



New
KOALA Kids
PAGE!

Introducing
GROUNDBREAKING
KOALA RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP

Find out more
KOALAS AND
DRUGS



Breeza Grant taking things easy on a warm afternoon.



*Breeza Grant reaching for his favourite food: *Eucalyptus nicholii*.*

BREEZA GRANT: ONE OF A KIND

Some years ago, a mature male koala was crossing a railway track south of Tamworth NSW, at a place called Breeza, and was unfortunately hit by a freight train - and he survived. He was called Breeza Grant by the wildlife carers who collected him and named him after the train driver.

Amazingly, Breeza Grant's injuries were not life threatening. He had a fractured zygomatic arch (the skull bone above the left eye), damage to the facial nerve, partial loss of his left ear and some brain damage. During early diagnosis, he was also found to have an old, healed fracture of his leg, so poor Grant had had some sort of impact injury prior to his train accident. Whilst in care, he also developed a case of urogenital chlamydiosis, which was treated.

As Breeza Grant's injuries prevented him from being released, he was transferred to the Koala Hospital for permanent care in 2016.

Breeza Grant was such a 'breeze' (excuse the pun) to work with, it was decided that he was a suitable candidate to be a display koala for the public to learn more about.

The Koala Hospital has a number of wild koalas who have been admitted, but due to their injuries or history of disease cannot be released. These koalas have a 'story to tell' for our many visitors and are part of understanding why koalas are in serious decline. Of

course, not all koalas are capable of being in this environment, and we ensure all display koalas have the calmness and temperament to cope.

Breeza Grant was not troubled at all by people taking photos of him (from a distance) as he sat back and ate the delicious fresh eucalypt leaf provided to him daily. He was a koala that delighted so many people with his relaxed poses high up in his enclosure, as he sleepily enjoyed the sunshine and the constant supply of good food. Koala paradise - fresh food brought daily, peaceful surroundings with nothing threatening him.

Even with the best of care, koalas can become unwell. We have known for quite some time that Breeza Grant had an underlying early stage kidney disease, which we treated knowing that in the fullness of time it was likely to get worse.

Sadly that was the case. In April this year, Breeza Grant began deteriorating quite rapidly, and unfortunately we had to make the decision to free him from pain.

Breeza Grant was a koala much loved and photographed by visitors from all over the world. He was a very popular koala for adoption and his story resonated with many people, especially those who had suffered brain injuries themselves.

Breeza Grant was definitely one of a kind.

Cover Image: Breeza Grant

REPORT BY PRESIDENT, JANE DUXBERRY



Welcome to this latest edition of Gum Tips. I would like to start by informing you of the progress of changes at the Koala Hospital. We have recently changed the name of the charity from Koala Preservation Society Inc., to Koala Conservation Australia Inc., as our broader activities and involvement in conservation have increased and without conservation we will lose these wonderful animals. We still are and always will be known as the Koala Hospital. We are also creating a new web site as the current one has reached its use-by date; it will be up and running in a couple of months' time.

Now we are entering into the cooler months, we can breathe a sigh of relief that in this area we did not suffer too badly with bushfires, but we know there were areas that did; I am sure they are grateful for the change to the cooler season.

The joeys that we rescued earlier in the year, namely Hockey Luna, Kooloonbung Tasha, Long Flat Joy, Pacific Drive Courtney and Kooloonbung Close Trevor are all doing well in the rehabilitation yard and will be released in the near future. We still have one joey in home care and his name is Maria River Road Jan; he was found sitting on a gravel road and separated from his mother. He is about 10 months old and diagnosed with chlamydia and a bacterial gut problem. He is improving due to good food, care and treatment and in a few weeks time he will be big enough to return to the hospital before release.

The last three months have again been busy with local, interstate and overseas visitors. We really appreciate the interest shown by the public and their generosity in support of the work that we do for koalas. Our daily tour continues to

attract many people interested in learning about koalas and the work that we do. Many comment on the fact that so many volunteers give up their time to do this work but in truth it is a privilege, and we are delighted to share information and talk with all our visitors.

At Easter we held our annual Open Day and it was a great success, both due to the tireless work of some of the volunteers in preparing for this event, the workers on the day and the wonderful public that joined in the fun and games. See more inside this issue.

Don't forget to visit us soon! We are open seven days a week and there is no entry charge; there is also a free, guided tour at 3pm every day. If you see a sick or injured koala please give us a call, our rescue team operates 24 hours, 7 days a week.

