



GUM TIPS

The Koala Hospital Newsletter



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“LINKSIE” – LINKS VTR

This absolute character of a koala came to us, just under one year ago courtesy of his mother being hit by a car on Links Road in Port Macquarie. Unfortunately his mother suffered horrific injuries and had to be euthanased. Little Linksie was safely tucked up in her pouch and survived the accident. He was only 375 grams at the time.

As there were concerns that he may have suffered some minor injuries, the supervisor thought it best to take him home overnight to observe him. As the supervisors mode of transport was a motorbike, Linksie went home in style, wrapped up in a woolly pouch and tucked inside the supervisors motorbike jacket. He slept like a baby all the way.



And so his name was born – Links for the road he came from and VTR for the model of motorbike he went home on!!

Once it was established that he was fine and all he needed was plenty of TLC, Linksie went into home care with one of our joey carers. His progress was excellent, his appetite enormous and he grew and grew and grew. Linksie was one tubby little joey, who looked and weighed much more than he was in his maturity.

Eventually it was decided to bring him into the joey yard at the hospital to begin his dehumanising process. All was going well, until one night there was a huge electrical storm with violent winds and driving rain. Next morning there was one bedraggled Linksie curled up on the ground. When handled he winced in pain, and he could not move. X-rays thankfully showed no fractures, but it was obvious he had suffered a major trauma – probably a fall from the tree. Linksie went back into home care and this setback really knocked him around. A few days later, a nasty swelling appeared on his nose that turned out to be some sort of penetrating injury resulting in an abscess. Poor little Linksie had to suffer daily injections and treatment of the abscess site. After a few weeks the wound healed well, but left a funny depression scar that gave him even more character.

So, after his third setback, he was brought back to the hospital to try “dehumanising” again. Linksie just would not climb the tree and stayed low on the gunyah all the time. This went on for weeks and weeks. Staff moved Linksie to a new yard with a tree that was smaller and lots of forked branches. This was successful and eventually he was proudly sitting up the top!!!

He caused lots of laughs from both the staff and the visitors as he hung precariously from branches looking down at staff, with his gaze constantly following everyone, hoping that someone would bring him some yummy formula. It was so hard to resist giving it to him!!!

His last move was to “the round yard” in Yard 10. A small yard with two long very high trees – the yard that tests koalas climbing ability. Success!!! Linksie went right to the top and stayed there. After about 10 days in this yard and climbing beautifully we all agreed the time had come for him to be released.

Linksie finally was released in May this year not all that far from where he came from, but way back into the bush. His departure was right up to the top of a very large swamp mahogany. There he sat surveying his new domain looking like he was ready to conquer the world. We look forward to seeing lots of fat tubby little koalas living down that way sometime in the future!!!!



Where am I??

As the amount of habitat is getting smaller and smaller in town areas such as Port Macquarie, many sub adult and lower ranking male koalas (and at times female koalas) find themselves in some very odd places. This occurs when they are trying to find and establish themselves in new unoccupied home ranges – something that is an absolute luxury with this sort of real estate being virtually non-existent for the average Port Macquarie koala.



At the time of writing this article, staff from the Koala Hospital went out on a mission to retrieve a young sub adult male (in excellent condition and extremely handsome) who in his quest to find his “first home” found himself in a most unlikely place – a retirement/nursing home for the aged (the human kind). He spent the majority of the day in a lasiandra tree in the courtyard, much to the amusement of all the oldies enjoying morning tea and scones in the garden.

As the lasiandra leaves and flowers would have tasted dreadful, he then began to search, only to end up hanging off the balustrade of the third floor internal stair well (how he got inside via a heavy security door is anyone’s guess). A most forlorn and very hungry young male was plucked to safety and spent the night chomping away on a veritable feast of eucalypts in the intensive care ward of the Koala Hospital. He was then released into some of the only remaining eucalypt forest not too far from his pick up point.

