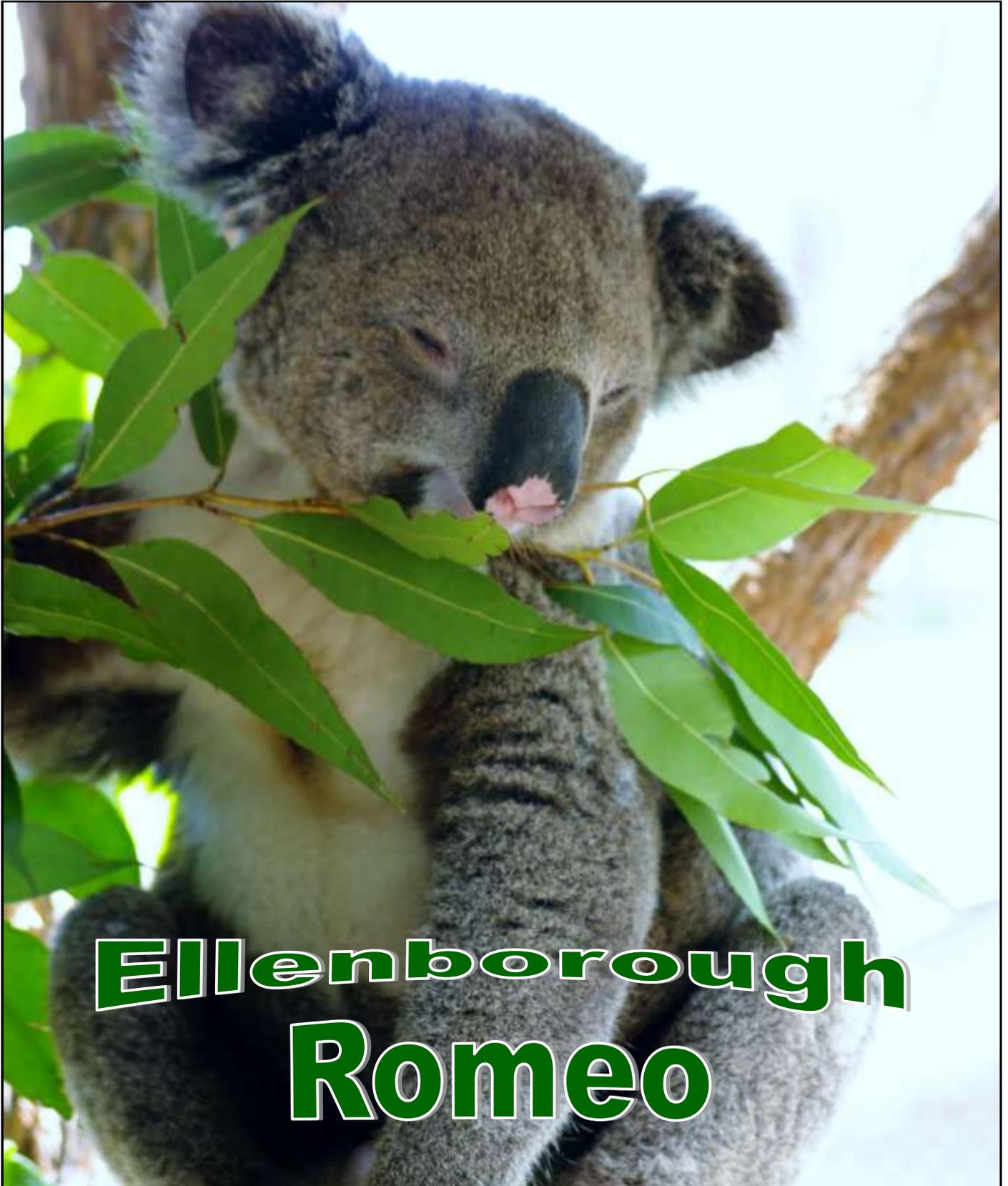




Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

4th Quarter 2014



Ellenborough
Romeo

Ellenborough Romeo

There is a small "town" (well its a police station, a church, a couple of houses and a campground on the nearby river) in picturesque farming country some seventy kilometres west of Port Macquarie called Ellenborough, which also hosts a pretty good population of koalas.

In October the hospital was notified by a local resident who spotted a koala sitting on the ground looking very ill and had very diseased eyes. Once staff had him back in the clinic this young male koala was found to have a severe case of ocular (eye) chlamydiosis (see further story on Page 4) - the horrible bacterial infection that can cause both blindness and infertility in koalas and is the bane of wildlife carers, researchers and vets throughout Australia.

Ellenborough Romeo underwent a full screen (swabs, bloods, ultrasound, and full examination) and commenced treatment the following day. In a lot of ocular (eye) cases, the disease is so advanced that the conjunctival membranes (the membranes around the eyes) had become proliferative (overgrown), inflamed and extremely



painful and staff often describe the affliction as weeping red cabbages around their eyes. In Romeo's case the tissue had completely covered both eyes and how he had managed to locate trees to eat, was probably more good luck than good management. He was in a very poor and weak condition.

When this disease is so advanced, it often takes weeks till the tissue begins healing, before we are able to check whether the disease has infiltrated their actual eyes. Romeo was also required to undergo an essential surgical procedure as well to remove a lot of this tissue to help speed up the healing process.



Sadly, once the tissue had healed well, we found that both Romeo's eyes were severely damaged with one eye being totally blind and the other one appearing to only register a bit of light and dark.

Romeo has finished his treatment and has been rescreened coming up negative for the infection, which is fantastic. Unfortunately though, due to the extent of the damage to his eyes, he is not a release prospect as he would not survive in the wild at all. Ellenborough Romeo as with a lot of "bush" koalas remote from people, has a gentle peaceful personality, is not in any pain and is quite happy to be in our care (as long as fresh juicy leaf arrives on time every morning thank you very much) and appears to be quite settled in his outdoor yard.

