



GUM TIPS

The Koala Hospital Newsletter



2008 Issue No. 3

October 2008

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Lindfield Holden

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Cover Story – Lindfield Holden
- From The President – Traditional Aussie Barbecue
- Technically Speaking – University of Sydney Signs Up For Another Three Years
- Photo Gallery – Around the Hospital
- General Management Meeting – Minuted Coordinator Reports
- “Friends” – Family Fun Day, “Friends” Update, Community Celebration Day
- Supervisor’s Report – Worrying Rise in Dog Attacks
- Hospital Report – Koala Admissions

Lindfield Holden



In October 2007, this mature male decided to cross busy Lindfield road in Port Macquarie oblivious to the danger in front of him. Consequently, the driver of a big four wheeled drive vehicle speeding along the road, suddenly spotted him, rammed on the brakes to try to avoid hitting him, unfortunately didn't quite do the job properly and clipped the poor koala on the hindquarters. In the process, the car behind the 4 X 4 was also not concentrating too well and ran straight up the back of the now stationary vehicle. This car was a relatively new model Holden (and hence where the koalas name came from) that was totally written off and beyond repair. The four wheeled drive vehicle only suffered minor damage. Both car drivers were shaken, but OK. The driver of the 4 X 4 still managed to call the Koala Hospital to come and retrieve the injured koala. The drivers of both cars

then had to wait for police and tow trucks to deal with the accident scene.

Lindfield did not suffer any serious trauma and within the week he was on the mend and was released back into bush not too far from the accident scene. While munching away on swamp mahogany that night and surveying his home range he would have been totally unaware of the police paperwork, the insurance paperwork, the panel beaters paperwork and all the mayhem, that would have gone on in the week after his stroll across Lindfield Road!!!!

Some eight months in July this year, the hospital received a call from one of the other local veterinary surgeries for a koala hit by a car a few kilometres east of Lindfield Road. A bruised, battered and very sore injured koala was brought into the hospital and it turned out to be Lindfield Holden again!!!!



This time he was not quite as lucky as the first time with some severe lacerations to his jaw and right knee, abrasions on his head and he was generally feeling pretty ordinary.

After plenty of TLC and treatment in the ICU, Lindfield Holden is now recuperating in one of the rehabilitation yards in Yard 10 in preparation for release back to the same vegetated area he was previously released to.

We are all wondering how many lives Lindfield Holden has left up his sleeve and hope there is plenty.



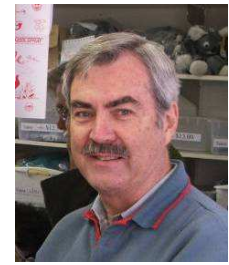
Adopt Lindfield Holden!

Lindfield Holden is available for adoption via the Koala Hospital's Adopt A Wild Koala program. For details, see www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt/



From the President

As the end of year approaches and we get ready for Christmas, 75 of our volunteers got together at the Koala Hospital for a traditional Aussie BBQ. It was great to relax and enjoy each others company, give well deserved recognition to the volunteers and remind ourselves of what we have achieved for our koalas. Without the financial support of our local and overseas friends as well as the 'hands on' work by our staff and volunteers, there would not be a koala hospital. Enjoy all the good things of Christmas and look forward to a great New Year.



Bob Sharpam 
President

BBQ Pics

Far Left: Chris Rowlands brings founder Jean Starr up to date with habitat.

Left: Brian Westoby cooking up a storm.



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Technically Speaking

News from the Koala Infectious Disease Research Group



Our Koala Infectious Diseases Research Group is very appreciative to the Executive of the Koala Preservation Society of NSW and the staff of the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie for permitting our group access to the Koala Hospital and its patients over the past three years. We are presently in the phase of analysing the data we have collected during this time.

Our research group is now preparing to continue our investigation into improving koala health through the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie over the next three years.

The investigation which is officially entitled '**Investigation into intestinal absorption of xenobiotics by the koala**' has the following aims:

- ❖ Investigate why koalas absorb oral drugs poorly by
 - investigating the efficiency by which koalas metabolise and excrete drug agents and
 - investigating the anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal tract of the koala to explain why oral gastrointestinal absorption is so poor. This later component of the investigation will be performed by collection and examination of tissues from the gastrointestinal tract from cadavers that die from natural causes.
- ❖ Construct pharmacokinetic profiles of the anti-inflammatory drug meloxicam, antibiotics and antifungal drugs used to treat koalas to ensure they are being dosed at effective dose rates and frequencies to ensure the maximum health benefit

This investigation has direct benefits to koala health by understanding more about the anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal tract and determining the effectiveness of drugs regularly used in this species to treat disease and determine the best dose, dosing frequency and route of administration.



