



# Gum Tips

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

1st Quarter 2016



**Bellangry  
Wombat**

# Bellangry Wombat



It took some time before we were able to see the level of damage to the cornea of both eyes and sadly it was extensive.

Bellangry Wombat was unable to see much at all and it would seem this was permanent. Wombat can discern light and dark and movement but that is about it - not enough for him to be released.

As Bellangry Wombat has taken so well to captive life, it is likely he will have a future here at the hospital for quite sometime.

In late 2015, a farmer in the mountain area some sixty kilometres west of Port Macquarie noticed an animal curled up in the long grass and thought it looked like a wombat.

He was very surprised as wombats are not found in the Bellangry district where he lives. On closer inspection he realised it was a very sick koala and he immediately notified the hospital.

This of course is how the koala got his name. Wombat arrived in excellent condition, which was amazing for not only an aged animal but also because he had quite severe chlamydia related eye disease in both of his eyes.

Bellangry Wombat must have really known his home range very well! The infection was so bad that we were uncertain whether he even had viable eyes underneath all the mess.

The slow process of treating this infection began and three weeks later he also underwent surgery to both eyes.

Wombat began to improve greatly, settling into the routine (animals like routine!), had an excellent appetite, was a good patient (well most of the time) and responded well to all the treatment and fuss.



*Bellangry Wombat adjusting to his new gnyah*

# Art and the Environment for the Koalas

There is a knock-on effect to the environment for every single tree which is cut down. That is the message behind the new mural at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

Eight artists, who are members of the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council Dhungang men's group, created the mural over a 10-week period.

Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council chairman Bill O'Brien said the mural was probably one of the group's best projects because it brought the group together.

"We are a lot closer now as a men's group," he said. Mr. O'Brien acknowledged the women's sewing group which gave up their space so the men could work on the mural.



The mural was the combined effort of artists: Wayne Anderson, Adam Robertson, Uncle Murrie, Uncle Bill O'Brien, Kevin James, Ben Dorsett, John Gibbs and Jason Gibbs.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council had provided funding for the project. Bob Sharpham, Koala Preservation Society Australia President, said the mural was a truly wonderful asset for the koala hospital.

"I think it adds another dimension to it," he said.

"The koala hospital is well known for working with koalas that are in need of rehabilitation, but to have something that represents the Aboriginal culture here as well has got to be a plus for what we do here."

Port Macquarie-Hastings Mayor Peter Besseling assisted with the unveiling of the mural.

"There are fantastic stories to be told and we need to see those stories more in art form," he said acknowledging the rich Aboriginal

Article reprinted courtesy of Port News.



Mayor Peter Besseling admiring the new mural.

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## Help keep our Koalas in Good Hands!

The Koala Preservation Society will gratefully accept bequests to help insure the continued work of the society. You can log on to our website, click on the *Act Now* section on the front page and read all the information under the *Bequest* heading.

**Make a commitment to protect an endangered and unique Australian icon**

# The Body Condition of Koalas

**A**ssessing the body condition of koalas – what is this and why is it so important? The body condition of koalas (also called muscle tone or condition score) is a means to assess the health status of the koala we are presented with.

As koalas are basically composed of lean muscle (a common marsupial trend), if they do carry any “fat”, it tends to be located in their inguinal areas (groin) or the axillary areas (armpits) or around their kidneys, and sometimes some fat is found in infertile females at the back of their abdominal cavity.

Nonetheless on the whole, koalas are a fitness trainers dream – all muscle and no fat!

A healthy, fit koala in his or her prime should exhibit well rounded firm (concave) solid muscles in both forearms and hind limbs, and good solid muscle should be evident over the scapula (shoulder blade) and on the bands of muscles found on the top of the skull.

Its virtually impossible to assess the body condition of a koala without handling and feeling the actual muscled areas. To simply look at a koala and say “that koala is in good condition” is not good science nor is it doing a proper assessment as there are many factors that will dispute a claim of good condition.

Koalas can be tricky and quite deceiving in appearance especially montane (mountain), Victorian or even many western koalas that tend to have much thicker, fluffier and heavier fur coats than coastal or Queensland koalas that tend to have shorter, finer and less thick fur.