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REPORT BY CLINICAL DIRECTOR, CHEYNE FLANAGAN



At last the cooler weather has arrived, and even though it's still very dry across the state, we have had some good rain locally which will add some good leaf moisture to the eucalypts. This in itself will offer better nutrition to the koalas, especially with breeding season just around the corner. Better food makes for more joey koalas later on during the year!

Koala admissions to the Hospital still remain low and as the urban expansion on the coastal strip of NSW continues to increase, correspondingly the numbers of koalas continue to decline.

Obviously, we don't want to see koalas admitted to the Hospital sick or injured however, what the drop in admissions tells us is that there are fewer and fewer koalas out there, and not that they are doing really well and not getting themselves in trouble.

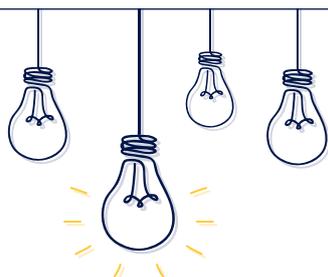
The recently formed Koala Recovery Partnership which comprises Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey and Bellingen Councils, Office of Environment and Heritage and the Koala Hospital is already starting to achieve some great initiatives and a lot is planned for the first year of its operation. The partnership is headed by Rebecca Montague-Drake, the Koala Ecologist employed to run the program, and you can read more later in the article 'Striving For Koala Recovery'.

In conjunction with Tacking Point Lions Club, we have developed a program called Koala Smart, which is being taken into a large number of schools in the region. Children in both high and primary schools are tasked to find ways to tackle the causes of decline in koalas (habitat loss, car strikes, disease, bushfires, dog attacks) in a project form. We are very excited to see what ideas are produced.

We have almost completed our sixth edition of the Koala Rehabilitation Manual, which is going to be bigger and more comprehensive. This manual is sold throughout Australia and internationally to veterinarians, zookeepers, wildlife carers and researchers. Scheduled for sale from June this year, the new manual will be available online via our website or at our shop.

The workload at the Koala Hospital for everyone here seems to be getting larger not smaller as our organisation continues to grow. Our reach is across New South Wales, Victoria and into Queensland, and our name change to Koala Conservation Australia is so appropriate.

There are a lot of very interesting and exciting plans and projects in the wings all with the goal of reversing the decline of the koala in this country. Watch this space!



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HAPPY ENDING



After her release, Emily Munchkin looks back at hospital staff before climbing high into the safety of the trees.

Readers will see below that this quarter we have again seen admissions due to motor vehicle accidents. As drivers, we humans are a mixed bag in terms of our individual sense of responsibility, as the following story illustrates.

One Saturday in April, an adult female koala was brought into the hospital by a member of the public after she had been hit by a car. Named Emily Munchkin (it's complicated!), the koala was disorientated, but thankfully without major injuries or broken bones. Following a week of observation, rest and recuperation, Munchkin was released back into her home range. A happy ending indeed, owing to the prompt action of a couple of caring people.

The Koala Hospital says a heart-felt thank you to Jane, the cyclist on Ocean Drive, who saw the car in front of her hit the koala, but not stop. Jane jumped off her bike and

stood guard by the koala in the road, while she tried to flag down a passing driver to help her. No less than five cars passed without stopping until finally the sixth car stopped. Driver Willem wrapped the koala in his gym towel, settled it in his car, and quickly drove to the Hospital.

The ending to this story could have been very different. Most koalas involved in a motor vehicle accident suffer so badly from trauma that they die before they arrive at the Hospital or they have to be euthanased. Without Jane's and Willem's help, Emily Munchkin, being in a disorientated state, may well have simply curled up in the road and been hit by another car.

If you see a koala in distress please help by contacting us immediately.

KOALA HOSPITAL 24 HOUR RESCUE LINE: 02 6584 1522

FOR OTHER INJURED WILDLIFE, CALL FAWNA: 02 6581 4141

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY

(FEBRUARY – APRIL 2019)

REASON FOR ADMITTANCE TO KOALA HOSPITAL

Chlamydia	7
Motor Vehicle Accident	6
Dog Attack	2
In dangerous location	8
Other	12

OUTCOMES

Released following health checks and if needed, treatment	11
Continuing to undergo treatment or in homecare	6
Euthanased or dead on arrival	18

We are pleased to advise that in addition to the above data, 3 koalas who had been undergoing longer-term treatment were also released back to local habitat this quarter.

