



Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

1st Quarter 2015

NATF
zenani



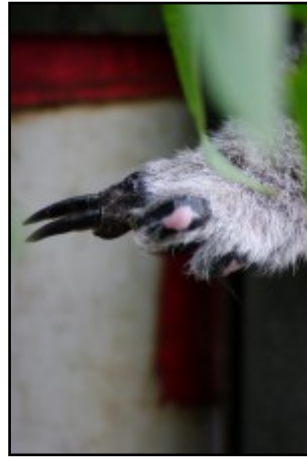
NATF Zenani

In October 2013, the east coast of Australia was gripped by an horrific drought and bushfires began to break out everywhere. Just north of Newcastle (three hours south of Port Macquarie) at the RAAF Air Force Base at Williamstown, a large fire had taken hold within the grounds where a small population of koalas lived, sadly many koalas perished in this fire.

The wildlife search and rescue team came across a young juvenile koala, badly burnt and she was taken to the local veterinary clinic for first aid treatment.

As bushfire burns are very hard to determine the severity of in the early stages, this little koala was treated and went into a private home to be cared for "round the clock".

After a few weeks of treatment, the carer decided that it was best to transfer the young koala up to the hospital for us to continue treating her burn injuries. On arrival we found that her burns were classed as "full thickness" or in the old speak "third degree" burns, which meant that the burnt areas went deeply into the flesh.



Zenani's claws show the aftermath of her burn injuries

All of these burns were very painful for NATF (Native Animal Trust Fund) Zenani.

Burns in wildlife is a difficult area to work with - is it a kind thing to keep an animal alive who is suffering, or is it kinder not to and is this animal going to be able to be released?

As it was still early days with Zenani's injuries, we were not sure how things would end up. Over a few months as her injuries healed, Zenani's claws which had previously fallen out (this is common), did not regrow as we would have liked.

Her claws have healed into little stumps in some with the others being gnarled and twisted. As a result this little female koala is not a release prospect as she will be unable to climb trees.

The remainder of her burns have healed well and all her fur has regrown into a lovely soft grey colour. The only evidence that she is a burn patient is her disfigured hands and feet.

Zenani has responded very well to the care at the hospital and has grown into a lovely healthy looking young adult female.

We have decided that Zenani will make a great teacher for veterinarians, researchers and wildlife carers to see what partial to full thickness burns can do to koalas hands and feet.

Even though the pads on her feet are still a little bit tender and she is still improving her "grip". Zenani has adapted really well to life here at the Koala Hospital and is very bright, and we feel we have another star in the making.

A special thank you to Wally Green

In mid December last year the Koala Hospital had a surprise visitor named Stacey Jones. Stacey, who along with her mother Kaylene and her grandparents, who are all residents of Taree, in the mid north coast region, visited the hospital for a special purpose.

Stacey, whose great uncle Wally Green had an abiding love of animals, passed away recently and bequeathed the amount of \$22,000 to the Koala Hospital. Instead of the cheque just being forwarded through a solicitor the family decided on a more personal and thoughtful approach.

Stacey has had a love of all things koala from a very young age, so her parents decided to let her present the cheque in person on behalf of her great uncle Wally Green. After the exchange and a photo session she was also presented with some presents from our hospital souvenir kiosk.



Stacey with Barry and Koala Trail icon "Sunshine"

A week later the hospital received the following letter from Stacey.

"Dear Koala Hospital, please find enclosed a photo of me Stacey handing over the cheque last Wednesday, you will also find photos of Barry's adventure with me. Thank you for my Barry, he has attended Primary School for 5 days and has already graduated, he can't wait to go on to high school next year.

I hope all the koalas are going well, I can't wait till the 18th July to see Kaylee's newborn baby as I have adopted Kaylee."

*"ps A great name for the baby koala is Stacey, it can be a boy or a girls name.
pps I wrote this with my koala pen that I got from you"*

We cannot thank the family of Mr Green enough for such a generous donation to help our cause.

But a special thank you to Stacey for her grace and good manners, firstly with the trip to make the donation in person, but also for taking the time to send a follow up letter along with all the photos of her adventure with Barry.



Stacey with President Bob Sharpham receiving the bequest

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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!

Koala Mating and Offspring

The breeding season for koalas varies from one area to another, but is usually recognised to occur from mid winter to late summer of each year, with most activity occurring between October and January. Even though koalas lead a solitary life, they are still part of a highly structured social order, with an alpha male and alpha female occupying the prime habitat and lesser ranking females and males living adjacent.

The lowest ranking animals live on the perimeter of the population, usually in marginal poor quality country. The size of each individual animals home range is dictated by both the quality of the food trees and the quantity of available trees, and can vary from as little as a few hectares to many hectares when food trees are scarce or poor quality. All home ranges tend to overlap with the occupier of each range tending to avoid the other where possible. Female koalas, particularly the higher ranking ones move freely between ranges at times.