Over the years we have salvaged distressed or perplexed koalas from such unlikely places as:

- Going up a moving set of escalators at Port Central Shopping Mall (obviously heading for the food court – looking for eucalypt burgers)
- Sitting on top of the diesel pump at the boat marina of Sails Resort Port Macquarie
- The third floor carpark of Port Central Shopping Mall
- Town Beach rocks
- Running in and out of a set of automatic doors in a block of apartments in the central business district.
- Coles Supermarket Carpark in the centre of town
- Sitting up on a lounge in a residents family room
- In a pine tree in the middle of an outdoor coffee shop in Port Central Shopping Centre (with pine needles continually dropping into patrons coffee)
- The front foyer of Port Macquarie Private Hospital
- The casualty ward of Port Macquarie Base Hospital
- The front seat of someone’s car with hands on steering wheel
- Found clinging to the back of an obliging but terrified German Shepherd dog
- The work area of a Port Macquarie Funeral Home (not a good place to be!)
- Perched on the corner post of a set of cattle yards – with about 40 head of cattle yarded at the time
- Sitting at the top of a pile of felled trees just as the bulldozer bucket was about to push them up in a heap
- Hanging off an oyster pole in the middle of the Hastings River at high tide.
- Clinging to a large beach umbrella
- In amongst a large number of teenage girls at their birthday party (now that would be scary).
- Sitting on the supervisors head whilst the supervisor was driving round a roundabout in Port Macquarie after the koala escaped from the basket (now that was painful)
- Curled up asleep on the front door mat of someone’s home (joey)
- Perched in a flower pot on a back verandah
- In a chook shed
- Port Macquarie Police Station
- An injured koala delivered to the hospital in a human ambulance
- In a tree in the garden of a brothel
- Fished out of a dam (alive)
- Peering in the window of a 2nd floor science class at East Port High School (while in a tree outside)



From the President

A fundraising event involving the community to raise funds for a Koala Ambulance was held this month, a brilliant idea from Jules with enormous support from Carol as well as assisting Nichole to organise the Black Tie & Gumboot Gala with John Williamson as guest artist. A big thank you to John and his team for this outstanding gift to us. Thanks must also go to the local business communities and our volunteers for their efforts on the night. Our local country singer, Ken 'Chainsaw' Lindsay was excellent and grateful thanks also to Mark Stone for his wildlife presentation.

The preparation of our Strategic Plan 2007 to 2011 is almost complete under the leadership of Margaret Halliday; it will be a document that will take us into the future with purpose and direction.

I also had a meeting this month with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's director of Environment & Development and his senior staff to determine the best way forward to achieve a Koala Plan of Management for the whole of Port Macquarie. It will be to prepare a plan for the much needed partnership between council and KPS to protect the wild koala population and ensure appropriate preservation and expansion of their habitat.

Our new look website with easier access and more input from staff and volunteers has proved to be popular. Thanks to Sam for her photos and stories (Blog). Your feedback would be appreciated.

We are preparing a KPS Strategy 2007 – 2011 the draft is available for comment on our website www.kolahospital.org.au.

Bob Sharpham 

President

THE SUPERVISORS' REPORT

It may be quiet koala wise at the moment which is excellent for the koalas, and also excellent for us as it gives us all a chance to catch up on all those much neglected jobs.

The ICU is nearing completion of its makeover/facelift with a new colour scheme throughout, new heavier doors (that koalas can't pull open), snazzy new compartmentalised shelving/cupboards in the leaf area and new curtains being fitted (kindly donated). We have to thank Bunnings and their associated paint companies such as Wattyl who donated all the paint to do the ICU and the team of willing staff who have been busy painting and scrubbing over the last two weeks. Well done team.

We mustn't forget our Koala Hospital team who competed in the recent Dragons Abreast Regatta (dragon boat racing) on the Hastings River recently. We certainly were not Olympic rowing material (more like a caterpillar walking on hot coals), but it was great to be able to "give back to the community" by being involved in a fundraiser for breast cancer research.

We have a few patients at the moment with chlamydial infections which is normal this time of year, and thankfully they have good prognoses. One koala suffering with horrific chlamydial eye infection has had surgery and looks like will make an excellent recovery.

We also have had a few koalas from other licensed areas over the last few months, and we still have one female with a joey from the Port Stephens area whose eye infections is very slowly responding and hopefully will be returned south very soon.

We have released a number of joeys (see cover article), which is great for the future of the breeding population.

There are exciting times ahead with the Strategic Plan for the Koala Hospital and all bodes well to help maintain the koala population of this area. Lots of work on everyone's part - but definitely worth every bit of it.

Cheers, *The Supervisors.*

Koala Hospital Kiosk



*The **Koala Kiosk** is almost fully operational; where you will find a memento reminder of your visit to the Koala Hospital. In the future, if you cannot visit, it is hoped goods for sale will be available on the internet.*

***Volunteers** who serve in the **Koala Kiosk**, will also answer most of your questions regarding their 'Furry Friends' and this establishment*

View the collection of photographs of previous patients, including interesting stories about the individual Koala.