KOALAS AND DRUGS

We often get asked why we cannot 'cure' some koala diseases and why we cannot give a number of drugs to koalas. Well this is why...

Eucalypt foliage is very tough and contains a number of chemical compounds designed to protect the tree. These compounds are quite toxic and would kill the majority of animals (or people for that matter) if they decided to eat them. Koalas along with possums and gliders have evolved over millions of years the ability to live on a diet of eucalypt leaves without suffering any issues with the deadly chemical compounds.

Koalas have amazing livers.

So how does a koala cope with the toxins? With a super liver of course!

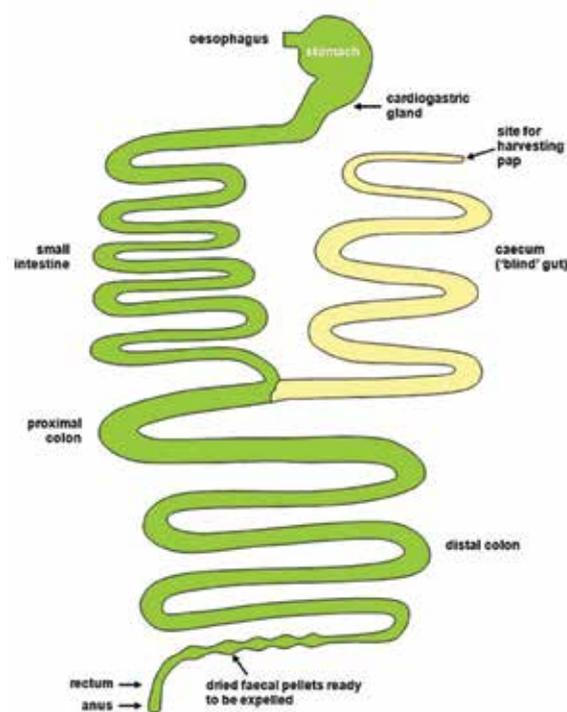
Koalas have developed an amazing liver that is comparatively big, has multiple lobes and is very complex. Its job is to break down and excrete all those nasty compounds and eliminate them from the body via the urine.

This liver works so well, that a number of medications that are given to koalas are metabolized, broken down and excreted out before they have any chance of reaching the bloodstream and doing the job they are designed to do.

And that's not the end of the story...

Another part of the evolutionary story with the koala's adaptation to living on a diet of eucalypt leaves is that they have developed an amazing gut system as well. As part of this system, koalas have a very big caecum which can be described physically as a 2 metre long appendix (but has a different role to the human appendix). This incredible organ is where all the chewed-up eucalypt leaf is broken down properly, fermented and the nutrients are then taken up and used by the koala. The whole gut system of koalas is filled with an enormous amount of microorganisms called a microbiome which consist of millions of different bacteria and fungi. The majority of these live in the caecum and without this microbiome, there is no koala. Incidentally humans also have a very important suite

Unfortunately koalas have the ability to metabolize and excrete some drugs before they are useful.



The very long and interesting gut system of a koala.

of microbiota as well in our gut systems that are critically important to our survival, although ours are not as complex or as interesting.

The microbiome's job is to break down all the fibrous material, and to make the nutrients available to the koala. A healthy gut system means a healthy koala (and a healthy human too while we are on the subject).

There are a number of excellent drugs that will certainly 'knock down' diseases in koalas such as chlamydia but unfortunately these drugs also 'knock down' koalas microbiota. The result? The koala dies.