When breeding season arrives the sexually mature males sternal gland (middle of the chest) increases in size and becomes a dark brown, greasy and emits a smelly, sickly odour. Males rub their chests on tree branches and trunks to announce their presence - this behaviour is often accompanied by grunting and urinating. Some females are attracted to the male, but most are pursued.

Koala mating is not a very placid affair, often accompanied by screaming and scratching by the female and growling and hooting by the male who grabs her roughly holding her in place usually high up a tree. Many an urban home owner has had a disturbed nights sleep when breeding

season is on, with a cacophony of loud koala noises, that to the uninitiated, sounds like a violent attack.

Sometimes the female will still have a joey from the previous season, which is usually left in a nearby tree. A back joey still with its mother, can be injured or killed when a male is after a female, as they can fall during the encounter.

Female koalas become sexually mature as early as 15 months but this usually occurs around two years old. Males can become sexually mature from two years, but do not attain physical maturity until three to four years of age. At the time of mating, the female koala actually ovulates and the conception occurs. The gestation period is approximately 35 days, and at birth the unfurred blind "pinkie" crawls unaided from the birth canal, up through the fur, and into the vertical pouch attaching to one of the two teats.

There it remains for around 5 months growing and becoming fully furred. The joey then shows an interest in the outside world, occasionally popping its head out, sniffing the air and nearby leaf. Around this time the joey begins to stimulate the mothers' cloaca to produce a greenish substance called "pap", which is passed down the caecum (which is the specialised section of the koala intestinal tract where breakdown of the leaf occurs) for the joeys to eat with gusto.

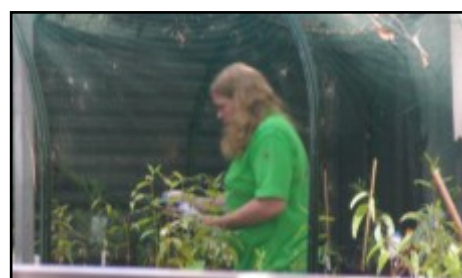
This "pap" contains vital microflora (bacteria etc.) that are used to inoculate the joeys gut system to enable them to be able to eat eucalypt leaf. Without pap, a joey cannot eat leaf and will die, but once it has been consumed they can commence on a diet of leaf and by 12 months are usually weaned. Female koalas are recognised as excellent mothers, and are highly protective of their young.

More Eucalypts for the Koalas

The Koala Hospital Environment team has grown from 4 to 6 volunteers under the watchful eye of Robert Mendham, this is of great help in the maintenance and growing of new tree stock. We now have approx. 170 new seedlings, saplings and small trees growing in the shade house.

An agreement has been made with Thor Aaso the Natural Resources Officer of Port Macquarie Hastings Council, that they will be responsible for the planting and maintenance of 25 Tallowood

and 50 Swamp Mahogany plants from our stock. They will be grown on council land that is known to be koala habitat.



Mary Little from the Environment Team tending the stock in the shade house.

The Koala Hospital – A Day in the Life

From its humble beginnings in the 1970's when Jean and Max Starr cared for 3 koalas in their own home, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2013 has evolved into a world renowned site for the treatment and rehabilitation of sick and injured koalas and is the only facility of its kind in the world. But what does it take to care for an annual injury list of between 200 to 250 koalas with a vision to make sure it is still viable into the future? The following is an average working day in the life of the hospital that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

A koalas diet is mainly eucalypt along with a number of other species (but only certain varieties), so the leaf collectors, who collect the leaf every day from local areas, have it ready for the volunteers to cut to an appropriate size at the start of their shift. The team leader for the morning shift starts at 7am to check all the koalas in the yards and ICU to note any problems and prepare the formula for morning feeds (the formula is fed to the koalas as a supplement depending on condition and health). The morning team commences at 8am and work till 10.30 am and comprise the team leader and an average of 7 volunteers who change leaf, feed formula, change water, clean yards, change and wash towels and perform general duties.

The Clinical Director who works Monday to Friday (with trained supervisors on call at weekends) deals with any problems that arise with any new or existing patients, ranging from examining and screening patients which involves ultrasonography, testing for various diseases, blood collection, sample taking, deciding on what treatments are required, anaesthetising patients and treating injuries, organising the care of the koala and deciding on when and where to release the patient. Those that do not make it all undergo a post mortem which is necessary for research purposes.

Pathology is outsourced as are full radiography and surgical procedures that are performed by a wonderful local vet who works in conjunction with the hospital. The Koala Hospital is also a teaching hospital and the Clinical Director oversees work experience students such as undergraduate veterinarians, wildlife researchers and zookeepers. The Koala Hospital works closely with the University of Sydney, the Australian Museum, Murdoch University and other institutions, with ongoing research into many diseases such as Chlamydia, various cancerous conditions and the retrovirus all of which along with habitat loss are causing the decline of koalas in this country.