The University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science



Photo of some of the Wednesday morning crew at morning tea.

Morning tea is a very, very important ritual at the hospital, where everything and anything is discussed, and all the latest recipes are tested out on willing guinea pigs.



Brian Crisp conducting the Tuesday afternoon walk and talk guided tour.

Photo Gallery



Joe is one of the leaf collectors preparing to go to the tip with used eucalypt leaf (in trailer) and the used newspaper flooring from the ICU units. All of this is recycled for compost



Morning shift chores Cathy and Mary cleaning out the ICU units changing leaf and changing the towels.



Dave, one of the Wednesday morning maintenance team hard at it, building a stage for a puppet show aimed at educating both pre-school and school aged children. Another new venture of the education team.



The Wednesday morning maintenance teams "office". This is where all the action goes on.



Chris Abrahams working in the kiosk



Sheri changing the eucalypt leaf in Birthday Girl's yard.



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by adopting a wild koala for a friend – www.koalahospital.org.au



General Management Meeting

10 September 2008

Reports from the Minutes



Supervisor: Supervisor's report was tabled and read in Cheyne's absence. Breeding season has arrived with Motor Vehicle Accidents and Chlamydia. Concern was noted of koalas coming in with mouth lesions and kyphosis. The new ultrasound machine is working beautifully. The Sydney University Chlamydia/crypto seminar was a success and a special mention to Sam Carroll, Robyn Callahan and all others that helped with the Koala Rehabilitation Manual. Beth Gabriel moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Geoff Best. Carried.

Maintenance: Brian Westoby reported the electrical work should be finished. Concreting in the yards has been done. Victor is fixing the approach sign for NPWS. Compost bins, storage room and Day room all have received attention. The high loppers are still a problem. Yard 10 has been modified to stop visiting and escaping koalas.

Media: Helen Meers reported publicity through *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Telegraph*, *New Idea*, *Open Road* and the local media (Prime TV, Port News). The Family Fun Day is next to be publicized and she thanked all those who helped with the Savannah cats removal.

Education: Maree Austin thanked the kiosk, yard people and Cheyne for their support. Maree also thanked Geoff for help during Naidoc Week and the Woodworkers Guild exhibition. The Pilgrims Day was extraordinary with 250 overseas visitors (Tonga & France), Thanks to Hazel and the kiosk staff. Brigitte is doing the German talks and Maree welcomed Carol Dowling as a new W & Talker. A Walk & Talk meeting was foreshadowed.

Friends: Geoff Best reported that the 2009 calendar is now on sale. Family Fun Day for 20th September is progressing with general stall items needed for sale such as cakes. There will be marquees for Morning Tea, a BBQ, Schools Colouring Competition (judge Harold Le Jeune). Lorraine Best (Adopt A Wild Koala) has been processing the Netherlands adoptions owing to the Dutch agent's illness. Chinese Junk Cruises will be organized for Spring.

Habitat: Chris Rowland reported that Sovereign Hills are pleased with the plantings. He explained about his accident to his head on the previous Sunday, whilst cutting leaf.





ADOPT-A-WILD-KOALA

www.koalahospital.org.au



Friends of the Koala Hospital

FAMILY FUN DAY

This day was quite successful with financial profit of slightly over \$2,500. The Koala Hospital donated \$400 from this sum to Roto House for their assistance on the day.

The response from eight district schools to our colouring-in competition resulted in some 500+ entries. I believe all the kids had fun with the games available and I have received a request from Port Primary school to borrow the games for their fete later this month.

Thank you to Harold Le Jeune for judging and to David and Beverly for assisting on the day. Thanks also go to all volunteers who slaved in the run-up to the event and on the day itself.

Following the fun day I visited each school to present the prizes. I was also pleased to attend Beechwood Public morning assembly. They are a great little school as you would expect in a small community.

“FRIENDS” UPDATE

“Friends” as well as Education coordinator, Maree Austin put in three days at Port Panthers for the Woodworking Guild Exhibition. The “Woodies” donated \$250 along with some beautifully crafted pieces for use as raffle prizes. We had the Koala Hospital DVD running and distributed *Gum Tips*, fridge magnets and brochures to district residents, as well as selling adoptions and calendars.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DAY

“Friends” and Education linked up once again for the community celebration day on 8 October at the town green. We sold calendars and adoptions, as well as holding a small raffle with one of the Woodies’ treasure boxes going to the lucky winner.

