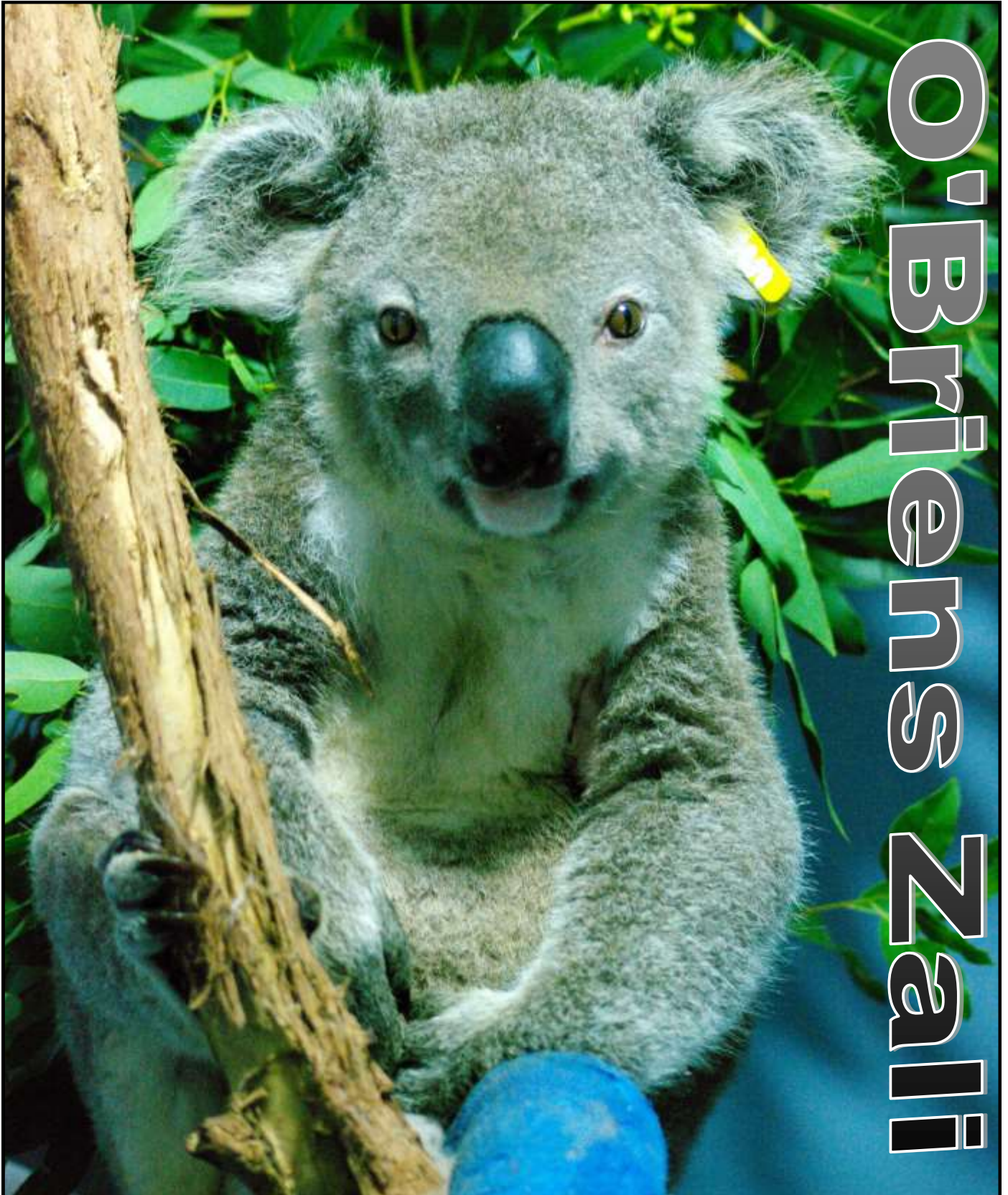




# Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

2nd Quarter 2015



O'Brien's Zaii

# O'Briens Zali

This young male was admitted to the hospital in late April as a result of being attacked by a dog (a boxer). Zali was not in a good state and staff were concerned that he may not make it as his wounds were quite severe.

It is unfortunate, but the success rate of koalas surviving dog attacks is pretty low (see special report on page 4 concerning dog attacks) and this young male certainly fitted the criteria of advanced injuries.

So far Zali has responded well to treatment and care and has maintained a healthy appetite, which is a great sign! So much so, that he took a liking to sitting in the middle of his dinner. Staff had to rectify this problem as there was concern he may have got his bandaging all wet.

Zali still has a way to go as the wounds on his leg are very deep and will take considerable time to heal, but we are quite confident now we will have a successful outcome with this young male.

Even though, he eats well and is quite settled in the ICU, he certainly is not a great fan of humans and is

quite frightened, which is perfectly OK by us as we leave him alone as much as possible. Let's hope he has been released to his home by our next issue.



