



Gum Tips

Quarterly Magazine of the
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

1st Quarter 2018

Maria River Road Susanne



Maria River Road Susanne



In late December 2017, a high intensity very large fire broke out in Limeburners National Park on the northern side of the Hastings River above Port Macquarie and over a two week period this fire burnt out over 10,000 hectares. An important population of koalas live on the western edge of this fireground and was the site where our search and rescue team found 54 koalas (see stories in this issue). Two of these koalas were Maria River Road Susanne and her joey Maria River Road Joanne (named after two of the search and rescue team).

We located both about four metres up a burnt tree not far from the road along with a number of other koalas as well. Both Susanne and Joanne were sitting about two metres apart from each other. Susanne had burns to her hands and feet and her fur was singed all over. The joey on the other hand looked quite clean and ok, likely as result of being sheltered against her mothers belly as the fire came through.

So many of the koalas on this fireground looked quite flat and unresponsive and these two were no exception. They made no attempt to move nor were they aroused by all the human movement underneath them. They just sat their with their heads lowered. We decided not to push them too hard so our intrepid tree climber/elevated work platform team used the elevated work platform to quietly approach Susanne and Joanne and they were captured very quietly and efficiently. When examined at the hospital it was decided that as Joanne was almost to the point of weaning that we would separate them to allow the mother to

not have the burden of feeding her joey nor have the joey climbing all over her injuries. Maria River Road Joanne went into home care for a few weeks of hydration and nutrition. Maria River Road Susanne's burns were not severe, so she was given fluids and burns treatment for the first couple of days. We had decided to change previous protocols and keep the treatment to a minimum and allow Susanne to "heal herself", supported by good nutrition and minimal human contact. We did this with all the burnt patients.

Maria River Road Susanne has healed extremely well and her healing has been completed in the same time frame that would have occurred if we had undertaken our daily bathing and bandaging protocols. This new method of treating burns has been a learning curve for us, the koalas can avoid anaesthesia and lots of human interference but still end up with the same results. Obviously this is not a treatment plan that would be employed for serious burns, but then the likelihood of trying to keep alive a severely burnt koala is highly questionable, it becomes an animal welfare issue and therefore one we would not likely attempt.

Maria River Road Susanne along with the other burnt koalas have taught us so much about the treatment of burns injuries. Susanne has settled in very well to the daily routine and from a behavioral point of view she appears to not be distressed by the activity around her. In a few weeks Susanne will be released along with all the others back to the now re-vegetated fireground site and back to the tree we picked her up from. We are sure they will all be mighty pleased to be back in their home ranges even in spite of all the five star service they have received at the hospital.



Thanks from a Volunteer

To all of the Koala Hospital Volunteers.....I wanted to thank you all for allowing me to be part of an incredible experience that has been one of the highlights of my life.

I am so, so fortunate to be able to witness the beautiful and unique nature of koalas, to be able to meet them and to learn each of their special characters.



Dominique Shiva with "Bushby" one of the Hello Koalas on the Koala Trail in Port Macquarie.

Words cannot describe how appreciative I am to learn about koalas in Australia and the work you do to support their conservation and especially your fauna. I did not come to the Koala Hospital to pat them or to cuddle them, but to be able to

get to know more about them away from their captivity in zoos in Sydney.

Being able to sweep their poos and give them leaves each morning was an unexpected joy, I looked forward to every morning for the week that I was here (although a tad cold in the mornings). I am so sad to leave but can only hope for their success and happiness in their rehabilitation and thanks to you guys!

Everyone was amazingly supportive and lovely over these days and I hope to be back one day to care and nurture the koalas just as you all do.

Keep it up guys and always smile!

With Love Dominique Shiva

(Dominique was a Work Experience volunteer in 2017 who worked at the hospital for 1 week.)

Overseas Volunteers

The popularity of the Koala Hospital has spread far and wide and apart from the multitude of overseas visitors that come to visit our iconic hospital each year we also have for the last 15 years been accepting overseas volunteers.

The volunteers come from all walks of life and from all over the globe to spend quality time with our koalas on a monthly cycle, all at their own expense with no cost to the hospital at all. Their initial training is handled by the local volunteer team leaders and the scheme is such a success that presently we have a waiting list of over 2 years.

We also have a list of overseas volunteers who have enjoyed their koala experience so much they have returned on numerous occasions for a repeat visit to enjoy the koalas and Australia.

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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

Limeburners National Park Bushfires

On the 6th December 2017 a fire erupted at Big Hill Trail which encompasses the Limeburners Creek National Park and which is approximately 10 kilometres to the north of Port Macquarie.

The plumes of smoke could be seen for kilometres and the burnt leaves were scattered among hundreds of residents gardens in Port Macquarie and outer suburbs.

After 5 days this horrific fire which was travelling on many different fronts was finally declared 'under control'. A few days later the Koala Hospital received word that we could start a search and rescue mission. The truly horrible aftermath of the fire resulted in a total of 10,000 hectares of koala and other wildlife habitat being extensively destroyed.



One of the many tracts of land destroyed in the Limeburners National Park bushfires in December 2017.