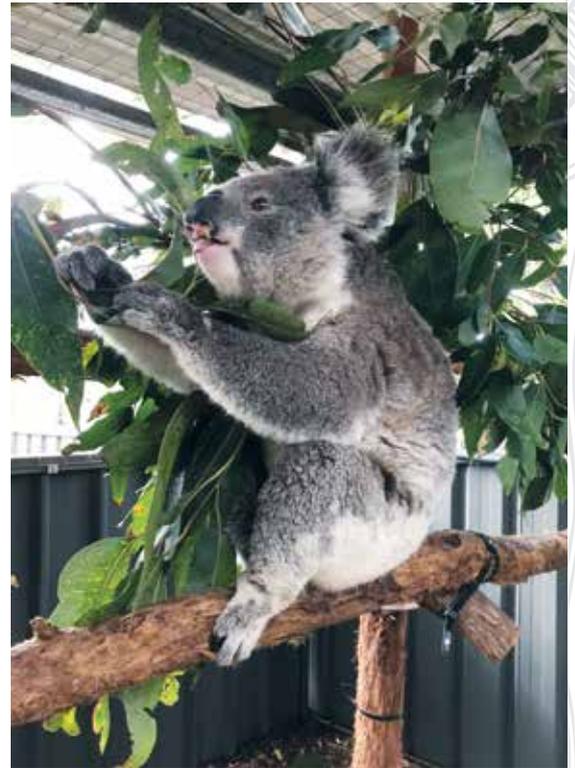
Current research is suggesting that koalas in different regions of Australia have a different suite of microbiota to koalas in other regions. For example, koalas on the far north coast of New South Wales and south east Queensland, are likely to have different microbiomes to koalas from the mid north coast of New South Wales. Koalas on the inland plains are likely to have different microbiota again. Koalas in various locations across Victoria and South Australia are also more than likely to have different microbiomes in different regions. Why, you ask? It is likely driven by the microorganisms that occupy different ecosystems and forest habitats. A useful forensic tool maybe!

Anecdotally it would seem that koalas in some regions are more tolerant of various drug treatment regimes and respond well to these drugs. Whereas in other localities the same drug is fatal if administered to koalas suffering the same disease. Could the potentially different regional microbiota be the cause? This drug research is very much in its infancy so we may find this hypothesis will completely change as this mystery unravels.

Consequently there are not a lot of drugs that can be given to koalas overall, where a successful treatment plan results in the desired outcome of the koala becoming 'disease free'.

Research is also looking at ways to potentially re-innoculate the gut system with the correct microbiota if medications have caused issue. Small capsules (affectionately known as 'crapsules') filled with microbiota are being trialled to achieve this. This is the equivalent of humans taking probiotics but much more supercharged. At this point in time it's still very much a work in progress.

All of this highlights how little we really know about the physiology of the koala. How can we improve our knowledge? Funded research and lots of it.



Buller Lola eating eucalyptus leaves which would be toxic to most mammals, including humans.

STRIVING FOR KOALA RECOVERY

The Koala Recovery Partnership's aim is to improve conservation in Hastings MacLeay, and ultimately halt koala decline.

The Koala Hospital is proud to announce its participation in the ground-breaking Koala Recovery Partnership, which began work in April in the Hastings-Macleay region.

The aim of the partnership is to improve koala conservation outcomes in Hastings Macleay (recognised as an Area of Regional Koala Significance), and ultimately to halt the decline in the species.

The Koala Recovery Partnership is funded initially for three years by the NSW State Government, the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation (comprising Bellingen Shire Council, Kempsey Shire Council and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council) and the Koala Hospital.

A leading figure in the partnership is Koala Ecologist, Dr Rebecca Montague-Drake. An experienced scientist, and until recently Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Ecologist, Rebecca is a passionate advocate for koalas and conservation of local wildlife and habitat.

Rebecca is very much a local herself, having grown up near Kendall, on the slopes of Middle Brother Mountain. She remembers the bellowing of koalas in the trees surrounding the family home, but Rebecca also bore witness to the decreasing numbers of the animals over her childhood.

Always fascinated by ecology, the study of how living organisms interact with their environment, Rebecca's tertiary studies took her to Canberra, followed by research work with many of Australia's top ecologists across the country. Working with and learning from indigenous landowners in the Northern Territory plus helping to discover a new species of glider in Kakadu National Park are some of the highlights in Rebecca's career to date. She returned a few years ago to live and work in our area along with her young family.

The Koala Recovery Partnership is committed to identifying measures which can be put in place to mitigate the key, local threats to our koalas, namely:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Car Strikes
- Dog Attacks
- Bushfire

Focussed data collection, effective on-ground project work and informing and collaborating with the local community will



'Edward' the koala just released with his new GPS collar, helping us to better understand factors characterising koala habitat. Image courtesy of Rebecca Montague-Drake.