The afternoon shift commence at 2.30pm and work till 4.30pm and comprise a team leader and 3 volunteers who water existing leaf, top up water, feed formulas where required, general yard activities and housekeeping and cleaning of the treatment room. The afternoons also see our walk and talk guides lead tours free of charge to the public every day at 3pm, they last approximately 1 hour and cover all aspects regarding the koala from habitat to health and everything in between, also introducing some of our rehabilitated patients to an adoring public.

In addition to this the Koala Hospital have volunteers that form rescue teams on call 24 hours every day for any emergency calls for injured or koalas in danger, there is also a Koala Hospital ambulance that is used for the rescues. There is a team of 4 Home Carers that look after any abandoned or orphaned joeys that need raising as well as treating very ill koala patients overnight. Another one of the volunteer groups is a Maintenance team that look after all general repairs and upkeep at the hospital that don't require licensed tradesman.

There are over 200 volunteers that help maintain every aspect of the running of the hospital, from a Management Committee of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer that look after the finances and the direction the hospital is taking in consultation with all members, such as the recent purchase of a 94ha parcel of land to ensure leaf supply for the koalas, from existing trees to the cultivation of new eucalypt growth trees. No releases at the new land as its not only fully occupied with koalas, but we can only release north shore koalas there, of which we don't see many.

An Education Co-ordinator liaises with clubs and schools regarding visits to the hospital, a Media Officer that fields enquiries from local and overseas media outlets regarding visits and filming of television specials that are screened in a number of countries worldwide and provides a host of information regarding the hospital to other interested parties. An Adoptions Co-ordinator looks after all of the Adoption packages and eAdoptions that are being processed online and form a core part of the fund raising activity of the hospital. We have a program of recycling koala pellets to form a mulch to fertilise the new eucalypt seedlings that are being planted and monitored by our Environment Co-ordinator and his team.

Add to these positions volunteers that look after the hospital rosters, souvenir kiosk and an online eshop, donation boxes, a quarterly magazine, an official website as well as general administration duties. We also have a growing presence with the general public overseas as we regularly receive applications from overseas volunteers to work at the hospital at their own expense, engaging 1 volunteer each month, every month of the year with a full waiting list into 2016.

Of all the duties mentioned previously there are only 3 paid part time positions at the hospital, the Clinical Director an Administration Manager and 4 Leaf Cutters (one position). The hospital comprises 35 outside yards for exhibition and rehabilitation, 5 overflow yards, a treatment room, 8 ICU rooms, post mortem room, education centre for school groups with audio and video capacity, laundry, kiosk and administration office with work presently underway for an exhibition an education display area.

The Koala Hospital is one of the major tourist attractions in Port Macquarie and is completely free to visit. I am sure Jean and Max Starr would be proud to see how their fledgling adventure has blossomed and grown with the assistance of a dedicated group of people who adore this native icon.

Clinical Director's Report



The last few months have been very busy with lots of koala patients. The vast majority of the koalas have come in as a result of chlamydia infection with eye infections being number one.

We are currently trialling different methods of administration of various drugs, along with still trialling new drugs as well. Results thus far have been "mixed", sadly we have had a few dog attack patients as well, which is disappointing.

On a positive note nonetheless, we do not see anywhere near the dog attack injuries that we used to. We have also had in a few patients who have suffered fractures as a result of car hits and we are also trialling some new methods there - again with "mixed" results and its early days yet.

We also still use many of the tried and true methods of treatments with great success - we only try new methods on areas where we have not had success in the past.

Thankfully, with all the lovely rain we have had, we have escaped the ravages of the bushfire season this year and the eucalyptus trees are happy.

We have almost finished another set of rehabilitation yards and we are going to redesign a few of the others, so we will have lots more room for us to rehabilitate our patients.

The fourth edition of the Koala Rehabilitation Manual is almost complete (its taken a year!) with some exceptional contributions from the Sydney University being included, and a lot of effort is going into it.

We have plenty of volunteers these days and everyone works very well together. Well done team.

Cheyne Flanagan

Molong Juniors rally for the Koalas

After a visit to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Leoni Wilson of Molong had decided to figure out ways to fundraise to help volunteers with their work in treating sick and injured koalas.

"I was really inspired by it (the hospital) helping wildlife" said Leoni. "We visited the hospital in July last year. Nathan and I both decided to raise money to help". Returning home to Molong, Leoni talked to her good friend Madeline Treacy who was also keen to help.

"We started our fundraising before Christmas singing Australian Christmas Carols and telling jokes to our neighbours" said Leoni. Their efforts raised \$100 to help the Koalas. In January, the children, with the help of their parents, held a street stall at the Bank Street Kiosk, by 2.00p.m. they had raised \$400, their money jar continuing to grow as the day progressed.