Big fluffy thick coated koalas can look like they are in good condition when they can actually be in very poor body condition. Put a big heavy thick overcoat on a skinny person plus a thick hat, and

heavy pants and we would have difficulty knowing that person is underweight on initial observation.

The same concept would apply to simply standing back and looking at for example a Husky dog, Pomeranian or an English sheep dog and saying “that dog is in good condition”. A physical examination of the dog has to be done to really know what the body condition of the animal is like as thick fluffy fur can hide a lot.

Another method to assist in koala body scoring is measuring the length of the skull (from front to back) and then what we call the CRL (crown rump length) which is from the back of the skull to the tailbone. If you put this data with their current weight, it will also tell you that based on the frame size of the koala there should be a roughly corresponding weight. It gives an extra indication whether a koala is in poor or good condition.

Feeling the muscle/body condition is the ultimate and best indicator of health status. This is usually scored 1-10 with one being basically a skeleton through to obese

at 10 (have never struck a perfect 10!). Some researchers score 1-5 but its really academic which method is used.

Whether a koala is in good condition or poor condition is as a result of a number of factors – for example:

Tooth wear – old koalas whose tooth wear is such that the pre-molar and the following molars (top teeth at the back for grinding leaf) are worn down, sometimes to the gum line to the point that the grinding teeth are unable to break down the tough leaf small enough to be swallowed (a lot is spat out or is swallowed in large chunks).

This results in the old animals being unable to obtain enough nutrients from the poor quality leaf



*A healthy looking koala? Visual assessment is not good science proper handling and feeling the actual muscled areas is required.*

# The Body Condition of Koalas

to sustain them and they begin to lose weight. Old wild koalas can be observed to be in poor condition if they have a short fine fur – their spine, pelvis or skull can be quite sunken in.

Or if they are thick furred, it only takes a quick feel of the muscle condition to know that the koala has very little muscle at all. Old wild koalas tend to get pushed out of their home ranges and end up living on the margins of the other animals ranges. Because they cannot masticate the leaf properly they are often constantly hungry and spend a lot of time moving from tree to tree struggling to get enough food.

They can also spend more time eating in a 24 hour period just to try to get some nutrition. Alternatively they start to just give up and literally starve. An old koala is thus at great risk of being killed by a predator, and having less nutrition makes them less able to cope with disease and often succumb to illness in a short space of time.

Of course old koalas in a captive environment have the luxury of “extra care” by being fed optimal quality leaf, supportive nutrition, constant veterinary assessment and this is part of the reason why captive koalas live so much longer than their wild counterparts. One old female koala we had “ Birthday Girl” who was 25 years old at the time of her demise (we believe she was the oldest koala in the world), was in very good condition right up to the end - a testament to the devoted care she received at the Koala Hospital.

Poor condition in koalas can also occur because of some disease process which zaps the koala of

vital nutrients and hence why they “fall away in condition”. The diseases such as advanced chlamydiosis, various cancerous conditions, renal failure etc really cause the koala to lose weight rapidly.

When a koala is admitted in an emaciated condition the immediate focus is to do blood tests, ultrasounds etc. to rule out all possibilities and to try to ascertain the cause of emaciation. Poor body condition can also be observed in lower ranking animals particularly young males who move away from their mother’s home ranges and end up living on the periphery of the colony and are usually found in marginal country. Young males also try to live under the radar of higher ranking males, particularly the alpha male.

The last thing a juvenile male needs is to run into a big muscle boofy alpha male!! These young males are often seen running up and down roads in distressed states, or have travelled great distances trying to locate some unoccupied habitat. The young dispersing males have a high mortality rate as a result.

We hold great store here at the Koala Hospital (as do all wildlife rehabilitators working on all species of native fauna) on a koalas weight and muscle score. All of our team get very excited with weight gain and improvement in their patients muscle mass – its a great sign that the health of the koala is on the mend. Its also very pleasing when we come across a big healthy full bodied koala out in the wild – its a pleasure to see.

## Reading Steffi residing with her Friends

**R**eadung Steffi was admitted to hospital with conjunctivitis (chlamydia) of the left eye which was successfully treated. Even though Steffi improved in health, she was reluctant to climb trees and tended to stay low down. Later on she developed glaucoma in

the right eye, which was considered for surgery if it worsened.