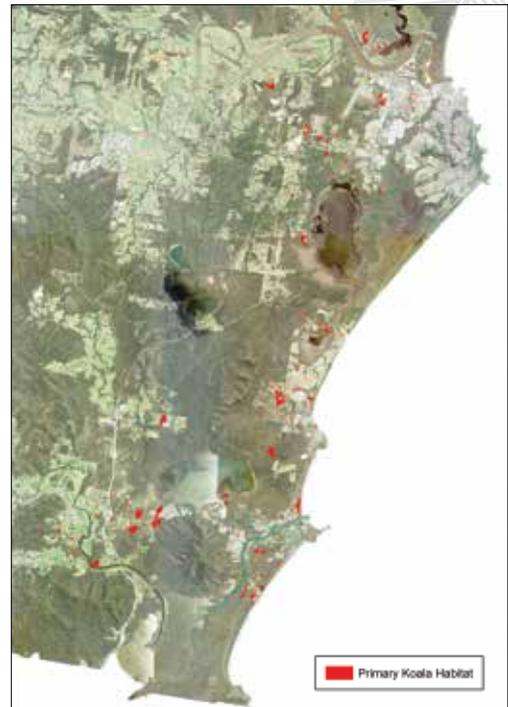
all facilitate the partnership's move to kick-start long-term sustainable change.

Two projects are already underway.

The **Fire Management in Koala Habitat Report** seeks to provide data on the occurrence of key koala habitat (including 'mesic refuges', which are cool, moist areas for koalas to take refuge in) in Rural Fire Service Brigade Areas so as to initiate conversations about fire history and management of these areas. The Report is being developed by the Hastings-Macleay Fire and Biodiversity Consortium which comprises multiple stakeholders involved in land and/or fire management including the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire and Rescue, Kempsey Shire Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, ForestCorp, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the NSW Nature Conservation Council and the Koala Hospital.

Koala Smart is a joint education initiative between local schools, the Tacking Point Lions Club, the Koala Hospital, Hello Koalas, and the Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Partnership. Koala Smart will put the question of how to conserve local koalas directly to our school students, capturing their imagination and ideas. Engaging, new educational materials will inform class projects around the question: 'What Would You Do To Save the Koala?'. Heaps of prizes will be on offer including two of the much-loved Hello Koalas sculptures. For more information visit www.koalasmart.org.au.

Readers can look forward to more news and updates from Rebecca Montague-Drake herself. Look out for Rebecca's articles on the vital work of the Koala Recovery Partnership starting in Gum Tips every quarter from September 2019.



Remaining 'Primary' habitat on the coastal floodplain in the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area.

Very little primary habitat remains because such land, being located on the flat, fertile areas of the coastal floodplain, is also most favoured for coastal development. Primary habitat can support more than double the koala activity than any other koala habitat. Image courtesy of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Meet Koala Ecologist, Rebecca Montague-Drake.



Rebecca with a Glider, known by the local Indigenous people as Lambalk, in Kakadu National Park. The species was new to science and part of a research project undertaken by Charles Darwin University in collaboration with Parks Australia and the Traditional Owners of Kakadu National Park. Image courtesy of Anne O'Dea.

OPEN DAY

BUSIEST OPEN DAY EVER

The Koala Hospital Open Day has always been our biggest fundraising event of the year, but this year's was the busiest on record. Not only that, but thanks to generosity from all sides, 2019's Open Day raised a record amount!

This year, the Koala Hospital is deeply grateful to more than 120 local businesses and individuals who donated just about everything needed for Open Day. Whether it was by donating soft drinks, scones or a marquee, whether by entertaining the crowds, providing raffle prizes, or by helping logistically on the day, this caring, practical help now translates into all-important funds for the Hospital's koala-saving work.

Of course, generosity for Open Day takes many forms. We also extend a big thank you to all the visitors who decided to make Open Day their destination for Easter Saturday. There are the large numbers of volunteers, and their family and friends, who devoted time at Easter weekend to make this important day a success.

We also thank National Parks and Wildlife Service and historic Roto House for allowing the use of their grounds and building to host Open Day.



Smiling paramedic students from Charles Sturt University manned the First Aid tent.



SING Australia entertained the crowds.



Families enjoyed the laughter and magic with Troppo Bob.



True Blue' Koala, flanked by volunteer Anne and a young helper, welcomed visitors.



Volunteer Alex explained the tricky rules of the game, 'Rat Up The Drainpipe'!



CHUMS provided lively music on their ukuleles.