*Our '**Bandaged Koala**' logo can be seen on many items and all over the World; recent sales have taken it to France, Switzerland, Israel, Germany, America and Japan.*

*The intention of the **Koala Kiosk** is to visually remind peoples everywhere of the plight of the **Koala** which are taken by disease; they do not breed regularly enough to increase their numbers.*

KOALA TUCKER – EUCALYPTS ON THE MENU??

Eucalypts originated 35-50 million years ago and came into their own about 20 million years ago when the Australian climate began to change with the continent becoming drier and not able to support the vast areas of rainforest any longer. As Eucalypts evolved they became well adapted for the periodic bushfires (through the dry conditions), with many species dependant on a fire for both germination of seeds and for regeneration of trees. Eucalypts are so diverse and abundant, that they range from the arid desert regions (mainly along water courses), to the coastal eastern seaboard, to western plains and up to the snow line of the alpine regions. They also range in size from majestic enormous trees (up to 100 metres) to small dwarfed mallees.

So from a scientific perspective where do Eucalypts fit into the classification of living things?

Kingdom:	Plantae (the plant kingdom)
Phylum:	Magnoliophyta (flowering plants)
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Myrtales
Family:	Myrtaceae
Genus:	Eucalyptus
Species	<i>Over 700 species described</i>

Eucalypts share the Myrtaceae family with other well known members such as “bottlebrushes” (Callistemon), “paperbarks” (Melaleuca) and “tea trees” (Leptospermum). All share similarities in their flower structures such as the stamens (male part of flower) etc which from a botanical perspective are diagnostic identification tools.

In Eucalypts, the petals and the stamens are fused into a cup called the “operculum” which covers the flowers. This unique structure gives Eucalypts their name – Eu means “well or vessel” and calyptos means “covered”. Once they have finished flowering, they develop into a woody, hard seed pod – this we recognise as a “gum nut” (Snugglepot and Cuddlepie!!). The seed pod or “fruit” is one of the major identifying features to determine the species of eucalypt, as is the different types of bark, leaf and growth habits of the tree.



Even though eucalypts are known world wide as “koala food trees”, this wonderful genus is extremely versatile and has many uses. For example, Ringtailed possums and brushtail possums feed on their flowers, leaves and buds as do Yellow Bellied Gliders. Flying foxes (bats) love the nectar when flowers are in blossom (and the flowers smell glorious). The nectar also attracts many species of parrots that noisily fight over the sweet liquid. Sugar and squirrel gliders not only feed on the huge number of insects that live under the bark, but bite holes into the trunks of trees to promote a sugary gum- like sap called “kino” to pour out – which they devour. This sugary sap is where the word “gum tree” is derived from and where sugar gliders got their name. A huge number of species of small mammals, birds, microbats, spiders, insects and reptiles make eucalypt trees both their homes and their nesting sites. Many a researcher abseiling and climbing around high in the tree tops have been startled when looking into big old knot holes to face a python curled around a clutch of eggs, or an angry mother kookaburra fluffed up over her babies, or a wood duck about to jettison her brood of fluffy brown babies. *Each and every eucalypt tree is an enormous ecosystem and ecological community all on its own with literally hundreds or maybe thousands of species (if we add fungi, bacteria and microbes too) – of living beings dependant on its survival..*

And koalas are really only one member of this huge community.

The usefulness of eucalypts does not stop there. Commercially the timber is highly prized in being grown and harvested by the timber/forestry industry. The timber is valued as building timber, for furniture, paper manufacture, woodchip and pharmaceuticals etc. Some of the best honey produced world wide comes from eucalypts such as Yellow Box and Red Ironbark.

The well known blue haze that rises above the Australian bush results from the volatile oils (essential oils) that vaporise from the eucalypt leaf into the atmosphere. These leaf oils are used in manufacturing and are prized for medicinal use (eg: Red Flowering Ironbark, Green Mallee Gum), Industrial (eg: Narrow Leaf Peppermint) and in the perfume industry (eg: Lemon Scented Gum).

The Australian Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) arguably holds the record for being the tallest tree in the world, and the record for the tallest flowering plant in the world – a record no doubt sadly gone due to heavy harvesting of its timber.