"We all baked cakes and asked other people to make cakes for us to sell" said Nathan. "Even our Nanna helped as well". The children had door knocked K-Mart in Orange and were thrilled to receive a number of Koala/animal products for their raffles. "People like our stall" said Madeline referring to the colourful collection of cakes, the raffle, books from their own collections etc. "One lady said that it was really good to see kids



L to R: Nathan Wilson, Leoni Wilson and Madeline Treacy

spending their school holidays helping others" said a very proud Leoni. "She said her kids were sitting at home watching their Xbox".

The NSW town of Molong is situated 32kms north of Orange on the Mitchell Highway in the hills of the Macquarie Ranges. It is a thriving rural town with plenty of old-world charm.

The main street is National Trust classified, and many fine heritage buildings from the 1800s are scattered around this lovely town. In the heart of the rich agricultural shire of Cabonne, Molong is at the centre of a rich farming district producing wheat, sheep, wool and cattle, fruit and wine.

Article and photo courtesy of the Molong Express

*From
the
President's
Pen*



During this next quarter we will see the completion of the works required for our Exhibitors section of the Koala Hospital after many years of planning and preparation. The staff and volunteers over that time have put many hours / days / weeks and for some, quite a few years into the planning and preparation. Many thanks go especially to the Maintenance team for their hard work.

The other major project is the Education Display which is currently under construction and will provide our visitors with static and interactive displays. Following the land purchase of 94ha for plantation purposes and environment protection, I would like to acknowledge volunteer Graham Hargreaves who is working closely with council and volunteers to help achieve the best outcome for us, also the preparation and planting of koala food trees suitable for harvesting in a few years time.

We welcome Anne to our admin team, who has proved herself in that role. It is also great to have Cheyne returning to her normal hours in March and to those volunteers who will be involved in the rosters of on-call staff required by DPI for the Exhibitors Licence.

Our volunteers have been outstanding in the way that they carry out their responsibilities here at the Koala Hospital and in the wider community. We could not achieve the results that we do without each and every one and a special thank you to the committee and team leaders.

Bob Sharpham

Online Shopping

- Tees and Pob 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 all the motorists who drove with care over the holidays. We had very few koalas hit by cars over Christmas.



Thumbs up to the bus driver who stopped his bus and set the hazard lights to help a pedestrian walk a koala to safety and off the road.



Thumbs down to the motorist who ignored the hazard lights of the bus and drove around it. Fortunately he did not hit the koala.



Thumbs up to all the people who have visited the Koala Hospital over the school holidays and have either donated money or bought gifts from the kiosk. Well done.

Overseas Volunteers in Focus

Name: Anne Beckmann

Age: 38

Resides: Essen, Germany

Occupation: Teacher (German, Art and English)

How did you find out about the Hospital?:

I saw a good documentary on German television and I've always loved koalas, so I applied.

Why did you Volunteer and for how long?:

I wanted to be a vet when I was 20, I love animals and wanted to help them. But not being good with blood I decided to work with children instead. But when I was on sabbatical I knew I had to do some work to help animals, deciding to come to the Koala Hospital and support their work for nearly a month.

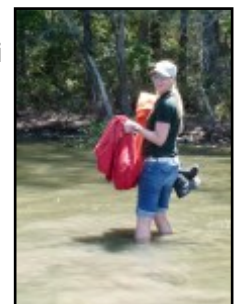
What was your experience like?:

I had a wonderful time being so close to my favourite animals. I was allowed to release them which is the best and I loved caring for them and giving them fresh leaf and seeing them recover. I even got to help in the treatment room and was amazed at Cheyne's work.

Who was your favourite Koala?:

I loved them all, but I think Zenani was one of my favourites, being such a gentle and elegant koala. She was burnt in a bushfire and lost her claws and ability to climb. She is one of the most beautiful, koalas I have ever seen.

Anne helping with the joey release in November 2014.



Barry's Adventures in *Wanderland*

Barry just loves Christmas and loves sharing it with friends so he was thrilled to spend the holidays with Maree and her family in Port Macquarie. Maree is one of the volunteers who help to care for Barry and all the Koala Hospital patients and she assists Barry with his Facebook page. Barry and his chum Rudolph had so much fun decorating the Christmas tree and singing carols and opening their presents.



Having spent Christmas in the very warm summer sunshine, Barry packed his bag and his passport and

flew straight to the northern hemisphere to spend a very wintry New Year's Eve with his dear friends Harald and Sabina in Vienna. While here they attended a wonderful classical concert at the Musikverein, a very elegant concert hall that is the home of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Listening to such beautiful music always makes Barry feel cultured and worldly.



To escape the winter cold, Sabina and Harald were then off to holiday in Liguria in Italy so Barry went along as well. They visited the Cinque Terre, a mountainous region with five famous villages that can only be reached by train. At the village of La Spezia, Barry enjoyed the view from the old castle



down to the bustling and busy harbour.