Open Day Program – Saturday 20 April 2019

- Acknowledgement to Country by Kellie O'Brien of the Birpai people
- Official Opening by MP Leslie Williams and Port Macquarie-Hastings Mayor, Peta Pinson
- Auction conducted by David Plews from Elders Real Estate
- Silent Auction
- Barbecue
- Plant Stall
- Bonsai Display and Stall
- Raffle
- White Elephant Stall
- Craft Stall
- Cake Stall
- Devonshire Teas
- Painting with Melissa
- Face Painting
- Children's Games
- Troppo Bob the Magician
- SING Australia
- CHUMS (Camden Haven Ukelele Musicians)
- Paddy the Guitarist
- Krista Zumba

Lynne Booth, volunteer Open Day Coordinator, described it as 'a wonderful day'. She explained, 'Despite early rain during the setting up, we actually had brilliant weather in the end, a lovely warm sunny day. Generous help from Tacking Point Lions Club ensured food was available non-stop all day. The variety of entertainment added to the festive atmosphere and provided something for every age group. We are so grateful to the many people who worked so hard to make everything run smoothly, and look forward to developing the fundraiser even further next year.'

Wendy Afford, Hospital Administrator, feels 'privileged to work in an organisation where so many people voluntarily support the vital work of the Koala Hospital'. Wendy went on to say 'The highlight of Open Day for me was the joy of seeing so many families, especially the children out in the fresh air and sunshine, clearly having so much fun.'

KOOLOONBUNG CREEK NATURE PARK

An urban wildlife oasis in the heart of Port Macquarie.



A brilliant eastern yellow robin caught on camera in the Park. Image courtesy of Friends of Kooloonbung.



A koala, dappled by sunlight, makes its way between food trees in the Park. Image courtesy of Friends of Kooloonbung.

Turn off busy Gordon Street in central Port Macquarie, and take a stroll into Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park. On a warm day the temperature cools as the native tree canopy thickens, the noise of the traffic fades, and you will find yourself in an area of natural bushland, home to native flora and fauna – koalas, lizards, native fish, turtles and more than 130 species of native birds. For the thousands of flying foxes, vital to the health and continuation of our forests, the park is an important roosting area throughout the day.

Over the years, local people have literally toiled for this urban sanctuary. Port Macquarie Conservation Society in the 1980's campaigned for council to secure control of the land, and the Friends of Kooloonbung was founded with environmental visionary, Cath Le Page, as its first president. The huge task began, clearing land and waterways of choking weeds, and regenerating habitat. Council has always been supportive and grants and donations have helped, but it is largely the hard work of the Friends of Kooloonbung which has created this impressive wild park literally five minutes from Port Macquarie's CBD.

Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park now comprises 52 hectares and seven different ecosystems. So

important is this area that in Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Koala Recovery Strategy (2018) documents, Kooloonbung Creek was named as one of the key koala population hubs in Port Macquarie and it is recognised as a significant factor in the continued presence of koalas in and close to the town. The Koala Hospital receives information regularly from locals and visitors about koala sightings throughout the park.

A key koala population hub.

Today's Friends of Kooloonbung continue the tough jobs. Habitat is constantly protected from invasive and exotic weeds, seeded from surrounding domestic gardens. More native koala food trees continue to be planted, sea grasses are flourishing leading to progressively healthier fish breeding and habitat areas. Local volunteers keep boardwalks clear of leaf litter, dropped branches or dangerous overhanging limbs, they clear away rubbish and graffiti.

Visit Friends of Kooloonbung on Facebook for beautiful wildlife photography taken in the park, latest news and environmental knowledge. There is a new commentary app for smartphones, or groups can request a tour with a volunteer guide.



Plantation Manager, Graham Hargreaves and Hospital Leaf Collector, Nial Jewson, fill the Hospital leaf truck.



Graham Hargreaves discusses the next task for the plantation tractor with volunteer driver, Graham Pellow.

FIRST HARVEST

In 2015, the Koala Hospital purchased land across the Hastings River from Port Macquarie.

240 acres were bought to create the Maria River Road plantation of food trees for koalas in care, and also to regenerate important koala habitat. Since then, more than 5,000 thousand trees have been planted including koala favourites Swamp Mahogany, Nicholii (Narrow-Leaved Peppermint), Tallowwood and Forest Redgum.

In April this year, we began successfully harvesting leaf from our own plantation at Maria River. Given koalas can be fussy eaters, the Hospital had been holding its breath until the patients sampled the new produce. We continue

to trial the foliage and monitor koala response, and are pleased to report that so far the koalas are clearly enjoying the new source of fresh leaf.