As stated previously, Eucalypts have evolved all sorts of strategies to survive bushfires through such mechanisms as heat/smoke initiation of seed germination. Another interesting strategy is that of epicormic growth (dormant buds), where post fires or trauma to the tree, new shoots emerge from under the damaged bark. We all have seen burnt trees after fires with what appears to be “hairy trunks” where new leafy shoots appear running right up the length of the trunk.

This epicormic growth has a lush, fresh appearance, often covered with red tips on the young leaves. The leaf itself is highly nutritious and sweet with some research showing that it is high in phytoestrogens. These phytoestrogens (plant hormones) could possibly encourage breeding of wildlife that survived the fires, thus hopefully restocking and repopulating the devastated forest once again. There are so many subtle important symbiotic relationships that occur between plants and animals in a forest system, where they both need each other to survive.

Sadly, this wonderful strategy of nature can work against it, particularly in human urban environments. With so many trees removed for housing development, the remaining trees are then exposed to the elements (as they lose the protection of each other) and consequently become fragile, diseased and unhealthy. Trauma to the now unhealthy tree through people chainsawing branches off or incorrect pruning of the tree results in a flush of epicormic growth as the tree desperately resprouts shoots in an effort to survive. The new branches take years to “toughen up” and tend to be remain weak when exposed. The next strong windy thunderstorm that comes along causes the now weakened tree to drop epicormic limbs onto houses and the home owner declares the once beautiful tree to be a “diseased dangerous tree” and has it removed completely. No tree, no home.



And as a result, more and more eucalypts are removed from urban areas, as people declare them “messy” and “dangerous”, where in fact it was the human disturbance of the bushland that caused the problem in the

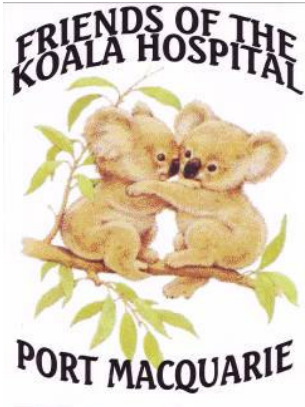
first place. Most Eucalypts need to be part of a forest community as nature intended, not stuck out in the open by themselves. Different species occupy different niches within each forest community with each niche having its own checks and balances.

If we wish to keep koalas along with all the other wonderful animal species living alongside us, in our urban environments, we need to understand that their trees - their homes and their food need to be looked after as well.

We need to work in harmony with the environment, not against it.

After all, nature will win in the end anyway.

FRIENDS OF THE KOALA HOSPITAL



Friends has been involved in a number of activities which will, I hope, bear fruit in the near future.

Firstly, a group of 10 under the banner of “Friends” signed on as volunteers at the Ironman Triathlon in April. The group included Barb and Geoff Barrett, as well as 8 of the “Friends” group. There is a promise of a donation of \$300 towards the Koala Hospital in recognition of our efforts in feeding almost 600 of the competitors between 3 and 7pm. Triathlon liaison person, Sally Moriarty, complimented our group in the way we saw what needed doing and got in and did it without the need for instruction or supervision.

Secondly, Friends fielded a team of 9 at the Koala Hospital Open Day, which, despite the indifferent weather, seems to have been a successful venture.

Lorraine and I have attended markets at Westport High School (2) and Laurieton (1) with our promotional stall. We are now projecting the Adopt a Wild Koala program at these events, and were successful in selling our first adoption at Laurieton, as well as conducting a small raffle and handing out Hospital leaflets.

Our first two Hospital volunteers recruited by “Friends”, Ross and Bev Hyland, have taken up yard duties on Monday mornings and appear to be enjoying the experience.

Our “Friend” Noeline Charlton has taken up the duty of servicing donation boxes at Settlement City...I introduced her to the locations on Tuesday 24th and we collected more than \$200 from the 3 outlets. Noeline has been issued with a supply of leaflets and will keep the locations filled on a regular basis.

Additionally, “Friends” will take over most of the donation boxes previously serviced by Peter Schulties who, as you know, already has a significant input at the Koala Hospital and has indicated he wishes to divest himself of this duty.

Lorraine and I attended a “Host a Murder” night with Don and Marg Moran recently at Dahlsford Grove Village. It was an enjoyable evening and Don and I are investigating the possibility of conducting a “Murder Night” as a fundraiser...just need a suitable venue and some form of catering....more information as this progresses.

I attended the Camden Haven View Club luncheon meeting at Laurieton, showed the new DVD and spoke to about 55 View ladies.