*Zali still a little dazed after first being admitted.*

## The other side of caring for Koalas

Occasionally there are comments made questioning the amount of koalas that "go to the great Gum Tree in the sky", so we thought it was time for us to respond.

From the human angle, most people who arrive in a hospital emergency department by ambulance are in a very bad way and sadly many die on arrival, or not long after. Often the very elderly on admission to hospital do not return home. Many end up in nursing home care, many do not. That is the cycle of life. Many humans who are so gravely ill they would like to not be around anymore, but ethics will not allow them a humane passing.

Wildlife care operates on similar principles, the big difference is the koala doesn't tell you when he is unwell and we often find them when they are in an advanced state of illness. Statistically the amount of koalas who survive a motor vehicle impact or dog attack is low, successful treatment of their injuries is a battle in itself, but we certainly do have wins, so it's not all bad. Behaviourally, koalas live high in the trees and only come lower to the ground when they are becoming sick, basically the sicker they are the lower down the tree they come and that is often when we find them.

We admit approx. 250 koalas per year, many of our patients are gravely ill when they arrive, many are suffering severe injuries, and many of our very old

koalas are just that, very old. Other koalas who are brought in with minor injuries, are in an early stage of illness or simply need a bit of care for a while, these are released "as good as new".

Koalas are cryptic creatures and they tend to hide the fact they are so ill. To the uninitiated they may look fine on the outside, but inside their bodies it is a very different story. Our diagnostic team examine the patients to find out the problem and then deal with it in the best possible way. In comparison to some other institutions we have a statistically much higher rate of patient release, results we should be proud of, the hospital operates viewing the most ethical and humane way of treating koala patients, but to keep a koala alive at all costs is just morally reprehensible.

If the koala cannot be fixed, is in extreme pain that will not cease or their time has come, then we have a moral obligation to do what is right. Making the "call" is not easy and can be very distressing for those involved, but do it we must. We also have a legal obligation under the government licences to do what the licencing laws state we must do.

Thankfully we have the means to take away the pain and free them from suffering – as we should do.

***We do the best we can, but cannot save them all.***

# A Big Thank You!

**W**ith the elections for Committee Members of the Koala Hospital held at their Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24th May, Herbie King, Treasurer and Marilyn Lees, Education Co-Ordinator are no longer members of the Koala Hospital Management Committee, the newly elected members of the management committee are Jane Duxberry, Treasurer and Helen Towers will be Education Co-Ordinator.

But Herbie and Marilyn are two members who should be thanked for their tireless efforts over the years in their assorted Committee positions.

Herbie King first joined the hospital in 2002 and was with the Maintenance team, he served as Vice president in 2007, and held the post of Treasurer in excess of 10 years.

Marilyn joined the hospital in 2009 and has worn many hats in her time, from night rescue, night phone, Gum Tips co-editor, assisting with the Conference and administration which included the Adopt a Koala program and held the position of Education Co-Ordinator for the last 2 years.



Herbie King



Marilyn Lees

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# An Unusual Operation!

**C**heyne Flanagan, the Clinical Director at the Koala Hospital is well renowned for her love of all things wildlife, and with an especially certain fondness for all reptiles of a serpentine nature.

So it would have taken visitors to the hospital by surprise recently, when as they were looking through the window of the treatment room, in the hope of seeing an injured koala on the operating table, they instead were greeted by the sight of a quite generous sized python.

It seems that it isn't only koalas that have to be wary of the canine population of Port Macquarie. The python in question was being treated for wounds suffered to its midsection during the dog attack.

The python is said to be resting comfortably, well away from the usual residents of the hospital.



*Cheyne at work repairing the damaged python with a "willing" assistant in Pam Whippy and Bev Mayers giving encouragement from quite a distance away.*

## 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***

# Hospital Report - Dog Attacks on Koalas

**W**hy does this happen? Domestic dogs no matter how much “breeding out” of undesirable traits we humans try to do, are still basically a pack animal, some more so than others. This does not make them bad animals; it’s simply nature in action and what nature designed them for – a higher order predator (remember that dogs are descendants of wolves).

So when the domestic dog perceives a threat to the “pack family”, such as a koala wandering into their territory (the family backyard), they go into protection mode. We have often been asked why don’t koalas defend themselves and fight back when a dog attacks them.

Even though koalas do make an attempt to protect themselves, their natural instinct is to head high up into the safety of a tree. Their body shape and their behaviour is designed for a life in the trees – they are arboreal. Their long recurved claws and heavily muscled limbs are for pulling them up thick trunks of trees and for manoeuvring around branches.

The long sharp incisor teeth are purely for biting off the stems of leaves and their molars are for grinding up the leaf. Even though two male koalas will fight, it’s usually a short lived affair where a bit of blood may be drawn and fur may fly with the more lower ranking koala usually conceding defeat pretty quickly.