This aged female who was such a gentle quiet koala, continued to not wish to climb trees and eventually joined her friends in the big Gum Tree in the Sky.



# Clinical Director's Report



It's nice to know the predicted weather report of "below average rainfall and above average temperatures" for this summer did not eventuate. Instead we had only a few hot ones and plenty of rain, so the fear of bushfires was eliminated. Phew!

Consequently there has been really good growth of the eucalypts in the area too. Lots of tucker for all the fluffy ones.

Admission numbers of koala patients have remained lower than average, some may say that's a good thing, but in reality a relatively stable number of patients coming in over the last 12 plus years with a plummet of numbers in the last 18 months is of great concern.

It's still early to come up with reasons why, but of course we have some "gut feelings" on this. To add to this, the majority of incoming patients are aged animals, with not many young koalas coming through the doors.

Is the recruitment of new blood not occurring within the koala population? We won't press the panic button yet so lets see how 2016 progresses.

As we work closely with our local Port Macquarie Hastings Council we have alerted them to this issue especially as we are working with them on the Koala Plan of Management for the LGA.

In regards to the koala patients most have been coming in with either age related problems or chlamydial infection.

Thankfully numbers of motor vehicle impact injuries and dog attacks are very low, nonetheless things are not all bad, as we have had some really good releases of treated patients, some of whom have been here for quite some time recovering from their injuries or illnesses.

The collection of samples for University of Sunshine Coast, University Western Sydney and the Australian Museum is ongoing.

Some of this work is quite laborious but it works so much better with teamwork! We all know that this work is critical to koala research and we will continue to do whatever we can to assist.

The news with koalas over the mountains and out west in NSW is not good on a number of fronts.

The proposed Chinese owned Shenhua coal mine, (why are we still continuing to use this polluting material?) to be on the Liverpool Plains near Gunnedah, appears to have been granted approval by the High Court after a lengthy battle.

This company is proposing to remove 270 koalas over an extended period from the site by Plan A... "see if they move themselves once we start removing trees" (which they won't) or Plan B...."capture and relocate" (where to and how??).

The koalas of the Gunnedah, Breeza and other areas are suffering from increasing levels of chlamydial infection which as we know has a great impact on koala numbers.

Moving these animals by disturbing the population - what is that going to do to their health and viability status?

Yes, Shenhua have a lot of very wordy management plans for the koala, but historically a lot of management plans do not end up as proposed.

What happened to the fact the koala was listed as vulnerable in both N.S.W. and federally?

What on earth is the Australian government continuing to do to one of our icons?

Why list them as vulnerable, write up all sort of "thick documents" and then allow this to occur?

Something has to be done to stop this madness. If you are interested in this debacle just simply Google "Shenhua Coal mine, Liverpool Plains, koala".

Shame Australia shame.

*Cheyne Flanagan*

# From the *President's* Pen



In this issue of Gum Tips I would like to acknowledge the importance of our volunteers, especially our Management Committee and Team Leaders.

The Management Committee is made up of 11 volunteers mainly co-ordinators of the divisions within the hospital. Co-ordinating the various aspects of our organisation is reward enough to see the tremendous results of their efforts.

From koala rescues to rehabilitation; property maintenance to habitat management; fundraising to education this work is carried out by teams of volunteers committed to the koala and its natural environment.

There will never be enough funds to carry out the work of the Koala Hospital but our supporters continue to provide financial support through various means that help us to keep going.

Our Open Day on Easter Saturday is just one of our fund raisers and our biggest event of the year, with stalls selling a variety of goods, entertainment and information sessions.

The plantation and conservation teams working with Graham Hargreaves are moving ahead with the planting and management of the 230 acres we purchased in late 2014.

This work is essential to the provision and maintenance of koala habitat in the local area. Extending this work is on our 'wish list' for the future; available funding will determine when.

**Bob Sharpham**

## **Thumbs Up**

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



Thumbs up to the gentleman who waited with the koala and then helped the rescuers with all their equipment. Much appreciated.