As Romeo is still a very young male, we feel he would make a great ambassador to explain to the public what can happen to koalas who suffer chlamydial infection. He is also so gentle and approachable, he would be of good potential for researchers, wildlife carers and veterinarians to come and observe the results of his disease. So while Ellenborough Romeo remains in good and robust health, he will stay with us as a teacher for those who wish to learn about chlamydia.

Canadian artist helps our Koalas

Port Macquarie's koalas are famous worldwide, so much so that Canadian artist Heidi Vormer has decided to do photorealistic pencil drawings and sell them. She doesn't just draw the koalas and sell the art, she donates 25 per cent of the proceeds to the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie.

"I decided to donate the proceeds to the Koala Hospital because I found out that koalas are threatened with extinction and that broke my heart, because I knew that at the Koala Hospital they do great work to help the koalas" she said. "I just love what they do there, helping wounded koalas so that they can get back into the wild again. I wanted to do something to support their work".

"I am a huge animal lover and I especially love koalas and find them such a very special and cute animal and first adopted a koala through the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie called Oxley Twinkles".

She contacted the Koala Hospital to discuss the possibility of using their photos for her drawings, they liked her idea and gave her permission to do so. "What I have learned is that they are all very passionate people who really care about the fate of koalas. I know if I lived in Port Macquarie I would definitely volunteer there, and it's my greatest wish to visit them sometime and cuddle a koala" she said.

"I have never been in Australia, and I have only seen koalas in real life once in a zoo in Belgium when I still lived in The Netherlands." Ms Vormer suffers from autism, but said art was a good way



of expressing herself. "Because of my autism I see the world in tiny little details and my drawings tend to be this way too, very precise and detailed.

"The whole world is incredibly chaotic for me, and I find it difficult to focus on so many different things at once" she said. "When I'm working on a drawing, I only have to focus on one thing - the details of my drawing. That's what I love so much about working on my art." To view her work, visit <http://www.remrovsartwork.com/koalaart.html>.

Article reprinted courtesy of Port News

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Help keep our Koalas in Good Hands!

The Koala Preservation Society will gratefully accept bequests to help insure the continued work of the society. You can log on to our website, click on the *Act Now* section on the front page and read all the information under the *Bequest* heading.

Make a commitment to protect an endangered and unique Australian icon

The Koala - The Inside Story!

Infectious Diseases of a Koala

Chlamydia infection (*genus Chlamydomphila*)

This highly infectious virulent bacterial genus has at last count around six actual species with a large number of strains within each species. The chlamydia bacteria is found all over the world in many animal species from humans to cats, dogs, pigs, cattle, sheep and of course koalas.

In both humans and koalas, it can cause both blindness and infertility and has been the subject of serious research world wide for a very long time. Universities in Queensland have recently been in the media with the announcement of a successful, but small vaccine trial for koala chlamydia. This is fantastic news, but they still have quite a wait before it will be available.

Chlamydia in koalas is usually transmitted by sexual contact, but it is believed that there is also maternal transfer from mothers to joeys during birth. There are different views as to how the ocular variety of the disease is transmitted - possibly by way of the urogenital disease (sexual) disseminating through the body in an unwell animal and being manifest in the eyes as well, or there is a possibility it is transmitted by vectors such as flies. Research has found that koalas can also have two species of chlamydia infecting them at the one time - one in the reproductive tract and one in the eyes. Some koalas simply have only eye disease and are luckily clean in the urogenital tract.

When a koala becomes infected, the disease can be mild if the koala is healthy and robust and there are koalas who certainly 'get over' the infection, with some not even showing clinical signs of the disease at all (we call them sub-clinicals). These koalas are usually ones who are found in good bush habitat, that have quality trees and minimal to no disturbance from human occupation. This helps make the koala population genetically diverse (lots of good breeding stock from other areas), eating good quality nutrition making the whole population best described as fit, robust and healthy. There is not a lot of this sort of population in Australia these days!!

Where koala chlamydia tends to be seen a lot more, is in areas where human development has encroached into their habitat, where vast tracts of vegetation are removed for houses, agriculture or industry. Koalas are then forced closer together or alternatively become scattered through no trees to occupy and then it's simply a downhill decline from there.

Koalas do not cope with close competition for resources (home ranges, food and shelter trees) and they also do not do well at all when forced to inbreed (as any animal doesn't) due to lack of places to go to radiate outwards. The result is an increasing pressure on the koala population, a suppression of the immune system occurs, and diseases such as chlamydia become expressed in the population. Other problems such as car accidents, dog attacks, other infections, animals literally dying through nowhere to go are part and parcel of koalas survival with a loss of habitat.

Without going into graphic detail for our readers, let us

say that the chlamydial bacteria manifests in the most horrible fashion in a sick koala. Apart from the eye infections described, the urogenital form of the disease is arguably much worse. The bacteria usually invades the bladder first (but not always) the bladder wall becoming very angry, inflamed, often with purulent material (pus and blood) being discharged. When the bladder wall becomes so thickened from active disease the poor koala then becomes incontinent and hence where the term "wet bottom" or "dirty tail" comes from.

The bacteria can then ascend into the reproductive tract of the female where the infective stages result in painful, purulent swollen organs and the koala is often then rendered permanently infertile. This can, if severe, cause death in the koala from peritonitis etc. Also the bacteria can easily invade the kidneys resulting in renal failure and ultimately in death. Sadly, the greatest percentage of infected koalas come to us when the disease is already quite advanced because whilst they are feeling ok, they stay high in the trees and are not noticed. It's usually when koalas are starting to feel really ill that they come down lower in the tree or are on the ground moving between trees that a human then observes the sick animal and contacts us. This makes our job much harder as it would be much better to get them in the early stages of infection.