It’s difficult to gauge the effect of our attendance at these public gatherings. Tourists we spoke to were enthusiastic about visiting the Hospital during their time in Port Macquarie, which hopefully generated some kiosk and adoption sales.

Lorraine and I will be taking a short break, returning 21 October. “Friends” will then be concentrating on sales of calendar, taking displays to markets and organising some evening junk cruise before Christmas is upon us.

Geoff Best
Chairman



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The Supervisor's Report

Admissions to the hospital have been quite high since last *Gum Tips*. Sadly, we have had just on 30 koalas hit by cars and attacked by dogs with a 70% fatality rate since June. This is a definite spike on the last few years.

As always, it seems to be the healthy sexually active breeding animals that cop this fate – and this puts a huge hole in the numbers of viable animals available to produce future generations. We have done another media blitz again imploring the public to drive slower, to watch the roads, and to lock their dogs up at night. We have not been having many dog attacks over the last few years so it's quite disappointing to see the change in trend. The koalas hit by cars tend to be on the busier roads too. This is a consequence of more and more habitat being removed for housing development, and infrastructure pushing the already struggling koala out into the line of fire.

On a brighter note, the level of chlamydial infected admissions is lower this year with a much smaller number being in the hospital under treatment at the time of writing. Bonny Fire's joey "Bonny Blaze" is doing very well and causing all sorts of mischief for his poor mother. We have only had one other joey admitted this season which is very unusual – a very small 445 gram female who fell 20 metres from her mother onto rocks. Amazingly, she survived the incident (we couldn't catch the mother) and is in home

care. It's early days yet, and the little joey is not out of the woods.

With the summer bushfire period approaching, we are now preparing all our rescue gear and getting ready for potential fireground work. This is where the hospital ambulance will certainly come into its own. It's all rigged up now – fully kitted out with rescue gear, lights, first aid kits etc. So we are ready for any emergency!!!!

We certainly have plenty of willing volunteers on board at the moment – more vollies than koalas, so the koalas are really getting the royal treatment at the moment. The Koala Rehabilitation Manual has been doing well, with the first printing sold out, and another printing happening as we speak, which is great as we have lots of people on the waiting list to purchase a copy.

The hospital is certainly looking ship shape and tidy – the gardens are really starting to bloom. It's very encouraging when the public continually remark how tidy and well kept the whole place is. It's a credit to all the voluntary team. It still never fails to amaze us all how we coped for so many years in the tiny cramped conditions of the old hospital – we love the new one so much!!!!



Bonny Fire and joey Bonny Blaze

Cheers,

Cheyne Flanagan
Hospital Supervisor



Adopt Bonny Blaze or Bonny Fire!

Both mother and joey are available as individual adoptions from the Koala Hospital's Adopt A Wild Koala program. For details, see www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt/