During the coming month it is anticipated that Friends will assist Jules and Carol with the promotion of the forthcoming Black Tie and Gumboot Gala as well as maintaining a presence at various markets.

Geoff Best



HOSPITAL REPORT

ADMISSION	NAME	REASON	RESULT
6.11.00	Kempsey Carolina F	Head Trauma—Motor Vehicle Accident	Permanent Resident
11.10.01	Bonnie Fire F	Bushfire Victim	Permanent Resident
22.10.04	Tractive Golfer M	Underweight – scoliosis of spine	
21.01.06	Wiruna Lucky F	Cataracts both eyes	
30.05.06	Links VTR M Joey	Joey - orphaned	Released 16.05.07
26.06.06	Ocean Therese F	Broken Jaw – Motor Vehicle Accident	Transfer to Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park
26.06.06	Ocean Kim F Joey	Joey of Ocean Therese	
27.11.06	Cathie John Joey	Orphaned – Home Care	
24.12.06	Macquarie Peter	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Released 02.03.07
25.12.06	Lake Christmas F Joey	Abandoned – Home Care	
01.01.07	Burraneer Henry M	Tick infestation - underweight	Released 30.03.07
05.01.07	Tozer Tom M	Conjunctivitis	Released 23.03.07
12.01.07	Links Lorna F	Eye injury, debilitated	Released 06.04.07
14.01.07	Innes Wonga M	Injured Left Hind Leg	Released 16.03.07
15.01.07	Warrego Martin M	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Released 02.04.07
26.01.07	Condon Geoff M	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Released 12.04.07
30.01.07	Ellenborough Nancy F	Conjunctivitis	Released 27.04.07
30.01.07	Ocean Roy M	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Released 27.04.07
31.01.07	Oxley Jo F	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Euthanased 11.05.07
31.01.07	Bellevue Bill M	Chlamydia and Conjunctivitis	Euthanased 07.05.07
02.02.07	Siren Gem M Juvenile	Possible fall from tree – found on ground	Released 05.05.07
03.02.07	Oxley Westi F	Eye problems	Released 11.04.07
05.02.07	Oceanview Terry M	In yard with dog	Released 27.04.07
10.02.07	Lookout Harry M	Conjunctivitis	Released 04.05.07
11.02.07	Samdfly Jye M	Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Released 21.04.07
18.02.07	Innes Tony M	Chlamydia (wet Bottom)	Released 11.05.07
19.02.07	O'Briens Fiona F	Sitting low in tree – lost weight	Euthanased 02.04.07
25.02.07	Cattlebrook John M	Motor Vehicle Accident – slight concussion	Released 02.03.07
25.02.07	Melaleuca Alfie M	Motor Vehicle Accident – injured penis	Euthanased 05.03.07
25.02.07	Orr Palmerston M	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 01.03.07
25.02.07	Cathie Samson M	Acute Diahorrea	Euthanased 04.04.07
26.02.07	Jupiter Cheryl F	Conjunctivitis Right Eye	Released 18.04.07
03.03.07	Golf Starr F	Lethargic - assessment	Euthanased 09.03.07
05.03.07	Treetop Boxer	On ground – mesothelioma	Euthanased 07.03.06
05.03.07	Anna Bay Miles M	Debilitated	Released 11.05.07
06.03.07	Crestwood Dampier	Dragging hindquarters	Euthanased 14.03.07
09.03.07	Ocean Mark M	Motor Vehicle Accident - assessment	Released 13.03.07
12.03.07	Lake Private M	Found in dangerous area - observation	Released 27.04.07
17.03.07	Morrish Steven	Chlamydia	Released 18.05.07
19.03.07	Roto Abigail F	In a dangerous area - checked	Released 20.03.07
20.03.07	Walcha Barbie F	Caught in barbed wire – severe arm and had injuries	Euthanased 07.05.07
22.03.07	Calwalla Bill M	Chlamydia	Released 11.05.07
30.03.07	Amaroo Marty M	In dangerous area – checked	Released 30.03.07