Research into various drugs to treat chlamydia is still at the forefront of trying to deal with this horrible disease. Sadly the "super liver" that koalas have evolved over millions of years, to deal with the toxins in eucalypt leaf is also a downfall for them in regards to absorption of drugs - without going into the pharmacokinetics of drugs/koalas (how it all works) the koalas "super liver" basically metabolises and gets rid of the drug before it has a chance for anything substantial to happen to kill off the bacteria. Any drug that can knock down the chlamydia in koalas (and some drugs do), sadly are so powerful that they also shutdown the koalas micro flora (the gut bacteria) that is critical to breakdown the eucalypt leaf so the koala can make use of its nutrition. In shutting down the gut bacteria the koala dies very quickly.

So where do we go from here? Obviously research must keep trying to find drugs that will treat/cure this horrible disease and that the vaccine will become a firm reality in the near future. The number one factor nonetheless - we have to stop removal of habitat, we must allow koalas to live and breed in bush that is free of interference from human development and we must design urban areas around vegetation so that urban koalas can live healthy lives. It's all very well to find a cure for chlamydia in koalas that works, but if we keep removing vegetation at the rate we are, then where are we going to put these koalas that have been treated successfully?

It's not all about koalas either as in the trees where koalas live, a huge number of other species of plant, animal, microbes and insects also rely heavily on eucalypt trees for their survival. All of these organisms are just as important as koalas for the long term health of this planet. We at the Koala Hospital look upon koalas as not only an awesome species to work with, but as a sentinel species "the canary in the mine", because when they are in trouble so are all the other critters that live with them.

The Koala Hospital — Year in Review

Media

Having only taken on the role of Media Co-ordinator two thirds of the way through the year I would like to thank my predecessor Helen Meers for her enormous contribution in Media in past years and for being something of a mentor to me.

Film companies started queuing up to come and film our hospital and the work we do in rescuing, treating and rehabilitating our koalas from early in the year. Since I have taken on the role Blink Films (UK) spent a day with us shooting what was called a 'sampler film' - a typical day in the life of our hospital - and were so impressed with our patients, but just as importantly our volunteers, that plans are afoot to return to shoot a series over a number of weeks probably early in 2015.

We had just waved them goodbye when two more film companies contacted us, OCEAPRO for NHK TV in Japan and ZDF GERMANY (an equivalent of our ABC). Two days were spent 'chaperoning' our Japanese visitors, their film was science based so required hours of filming and many 'takes' and 'walk-on' scenes but in the end they left happy and fulfilled.

ZDF (Germany) had hoped to arrive in mid November but shelved the plan because of a reorganisation of their Singapore Bureau. A visit from them is likely in the new year.

People wishing to do 'BLOGS' from the hospital is something new and while they are not given access to the yards in the way film companies are, we try to accommodate them and make them feel welcome. The power of BLOGGING cannot be underestimated in this age of mass electronic communication. This was borne out spectacularly when 'Clarence Neville' came to see the bright lights of Port Macquarie, and it captured the imagination of Channels 7 and 9 who featured his exploits on their national news.

I cannot overlook the 'Hello Koalas' launch which I attended with Mary Stewart and Bob Sharpham. It was a triumph and a credit to Linda Hall and her committee, interest in our hospital has grown because of the 'Koala Trail' with visitor numbers well up on what is usually a busy time of the year. We are awaiting tenders for the building of the education/interpretation wing which has been in progress for many years, but now is about to become reality, subject to price and our approval. In between all of the preceding we have been busy talking to schools and service clubs, while spreading the gospel about our unique hospital and equally unique volunteers who make it all possible.

Mick Feeney

Education

It has been a very busy year for the Walk and Talk guides, to end of November we have had about 91 tours and 2500 people on those tours. We have also

had several outside talks to various schools and club events. This is an improvement on last year and the regular 3pm tours are attracting huge numbers and this is partly due to the Koala Trail organised by Hello Koala. The Trail has certainly raised the interest in koalas and the Koala Hospital. For the upcoming year we hope to have a new short video completed to show visiting school groups and also a facility to provide the visitors with information on koalas and their habitat.

I would like to thank the volunteers for their help during the year and also the many visitors who have shown a keen interest in the koalas.

Marilyn Lees

Adoptions

Adoptions have been excellent this year, previously our figures only included Adopt a Wild Koala (AAWK) adoptions, but now eAdoptions are also included. Last year we had 2253 adoptions in total, but this year only 1860 AAWK adoptions, but with eAdoptions as well – 1371 in the 5 months from 18 June, we have a total of 3231 for the year.

During the year we have had support worldwide, particularly from the UK where the John Bishop Australian special on the BBC, that featured the Koala Hospital, generated a huge response from people wanting to adopt. Sadly, Roto Randy and Emerald Downs Barbara passed away during the year, but on a brighter note, Clarence Neville was added to the Adoption Program and became an instant success when his rescue story hit both local and interstate media, together with social media and his fame spread worldwide.

We have had great support from all over, but one in particular, the gifted artist Heidi Vormer, who recently moved from The Netherlands to Canada and creates very detailed drawings, particularly of wildlife. She has a passion for koalas and has been donating 25% of the money she earns for her koala artwork to the Koala Hospital. She also sent us an original drawing of Garage Girl and given us permission to use it in any way we wish to raise money for the Koala Hospital, we will be announcing more about this soon.

A media promotion leading into Christmas, focusing on Clarence Neville hopefully will promote more interest and support for the Koala Hospital. The countries we get adoption orders from are quite amazing, including: Finland, Brazil, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Denmark, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Serbia, Argentina, Japan, Sweden, Brunei, Thailand, Russia, Albania, Malaysia, Poland, Israel, Hungary, Lebanon, China, Turkey, Indonesia, Greece and United Arab Emirates with strong support from the USA, Canada, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, UK, Italy and France.