Thumbs up to the lady who has very generously donated a beautiful quilt to raise money for the Hospital. We are going to have a silent auction so check our website for details.



Thumbs down to the person who hit a koala the other night and didn't phone in the rescue till the next day. The koala ran off bleeding.



Thumbs up to Tim's Tree Service, Port Tree Fella and some locals who have brought in fresh leaf for the koalas. It all helps.



Thumbs down to yet another hit and run. The koala was so badly injured, shattered jaw and multiple head fractures. Unfortunately the koala had to be euthanased.

## **Overseas Volunteers in Focus**

**Name:** Sarah Scherer

**Age:** 35

**Resides:** Hamburg, Germany

**Occupation:** Graphic Design

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

I did some online research to find a trustworthy and authentic animal protection project in Australia, most especially for koalas. I always have wanted to do something different from what is my usual job, and I liked the approach to rehabilitate and then release the wild koalas, not hold them in captivity unnecessarily. I volunteered for one month.

**What was your experience like?:**

Lovely, funny and helpful people, all working together everyday for the well being of the koalas, I am very happy that I could join this. It was amazing to work so closely with the koalas, getting to know their individual characters.

**Who was your favourite Koala?:**

I loved Elparra David, he was the first koala I fed and he is just so gentle and really adorable.



*Sarah with Elparra David who always loves to have his photo taken with all the ladies.*

# Barry's Adventures in Wanderland

It had been a hot, wet start to summer at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie and Barry was ready for some R & R. How lucky was he to be able to travel with Jules, Mia and Olivia to the fantastic Sheraton Hotel in Fiji?



It's a fun tropical oasis on Denarau Island and when he saw the six swimming pools he knew it was going to be a great place to relax and have

fun with his friends. The fireworks show on the beach on New Year's Eve was the highlight of his stay.

His chum Yasmin picked him up and took him on to Anaheim in California where she was attending an author conference.

Barry was thrilled to catch up again with one of his heroes at Disneyland – he and Mickey Mouse were old friends and Barry was very chuffed that Yasmin thought they had matching sets of ears.



One of Barry's favourite movies is 'Pirates of the Caribbean' so he eagerly accepted Derek's invitation to join him in Barbados. He knew it was an island nation but was surprised to find it was only 21 miles long and 14 miles wide. Because of its British colonial history, Barbados is known as

Little Britain and is famous for English traditions like 5 day cricket matches and Afternoon Tea but Barry and Derek were keen to try the well known and very well liked local



Barbados rum. "Aargh, me hearties," cried Barry, with a swashbuckling laugh!

Across the wide Atlantic now, Barry met with his old pal Corinna and together with her friend Stephan, they arrived on the Cape Verde Islands off the north-west coast of Africa. These beautiful islands are famed for their beaches so Barry had a go at kitesurfing. Being a sensible chap he



practised on dry land first before heading off into the waves for some real excitement.

Corinna and Barry then travelled on to France where they

ticked off another experience on their bucket lists. A visit to the Hard Rock Café in downtown Paris got them both rockin' and rollin' along with the tunes on the unbelievable sound system and the high energy vibe.

They also made sure they tasted the famous Hard Rock Burgers and some other classic American foods.



After all that rockin'n'rollin' Barry thought some of the traditional culture might get his head back in balance, so he headed off to the old world city of Prague in the Czech Republic. He joined his friends Jitka, Mirek and Adel to see the

fabulous Swan Lake Ballet at the Hybernia Theatre which is built on the site of a former 17<sup>th</sup> century Irish Franciscan Monastery. Barry floated away on the beautiful music and could really imagine himself dancing the role of the handsome prince with a beautiful ballerina. It would be just tu-tu perfect!



Barry then received a surprise call from his dear friend Bea, who is a regular Koala Hospital overseas volunteer. She asked if he would like to meet a very famous namesake of his in Switzerland. So on arrival in Bern he went to the Natural History Museum to visit Barry the Avalanche Dog.

Barry was a very famous dog for his rescues that occurred between 1800 and 1814. He lived with monks on the Swiss-Italian border and is credited with saving







over forty people before he retired.