02.04.07	Anna Bay Sooty F	Severe conjunctivitis left eye	
06.04.07	Orr Palmerston M	Checked	Released 06.04.07
06.04.07	Hindman Foxie F	Blind in left eye - assessment	Released 11.04.07
07.04.07	Nulla Sam M	Lying on ground – lymphoma	Euthanased 07.04.07
10.04.07	Oxley Nina F	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 26.04.07
11.04.07	Dunbogan Tracey F	Found on ground – joey in pouch	Released 12.04.07
12.04.07	Kennedy Easy F	In yard with dog - checked	Released 18.04.07
16.04.07	Koalasauris Inches M	Disorientated – both eyes opacity	Released 21.04.07
30.04.07	Parker Mystery F	Observation – caught in trap	Released 30.04.07
05.05.07	Candelo Cool F	Chlamydia	
08.05.07	Hart Jumper M	Large growth right cheek	Euthanased 09.05.07
09.05.07	Tuffins Grid M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
10.05.07	Garden Wellie M	Hanging off third floor stairwell - observation	Released 11.05.07
19.05.07	Jupiter Cheryl F	Covered in ticks & disoriented	Released 24.05.07
20.05.07	Park Trish F	In dangerous area - checked	Released 21.05.07
21.05.07	Rushcutter Ralph M	Chronic Chlamydia (Wet Bottom)	Euthanased 23.05.07
21.05.07	Livingstone Clover M	Hind (L) leg injury	
21.05.07	Regatta Lanaye F	On fence – dogs in yard - checked	Released 22.05.07
23.05.07	Hay Billy M	In dangerous area - checked	Released 23.05.07
31.05.07	Emerald Oz M	In yard with dogs – checked	Released 31.05.07

PORT MACQUARIE:

March.	Permanent 2	Treated 43	Released 9	Euthanized 4	Dead/Died 0	Admitted 11
April	Permanent 2	Treated 26	Released 18	Euthanized 3	Dead/Died 0	Admitted 9
May	Permanent 2	Treated 23	Released 13	Euthanized 5	Dead/Died 1	Admitted 11



From a friend in France.....

It's been already more than six months that I've been volunteering in the koala hospital. The time had flown since ... but the memories I've got are still fresh in my mind! After I came back from Australia, I've been back to my previous job which is journalist. You probably remember, I was the one bothering you with my camera and my questions.

I'm sending you a copy of an article I wrote on ecovolunteering. I enjoyed so much my experience as a volunteer that I wrote a paper to encourage the French to go for it as well!

I hope everything is going well at the hospital. Say my hello to everybody. I really had a very special time with all of you there. Gwen...

You know you have been around koalas for too long

when your neighbour has woken you up early on a Sunday morning with his lawnmower going full bore next door and you not only feel like bellowing at him but you have this sudden urge to rub your chest on the paling fence.

You know you have been around koalas for too long

when you go for a walk, spot some fresh young green tips on a tallowwood tree and start getting hungry, think they look delicious and get all excited about them.



Technically Speaking

News from the Koala Infectious Disease Research Group



The season has drawn to a close and the Sydney Researchers can heave a big sigh of relief, wave goodbye to the last trial koala (Morrish Stephen), pack up some of the equipment and head back to Sydney to begin processing all the samples.

The research this season has gone well with 24 animals recruited into the trial. This compares well with 25 animals recruited the previous year. Of these animals 19 have been released, four animals were euthanased due to failure to clear the Chlamydial infection and one animal died.

Although the same numbers of animals were recruited this year the researchers were kept very busy screening many more animals than the previous year. Roughly 60 animals were checked over and if appropriate screened for Chlamydial and Cryptococcus infection. This is approximately twice as many animals as the previous year.

The new yards in yard ten have made the whole process of the research work much smoother. Animals now have somewhere to go for R&R after the business end of the trial has ended. They have all seemed very happy there. Escapes have been few and by the end of the season, and a few alterations to gunyahs, escapes had stopped altogether. Fortunately when animals have escaped these yards, they have had a tendency to escape into the main section of yard ten, rather than out into the wild. This has meant we have

been able to recapture them relatively easily.



The post mortem room unfortunately has been busy, however the numbers of post mortems is roughly the same this season as the last. Chlamydial disease remains one of the leading causes of pathology detected in the post mortem room. This year has also seen a few cases of cancer of various types.

We have seen a number of different faces help out with the research this year. A big thankyou goes to Alison, Jade, Andrea, Alysa, Kim and, of course, Damien.

As ever we are indebted to the help from the hospital staff, in particular all the supervisors who have helped with the general anaesthetics, the volunteers who help muck out, cut leaf, feed and water the koalas, the leaf cutters who provide dinner, the rescuers who bring the animals in for examination and the committee for their ongoing support. A big thank you goes to everyone who has helped out over the past 8 months.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in a few months when breeding season starts again.

Jo Griffith



Faculty of Veterinary Science

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