Jan Campbell

The Environment Report will feature in our next issue.

Clinical Director's Report



October is always our peak month for admissions, but this year, this occurred at the end of October and right through November. Many of our patients have come in with ocular (eye) chlamydial infections which if treated early, have a high success rate.

Sadly we have had a few more dog attacks and a few hit by cars. This is the middle of the breeding season, so koalas are moving around their home ranges more, if this means crossing busy roads or going into dogs backyards, that's what occurs sadly. On a positive note we have had some successful treatments of these patients.

Another drug trial is occurring at the moment to attempt to deal with the urogenital form of chlamydia. Early days yet with this drug, but as the drugs we have commonly used previously are proving to be of little value, we continue to search alongside Sydney University for the "holy grail" of medications.

Our conservation plantation and land, across the

river is nearly ready to begin work on. It's a very exciting project with the growing of thousands of trees for future harvesting and to have some land that has good conservation value for both koalas and a myriad of important species including some threatened plants. We need everyone to think of rain for us at the moment, and lots of it (please don't send a flood though!). Currently NSW is experiencing very dry conditions with a few months of very hot weather in front of us.

Apart from a bushfire threat, it also reduces the moisture content of the eucalypts so folivores (leaf eaters) being koala, glider and possums, struggle to get their daily moisture needs, dry conditions make all native wildlife prone.

On behalf of the koalas, we wish all of you a safe, peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2015.

Cheyne Flanagan

Joeys move into prestige bush real estate

On the 10th November six orphan joeys were 'released' into a site south of Port Macquarie by the Koala Hospital. To get to the required site meant that the koalas needed to be transported by boat. Luckily Val Looi's 'a man with a boat friend' Rudyard, was just the person for the job.



Awaiting transport with Carolina, Gerry and Anne

The six culprits in question, 'Calwalla Amy', 'Celestial Dom', 'Lochinvar Nelson', 'Koala Lou', 'Merinda Amy' and 'Mitchell Pascoe' all agreed a boating adventure with a fun day on the water represented a lot more enjoyment than climbing up and down trees!

Rudyard had to navigate between sandbars, and he got the precious 'cargo' & vollies to 'the site' at just on high tide! After a trek of about 15 minutes, each of the six joeys was released into a different tree, within sight of one another. All went like clockwork and half an hour later we were on our way back to civilization.



Land ahoy! for the 6 joeys and helpers

After many hundreds of hours of 'homecare' and Koala Hospital care, by volunteers and the home carers alike, the joeys' are finally HOME! They are out there



Free at last! Watching on are Cheyne and Anne

partying on a variety of the best gums on offer. River Red Gums, Tallow Woods and so much more. A great spot to be a koala!

Photos courtesy of Gerry Walsh

From the *President's* Pen



We anticipate the pending settlement of the Maria River land purchase soon, an area that will provide a large tract of land for a koala food tree plantation and a significant conservation area.

I thank all the KPS people who have had a part in this acquisition and acknowledge the significant input from Thor Aasor and Bill Peel from Port Macquarie Hastings Council. An on-site planning meeting took place in November with Thor and our staff.

Following the recent re-shuffle within the committee, I would like to acknowledge the amazing achievements that we see within all areas of the Koala Hospital and beyond over the last six months. Even our volunteer levels have reached just over 200, the highest number that we have ever had.

The most recent return of Anne Reynolds in Administration to a more formalised position, will see the KPS better able to manage the office responsibilities. With Cheyne Flanagan's title as Hospital Supervisor changing to Clinical Director, will also make it easier for volunteers and visitors to clearly identify the Clinical and Administration areas of responsibility.

This next six months should see the opening of the exhibited area, with the final touches to the DPI plans recently approved.

The Koala Hospitals regular visitors will have noticed some of these changes as we prepare for that much anticipated day.

Bob Sharpham

Online Shopping

- Tees and Polo Shirts, Visors, Caps, Bibs
- Educational material and Recipe Book
- DVD's and CD's - John Williamson
- Adopt a Koala - choice of 33 of our koalas
- A range of toys to choose from + Barry!
- A range from stickers to Child Gift Packs

www.koalahospital.org.au

Thumbs Up

(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)



Thumbs up to the Kundabung couple who caught a sick koala and kept it overnight till we sent out a team. Sadly with so many health problems we had to send her to the big gum tree in the sky.



Thumbs up to Hello Koala for organising the Koala Trail. It has become a very popular attraction and seen our visitor numbers increasing.



Thumbs down to all the people who are removing healthy koala food trees. Also the vandals who removed another Hello Koala, thankfully returned.



Thumbs up to the children from the Tamworth South Public School who made generous donations and studied information about koalas before visiting the Koala Hospital. Well done to all.



Thumbs up to the young men who called at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning to report a possible dead koala. They moved it off the road and remained until the rescuers arrived. Eliminating the need to search in the dark for the body.

Overseas Volunteers in Focus

Name: Shirley Manchek

Age: 68

Resides: Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.

Occupation: Retired Army Nurse

How did you find out about the Hospital?: After my first visit to Australia in 1992 I became mesmerised by the iconic koala and their determination to survive urban development. When I returned to America I utilised technology to locate the Koala Hospital.

Why did you Volunteer and for how long?: After I retired I was very determined to become a koala care giver. I was aware of the endless battle that koalas have with motor vehicle accidents, dog and snake bites and chlamydia. I was only focused on becoming a member of this elite team of care givers. I was more than honoured to become part of the team for one month in July 2009, August 2010, September 2012 and September 2014.