Basically the koala is a lover not a fighter. As eucalypts offer very low quality nutrition, the koalas metabolic rate is designed wholly for conservation of movement – koalas plain and

simply cannot afford to waste energy on nasty things like fighting.

For an animal in the wild to change its body form and its behaviour takes thousands of generations of breeding and in many cases millions of years. So koalas have not had the “evolutionary time” to have the body and behavioural changes to be able to stand up to a powerful dog.

Dingos have only been in Australia for less than 10,000 years, which is a drop in the ocean in evolutionary terms. Feral and domestic dogs have only been here for a few hundred years.

Koalas as we know are territorial – their home range is where they live for the duration of their lives or until they get pushed out by a more dominant animal, or their habitat is removed.

Domestic dogs see humans as members of their “pack”, so where the pack lives (home and backyard) is defensible territory. In urban areas and rural areas dogs are found in backyards. In those backyards or adjacent areas there are also lots of eucalypts.

Koalas live and eat eucalypts and need to access them. This is where the problem occurs, all the eucalypts in an area form part of the koalas home range. Within that home range there are many backyards, many fences and many obstacles.

The koala wishing to go to various trees within his or her range will either go by the quickest route – down the tree along the ground and up the next tree. Or along a fence line to access whatever tree they are seeking. The koala meets up with the family dog on the ground, or sadly they are often pulled off of the top of fences by big dogs.



*A young male found some days after the attack. Severely traumatised left arm which was not only badly infected but the humerus and elbow joints were fractured. This koala did not survive.*

A koala’s instinctive behaviour is to try to get up the nearest tree as quickly as possible, or if they are trapped on the ground, their defensive mechanism is to curl up in a ball.

Occasionally a koala will try to defend him/herself by slashing at the attacker with their long sharp claws or bite but usually a koala is no match for a dog who has all the right equipment to inflict far more serious injuries.

The most common site of koala injuries, is the hindquarters and lower abdomen, where the dog

# Hospital Report - Dog Attacks on Koalas

has grabbed whatever it can as the koala climbs the trunk of the tree. The other common site is around the neck – a typical carnivore place to grab prey.

As dogs have jaws designed for eating meat and bones, the damage that is done to a very soft bodied animal such as a koala is horrific. Even domestic and feral cats are capable of taking a small koala and the hospital has certainly had reports of domestic moggies up trees “hassling a koala”.

We have a term called “the iceberg effect” – the injuries on the outside of the koala may appear minimal but inside the koala is torn to pieces. When a koala is attacked by a dog and is admitted to the hospital most of them either arrive dead or die within 24 hours.

There is a myth that the koala dies from infection, but what they actually die from is shock that results from massive internal bleeding and trauma to their internal organs. We can certainly give the koala the best possible treatment available but it boils down to how much damage has occurred internally.

If the damage is minor then we do usually have some success. Some koalas do suffer injuries that maim them – such as loss of digits, or a permanent limp etc. It is not common for a koala to die from a septic infection after a dog attack – if the injuries are so bad that the flesh is very traumatised then usually its blood loss not infection that results in fatalities, but nonetheless an untreated bite wound can certainly become infected.

Interestingly enough wild dogs and dingos are not an issue for the wild bush koala. Research carried out has shown that only a very small percentage of koalas, (less than .005%) form part of the diet of a wild dog or dingo whose preferred prey are small macropods, ie. wallabies and other small mammals and birds etc. (Harden R.H., Robertshaw J.D., 1986).

Nonetheless dog attack injuries are so frustrating

for hospital staff as they are something that are so preventable, with good and sound responsible dog ownership.

Locking dogs up at night (when the majority of attacks occur), fencing off koala food trees with timber runners to the fence, planting trees in front yards not back, keeping dogs on leads when out in bushland are good options.

Having breeds of dogs that are less likely to attack wildlife is a responsible way to care for wildlife. Sadly the Staffordshire bull terrier is the number one breed of dog that attacks koalas (we keep a record of all breeds of dog in these cases).

Yes, Staffys are wonderful family dogs, so we implore owners of these breeds to be aware of this problem and to be responsible.

Most dog owners are very caring and responsible people who do the right thing and endeavour to protect the wildlife that live in their area.

Meanwhile the Koala Hospital continues with their education campaign to assist dog owners to be wildlife aware, and the hospital is always looking out for better treatment options for these very special patients.