Old European cities are always of special interest to Barry so he was pleased to accept an invite to have a visit with Judith and Barry (there are a lot of Barry's



in the world, aren't there!) at their home in the medieval city of Meersberg in Germany on Lake Constance. The lake was formed by the Rhine glacier way back in the Great Ice Age and is not only serene and lovely but provides drinking water for a large part of Germany.

While in Germany Barry caught up with Ilona and Thomas when they went to see the Aachen Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in Northern Europe. Between the years of 936 AD through to 1531 AD the cathedral was the coronation site of 30 German Kings and 12 Queens. Barry felt overawed by the towering spires and was more comfortable when he found a miniature model of the church that was just the right size for him.



Barry's friend Michelle asked him to join her on a tour of the Louvre gallery in Paris and Barry was particularly keen to see the most famous artwork in the world – Master Leonardo Da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa'. He thought her smile was very enigmatic and sweet, but was a bit spooked when her eyes in the painting seemed to follow him around the room! The upside-down glass pyramid in the forecourt really appealed to him though – he thought it was very artistic.

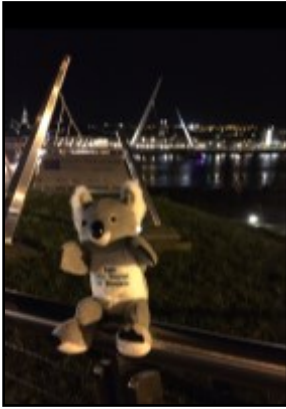


Michelle and Barry then travelled across to England to see another very famous site that goes way back into pre-history.



The ring of giant standing stones that form Stonehenge looked magical to Barry but he was a bit disconcerted when he learnt that the site was originally an ancient burial ground. He thought he'd skedaddle before any ghosts appeared.

Now being a peaceable type of guy himself, Barry was keen to accept an invitation from Robert and his family to walk across the Derry Peace Bridge.



It's a new bridge across the River Foyle in Derry City that's been built to help foster happy relations between the citizens of two separate parts of the city. Barry thought it certainly looked calm and peaceful in the soft night lights.

Still at the northern end of the world, Barry had a short stay with George and his family at their home in Vernon, BC, in Canada. He'd met George and his grandchildren when they'd visited the Koala Hospital a while ago. Barry was interested to learn that the city of Vernon was built on the site of a community of native Okanagan people, and it is now considered one of the top six most desirable of all of the retirement communities in North America. "All that snow is not so desirable", thought Barry, watching as George and his wife shovel lots of it out of their driveway!



Being a bit tired of having cold snowy paws, Barry headed for warmer parts and met up with Sarah and Joseph in Israel. First stop was a visit to the lowest place in the world — the Dead Sea! It's 419 metres under sea level and full of salt so Barry didn't go in for a swim but was happy to watch tourists from all over the world go in for a dip. Being a tree-dweller, the thought of being below sea-level made his mind boggle!

They all then went to visit the Old City of Jerusalem, where Barry was very impressed with the famous Dome of Rock. An ancient 7th century building covered in colourful mosaic tiles and with a huge gold dome, it is a temple to enshrine the rock from which Muhammad is said to have ascended to heaven.



Next on Barry's travel agenda was a trip to Taiwan with his old friends Charlotte and Tim and they hurried off to Kaoshiung to visit the famous and colourful, The Dragon and The Tiger Pagodas. The two towers have a double spiral staircase, one each for ascending and descending visitors. Barry and his friends had great fun going into the mouth of the big Dragon and out of the Tiger's mouth.



Cats, cats and more cats. Barry had never seen so many cats all in one place before. Charlotte and Tim had taken him to the pretty village of Houtong where the local residents had promoted the local cats as a tourist attraction. Not only were there lots of real cats, everywhere Barry looked there were more toy cats, and painted cats and cat decorations and cat signs on almost every building – it was almost a Cat-astrophe!



He had timed his travels to get back home for Australia Day but first he thought he'd catch up with some friends around Oz before returning to the Koala Hospital. He is always keen to see the Great Outback, so Barry joined Melanie to see the colours of the sunset at the lookout to Mount Sonder. It's an imposing twin-peaked mountain right in the Red Heart of Australia and forms part of the McDonnell Ranges west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.



Getting close to home now, Barry caught up with Maureen and Leigh to go gem prospecting in Glen Innes in northern New South Wales.



Sapphires were his main target as the area of Glen Innes is part of the states most sought after sapphire region. He then quickly got the knack of swirling

the water in the fossicking pan but no matter how hard he tried he just couldn't see that flash of blue that would mean he'd found a valuable sapphire. He has planned to come back another time to try again.



Barry got back home to the Hospital in Port Macquarie just in time for the Australia Day celebrations and to have a really good feed of gum leaves.

Being a True Blue Aussie himself, it was a day he loved to share with all the volunteers and visitors at the Hospital and particularly his mates Ozzie and Blue! And he soon found out that these guys really know how to party!