He really enjoyed his time with Bea so as he headed back to Oz, and in the mood for a little tropical excitement,

Barry caught up with her again on the Ile de la Reunion.

It's a French Island in the Indian Ocean near Mauritius and is famous for its Creole culture and stunning rainforest. What's really exciting is that the island is a hotspot in the volcano belt and it has an active volcano. Barry was happy to pose for a photo at the caldera of the Piton de le Fournaise but kept his ears pricked in case it decided to rumble into action and he had to leave in a hurry.

Barry was absolutely fascinated to learn that the Ile de la Reunion was also the home of the now extinct Dodo bird.



A flightless bird nearly one-metre tall, bigger than he is, made his mind boggle. Apparently the species was extinct so many centuries ago that it was for a time considered to be only a myth. Barry and Bea tried the local Dodo beer as they pondered this ancient tale.

But now he had to hurry back home to Port Macquarie as he had been asked to help Karen, one of the hospital volunteers, with moving to a new house. He had a great time directing the

packing and he also managed not to get lost among all the boxes. He did wonder what all that stuff was that she was moving and was glad of his uncomplicated life.



Everyone at the Koala Hospital was glad to see him back as all his friends had missed him and asked all about his globetrotting tales, just a little envious of all the great places he had visited.

But they told him they couldn't chat for long as they were preparing for the Big Open Day event on Easter Saturday and they needed his help. It's an annual event, a day of family fun and everyone is welcome. Barry hopes to see you all there!

## Join in Barry's Worldwide Adventures

We are always happy to receive photos from people all over the world on their travels. All it takes is a Where's Barry plush toy valued at \$15.00. It can be purchased directly from the hospital kiosk in Port Macquarie or purchased online at [www.koalahospital.org.au/shop](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/shop) so that he can be incorporated in your photos then snap away at your favourite travel destinations and send the photos to us.

The travel photos can then be emailed to [barry@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:barry@koalahospital.org.au) along with some copy of where the photos were taken and your information and we can add them to our Barry's Adventures in Wanderland column.

So now you have the information you can become a selected member of the Where's Barry travel team and add to the list of inspiring sights that we have seen over the years.

Our fearless furry friend beckons you to take him with you on your next holiday so that he can report to all his friends from new and exotic locations across the globe.

### Education Report

#### **Walk & Talk**

The past few months have been busy with many visitors coming to Port Macquarie for the holiday period. In December and January we needed 2 Guides on each 3pm Tour to assist with the large number of tourists that averaged between 70-95 per tour.

#### **Bus Tour Bookings**

We had bookings from Terra Nova, Foster Palms and Stuarts Coaches. Coolongolook School also came to visit with 5 to 8 year olds in November.

In December and January we had bookings from Outback tours, Terra Nova, Aldavilla Primary School and Oncourse Tours with quite healthy numbers throughout the period visiting the hospital.

#### **Out 'n' About**

Mick Feeney our Media Officer visited Wauchope Pre-school in October and Lake Cathie Probus Club in November. It was quiet during the holiday period however there is interest from Kempsey Pre-School to arrange a date for a visit.

# Farewell Sweet Solange

**P**appinbarra Solange came to the Koala Hospital in August, 2014 as an aged adult at around fourteen plus years. Solange was admitted to the hospital suffering from bilateral conjunctivitis courtesy of the bacteria Chlamydia. The disease was quite advanced and even after surgery and a long course of treatment Solange's eyes did not improve. Quite sadly Solange became blind as a result, she coped so well with captivity, staff felt she was an ideal candidate for permanent care. Ocean Summer another blind koala (courtesy of a brain injury) tended to be very fearful of other koalas near her, but for some reason Summer accepted Solange.

So we moved them in together into a big yard and the interaction between Solange and Summer was a delight to see. But unfortunately the chlamydial infection invaded Pappinbarra Solange's kidneys and she died suddenly from kidney disease. This old female was dearly loved by all the volunteers because of her extremely gentle nature, and even though she will be sadly missed we all know she now resides in the Big Gum Tree in the Sky.