*Cheyne Flanagan*  
Clinical Director

*Reference Cited:*  
Robertshaw J.D., Harden R.H., “The Ecology of the Dingo in N.E. NSW IV: Prey Selection by Dingoes”. Australian Wildlife Research



*This young female koala who was grabbed around the neck and suffered quite severe bruising and swelling - she was successfully released.*

# Clinical Director's Report



**T**hank goodness the last three months have been quiet, with not too many admissions. Its given us the time to work on many other important issues and projects. The Koala Rehabilitation manual 4th edition, is now at the point of being printed and will be available for sale online and at the hospital shop from the second week in July - Yah! Its been 18 months of hard slog but we finally did it!

Research into the various drugs used to treat chlamydia is still ongoing and we are working alongside Sydney University with this project taking lots of blood samples etc. We are continually in discussion with the Sydney University team deciding on different options and methods of administration. As chlamydia is such a difficult organism to deal with, we still don't have the answers.

The district has had plenty of rain which has been great and hopefully this will carry us into the normally dry spring period and we must cross our fingers that we don't have a bad fire season. It is

very satisfying indeed to see our patients being released, this is the ultimate goal for those koalas who have been treated successfully. We will be releasing two of the hand raised joeys very shortly which is a real bonus. At the end of July we are hosting WIRES NSW koala carers for a two day workshop, which will be held at both the University of NSW Rural Medicine campus and at the hospital itself, keeping our staff very busy.

We want to say a big thank you to University of NSW for allowing us to use their state of the art lecture auditorium for our WIRES presentation. We also think its great that two different wildlife groups are coming together for a weekend of koala rehab work, we are looking forward to it. Redesign of the new facilities are almost complete, thank goodness. And after July we will begin setting up the new Education facility.

**Cheyne Flanagan**

## Medical Centre Adopts 22 Koalas

**P**ort Macquarie's Koala Hospital has been given some much needed assistance from people who look after two legged patients. The Westside Medical Centre on Highfields Circuit has adopted 22 koalas thanks to a generous donation from the practice.

Dr Debbie Kors said since the adoption last week, many of the staff have visited the hospital, with family members, to see their charges. The

koalas cost \$50 to adopt with each donor then receiving a certificate and detailing how the koala came to the hospital and what treatment it has undergone.

"It's a lovely way of supporting an iconic charity and everyone got a big buzz out of it," Dr Kors said. Oxley Kaylee is the koala adopted by Dr. Kors. Kaylee was in a motor vehicle accident and has had an eye removed and one leg amputated, so will remain at the hospital for the rest of her life.

Practice manager Stacey Kelly said the adoptions surprised the whole staff. The Koala Hospital community liaison Mick Feeny said some of the members of Westside Medical Centre have been disappointed to find their adopted koala has already been released. "All that means is the hospital is doing a good job in rehabilitating them," Mr Feeny said. "But we get many repeat offenders, so it is possible the adoptive parents will get to meet their furry friend in the future."



*Koala Hospital volunteer Geoff Best, Westside Medical Centre representatives Dr Debbie Kors and practice manager Stacey Kelly. The Point Juliet (background) is one of the adopted koalas.*

*Article and photo courtesy of Port News*

# From the *President's* Pen



In this the 42nd year of the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital we have achieved a milestone with the purchase of land for plantation and conservation. Special thanks go to Graham Hargreaves and the Sayer family who are directly involved in the development of the 94 hectare property.

The construction of our new Education room has been completed with the design and fit out of the displays yet to be installed. The exhibition and rehabilitation yards are nearing completion after long and arduous planning and the installation of fencing and necessary facilities assisted by Jim Thompson and the maintenance team.

This year our staff and volunteers have worked more closely, enabling the administration and clinical areas to work together more effectively. I can only say that the clinical work with the koalas under the control of our Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan with support from our Veterinarian Superintendent Chris Livingston is providing the right treatment for the koalas in our care.

Cheyne is also working closely with the University of Sydney's Professor Mark Krockenberger, to help provide important information for their research programs. The team leaders and volunteers have done a tremendous job with our koalas without them we would not have a Koala Hospital.

Our Education program including the daily guided tours coordinated by Marilyn Lees has been a wonderful success. The souvenir kiosk with Robyne Leadbeatter, the Adopt A Wild Koala program with Jan Campbell, eShop with Val Shakeshaft, 'Friends of the Koala Hospitals' Tracey Doney and Brian Crisp who looks after the donation boxes in local retail shops help bring in the much needed funds to run the hospital.

I am grateful to the Management Committee and the 200+ volunteers that give their much needed time to ensure that the koalas are cared for properly and that rehabilitated koalas are returned to their homes.

**Bob Sharpham**

## Thumbs Up

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



Thumbs up to everyone who braved the weather to come and support the Koala Hospital for their Open Day on Easter Saturday.



Thumbs up to the people buying eucalypt seedlings from the Koala Hospital. These will provide future homes and food for the local koalas.



Thumbs down to the tourists who have used 'selfie' sticks to get close up photos of the koalas in the Koala Hospital. This practice which has stressed the koalas has now been banned.