The Koala Hospital together with Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Forestry Corporation, NPWS Kempsey and Grafton were now able to commence on a two week search and rescue operation.

I'm not really aware of all the planning that went on behind the scenes between Cheyne Flanagan our Clinical Director and the numerous people, organisations and 'officialdoms' that had to be drawn up to start this search and rescue, but I'm sure it must have been mind boggling!

All I know is that our group from the Koala Hospital was ready to go and help our koalas and any other animals in distress we came across.

What I didn't realise was the impact that this fire left on me. I have never been on a fire zone before, and I was in awe for all the wrong reasons. The areas we searched in were made up of bracken, eucalypt, scleroforest and heath.

Everything was black. Peat six inches or so thick covered your footwear. At times I struggled to just walk, climbed over twisted broken fallen branches and tried not to trip and fall whilst looking above, around and below for animals.



One of the volunteers searching amongst the devastation of the bushfire for injured koalas and other wildlife.

Not forgetting to also to listen for any cracking of overhanging broken limbs that may be ready to fall. Tree trunks were still smoldering, small fires still alight here and there. The weather was damn hot and the air dry and smoky.

"Drink, drink and drink plenty of water" was one of Cheyne's many 'orders', "if your not peeing then it means you're not drinking enough!". Peeing was the last thought on my mind! Where can you pee anyway? How do I get out of these overalls? Squat behind a tree? What tree?

The search area parameters were around our own koala tree plantation, Big Hill, the quarry, Northern Boundary trail, Illi Langi and Maria River Road.

There were helicopters and planes buzzing around. We were in constant contact with all the members in the search teams always on the lookout for ourselves and injured animals.



Just a very small part of the blackened landscape left behind by the bushfire as it swallowed all in it's path.

What amazed me was throughout the canopies of trees with radiant heat burn and all the burnt and blackened devastation you would amazingly find undisturbed pockets of green! Swamp mahogany, River red, Tallowwood and Melaleuca.

A swamp wallaby jumped out of nowhere and crossed my path and I just about wet myself, and birds were flying around rebuilding their nests.

viewed by a Koala Hospital Volunteer



Two of the Koala Hospital volunteers Susanne and Gabriella with baskets and poles ready for a rescue.

numerous skinks scurrying about, and at the plantation site Plovers with their fledglings would be out near the small dam in the green grass. All of this would bring a smile to my face!

I felt proud along with the many volunteers that helped during and after the bushfire, but also reflect on how Mother Nature can belittle you.

I took many photographs but looking back on them I realise that the majority of them couldn't really capture the overwhelming sights I'd seen.

In the two week search that ensued we sighted a total of 54 koalas. Two dead and seven brought back to the hospital for treatment and care and



A group of the many volunteers that helped in the rescue effort from Port Macquarie Hastings Council, NPWS and the Koala Hospital.

the rest unscathed enough to be able to fend for themselves. We also encountered one burnt possum and a burnt snake.

I would like to thank everyone who worked along side me - both seen and unseen. Thank you for the camaraderie that was shared amongst us. Thank you to Jane, Susanne, Joanne, Sheila, Mick, Margaret, Scott and Cheyne. Thank you John and Sally (NPWS Kempsey) and Peter from Port Tree Fella.

Also a big thank you to all relief Team Leaders and staff that stepped up to fill in for the search rescue team by manning their shifts at the Koala Hospital and thank you to the home carers for looking after our smaller survivors.

It was a wonderful experience but I don't want to experience it again.

Article supplied by Volunteer Gabriella Rivett



A burnt koala being rescued from a tree with the help of the Port Tree Fella and Koala Hospital volunteers.

Clinical Director's Report



The last three months have been very busy indeed! We have had quite a few admissions of local koalas infected with chlamydia. This often increases with hot dry weather (there are reasons for this which is too long to discuss).

We are currently trialing yet another drug that may or may not be useful in treating this disease - early days yet, it is very frustrating as so many people ask why chlamydia cannot be cured. Until recently this wasn't even possible in humans infected with this bacteria.

Koalas have this major drawback of having such an efficient liver that it actually breaks the drug down and eliminates it from the body before it can do its job. Alternatively some other drugs may knock down the bacteria but have the capacity to kill the koalas very important gut microbiome - the tiny microbes in the koalas intestinal tract that are responsible for breaking down the tough toxic eucalypt leaf so koalas can get some nutrients from it. So its still a work in progress.

The very hot very dry conditions over summer brought with it something we all fear - lots of bushfires and that's what this issue is focusing on. The Limeburners Nature Reserve bushfire koala patients we have here are almost ready for release and we are taking this unique opportunity to fit special radio tracking (telemetry) collars to each of the koalas the day before they are returned to their home ranges.

At the time these koalas were captured during the fires, their exact location was mapped with GPS co-ordinates so we will have the ability to return each koala to the tree it was picked up from in spite of how different it will all look to us now (it was all burnt black at the time and is now full of lovely green vegetation so looks quite different to us). We will then follow these koalas on a daily basis for the next six months to see how they settle back into the population. Because the entire population of koalas from this site were

either forced in close together or spread further apart at the time of the fires and the koalas that remained on site after the rescue period have certainly had plenty of "shuffling of positions".

