe	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 05.09.13
05.09.13	Ocean Jesse	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 29.11.13
06.09.13	Hillcrest Iris	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 06.09.13
07.09.13	Forest Morticia	Dog Attack	Euthanased 07.09.13
07.09.13	Lake Brittany	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 08.09.13
08.09.13	Wauchope Yon	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 10.09.13
08.09.13	Grant Howard	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
12.09.13	Kundabung Raven	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
13.09.13	Burraneer Henry	Dog Attack	Euthanased 19.09.13
15.09.13	Acacia Tim	Eye Infection	Released 15.11.13
16.09.13	Ocean Amber	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 19.11.13
16.09.13	Burrawang Jake	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 17.09.13
10.09.13	Koala Dylan	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 20.09.13
21.09.13	Pembroke Lad	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
21.09.13	Dixon Claud	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 23.09.13
21.09.13	Ocean Charlie	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 23.09.13
22.09.13	Emerald Beauty	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
22.09.13	Hastings River Dr. Neil	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 22.09.13

<b>Admission</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Result</b>
23.09.13	Hastings River Dr. Tiph	Conjunctivitis Right Eye	Released 15.11.13
25.09.13	Timberidge Ben	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Released 15.11.13
26.09.13	Lord Eddie	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 30.09.13
27.09.13	Slade Gary	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Euthanased 07.11.13
27.09.13	Ocean Elma	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
28.09.13	Ocean Club Nicole	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 06.10.13
29.09.13	Emily Angie	Chlamydia	Released 18.10.13
30.09.13	Moondara Ken	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 30.09.13
03.10.13	Munster Pauly	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
05.10.13	Bangalay Vic	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 06.10.13
05.10.13	Roto Randy	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 08.10.13
06.10.13	Opal Precious	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
09.10.13	Dunbogan Justine	Found on Beach	Released 08.11.13
10.10.13	Kamona Andre	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 10.10.13
11.10.13	Pacific Hwy. Glenys	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
12.10.13	Shelly Beach Digger	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 13.10.13
13.10.13	Granite Vicky	Dog Attack	Euthanased 28.10.13
14.10.13	Mareeba Mathew	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 14.10.13
15.10.13	Lake Sarah	Chlamydia	Euthanased 31.10.13
17.10.13	Kempsey Antsy	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
17.10.13	Maria River Gaby	Bushfire Area	Released 04.11.13
17.10.13	Maria River Ken	Bushfire Area	Released 04.11.13
18.10.13	Widderson Jim	Lethargic - swollen glands	Euthanased 20.10.13
18.10.13	Bangalay Vic	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 25.10.13
20.10.13	Moondara Ken	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 10.11.13
22.10.13	Armidale Petronella	Conjunctivitis Left Eye	Euthanased 28.11.13
23.10.13	Kennedy Loopy	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 24.10.13
26.10.13	Lake Peter	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
27.10.13	Orchid Gemma	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 27.10.13
20.10.13	Pacific Hwy. Squishy	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
20.10.13	Francis Chantal	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 20.10.13
29.10.13	Park Panther	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 18.11.13
31.10.13	Pacific Dr. David	On Road - checked	Released 05.11.13
06.11.13	HKS Steve	Lethargic	Treating
09.11.13	Hibbard Santi	Disoriented	Released 13.11.13
12.11.13	Dixon Claud	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 19.11.13
12.11.13	Ocean Drive Pat	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
14.11.13	Garage Girl	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 20.11.13
15.11.13	Salamander Bay Tallimba	Loss of Habitat - Bushfire	Treating
16.11.13	Kelvin Grove Kylie		Treating
18.11.13	Kyla Keith	Dangerous Area - checked	Released 19.11.13
18.11.13	Crescent Head Caroline	Conjunctivitis	Treating
18.11.13	Hudson Nick	Chlamydia	Treating
19.11.13	HKS Richardson Jane	Bushfire Victim - burns	Treating
19.11.13	HKS Apsara	Debilitated - dehydrated	Euthanased 26.11.13
19.11.13	HKS Sandi	Chlamydia	Euthanased 27.11.13
19.11.13	HKS Nikki-Rae	Chlamydia	Treating
19.11.13	The Halyard Jean	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
21.11.13	Steele Paul	Chlamydia	Treating

Admission	Name	Reason	Result
21.11.12	Findlay Jill	Abandoned Joey	Home Care
22.11.13	Dixon Claud	Suspect White Spider Bite	Treating
26.11.13	Chisholm Anne	Abandoned Joey	Home Care
28.11.13	Kempsey Jack	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
29.11.13	Shelly Beach Roger	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival



## Rescue Tales

One of our night rescuers was so busy admiring the beautiful house on her way out back to the koala, she almost fell into the pool because she wasn't watching where she was walking.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then we have the rescue team who decided to take up landscape gardening in order to capture the koala. They had to drastically prune a palm tree in order to get at the koala. The police arrived and said they wouldn't be booked for vandalism on this occasion but they did receive a caution.

\*\*\*\*\*

Who was the rescuer who rushed out in her pyjamas and fluffy slippers to rescue a koala sitting in the

middle of a roundabout on Koala St? After stopping all the traffic the poor koala couldn't make up its mind which way to go. He eventually ran across the road and up a tree just to make it more difficult for the rescuer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Of course there always a few false alarms, like the 'dead' koala who was spotted on the side of Ocean Drive one night. After a slow crawl along the side of the road and then back again we discovered what appeared to be our koala but turned out to be a grey plastic bag full of rubbish. Believe it or not, grey plastic bags full of rubbish do resemble koalas in the dark! (That's twice we have rescued bags of rubbish.

## 2014 Calendar

Management Mtg 17th January

Management Mtg 21st February

General Mtg 23rd February

## Gum Tips

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**Mary Stewart**



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

<http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.de>  
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