Thumbs up to the people of Bonny Hills who regularly checked on our koala trap and phoned us when the koala was finally caught.

## Overseas Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Kelly Fung

**Age:** 27

**Resides:** Ma on Shan, Hong Kong

**Occupation:** Doctor

**How did you find out about the Hospital?:**

I first heard of the hospital from a book I read in Hong Kong, I searched Koala Hospital volunteer on Google.

**Why did you Volunteer and for how long?:**

I thought about studying vet science when I was young, but there was no subject in Hong Kong and I couldn't afford going abroad. I have been working for a few years now and saving. I decided to take a gap year and volunteer in Australia, I am at the hospital for a month and I am volunteering around Australia for a year, you have so many unique animals here.

**What was your experience like?:**

It was very special because I could have such close contact with the koalas. I got to feed them and help in the treatment room. I even had one koala named after me and I got to release her back into Bonny Hills. An experience I will never forget.

**Who was your favourite Koala?:**

Watonga Wonder because she is so adorable and holds on tightly to whoever is feeding her. My 2nd favourite is Oxley Kaylee for her determination to strive to keep living, she is awesome.



*Kelly feeding Watonga Wonder, who does hold on tightly!*

# Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

The Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie, where Barry lives in 5-star comfort, often hosts international volunteers who come to learn about Koalas and share in their care and rehabilitation.

Rachael was a welcome volunteer from the UK and when she was leaving wanted to get a koala tattoo so she asked Barry to go along to the tattoo parlour with her. He had thought it would be great fun, until he saw the size of the tattoo needle and had to make a quick exit.



To save himself some embarrassment, he thought he'd better leave town for a while so he joined local hospital volunteer Karen, as she was going on holiday to Singapore. Was he ever chuffed to find that the Scoot Airways plane they were flying on was named Barry, it was painted

right on the front of the plane in big, big letters!



One of their first visits in Singapore was to the stunning Gardens by the Bay where Barry was thrilled to see a display of Anigozanthus (that's Kangaroo Paw – flowers that really look like kanga paws) in the gigantic glass Flower Dome. It made him feel right at home.

His old friend, Reed, picked Barry up on his way to Japan where they took a train ride to the Harajuku district in Shibuya, Tokyo. Barry practiced his Japanese as he bargained with the traders in this trendy fashion and food shopping area and thought it all really came to life when the neon lights lit up the night markets.



There was some very big excitement next on his agenda – he was meeting Trevor and Mandy in Abu Dhabi for a stay at the luxurious Yas Viceroy Hotel on the Yas Marina Formula One racing circuit. He couldn't help but imagine himself very heady with racing fuel and being part of



Australian F1 driver Daniel Ricciardo's pit crew as he checked out the tight curves on the circuit. Vroom...vroom!

Barry didn't think he'd ever been to Malta so he was pleased to accept an invitation from Caroline and met up with her in the grand old harbour city of Valletta. They went to the Upper Barrakka Gardens, where Barry waited with bated breath for the noonday gun to be fired from the row of cannons on the saluting battery. The boom was fantastic and echoed all around the quite beautiful harbour.



Keen to see another castle with lots more cannon, Barry joined Sabina and Harald in Hungary to explore the ruined fortress of Castle Szigliget. The castle was built in 1262AD to stop the Tartar invasions and Barry thought it was really exciting to hear that the Emperor blew it up in 1702. He wished he could have been there to see it.



London was next on his itinerary so he shared a seat with his friend Doris for a really comfortable flight. After a welcome drink and dinner, a comfy pillow and blanket helped him sleep peacefully all the way.

It was a good thing he'd had a rest because he went straight off to hike in the very picturesque Cairngorm mountains in Scotland with Samantha. He could hardly believe his eyes when he saw a herd of reindeer with their furry antlers. Try as he might though, he couldn't see one with a red nose so he thought that Rudolph must live with a different herd.



After seeing the reindeer he thought it was hilarious that his next stop was to catch up with Mary in the city of Moosejaw, situated on the





scenic Moosejaw River in Saskatchewan, Canada. He had a great time helping clear snow with the huge snow blower but he thought the best thing was that the local residents are called "Moose Jarvians". He was considering taking up residence to be able to share their great name!

Still in Canada, he joined up with Erica in Newfoundland at the site L'Anse Aux Meadows at the northern most tip of the island. Barry has been interested



in archaeology and spent quite a bit of time exploring the reconstructed site of a Viking settlement that dated back to 1000AD, and thought the houses made of sod looked quite comfortable. He liked the idea of having lawn on the roof!



Now it was time to start heading back south on the way home so he and Amelie stopped off in New Zealand to see all the magnificent scenery at Mt Cook. Aoraki is its Maori name, believed to mean 'cloud piercer', and it's

the highest mountain in NZ. While it offers quite a real challenge to the many climbers who take it on every year, Barry was content to stay firmly on the ground and admire the view.