Mittens for fire affected Koalas

With the aftermath of the serious and damaging bushfires that occurred in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales during summer still very much in the news and minds of people, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) chose The Koala Hospital as the base to launch an appeal for koala mittens. Channels 7 and 9 and Aunty ABC Radio and The Daily Telegraph attended the launch amid a flurry of activity and phone calls from the public.

When koalas suffer burns, usually caused by the contact with burning trees or from fleeing across fire scorched ground, they require treatment with burns cream. Koala Hospital Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan said "Because koalas climb, once their paws are burnt they really can't do that anymore, but these mittens allow them free movement". She added "We need to keep their paws clean and sterile because we can't do skin grafts, the other option if they can't climb is for us

to euthanase them, but if we can stockpile these mittens we can then ship them off to wherever they are needed."

The special mittens help the koalas' paws recover from burns while they heal and allow the koalas to climb with some ease.

Out of the tragedy came the good news that the IFAW was turning to the community for help in mending the wounds of fire affected koalas. But the results of the appeal were astonishing with mittens arriving from the UK, America and Russia as well as those being sent from across Australia totalling in the thousands, with offers from as far afield as Kazakhstan and China.

The IFAW rescues and protects animals around the world. With projects in more than forty countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals and it is an advocate for the protection of wildlife and habitats.

Photo courtesy Port News



Koala Hospital Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan with volunteers Garrett Wilton and Amanda Gordon



Kaylee's

GUM DROPS KOLUMN

Well, here we are back after the Christmas and School Holidays! It has been such a busy time here at the hospital with all the lovely and friendly visitors that came to see us. The 3.00pm daily walk and talk guides were very surprised to see the amount of people that would arrive that at times we had 3 – yes, three guides! They are such clever girls and guys sorting out visitors into groups so they weren't talking over one another, but it was a bit tiring for the koalas trying to keep awake for so long!

Barrington Xavier thought that he may end up having three feeds but sorry, no such luck! He had to have one stretched out feed with quite a few nudges to stay awake. Our latest 'media star' is NATF Zenani. This once shy and withdrawn little juvenile has truly excelled herself and has surprised all the volunteers by blossoming into a confident and bright, soon to be young adult.

She has even taken up modelling mittens on TV and newspapers so the public can help make them for all our koala cousins in the recent South Australian bush fires. Now she's even become the 'cover girl' for this edition of Gum Tips. All the attention is well deserved because she too has been a fire victim and knows how painful burnt paws/pads can be. The damage was so severe she is unable to climb trees due to her deformed and missing nails.

Talking about Gum Tips, the cover boy from the last edition, Ellenborough Romeo was behaving rather strangely a few weeks ago, watching the girls on the morning shift change his leaf and tidy up his gunyah, when all of a sudden he became very alert, sniffed the air and quickly (well, as

quickly as a koala can) climbed down his gunyah.

He paced around this yard sniffing the air and then approached a bucket, sat there, looked at it and proceeded to climb into it. All he managed to do was tip it over with his head still inside sniffing his own raked up poo!, perhaps he was thinking about recycling it. I had a nice chuckle watching him sit there trying to work out why the leaf smelled and looked so different. I think Alpha Mum Cheyne should check his nose as well as his eyesight.

Now here's a segue from Romeo to the mating season. Breeding season is slowly coming to an end and we can all finally look forward to a good night's sleep (humans included), if it wasn't for all the humidity and heat. Even we suffer from the heat and try to spread out as much as we can, to expose our tummies so we can cool off a little bit.

But we really do look quite funny in some of the poses we end up in, and the boys really aren't all that modest so I do try to look away and keep typing on my laptop about what's happening around the hospital. Currently we have workmen using noisy machinery, I think you call it, building a new education centre near the kiosk and we have had more rehabilitation yards erected, so we can have room for more patients.

I see that Historic Roto House, another one of our neighbours has recently opened The Gum Leaf Café and I'm going down there now to see if they can make me a cup of eucalypt tea – I hope they have peppermint or lemon scented. Before I go I want to let everyone know that the Koala Hospital is having its annual Open Day on the 4th of April and speaking for all of us - we would love to see lots of visitors from the local as well as from afar.

There will be bric a brac, stalls, entertainment, regular walk and talks and most important all the money raised will help us koalas! Please come as we would love to see you. The volunteers would love to see you all too. So until next time, take care and spread the word we are here looking forward to seeing you and spending more time sharing our stories with you.

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

Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winner



March 2015:

Sarah – Barry at the Dead Sea in Israel

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.