*All photos courtesy of Carole Grant*





# Kaylee's

## GUM DROPS KOLUMN

**H**ello once again to everyone! As always it has been a busy, busy time here at the hospital. We have had some 'repeat offenders' rescued, rehabilitated and once more released. I think they came in for some extra TLC during the school holiday period because Port Macquarie had so many holiday makers.

So, talking about rescues, the hospital had a very adventurous rescue recently to capture a koala that crossed a very busy Hastings River Road from the Aldi carpark to climb a tree that was in the centre median strip.

This is no place for a koala, so off went Cheyne, Yon, Susanne and Gaby to the rescue!!! Cheyne was concerned that during the rescue a few things could have gone wrong, not only for the koala but also for the volunteers being on such a busy road. So the Police were called to manage traffic.

So the stage was set – and from what I hear, one very cranky koala was finally captured after much 'pole dancing'! Little did the team know that they had a captive audience which applauded loudly once the koala was safely in the capture bag.

A very well done ladies and hello to our Westport Lily who had a check-up once she came into the hospital and being in great shape released in a much safer, koala friendly environment. Pity the gazanias had a very tough pruning.

We also have a very cute joey/juvenile that has arrived from the Newcastle area, she has to be dehumanised. Her name is HKPS Cookie and she such a cute scene stealer. The poor guides have a hard time moving the visitors along to the

next enclosure while Cookie captures everyone's attention and likes to give them a mini photo shoot opportunity.

Dehumanising is a very important process for a home cared koala. They need to forget their 'surrogate mum' and any other humans contact. This is because they need to be returned into their own natural habitat and fend for themselves.

And this can't be done if a wild koala becomes a domesticated pet that depends on human care – it's also illegal to have a koala as a pet.

From cute HKPS Cookie to another sweet koala that unfortunately, very recently passed away and will be missed especially by Ocean Summer, is Pappinbarra Solange. They shared a very unique relationship as 'keep out of my personal space and we will get along just fine, friends'.

Solange was an aged adult with a hearty appetite and a trim 'figure'. Actually, I'm a little bit jealous, being of a more 'solid' physique. Anyway, I'm sure a lot of volunteers will miss sweet Solange as much as I will.

I would like to welcome a handsome young man named Nathan. He has recently become a leaf collector for the hospital. He brings in some very nice leaf for our breakfast and is quite pleasing 'on the eye'.... perhaps I'll get some nice Nicholai for saying that... I'm being truthful he is nice!

Before I go, I'd like to mention that the Koala Hospital is having its most important fund raising day of the year on Easter Saturday which is the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

It will be a fun day with stalls selling everything from yummy food to DVD's, CD's, books and bric-a-brac. There will be entertainment, music and regular information sessions.



Nathan the new Leaf Collector

So, come and meet the patients you hear about in Gum Tips and see this really great hospital just for koalas. You'll even see me!

So until next time, take care everyone and I hope to see you at our Open Day, come and say hello I always enjoy a lot of attention from the visitors.

### Barry's Favourite Photo Competition Winner

March 2016

Yasmin

Photo of Barry at Disneyland with Mickey Mouse

Congratulations!