What was your experience like?: My experience in the yards and the ICU was really exceptional. To be able to feed the koalas, do yard maintenance, to assist the team leaders with rescues and releases creates a lifetime of memories.

Who was your favourite Koala?: All of them, every koala exhibited characteristics and a personality that leaves a special place within my heart.

Shirley and friend Bushby



Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

Barry woke up on his gunyah one sunny morning at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital and thought he must still be dreaming. There in the grounds were two huge, colourful koalas looking quite at home in amongst the trees. Of course he'd heard about the Hello Koalas Sculpture Project where 50 one metre high fibreglass koalas would be placed all around Port Macquarie as a tourist attraction, but seeing them in his own backyard gave him quite a shock.



John Williamson, the famous Aussie country singer, good friend and supporter of the Koala Hospital painted 'Sunshine', a tribute to Jean and Max Starr, who started working for the koalas back in 1973 and both recently passed away.



'Bushby' was painted by artist Lisa Burrell and he is covered in eucalyptus gum leaves and other blossoms and creatures that share in their surroundings. Barry thought Bushby looked almost good enough to eat and visitors to the Hospital now just love having their pictures taken with both

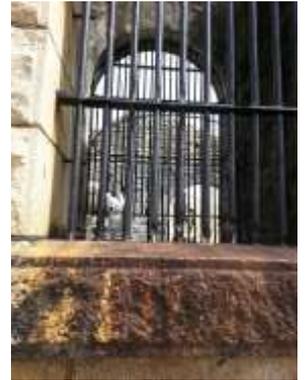
'Sunshine' and 'Bushby'.

Preparing for his next adventure, Barry had a great day in the air in a small plane with his pal Stuart as they flew from Cessnock to Mudgee and Dubbo in western New South Wales. Having had quite a bit of flying experience Barry was happy to help Stuart with the navigation as he worked up more hours towards getting his own commercial pilot's licence.



Travelling up the NSW east coast, Barry and Anne stopped at the famous Trial Bay Gaol. It took thirteen years to build and opened in 1886 to house the prisoners who constructed the breakwater to make Trial

Bay a safe Harbour halfway between Sydney and Brisbane. Barry thought it must be the gaol with the best view in the whole world, on the cliff top by the water, but being behind bars didn't appeal to Barry.



Further up the coast Chrissy and Terry picked up Barry and took him on their motorbikes up the windy bends of the Waterfall Way to Dorrigo in the forested hinterland. He was



thrilled to find a real motorcycle just his own size but he didn't have his helmet and jacket so alas couldn't take it out for a spin.

Over the border into Queensland, Barry met Victoria who took him to Dreamworld on the Gold Coast for a day out. They went on lots of rides and saw many wonderful things. Best of all was meeting Little Shrek who should have been a frightening ogre but was really very friendly.



The beautiful Sunshine Coast was next on the itinerary where Barry met up with Natalie and her large family group as they stayed in a holiday house at Noosa Heads for some special family celebrations. A nice walk around the headland at Tea Tree Bay in the National Park made Barry feel quite at home among gum trees beside the white sandy beaches.

Barry's friend Sandy took him along on her trip through Vietnam where they did some volunteer work for orphaned and very disadvantaged kids and then for a holiday in Cambodia. Of course, Barry had been to the fabulous





temple ruins in Angkor Wat but he never tired of exploring them and soaking up all that ancient history.

“Now there is something you don’t see every day”, thought Barry. He had met up with Charlotte and Tim to visit in South Korea and they came across the fabulous SunCruise resort hotel, a land based ship hotel! It was perched on the cliffs that overlook some very beautiful beaches and even though they weren’t going to sea, Barry wore his special floaty coat just to be safe!



Still in South Korea, and being an avid film buff, Barry took Charlotte and Tim to the Busan Cinema Centre, an ultra modern indoor and outdoor theatre complex where the annual Busan Film Festival is held. Barry was very impressed with the Walk of Fame and declared that he would have his paw prints on that pavement one day!



Barry had some flights to catch to meet up with Corinna in Sardinia on the

beautiful Mediterranean Sea. They took a day trip to Capo Testa on the northern coast. It was originally an island but has since been artificially joined to the mainland and is mostly made up of rugged wind eroded granite rocks. In ancient Roman times, the granite mined here was sent to Rome to pave the streets and become building stones.

Now it was time for Barry to catch up with dear friends Sabina and Harald for a trip to mainland Italy. In a charming ancient town called Ascoli Pecino on a river and surrounded by mountains, they had a relaxing stop for refreshments at the Café Meletti to taste the local specialty – aniseed liqueur. Still being made from



an ancient recipe – almost as old as the town itself – the aniseed aroma certainly cleared Barry’s sinuses, he still definitely prefers the distinct aroma of eucalyptus!

Now Barry had heard that there was a library that was worth visiting in Austria and he was wanting to check a few details in the Lonely Planet guides so he and Sabina and Harald went off to find it at Admont. The library wasn’t quite what he was expecting, it had been built way back in 1074AD and then added to over time and was the biggest Benedictine Monastery Library in the world. Some people class it as the 8th Wonder of the World for its unique architecture decoration and the amazing depository of knowledge.



A quick trip over the English Channel and Barry caught up with Beth and Ian who took him to meet some English friends and to make a visit Newark Castle in Nottinghamshire. Barry must have indulged a bit too much when they had a real English Pub Lunch because he seems to be doubling up!



Trying to be a little more sedate, Barry joined Stefan in Bury, Greater Manchester, a beautiful old Mill Town that came to prominence during the Industrial Revolution era. Barry thought he was the

one seeing things when he was invited to join The Moose for afternoon tea! They had fun sharing their stories as they are both seasoned travellers.