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
21.11.13	Findlay Jill	Orphan Joey	Treating
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Treating
09.07.14	Kooloonbung Basil	De-humanising	Treating
11.08.14	Pappinbarra Solange	Conjunctivitis	Treating
18.8.14	Tilpa Tilley	Chlamydia	Euthanased 10.12.14
02.10.14	Glenn Innes Glen	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Treating
04.10.14	Ellenborough Romeo	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Treating
16.10.14	Reading Steffi	Conjunctivitis left eye	Treating
22.10.14	Acacia Tim	Conjunctivitis left eye	Released 01.12.14
09.11.14	Pembrook Marrie	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Died 30.12.14
13.11.14	Watonga Wonder	On ground	Treating
15.11.14	Elparra David	Chlamydia	Released 05.12.14
15.11.14	HKPS Rylan	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 09.01.15
15.11.14	HKPS Chris	Eye disease	Euthanased 02.12.14
22.11.14	Lake Toni	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 01.12.14
24.11.14	Highfield Robyn	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 03.12.14
27.11.14	Cathie Bravo	On ground drinking water	Released 01.12.14
28.11.14	Gordon Rooster	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
28.11.14	Ocean Drive Rebecca	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
28.11.14	Crescent Head Crystal	Conjunctivitis Right eye	Released 15.01.15
01.12.14	Dahlsford Tara-Rose	Suspect Chlamydia	Euthanased 11.12.14
02.12.14	Cathie Maddy	Chlamydia	Died 14.12.14
05.12.14	Ocean Harley	Low in Tree - checked	Released 05.12.14
05.12.14	Lake Nathan	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Released 20.01.15
06.12.14	Moruya Macey	Drinking from gutter	Died 08.12.14
08.12.14	Marbuk Sue	On ground	Euthanased 10.12.14
08.12.14	Ocean Malaki	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
08.12.14	Astronomer Max	Conjunctivitis Right eye	Treating
14.12.14	Lake Wyandra	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
14.12.14	Highfield Zac	On ground	Released 14.01.15
15.12.14	Cunning Brian	Dog attack	Released 17.12.14
21.12.14	Ruins Way Papette	Unknown	Died 22.12.14
23.12.14	Elparra David	On ground drinking water	Released 20.01.15
27.12.14	Pacific Drive Manfred	Conjunctivitis and swollen right arm	Euthanased 10.01.15
29.12.14	John Fraser Lane Summer	Conjunctivitis Right eye	Treating
29.12.14	Hollingsworth Mahli	Unknown	Died 03.01.15
30.12.14	Ocean Drive 10th Hole	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
31.12.14	Karralee Nutsy	Conjunctivitis	Released 30.01.15

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
01.01.15	Links Blinky	Abandoned joey in poor condition	Died 27.01.15
06.01.15	Windmill Thomas	On road - checked	Released 06.01.15
09.01.15	Nicholls Greg	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
14.01.15	The Point Drive Grant	Poor condition	Treating
16.01.15	Fernhill Siren	Dog attack	Dead on Arrival
17.01.15	Oleander Jon	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 18.01.15
18.01.15	The Point Drive Maxine	Suspect Chlamydia	Euthanased 19.01.15
20.01.15	Lake Rod	On ground	Euthanased 27.01.15
20.01.15	Telegraph Point Nicky	Injury to right eye	Treating
25.01.15	Opal Maggot	Unknow n	Dead on Arrival
27.01.15	Shelley Beach Digger	On ground	Euthanased 29.01.15
30.01.15	Capalla Maggie Mae	Suspect Chlamydia	Treating

Work Experience Volunteers in Focus

Name: Nicholas Millett **Age:** 20

Resides: Castle Hill, N.S.W.

Occupation: University Student

How did you find out about the Hospital?:

It was recommended to me by a friend at the Uni and an opportunity when offered, that I just had to follow up for my work experience.

Why did you Volunteer and for how long?:

I have a passion for animals and want to help out with any animal rehabilitation possible. I was in attendance at the hospital for 4 days.

What was your experience like?:

It was a wonderful experience with all the staff being so very friendly and inviting. It was really interesting hearing about how all the volunteers became involved with koalas and all the workings of the Hospital.

Who was your favourite Koala?:

It would be Salamander Bay Tallimba, he was absolutely adorable and working with him was so easy.

Nick tending to an ailing Kennedy Wesley



Work Experience Volunteers in Focus

Name: Luke Silis **Age:** 21

Resides: Woy Woy, N.S.W.

Occupation: University Student (Sydney Uni)

How did you find out about the Hospital?:

From a university student like myself, who did a work placement here.

Why did you Volunteer and for how long?:

To get hands on experience with an Australian native that is in need of care. I was here for 4 days during my placement for my degree, but I wish it could have been longer.

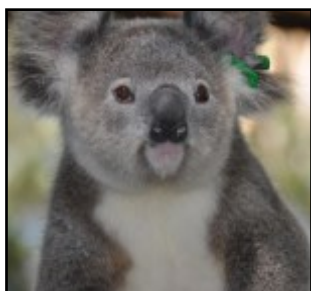
What was your experience like?:

I had an absolute blast at the Koala Hospital, I met some amazing little critters and some great volunteers too. Thanks to the whole team for having me and a special thank you Joy, Yon, Candace, Pam and Cheyne.