# Koala Hospital Activity Report

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
26.09.09	Oxley Kaylee	Left leg removed, damaged eye	Treating
26.09.09	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Treating
26.10.12	Barrington Xavier	Limited Sight	Treating
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.08.14	Pappinbarra Solange	Aged	Treating
04.10.14	Reading Steffi	Conjunctivitis left eye	Treating
16.10.14	Watonga Wonder	On ground	Treating
25.06.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
21.07.15	HKPS Flash	Eye cataract	Released 30.11.15
08.10.15	Blair Lainey	Chlamydia	Released 14.12.15
11.10.15	Bellangry Wombat	Conjunctivitis	Treating
14.10.15	Elparra David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
26.10.15	Capalla Maggie Mae	Chlamydia	Euthanased 18.11.15
01.11.15	Oxley Thor	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 12.11.15
01.11.15	Lake Cathie Zoe	Fell from roof - dazed	Released 02.11.15
06.11.15	Burrawong Levin	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on arrival
06.11.15	Moonah Mick	Unknown	Dead on arrival
07.11.15	Kennedy PT 101	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
08.11.15	Merinda Roslyn	Fell from tree	Dead on arrival
11.11.15	Park Panthers + Joey	In dangerous area - checked	Released 08.11.15
13.11.15	Bangalay Head First	Motor Vehicle Accident	Dead on arrival
18.11.15	Burrawang Michael	Fell from tree - checked	Released 12.11.15
19.11.15	Guyra Grant	Debilitated	Died 15.11.15
19.11.15	Farrer Millie	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 18.11.15
20.11.15	Ocean Isabelle	Conjunctivitis	Euthanased 20.11.15
23.11.15	Lake Bob	In dangerous area - checked	Released 23.11.15
25.11.15	Northbridge Peter	Injury to right front leg	Euthanased 24.12.15
29.11.15	Rushcutter Jacqui	On ground	Died 24.11.15
04.12.15	Ocean Drive Nicole	Motor Vehicle Accident	Died 16.12.15
07.12.15	Rowthorne Lucky	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 30.11.15
08.12.15	Cathie James	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 11.12.15
10.12.15	Oxley Ashley	Moribund	Euthanased 07.12.15
07.12.15	McLaren Matilda	Tick Infestation	Died 08.01.16
11.12.15	Crummer Lucky	Conjunctivitis	Released 17.12.15
15.12.15	Oxley Ashley	Moribund	Euthanased 07.12.15
19.12.15	Park Panthers + Joey	In dangerous area - checked	Released 14.12.15
19.12.15	Kempsey Joe	Motor Vehicle Accident	Euthanased 15.12.15
22.12.15	Sancrox Sienna	On ground	December 22.12.15
30.12.15	Gloucester Betsy	Dehydrated	Euthanased 24.12.15
01.01.16	Ocean Jesse	On ground	Treating
03.01.16	Shelly Beach Scratchy	Swollen left ankle and foot	Treating
03.01.16	Settlers Inn Casey	In yard with dogs - checked	Released 04.01.16

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
05.01.16	Blair Lainey	Fell from tree	Released 07.01.16
15.01.16	Everest Sparkles	Unknown	Dead on arrival
16.01.16	Westport Lily	Suspect Chlamydia	Released 07.01.16
19.01.16	Armidale Hanna	Prolapse	Euthanased 17.01.16
20.01.16	Cairncross Bubby	Old eye injury	Released 20.01.16
20.01.16	Hibiscus Homer	Unknown	Dead on arrival
22.01.16	Wyandra J.J	Motor Vehicle Accident	Treating
24.01.16	Regent Diva	Moribund	Euthanased 20.01.16
24.01.16	HKPS Cookie	Joey for de-humanising	Treating
29.01.16	McLaren Pam	Chlamydia	Treating
29.01.16	Lake Cathie Ken	Low in tree	Released 28.01.16

### Local Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Jennifer Baker      **Age:** 57

**Resides:** Flynn's Beach

**Original Occupation:**

Professional Assistant / Project Manager

**What attracted you to the Hospital and how long have you been a Volunteer?:**

I have been a volunteer for one and a half years. I was attracted to the hospital because I wanted to do something useful and I love animals.

**What areas do you work in at the Hospital?:**

I am a Walk and Talk Guide as well as doing Yard work in the afternoons.

**What has your experience been like?:**

I love being able to help the koalas, I have also made some lovely human friends as well.



Volunteer Jennifer Baker.

**Who is your favourite Koala and why?:**

Barrington Xavier, he was the first koala that I gave formula to and he is such a sweet, big, boofy boy.

### Local Volunteers in Focus

**Name:** Pamela Whippy      **Age:** 72

**Resides:** Tasker's Village, Port Macquarie

**Original Occupation:** Barmaid

**What attracted you to the Hospital and how long have you been a Volunteer?:**

I have been a volunteer for 17 years. When I visited the hospital on a Mother's Day, I fell in love with the koalas and put my name down. I started the next day and felt like I needed to help them in my own small way.

**What areas do you work in at the Hospital?:**

I.C.U. and I am a Team Leader and work in the yards when needed.

**What has your experience been like?:**

Learning about the koalas, different personalities and temperaments, looks, their illnesses and treatments, meeting people and learn something every day.



Volunteer Pamela Whippy.