Then heading North, Barry joined Diane on a visit to famous Edinburgh Castle, he had been there several times before but he always enjoyed the view of this quite



magnificent old fortress. It dominates the city skyline as it sits atop Castle Rock. He planned to

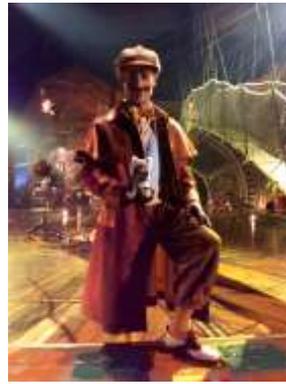
come back one day when the famous Military Tattoo was being performed – he rather fancied himself joining the lone piper on the ramparts of the castle!



After a bit of continent hopping, Barry caught up with Heidi in New York City, USA - always one of his favourite places to visit. There's always so much to occupy your time there, especially a walk over the imposing Brooklyn Bridge

while singing some Neil Diamond songs!

Heading further north to Canada, Barry was thrilled to meet up with his special friend Jane, a Koala Hospital volunteer who was on holiday there. They shared a very special adventure when they went to a performance of Cirque du Soleil, the world famous circus of performing arts. There were acrobats and tumblers and trapeze acts galore with lots of colour and music and their heads



were fairly ringing at the end of it.

Still in Canada and out for a morning walk, Barry was confronted by the weirdest trashcan he'd ever seen. It was a bear-proof bin, to keep grizzlies and other bears from going through the garbage and eating things they shouldn't. "No bears Allowed" was the sign near it. "I'm not a bear," said Barry, "I'll sit on it if I want to" and he did!

He was feeling quite a bit peckish for some lovely, fresh gum tips and so Barry packed his bags to head home to the Koala Hospital. He wanted to see how his friends 'Sunshine' and 'Bushby' were doing and was anxious to be back in time to say a sad goodbye to the four little joeys who had been raised and looked after at the Hospital, and were due for release into the bush. He liked to think of them having their own grand world adventures in the very near future.



Busways support Fruitful

Busways the Australian bus company that operates through the Sydney area and regional New South Wales, have begun a scheme where employees from each region contribute to a charity they nominate. The Port Macquarie region has nominated the Koala Hospital to receive the funds. The company is providing fresh fruit in the lunch rooms in the Hasting region, the employees pay 50c per piece which all goes to the Koala Hospital. So far they have raised enough funds to adopt two koalas, Oxley Kaylee and Westhaven Barry.

Tom Burton, who is the manager of the Busways depot in Port Macquarie has said they will be adding a story and photos to their website so that employees from other depots will be urged to visit the Koala Hospital and see the "Busway Koalas".

In addition some of the buses covering the runs to Laurieton, Port Macquarie and Wauchope are going to be "dressed up" for Christmas and the passengers will be able to make donations to the Koala Hospital with their small change.

An incentive to local companies for their support!

Incentive USA

Seven year old Elijah Blalock resides in North Carolina, U.S.A. He is schooled at home and he does a volunteer/charity project every school year.

Since June Elijah has been doing odd jobs and collecting cans locally to raise money for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. To date we have been the recipient of money orders, the value of almost \$139US, he has raised another \$50 and he wants to total \$200. His work continues till mid December.

Elijah is pictured with a toy koala which he and his mum Karen found in a charity shop.

Again we see the effect the koala has on all people from all corners of the world.



Elijah and his new friend



Kaylee's

GUM DROPS KOLUMN

Well here we are fast approaching the festive season and we will have lots of smiling visitors coming to see us! There have also been some very familiar faces from our overseas volunteers that have been returning to spend some quality time with the koalas and local 'vollies'. I was so happy to see my friends again; Shirley from Arizona, USA, Stefan and Maria from Switzerland as well as Susanne also from Switzerland, and having just recently arrived, Carla and Ross from the Netherlands!!

Since our last Gum Tips edition we have lost a few more of our koala friends and neighbours. Greenmeadows Alex, Salamander Bay Tallimba and NATF Steve, all unique characters and are very much missed by all of us.

In the good news camp, we have had some very entertaining times in rescuing koalas. Naughty Mitchell Pascoe was a 'repeat offender' in a very short space of time! The first time he was picked up, was at a local motel. Apparently, Pascoe was disturbing the peace by walking around in the traffic, when a concerned visitor picked him up and took him back to the motel, and then he called the hospital. Our rescuers couldn't believe their eyes seeing Pascoe making himself quite comfortable at the motel, but please don't get any ideas – koalas belong in trees and not in motel rooms! After having a check-up he was released.

A fortnight later he was found again, playing quite happily in a busy roundabout. He then crossed the road and ended up at the Salvation Army Worship Hall. It was then decided he would stay with us at the hospital until we could find a safe release area – I suggested a jail!

Another rescue had found a koala in a chicken yard! Christened 'Chooky', she was bought into the hospital and was given the all clear, it does make you think what came first, the chicken or the koala!

Clarence Horton another 'repeat offender' picked Halloween to be rescued, he was helped down a low tree by 'locals' Cathy, Tony and Jeff. They helped providing the rescuers with three brooms (how apt!) to help guide Clarence into the safety of a basket. They were very helpful and we very much appreciate the publics help when we get into trouble.

It's been lovely having four juveniles in Yard 6 and seeing what antics they can come up with! Calwalla Amy was such an aggressive little girl and soon was known as the yard's bully, that was until Celestial Dominic stepped up to be a 'man' and soon told her to back off. Merinda Nina and Koala Lou were smart enough to keep out of Amy's way.

If you have been following our Facebook page you will now be aware of a perfect release for these juveniles in a pristine area away from cars, housing and dogs. Included in this release was Mitchell Pascoe, now he can live in the comfort of a lovely eucalypt tree and leave the suburban areas behind. I heard that when he was released he bellowed and hooted, I think I know who will be the alpha male in that range.