Who was your favourite Koala?:

I liked all the koalas but I really feel for Greenmeadows Alex and Ocean Summer, both are amazing animals.

Luke with an affectionate NATF Burrell



Amethyst Simon

Adopt Amethyst Simon

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

Amethyst Simon turned out to be in superb condition and as he had been found in an area not known for having a good koala habitat, so he was assigned for re-colonising. As staff at the hospital had decided to release three other koalas all of similar age and health into a new area for re-colonising, Amethyst Simon certainly fitted the criteria to be part of this new venture. He with another young male, and two juvenile females were released into what is arguably some of the best koala habitat in NSW.

For Adoption details login to www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt

2015 Calendar

March 18	Management Meeting	10.00am
April 4	Open Day - Easter Saturday	9.00am
April 15	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 20	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 24	Annual General Meeting	10.30am
June 17	Management Meeting	10.00am
July 15	Management Meeting	10.00am

Gum Tips

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



<i>Editor in Chief:</i>	<i>Contributors:</i>	<i>Photography:</i>
Ken Rivett	Karen Brown Marilyn Lees Gaby Rivett	Gaby Rivett Maree Smith Natalie Spratford Gerry Walsh

DISCLAIMER

The Koala Preservation Society Australia Incorporated and the management committee do not accept any liability for the results of any actions taken or not taken, on the basis of information given or discussed with groups or other organised events, meetings and/or for information provided by speakers or for any information published for or on behalf of the organisation, its organs and officers.

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

Koala Hospital worldwide websites

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

Management Committee

<i>President</i>	Bob Sharpham	president@koalahospital.org.au
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<i>Treasurer</i>	Herbie King	treasurer@koalahospital.org.au
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<i>WH&S and Security</i>	John Barber	vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Donation Boxes</i>	Brian Crisp	
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<i>Overseas Volunteers and Work Experience</i>	Ken McLaughlin	info@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Gum Tips Editor</i>	Ken Rivett	editor@koalahospital.org.au

Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Contact Details

Telephone: (02) 6584 1522 **Email:** info@koalahospital.org.au **Web:** www.koalahospital.org.au

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

What's happening at the Hospital?

Every day at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital brings new patients, visitors and activities



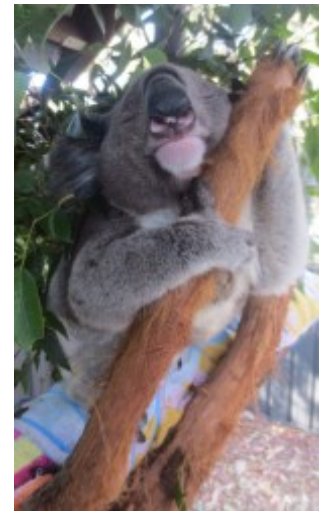
Find us on Facebook
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie



Tilpa Tilly contemplating life and a very, very wet bottom.



Our beautiful cover girl NATF Zenani checking out her new surroundings. (see coverstory)



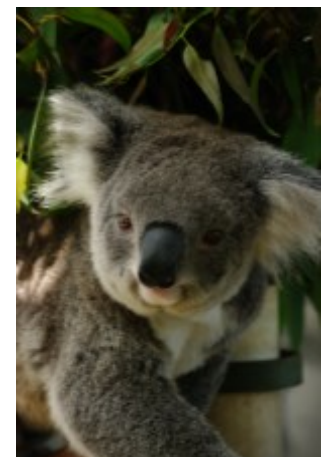
Westhaven Barry thinking "Geez I'm so tired!"



Sweet Calwalla Amy an orphaned joey that was released back into the wild at the end of 2014.



Adoption Co-ordinator Jan Campbell checking up on Watonga Wonder one of the new patients.



Beautiful Ocean Summer always ready for a photo.



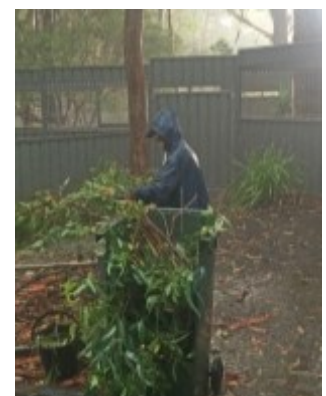
Volunteer Anne Wash with a very interested young tour group during the school holidays in January learning all about the koalas.



Gentle Greenmeadows Alex on one of his many visits to the hospital. Now sadly passed away.



Home carer Barbara Barrett attending to injuries suffered by Nichols Greg after a car accident (he wasn't driving).



Australia Day 2015 was a very, very wet day, just ask our volunteer Val Looi.



**Koala Preservation Society Australia
Incorporated**

ABN 74 060 854 479

PO Box 236 Port Macquarie
NSW 2444 Australia

Licensed to rehabilitate and release sick,
injured and orphaned native fauna under
Licence No. 10044



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