He was happier to tackle a much less strenuous climb with Michelle back in Victoria in Australia.



They climbed the Pinnacle at Hall's Gap in the Grampian Mountains National Park. He's always pleased to be able to see wonderful scenic views in mountain areas all around the world.

A final side trip before getting back to the Koala Hospital was a visit to the pretty Garden City of Toowoomba in Queensland. Just to the

west of sunny Brisbane in the Darling Downs, Toowoomba hosts several festivals each year that appease garden enthusiasts and attract thousands of visitors. Now we know Barry's favourite flowers are the ones on his beloved eucalyptus trees, but he's never averse to seeing the colour and the beauty of a flower garden.



Home safely on his gunyah at the hospital he tucked into a good feed of gum leaves and went to sleep, no doubt dreaming of his next adventure.

## Koala Fire Mittens Retraction

In the last issue of Gum Tips, information was printed that is actually incorrect. A very nice reporter from the local "The Port Macquarie News" interviewed us regarding the big push for mittens by the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) to aid koalas affected by bushfires. Unfortunately he misinterpreted answers made by us and stitched them altogether and it made a very different story to what we actually said. He wrote: "Because koalas climb, once their paws are burnt they can't do that anymore but these mittens allow free movement". "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".

What was actually said was koalas often suffer severe burns injuries to their hands and feet. Often these injuries are so severe, that once they have healed, they are unable to climb trees and are not releasable back into the wild. In many cases it is far kinder to euthanase the koala rather than allowing this koala to have a lifetime of pain. It is financially impossible nor kind for koalas and other wildlife to go through some of the human burns treatment interventions (which can continue throughout life), such as skin grafts etc.

The Koala Hospital do use mittens for covering the healing burns injuries on hands and feet at various stages of their treatment. IFAW is stock piling mittens to ship out to various koala carers throughout Australia when the need arises.

Hopefully this has corrected the problem. With apologies from the editor.

# Koala Hospital News Roundup

## Appointment of Workplace Health and Safety Group

The Koala Preservation Society has recently had the development of a Workplace Health & Safety Liaison Group in accordance with Work Cover requirements.

The Koala Hospital Workplace Health & Safety Liaison Group has met in March and April and comprises: John Prior (Maintenance Team) as Chairperson, Maree Smith (Yards and Rescue), Margaret Hearle (Yards and Kiosk) and Anne Reynolds (Administration).

Any member with workplace safety concerns should speak to one of the WH&S Group who will bring the matter to the Management Committee for attention.



John Prior



Margaret Hearle



Maree Smith



Anne Reynolds

## Tour de Australia overseas visitor with a difference!

Gerry Walsh a volunteer at the Koala Hospital recently had a chance meeting with a visitor to the hospital. 'Chen Chen' is from a town near Shanghai in China. He spent quite a while at the hospital photographing the 'patients'. He chatted with Gerry and told him he had flown to Taiwan, cycled around there, and then flown to NZ, and cycled Christchurch to Auckland. Then flew to the

Gold Coast and was on his way via Sydney, to Melbourne.

His shelter, a tent, was also on the bike, along with everything else. A feat in itself you might think, but Chen Chen only has one leg, the other is a prosthetic limb.....Amazing!



Chen Chen with all luggage attached

## Koala Hospital donation To new Lake Cathie school

The Koala Hospital recently presented 10 copies of its publication "The Koala" to the Lake Cathie Public School. We're sure the book will get good usage in the school library.

Geoff Best, the secretary of the Koala Hospital recently had a chance to catch up with the state member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams MP, at her campaign office in Short St. and presented her with the copies of the publication.

Mrs. Williams became active in politics to secure a public school for the town and had campaigned for 15 years for its construction.



Geoff Best presenting Leslie Williams with our donation



# Kaylee's

## GUM DROPS KOLUMN

**H**i there everyone! Since the last news letter I'm happy to say that all us koalas are sleeping so much better now that the noisy machinery has gone. I must say that our new educational and display centre is coming along nicely, still a way to go, but it will be a lovely place for all the visitors to come and learn about us wonderful koalas.

Recently I saw Gerry talk to one particular visitor, his name is Chen Chen, and he travelled all the way from Shanghai on a bike with all his 'housing/range' with him. I was SO impressed because Chen and I have something in common, we both have lost a leg! I asked Gerry how can he use a bike and he mentioned something about a prosthetic leg and now I'm wondering, can they make those for koalas?

Westhaven Barry is starting to grumble ...again. It's because the nights are getting cooler and he needs to be taken inside to one of the ICU rooms. I really don't understand why he should be upset, I wouldn't complain being bundled into a nice warm basket with a tepid water bottle AND a warm blanket. The other morning Westhaven Barry was so eager to get out of the ICU room and go outside that the team leader found him already in his basket by the door looking up at her practically saying "well, I'm waiting, let's go!" She thought he looked so cute she took a photo What a ham!