So as we are heading towards a very busy time of year, on behalf of all the patients in the koala hospital, I would like to thank everyone who has visited during the year and also to all our future visitors a wonderful, happy and healthy festive season.

So everyone please take care on the roads this holiday season, not only for yourselves but also for us koalas as we have 'friends' to visit too!

Until the next Gum Tips, take care and be safe!

Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winners

September 2014:
Emma – The Great Pacific Race

December 2014:
Charlotte – Barry in South Korea

Congratulations!



Thanks from The Koala Hospital

We would like to make a special thank you to the local businesses who assist us with our donation boxes in prominent positions in their workplace to aid our fund raising for the hospital.

The businesses are located in the areas of Port Macquarie, Bonny Hills, Wauchope, Lighthouse Beach, Lake Cathie, Laurieton and North Haven.

Recent Donations

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Wauchope Apex | \$500.00 |
| St. Josephs Regional College | \$238.00 |
| Country Women's Association | \$500.00 |
| Crescent Head Primary School | \$283.30 |



Koala Hospital Activity Report

| Admitted | Name | Reason | Result |
|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 11.07.08 | Westhaven Barry | Scoliosis of spine | Permanent Resident |
| 26.09.09 | Oxley Kaylee | Left leg removed, damaged eye | Treating |
| 26.09.09 | Ocean Summer | Limited sight | Treating |
| 26.10.12 | Barrington Xavier | Bilateral Conjunctivitis | Treating |
| 19.07.13 | HKPS Steve | Lethargic | Euthanased 02.10.14 |
| 21.11.13 | Findlay Jill | Orphan Joey | Treating |
| 06.11.13 | Ocean Drive Pat | Motor Vehicle Accident | Released 31.12.13 |
| 12.11.13 | Salamander Bay Tallimba | Loss of Habitat - Bushfire | Euthanased 29.09.14 |
| 15.11.13 | Merinda Nina | Orphaned Joey | Released 10.11.14 |
| 02.12.13 | NATF Zenani | Bushfire victim | Treating |
| 22.12.13 | Koala Lou - Joey | Diseased right eye | Released 10.11.14 |
| 28.01.14 | Calwalla Amy | Orphaned Joey | Released 10.11.14 |
| 16.03.14 | NATF Burrell | Chlamydia | Released 12.11.14 |
| 23.04.14 | Hart Ken | Chlamydia | Released 04.07.14 |
| 23.04.14 | Davis George | Conjunctivitis Right eye | Released 11.09.14 |
| 26.05.14 | Ellenborough Howard | Chlamydia | Released 05.11.14 |
| 09.07.14 | Kooloonbung Basil | De-humanising | Treating |
| 10.07.14 | Celestial Dominic - Juvenile | In yard with dogs - checked | Released 10.11.14 |
| 01.08.14 | Macquarie Peter | On Ground | Euthanased 02.09.14 |
| 11.08.14 | Pappinbarra Solange | Conjunctivitis | Treating |
| 18.8.14 | Tilpa Tilly | Chlamydia | Treating |
| 16.08.14 | Shelley Beach Scratchy | Limping hind right leg | Released 04.09.14 |
| 30.08.14 | Amethyst Ollie | In dangerous area - checked | Released 02.09.14 |
| 01.09.14 | Ocean Drive Crest | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 03.09.14 | Oxley Harper | Motor Vehicle Accident | Released 09.09.14 |
| 13.09.14 | Horton Clarence | Left eye atrophied | Released 15.09.14 |
| 15.09.14 | Kempsey Ben | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 17.09.14 | Hollingsworth Nick | In low habitat area - checked | Released 18.09.14 |
| 17.09.14 | Laurieton Joey | Paralysed hind legs | Euthanased 18.09.14 |
| 18.09.14 | Chisholm Wendy | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 19.09.14 | Topaz Jeremiah | Lethargic | Released 20.09.14 |
| 20.09.14 | Anchorage Gumby | Disoriented - checked | Released 22.09.14 |
| 21.09.14 | Morecombe Sad | Dog Attack | Died 21.09.14 |
| 22.09.14 | Candelo Kieren | Hand caught in fence | Released 23.09.14 |
| 22.09.24 | Clarence Neville | Wandering in CBD - checked | Released 23.09.14 |
| 27.09.14 | Lake Max | In yard with dogs - checked | Released 28.09.14 |
| 27.10.14 | Mitchell Pascoe - Juvenile | On busy road | Released 10.11.14 |
| 29.09.14 | HKPS Malcom | Weakness in left side | Euthanased 04.11.14 |
| 01.10.14 | Sapphire Helen | In yard with dogs - checked | Released 02.10.14 |
| 02.10.14 | Ocean Jesse | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 02.10.14 | Glen Innes Glen | Bilateral Conjunctivitis | Treating |
| 02.10.14 | Ocean Peter | Motor Vehicle Accident | Euthanased 03.10.14 |