**Who was your favourite Koala and why?:**

Two come to mind Jim Beam, my first homecare and Miss Beautiful also in homecare for 20 months aged 21 and so gentle.



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)

## 2015-2016 Calendar

March 16	Management Meeting	10.00am
March 26	Koala Hospital Open Day	All Day
April 20	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 18	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 22	Annual General Meeting	10.00am
June 15	Management Meeting	10.00am

## Gum Tips

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

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



### DISCLAIMER

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

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

### Koala Hospital worldwide websites

Netherlands—Carla Sluiter  
Germany—Lutz Michel  
Liechtenstein—Viktor  
Switzerland—Viktor  
Europe—Viktor  
Australia

<http://www.koalaziekenhuis.nl>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.de>  
<http://www.koala.li>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.ch>  
<http://www.koalahilfe.eu>  
<http://www.koalahospital.org.au>

### Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Committee

#### **Management Committee**

<i>President</i>	Bob Sharpham	president@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Vice President</i>	John Barber	vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Secretary</i>	Marilyn Lees	secretary@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Duxberry	treasurer@koalahospital.org.au

*\*Also members of the Management Committee*

#### **Hospital Clinic**

<i>Clinical Director</i>	Cheyne Flanagan	supervisor@koalahospital.org.au
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#### **Administration**

<i>Administration Manager</i>	Anne Reynolds	admin@koalahospital.org.au
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#### **Co-ordinators**

<i>Hospital Rosters</i>	Ken McLaughlin*	hosp.coord@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Education</i>	Helen Towers*	education@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Environment</i>	Mike Hawtin*	environment@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Maintenance</i>	Jim Thompson*	maintenance@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Media</i>	Mick Feeney*	media@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Adoptions</i>	Jan Campbell*	adoption@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Souvenir Kiosk</i>	Tracey Doney*	kiosk@koalahospital.org.au
<i>eshop</i>	Val Shakeshaft	eshop@koalahospital.org.au
<i>North Shore Plantation Site</i>	Graham Hargreaves	conservation@koalahospital.org.au
<i>WHS Chair</i>	John Scullin	whs@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Donation Boxes (Retail)</i>	Brian Crisp	fundraising@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Membership</i>	Mary Stewart	membership@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Friends of the Koala Hospital</i>	Friends Co-ordinator	friends@koalahospital.org.au
<i>International Volunteers</i>		
<i>and Work Experience</i>	Ken McLaughlin	info@koalahospital.org.au
<i>I.T.</i>	Tony Boyd	techie@koalahospital.org
<i>Gum Tips Editor</i>	Ken Rivett	editor@koalahospital.org.au

#### **Other Contacts**

<i>A.H. Phone Roster</i>	Anne Reynolds	admin@koalahospital.org.au
<i>24 Hour Rescue</i>	Koala Rescue	rescue@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Where's Barry</i>	Barry	barry@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Koala Sightings</i>	Sightings	sightings@koalahospital.org.au
<i>Website</i>	Bob Sharpham	site_manager@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



*Hey guys, I like a party as much as anyone, but do I have to wear this hat?.*



*Shelley Beach Scratchy thinking its crowded in here with all these gum leaves, but who's complaining.*



*Blair Laney looking very attentive but just a little startled "Sorry! What was the question again?".*



*Handsome Ocean Jesse enjoying his breakfast "I just love the smell of gum leaves in the morning!".*



*Appin Jack who does like to climb, but enjoys sleeping so much more.*



*Kennedy PT101 enjoying the view perched on top of his gunyah.*



*Maria River Rd. Ian thinking to himself "I just know the good leaves are around here somewhere".*



*Armidale Josh watching the volunteers "Hey! More leaves required over here!".*



*Elparra David just getting ready to slowly doze off and enjoy some afternoon R and R.*



*Wyandra JJ admitted for treatment after a motor vehicle accident.*



**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

## In Memory of Westhaven Barry



### Koala Emergency Rescue Line

If you sight a Koala in distress — call our Rescue Line it operates 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

**Port Macquarie Koala Hospital**

**Telephone:** 02 6584 1522

**Email:** [info@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:info@koalahospital.org.au)

**Web:** [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au)