He really doesn't realise how good a life he has here at the hospital, and to think that I'm the one being called a 'princess' around here! Although I must admit, Princess Kaylee does sound rather nice, I wonder if Princess Charlotte is as cute as me. I'm sure she is, maybe one day she'll come and visit. That would be nice.

I've been meaning to thank the leaf collectors for a long time now and I keep getting side-tracked with all the other things that happen here. So a big thanks for bringing in such lovely leaf for us – especially the swamp mahogany and tallowwood. It has been so fresh and yummy that I'm afraid I've had a little too much and am in need of some Mylanta at the moment.

Repeat offender Acacia Tim, is back in the yards and is starting to get quite big now (handsome too) that he'll soon be a serious contender with our other handsome resident, Barrington Xavier. Maybe they're out to see who attracts the most females, mating season isn't too far away!

Flynn Shabby who has been here for a while was starting to look better with regular brushing of his coat (it was getting all matted and knotty). I'd thought up a nice nickname for him -- Shabby Chic! Unfortunately, he was a lot sicker than I had realised and he recently passed away. It's a real shame as for a while there he was very pleasing to the eye, I'll miss you, you'll always be my Shabby Chic.

We have had a few dog attack victims lately. So Alpha mum Cheyne has been trying some new methods when treating some of the injuries and has had some success with O'Briens Zali (another handsome male) that all I could hear from the treatment room was "Oh, I'm so excited, look at that – so exciting! I'm chuffed! Still early days yet, we need to wait and see, but it is very exciting". It's good to hear Alpha mum so happy, she really cares for us and looks after our welfare here at the hospital and whenever our extended koala family needs her.

Finally, did you know that koalas 'astral travel'? One young male was fast asleep in his yard only to find himself up a different tree when he woke in the morning! He was so bewildered, looking around in a state of confusion that Gerry and Sheila had to help him back to his tree and calm him down. Gerry gets around though doesn't he! Talking to visitors, taking photos, mulching yards, building gunyahs, being Uncle Gerry to the upset koalas, transporting kookaburras plus so much more! Thanks, Gezza!

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

### Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winner for June 2015



Trevor – Photo of Formula One Barry

*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
02.10.14	Ellenborough Romeo	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Died 22.02.15
04.10.14	Reading Steffi	Conjunctivitis left eye	Treating
16.10.14	Watonga Wonder	On ground	Treating
01.01.15	Windmill Thomas	On road	Died 03.02.15
06.01.15	Nicholls Greg	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 21.02.15
09.01.15	The Point Drive Juliet	Chlamydia	Released 22.04.15
27.01.15	Capella Maggie Mae	Chlamydia	Released 04.02.15
30.01.15	Bonny Hills Susie	Suspect chlamydia	Released 06.02.15
04.02.15	Birchwood Jezza	Suspect chlamydia	Released 10.02.15
05.02.15	O'Briens Zali	Suspect chlamydia	Released 10.02.15
08.02.15	Crestwood Brenda	Found in gutter	Dead on Arrival
10.02.15	Armidale Bernie	Moribund	Died 15.02.15
12.02.15	Orchid Gemma	Dog attack	Died 15.02.15
14.02.15	Calwalla Jill	Abandoned Joey	Died 17.02.15
15.02.15	Jade Grace	On ground	Died 17.02.15
16.02.15	Links Gordon	Abandoned Joey	Home Care
18.02.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
19.02.15	Ocean Drive Tessa	Low in tree 24 hours	Euthanased 24.02.15
19.02.15	Spinnaker Hutcho	Dog attack	Released 16.04.15
23.02.15	HKPS Ella	Joey for dehumanising	Released 16.04.15
26.02.15	Glen Innes Kelly	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Treating
26.02.15	Horton Clarence	On ground - moribund	Euthanased 27.02.15
06.03.15	HKPS Jasmine	Joey for dehumanising	Treating
09.03.15	Pacific Hwy Deadun	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
06.03.15	Sapphire Helen	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 19.03.15
09.03.15	Bonny Hills Johns Girl	On ground - lethargic	Euthanased 28.03.15
10.03.15	Pembroke Glen	Conjunctivitis Right eye	Dead on Arrival
10.03.15	Ocean Harley	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
17.03.15	Tasman Maggie	On ground	Euthanased 07.04.15
04.04.15	McLaren George	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 15.04.15
09.04.15	Cathie Narelle	Dog attack	Released 15.04.15
09.04.15	Leura Chloe	Suspect Chlamydia	Euthanased 24.04.15
11.04.15	The Jib	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
11.04.04	Bonny Hills Parker	Motor Vehicle Accident	Released 20.04.15