| Admitted | Name | Reason | Result |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 03.10.14 | Ocean Drive Joe | Suspect Chlamydia | Released 07.10.14 |
| 04.10.14 | Ellenborough Romeo | Bilateral Conjunctivitis | Treating |
| 04.10.14 | Gordon Erin | Conjunctivitis | Released 08.10.14 |
| 05.10.14 | Reading Tony | Motor Vehicle Accident | Euthanased 02.11.14 |
| 07.10.14 | Davis George | Debilitated | Died 8.10.14 |
| 07.10.14 | Dodd Danielle | In yard with dogs - checked | Released 08.10.14 |
| 09.10.14 | Tasman Maggie | Motor Vehicle Accident | Released 24.10.14 |
| 09.10.14 | Pacific Hwy Pieces | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 10.10.09 | Cocos Sean | Motor Vehicle Accident | Released 13.10.14 |
| 12.10.14 | Lochinvar Nolan | Juvenile in yard with dogs - checked | Released 10.11.14 |
| 12.10.14 | Mitchell Casey | In yard with dogs -checked | Released 13.10.14 |
| 13.10.14 | Crescent Head Kevin | Disoriented | Released 15.10.14 |
| 14.10.14 | Roto Cherokee | On Ground | Died 14.10.14 |
| 14.10.14 | Lake Brittany | Caught in barbed wire fence | Released 16.10.14 |
| 16.10.14 | Reading Steffi | Conjunctivitis left eye | Treating |
| 15.10.14 | Sancrox Sheree | Dog Attack | Released 17.10.14 |
| 17.10.14 | Kundabung N.M.L | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 17.10.14 | Treetops Dreamer | On road, sore eye | Euthanased 18.10.14 |
| 20.10.14 | Mainsail Chooky | In chicken pen | Released 21.10.14 |
| 22.10.14 | Laurieton Lord Ben | Dog Attack | Euthanased 10.11.14 |
| 22.10.14 | Acacia Tim | Conjunctivitis left eye | Treating |
| 25.10.14 | Pandamus James | Dog Attack | Euthanased 03.11.14 |
| 25.10.14 | Koala Neale | In yard with dogs - checked | Released 27.10.14 |
| 27.10.14 | Burrawong Jake | On Road | Euthanased 06.11.14 |
| 27.10.14 | Horton Clarence | Damaged left eye | Released 28.10.14 |
| 27.10.14 | Cunning Brian | On Road | Released 28.10.14 |
| 28.10.14 | Ashdown Ken | Dog Attack | Euthanased 02.11.14 |
| 30.10.14 | Birchwood Jezza | Suspect Chlamydia | Released 06.11.14 |
| 31.10.14 | Kennedy Wesley | Suspect Chlamydia | Released 04.11.14 |
| 01.11.14 | Kundabung Zara | Bilateral Conjunctivitis | Euthanased 04.11.14 |
| 02.11.14 | Pacific Hwy Mortified | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 02.11.14 | Rollands Plains Troy | In yard with dogs -checked | Released 04.11.14 |
| 07.11.14 | Lochinvar Nolan - Juvenile | Running on busy road | Released 10.11.14 |
| 09.11.14 | Pembroke Marrie | Bilateral Conjunctivitis | Treating |
| 13.11.14 | Oxley Hwy Waylon | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 13.11.14 | Watonga Wonder | On ground | Treating |
| 14.11.14 | Granite Perfect | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 15.11.14 | Elparra David | Chlamydia | Treating |
| 15.11.14 | Emerald Downs Birdie | Unknown - on ground | Dead on Arrival |
| 16.11.14 | Koala Boyzee | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 17.11.14 | Marbuk Sue | Chin injury - checked | Released 18.11.14 |
| 18.11.14 | HKPS Rylan | Motor Vehicle Accident | Treating |
| 19.11.14 | HKPS Chris | Eye disease | Treating |
| 20.11.14 | Tristiana Brianna | Possible Chlamydia - checked | Released 25.11.14 |
| 22.11.14 | Lake Toni | Motor Vehicle Accident | Treating |
| 24.11.14 | Highfield Robyn | Motor Vehicle Accident | Treating |
| 27.11.14 | Cathie Bravo | On ground drinking water | Treating |
| 28.11.14 | Gordon Rooster | Unknown - on ground | Dead on Arrival |
| 28.11.14 | Ocean Drive Rebecca | Motor Vehicle Accident | Dead on Arrival |
| 28.11.4 | Crescent Head Crystal | Conjunctivitis Right eye | Treating |

2014/15 Calendar

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| December 14 | Christmas Lunch |
| December 17 | Management Meeting |
| January 21 | Management Meeting |
| February 18 | Management Meeting |
| March 18 | Management Meeting |

Gum Tips

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



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|-------------------------|---|--|
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| Ken Rivett | Karen Brown Marilyn Lees Gaby Rivett | Gaby Rivett Natalie Spratford Gerry Walsh |

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

Koala Hospital worldwide websites

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

<http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl>
<http://www.koalahilfe.de>
<http://www.koala.li>
<http://www.koalahilfe.ch>
<http://www.koalahilfe.eu>
<http://www.koalahospital.org.au>

Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Committee

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Sighted a Koala? Help us locate our wild koalas - Contact us at sightings@koalahospital.org.au



Merry Christmas from Port Macquarie Koala Hospital



**Best wishes for the Festive Season from all the Patients
Staff and Volunteers of the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital**



Find us on Facebook
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie



Overseas volunteer Bea at Zurich Zoo in September reminding the locals about koalas!



Juveniles Merinda Nina and Celestial Dominic wondering "Do you think they can see us?"



Westhaven Barry doing early Morning exercises



Salamander Bay Tallimba enjoyed his leafy breakfast. Sadly now in the Big Gum tree in the sky.



Children from the Kindergarten Zunzgen in Switzerland who adopted Merrigal Flick



Sweet Bonnie Blaze looking aghast "What do you mean I look funny in this hat?"



Juveniles Findlay Jill and Kooloonbung Basil high in the trees thinking "I can't look....I'm scared of heights!"



Cute and cuddly NATF Burrell looking very photogenic.



Gum Tips editor Ken getting design and copy tips from Barry for the last issue of 2014.



NATF Zenani found in a bushfire with damaged claws and unable to climb



**Koala Preservation Society Australia
Incorporated**

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Koala Trail Icon "Sunshine"

Koala Emergency Rescue Line

If you sight a Koala in distress our Rescue Line operates 24 hours a day / 7 days a week
Call 6584 1522