The establishment of this large, healthy plantation has been a huge task, but one that the Hospital deemed vital in order to secure the supply of koala food into the future, and also to avoid over-harvesting other local habitat. Since first plantings four years ago, the plantation has survived two considerable periods of drought and also the 2017 bushfire nearby at Limeburners Creek.

We thank volunteer Plantation Manager, Graham Hargreaves, whose steadfast commitment has been a deciding factor in the growth of the trees. In addition, Graham's husbandry of the land has ensured conservation of important habitat for wild koalas, quolls, gliders, osprey, rainbow bee-eaters, echidnas and kangaroos.

We also extend grateful thanks to Port Macquarie Landcare Nursery, Forestry Corporation of NSW and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, who have all provided invaluable advice and practical support over the years. Local businesses and organisations including Bunnings and JLG, have generously helped and continue to help this ambitious project achieve success.

Planting, tending and watering this big area of young trees is hard work, and Graham Hargreaves sends a heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who have pitched in when needed, with sweat and toil, often coping with heat and clouds of mosquitoes with resilience and good humour!

Help from local high school students has also recently been much appreciated, and in April, Matt Kilby from ACT-based company, Global Land Repair, visited the plantation to work with us on planting strategies.

FAWNA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF WILDLIFE RESCUE

Great anniversary celebrations are underway for FAWNA during 2019, to celebrate the skilful and committed care which the volunteer organisation has provided, and continues to provide to a multitude of sick and injured wildlife across a large geographical area.

Over its 30-year lifetime, FAWNA (For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid) has grown from a handful of founding volunteers in Port Macquarie and Kempsey to nearly 300 members covering 18,000 square kilometres, stretching from Bulahdelah in the south, to Grassy Head in the north and to Gloucester in the west.

FAWNA wildlife carers rescue and care for all wildlife (except koalas) – numerous species of birds, bats, reptiles,

amphibians, marine animals, macropods, monotremes, possums and gliders. Rehabilitation through home care is always the aim where a life can be saved. Good training is a vital part of the organisation's role. President, Meredith Ryan, told Gum Tips, 'It really keeps us on our toes ensuring our members are prepared and ready to take on whatever species of native animal that needs our help'. FAWNA collaborates with all Australian wildlife organisations to ensure the best outcomes, and have close ties to the Koala Hospital, with some volunteers being active in both organisations.

For more information about FAWNA's celebrations, how to make a donation or volunteer, go to www.fawna.org.au.



Archie, a Swamp Wallaby from Lake Innes, in FAWNA's care. Image courtesy of FAWNA.



Students and their families from the Bonville Learning Hub during their visit.

The Koala Hospital is a regular excursion for many schools, some local and some from further afield. Students come to learn about koalas and the valuable work the Hospital does with these fascinating animals. Customised school tours enable young people to engage with the issues facing koalas and encourage them to think more about how they can help. Young people can be very quick to understand that every person counts in the fight to save koalas. All three student visits below occurred in March this year.

The Nature School is a local Port Macquarie primary school which

SCHOOL VISITS ENGAGE STUDENTS

encourages children to learn through authentic experiences and to become proactive citizens engaged in the world and its future. Students and teachers stayed on after their koala experiences and also enjoyed their English lesson in the shade of the gum trees in the Hospital grounds!

Grade 3 and 4 students from **Port Macquarie Adventist School** enjoyed taking more control of their authentic learning at the Hospital by asking questions of the tour guides, to assist their research for units of work they were undertaking. Their visit enabled them to appreciate the work involved and complexities of caring for sick and injured wild animals.

Bonville Learning Hub (BLH) also visited the hospital in the same month as part of their Home

Schoolers' excursion to the mid north coast. Rachel Faith from BLH was enthusiastic about the group's visit saying, 'Students and adults all learned so much about the care and compassion for the koalas at the Hospital, and also who to contact if we find a koala injured or in distress. We were comforted to know the emergency care extends up to Coffs Harbour so all our families can be on the look-out. Some families purchased eucalyptus trees to help koalas by supporting their habitat.' Rachel extended her thanks for the animated and informative guided tour and assured the Hospital that BLH will be back again soon.

Schools are invited to phone the Koala Hospital on 02 6584 1522 during office hours to arrange a student group visit and personalised tour.