Barbara Barrett

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	Treating
	Birthday Girl	Severe Arthritis Right Hip	Treating
21.01.07	Wiruna Lucky F	Cataracts both eyes	Euthanased 18.08.08
	Oxley Holly F Joey	Abandoned – finishing growing up	Released 13.06.08
06.10.07	Oxley Cori F Joey	Abandoned – finishing growing up	Released 14.08.08
25.03.08	Sapphire Dave M	Left Eye Infection	Released 02.07.08
14.04.08	Yarranabee Sprinter F	Chlamydia	Euthanased 23.07.08
05.05.08	Watonga Billy M	Chlamydia	Released 21.07.08
09.05.08	Macquarie Peter M	Conjunctivitis both eyes	Released 27.06.08
09.05.08	Roto Abigail F	Chlamydia	Released 04.06.08
10.05.08	Mimosa Oscar M	Chlamydia	
11.05.08	Marsden Rolly M	Chlamydia	Released 27.08.08
12.05.08	Cathie Kyle M	Motor Vehicle accident	Euthanased 03.06.08
20.05.08	Dunbogan Scott M	Injured Left Femur	
23.05.08	Ashdown Cathie M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 13.06.08
27.05.08	Oxley Bill M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 30.05.08
01.06.08	Oxley Andrew M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 13.06.08
04.06.08	Lighthouse Noni F	Chlamydia	Released 27.08.08
05.06.08	Kennedy Shantelle F	Dog Attack	Released 23.06.08
07.06.08	Jonas Absalom Blinky	Possible Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 07.08.06
09.06.08	Kempsey Kelly F	Blind and poor condition	Euthanased 10.06.08
12.06.08	Dunbogan Tracy	Unknown	Euthanased 13.06.08
12.06.08	Dunbogan Skippy F Joey	Joey of Dunbogan Tracy	Died 12.06.08
15.06.08	Banksia Ted M	On ground – blind in right eye	Released 31.07.08
21.06.08	Lake Barton M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
25.06.08	Pacific Grahame M	Motor Vehicle accident	Euthanased 25.06.08
26.06.08	Cathie Shannon Liam M	Dog Attack	Euthanased 27.06.08
27.06.08	Swift Palmer M	On ground – aged - observation	Released 04.07.08
02.07.08	Marsden Iris F	Dog attack	Euthanased 02.07.08
02.07.08	Kamona Andre M	In dangerous area	Released 02.07.08
02.07.08	Bowden Sam M	Chlamydia and conjunctivitis	Released 27.08.08
03.07.08	Oxley Bill M	Suspect Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 03.07.08
05.07.08	Siren Gem F	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
06.07.08	Ocean Golfer M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 07.07.08
09.07.08	Hastings IDAF M	In dangerous area	Released 10.07.08
11.07.08	West Haven Barry M	Scoliosis of spine	
11.07.08	Calwalla Bill M	Suspect chlamydia	Released 15.07.08
11.07.08	Oxley Ensr	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
12.07.08	Ocean Peter M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
12.07.08	Parkes McDonald M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
14.07.08	Bowden Stan M	Diarrhoea and kyphosis	Released 22.07.08
15.07.08	Rose Buster M	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 27.08.08
15.07.08	Green Park Isaac	Conjunctivitis @ eye	Released 23.08.08
16.07.08	Kevin M	Dehydrated	Euthanased 05.08.08
18.07.08	Gore Ginger F	Dog Attack	Died 25.07.08
19.07.08	Hamyln Connie F	On ground	Euthanased 23.0.809
20.07.08	Pacific Highway Sunday M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
20.07.08	Koala Ray M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
21.07.08	Granite Elena	Limping	Released 22.07.08
23.07.08	Herschell Murray M	Found on Ground	Euthanased 23.07.08

ADMISSION	NAME	REASON	RESULT
23.07.08	Hamlyn Bev F	Relocated in yard 9	Released 26.07.08
24.07.08	Lake Nick M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 03.08.08
25.07.08	Boundary Brian M	On Ground	Euthanased 05.08.08
27.07.08	Lindfield Holden M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 20.08.08
02.08.08	Pacific Highway Flat M	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
03.08.08	Hamlyn Picnic F	Chlamydia	Euthanased 06.08.08
07.08.08	Boonamin Nic M	Right eye conjunctivitis and mouth lesions	Euthanased 13.08.08
09.08.08	Ocean Paul M	Motor Vehicle accident	Released 12.08.08
11.08.08	Grassmere Nate M	On Ground - checked	Released 11.08.08
11.08.08	Garage Girl F	On Ground	Released 13.08.08
15.08.08	Sancrox Rick M	Chlamydia	Euthanased 15.08.08
18.08.08	Calwalla Sharon F	Chlamydia	
19.08.08	Jindalee Paul M	On Ground – checked	Released 19.08.08
20.08.08	Hastie Ray M	Chlamydia and conjunctivitis	
20.08.08	Briarwood Crest M	Conjunctivitis	
22.08.08	Roto Abigail F	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 27.08.08
22.08.08	Halyard Linda F	Chlamydia	
24.08.08	Grassmere Nate M	Disorientated - observation	Released 26.08.08
24.08.08	Macquarie Mystery F	Blind	Euthanased 25.08.08
24.08.08	Burrawang Levin	Injury right eye	Released 25.08.08
25.08.08	McLaren Dion M	Dog Attack	Dead on Arrival
25.08.08	Hastings IDAF m	Motor Vehicle Accident	Release 29.08.08
26.08.08	Condon Geoff M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
28.08.08	Marbuk Tilpa	Drinking lots of water and growth on scapula	
28.08.08	Ocean Shelley F	Motor Vehicle Accident	
28.08.08	Oxley Races M	Motor Vehicle accident	Dead on Arrival
29.10.08	Riverside Roach M	Motor Vehicle accident	
31.08.08	Nowendoc Nessa F	Motor Vehicle accident	

June	Permanent 2	Treated 26	Released 6	Euthanased 5	Dead/Died 3	Admitted 12
July	Permanent 2	Treated 30	Released 11	Euthanased 3	Dead/Died 8	Admitted 26
August	Permanent 2	Treated 34	Released 16	Euthanased 8	Dead/Died 3	Admitted 24

Gum Tips is the official newsletter of the Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc.
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"Two little boys came up to the hospital yesterday with their grandmother to see the sick koalas. Apparently they were very disappointed because they thought they would see the koalas tucked up in beds!!!!"

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