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
11.04.15	Herschell Dylan	In Yard With Dogs - checked	Released 11.04.15
12.04.15	Seamist Joyce	Unknown	Dead on Arrival
12.04.15	Acacia Tim	Discharge left eye	Treating
21.04.15	Lake Princess	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on Arrival
21.04.15	Herschell Cameron	Moribund	Euthanased 23.04.15
23.04.15	Belgrave Linda	On ground	Died 24.04.15
23.04.15	O'Briens Road Zali	Dog attack	Treating
29.04.15	Jindabyne Mick	Dog attack	Dead on Arrival

## Increased food source for Koalas

**F**ive thousand trees will become a source of food for Port Macquarie's international icons. The plantation will be harvested by Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, by their volunteers to feed sick and injured koalas.

Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan said the early morning hunt to find suitable food was becoming harder as trees in town matured and became too tall, or were felled for development.

Early this year the hospital purchased 237 acres of farm land on Port Macquarie's North Shore, thanks to donations and a bequest. The koala food tree plantation project manager, Graham Hargreaves said endemic species used by koalas would be planted on the site.

"Two thirds of the land will be retained specifically for conservation with the rest planted according to the University of NSW Taronga Zoo plantation model," Mr Hargreaves said.

"This means we will densely plant the trees and coppice to keep them short, making it easier and safer to harvest fresh leaves for our sick koalas."

Forest Red Gum, Tallowwood, Grey Gum and Swamp Mahogany would be grown from locally harvested seed and planted to support a varied koala diet.

Volunteer of 15 years Chris Rollands

will collect the seeds which will then be grown by the Port Macquarie Landcare Group volunteers at their community nursery.

"Currently it is a massive undertaking to hunt for food in all weather conditions," Mr Hargreaves said.

"People start, every day, at 4.30am and safety is becoming a real issue." The project would also put less stress on wild koalas in town because it would negate the need to source their food.

Funding was being sought to support the growing and planting of the 5000 trees.

*Story and photo courtesy of Your Local Independent  
Published Thursday 21st May, 2015*



*Dunbogan Dave*

### **Adopt Dunbogan Dave**

In late 2010 a scruffy female koala with a small joey on board was noticed wandering in a distressed fashion on the edge of a very busy road quite a distance from any stands of eucalypt trees. They were brought to the hospital for a "check up" with the mother found to be in very poor condition and the joey also appeared to be malnourished.

A decision was made to separate mother and joey and to give both Audrey and Dave individual five star treatment, thus giving them both the best chance of recuperation and recovery. Audrey was released weeks later into a high quality habitat area not too far from her original pickup location. Dunbogan Dave was placed with one of our star home carers and received lots of TLC. Dave responded so well, that in a matter of weeks he put on a lot of weight, had soft dark fur and he looked a totally different joey. Audrey probably wouldn't have recognized him!!

**For Adoption details login to [www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt)**

## 2015 Calendar

June 17	Management Meeting	10.00am
July 15	Management Meeting	10.00am
August 16	General Meeting	10.00am
August 19	Management Meeting	10.00am
September 16	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> <b>Ken Rivett</b>	<i>Contributors:</i> <b>Karen Brown</b> <b>Marilyn Lees</b> <b>Gaby Rivett</b> <b>Gerry Walsh</b>	<i>Photography:</i> <b>Gaby Rivett</b> <b>MareeSmith</b> <b>Natalie Spratford</b> <b>Gerry Walsh</b>
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## DISCLAIMER

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## 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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### **Hospital Clinic**

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### **Administration**

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<i>Overseas Volunteers and Work Experience</i>	Ken McLaughlin	info@koalahospital.org.au
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**Sighted a Koala? Help us locate our wild koalas - Contact us at [sightings@koalahospital.org.au](mailto: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



Findlay Jill making sure she doesn't miss a photo opportunity with volunteer Margaret Hearle.



Cheyne checking the vitals of an injured koala (aka Niklas Rieke from Germany) who just happened to have an injured koala kit in his bag.



Maria River Road Ian at feeding time "Remember focus, chew gum leaves and keep your balance!"



Salamander Bay Tallimba, just resting on his gunyah and enjoying a few gum leaves in the Port Macquarie sunshine.



L-R: Karen Brown and Maree Smith with some of our myriad of souvenirs to sell to our visitors.



Volunteer Michael Banicek feeding Glen Innes Kelly "I'm not coming out, you come in!"



L-R: Volunteers Russell, James and Robert mulching our "secret formula fertiliser", with more than a little help from our koalas!



Visitors Petra and Argyon from Belgium making sure to sign the visitors book.



Our rescue team responded to a call for two stranded koalas on the rope bridge 20m above the Oxley Highway. The only trouble, it was April 1st.



Volunteer Helen McKay trying to control Westhaven Barry at feeding time "I do love my formula".



**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**