KOALA Kids

KOALA FEATURES

Big ears for excellent hearing

Grey, brown and white fur for camouflage

Strong arms and long, sharp claws for climbing

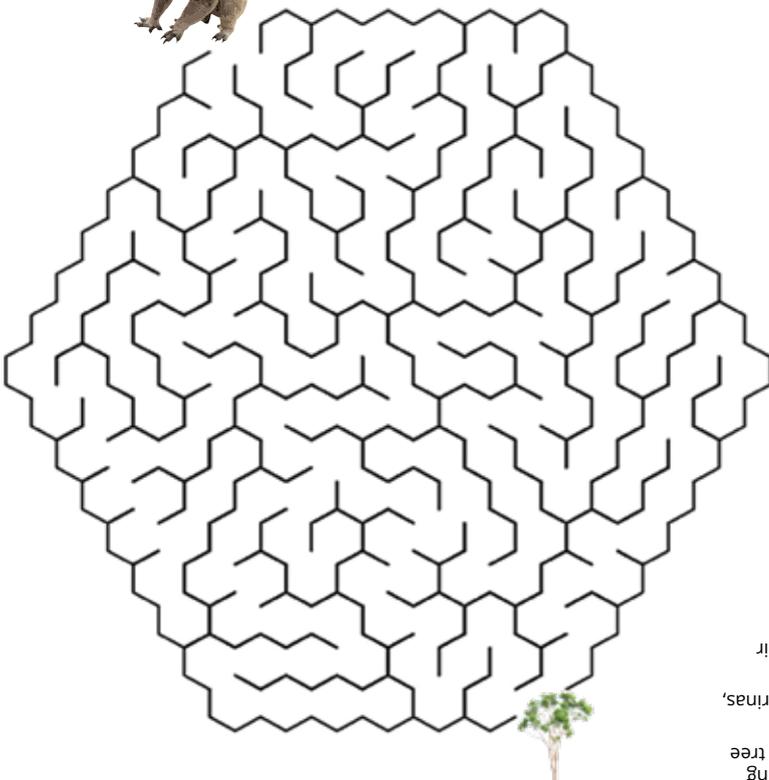


Awesome nose for smelling their environment

Thick fur for weather protection

Hard rump for sitting in trees

HELP JOEY FIND THE FOOD TREE!



DID YOU KNOW?

- * Koalas have individual fingerprints like us.
- * We can tell a koala's age by looking at its teeth.
- * Koalas are on the Threatened Species List because their populations are in decline.

Q & A

1. Do koalas drink water?
2. What do koalas eat?
3. How long do koalas sleep each day?

1. Koalas get most of the water they need from the leaves they eat. During times of little rain, koalas will also need to drink from pooled water in tree hollows, rivers and lakes.
2. Koalas eat the flowers, buds, stems and bark of Eucalyptus, Allocasuarinas, Corymbias and Melaleucas. Sometimes they also eat dirt.
3. Koalas sleep approximately 18-20 hours a day. This is to conserve their energy because eucalypt leaf is so low in nutrients and energy value.

Answers to Q & A

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Editor: Becky Harrington
Contributors: Cheyne Flanagan, Jane Duxberry, Scott Castle, Rebecca Montague-Drake, Becky Harrington
Photography (unless individually credited): Carole Grant AFIP, FAPS (front cover), Joanne Hollis, Alison Robinson, Scott Castle, Gaby Rivett, Becky Harrington

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Koala Emergency Rescue Line - Phone (02) 6584 1522

If you sight a koala in distress - call our Rescue Line
24 hours a day / 7 days a week

E: info@koalahospital.org.au  koalahospital

General Enquiries: 02 6584 1522

www.koalahospital.org.au

Their future is in our hands

ADOPT A WILD KOALA

**And help the Koala Hospital care for
sick and injured koalas**



Abandoned as small joeys,
Kooloonbung Tasha and Hockey
Luna have thrived in our care.
They will soon be released to local
habitat with other young koalas.



Oxley Kaylee, a mature female
and permanent resident. An
example of resilience in the face
of major trauma.

- Read their amazing stories of survival • Help save an iconic Australian species

**Visit www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt-a-koala to adopt a koala now,
or telephone (02) 6584 1522.**

You can also email us at adoption@koalahospital.org.au

Koala Adoptions make great gifts for someone special in your life!

The Koala Hospital receives no government funding and relies on public support through adoptions,
donations and bequests to continue its vital work.

Koala Conservation Australia Inc.

ABN 74 060 854 479 | PO Box 236, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

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