When we return the seven koalas back to this site, it will cause a new "shuffling of positions" and it will be an important learning tool for all of us in the post bushfire management of burnt wildlife.

At the end of the six months, we will re-capture all of the koalas give them a quick examination in the bush, weigh them and take the collars off and they will be free to go about their koala business. These koalas will then become famous and be the focus of what we hope will be an important published paper on management of released burnt koalas.

The new clinic at the hospital is fantastic and is so easy to work in. The public also appear to appreciate the better viewing platform as well. We have certainly had an enormous amount of visitors to the hospital over the summer period - all have enjoyed the koalaseum, the "trees of knowledge" and all the koalas snoozing in their enclosures. The guided tours have had huge numbers as well. Such is the power of the wild koala in this country, that so many people world wide just can't get enough of this unique and iconic native animal.

It is still mind boggling that even though both the Federal and State governments endeavour to do something to address the decline of the koala in this country - it's still plain and simply not enough.

Unfortunately the almighty quest for the dollar speaks far louder and until this changes then our wildlife will continue to take second place. Australia has the shameful title of having the highest rate of extinction of mammals in the world - a title we would dearly like to see be changed.

Cheyenne Flanagan

Premier in Port Macquarie

Vice President, Marilyn Lees and Media Co-ordinator Sue Ashton, represented the Koala Preservation Society at a morning tea hosted by NSW Premier, Gladys Berejcklian and our local state member, Lesley Williams late last year.

Held at the Panthers Club, it was an opportunity to tell the Premier about the work performed at the Koala Hospital and some of the research projects we are involved in.

L-R: Premier Gladys Berejcklian, Sue Ashton, Marilyn Lees and local state member Lesley Williams.



From the *President's* Pen



We are well into the start of a new year and what an exciting year it plans to be as we are celebrating our 45th Birthday. So please come and help us celebrate; we will be planning a few events during the year and will post these on our website as and when they are organised.

December and January were busy as expected due to the summer holidays, Christmas and New Year. It is a very popular time for holidaying in our town and surrounding areas. I would like to say thank you to all of our visitors from around Australia and overseas. It is with your generosity that we have been here for such a long time and helped so many koalas. We will continue to work towards finding answers to the problems facing koalas; in the areas of diseases in koalas, protection of habitat, conservation, education etc.

We also experienced a major bush fire on the North Shore between Maria River Road and the coast extending nearly up to Crescent Head, burning out over 10,000 hectares causing a big headache requiring two weeks of searching the fire ground for koalas. I saw first hand what a huge event this was, wondering how anything could survive. Luckily we managed to locate 54 koalas and bought back seven for treatment to the hospital. Those seven are doing very well and we expect to release them in the near future.

Our thanks go also to our Port Macquarie Hastings Council, National Parks, Forestry and Rural Fire for their assistance in the search. It was great to see people working together for a common cause. Our plantation suffered a direct hit but fortunately it was localised to the area of existing forest and all our new trees were unaffected.

At New Year we had an impromptu visit from the Head Keeper of Australian animals at the Duisburg Zoo in Germany, Mario Chindemi. We are working to set up a relationship with the zoo to help with training etc., as they need to learn what to do with sick koalas.

Wishing you all the best for this coming year and we hope to see you soon at our hospital; we have a guided tour every day at 3pm and don't forget we have Open Day coming up on Easter Saturday from 9am to 2pm.

Jane Duxberry

Thumbs Up

(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)



Thumbs Up to the woman who phoned in the injured koala on Ocean Drive and a big thumbs up to her husband who waited with the koala until we arrived.



Thumbs up to those people who phone in sightings. This helps keep track of koala movements around Port Macquarie.



Thumbs down to the woman who thinks that koalas in Port Macquarie should be culled because they are noisy. The koalas were here first and there should be more not less.



Thumbs up to all the people who say thank you to the volunteers when they meet in the street or at the coffee shop. We do appreciate those kind words.

Safe, responsible and alert driving around the environs of Port Macquarie to protect our unique koala colony.

A Koala Sighting

Julie Sage reported a koala sighting via email on her property at Apple Tree Road, Bellangry on the 2nd February.

"We have lived here for the past two and a half years . This is the first koala I have spotted. Glad to hear that he appears healthy. I will certainly keep my eye out for him & any others. The Koala hospital does an amazing job. A big pat on the back and thank you to all the people involved."

Unfortunately there has been a real drop off in sightings, both via phone and email, which may mean koalas are just not as active as other months, or that people are still seeing them but aren't reporting the sighting.

At the Koala Hospital we love receiving koala sightings so just keep them all coming in!



This is the healthy koala sighted by Julie Sage in Bellangry.

Bushfires - A wildlife persons dread

Even though fires have been part of the Australian landscape for millennia, as the climate is hotting up, so too are the bushfires, which are now getting hotter, bigger, more common and more destructive.

Without delving into the science of bushfires – basically there are two types - low intensity and high intensity fires.

Low intensity can be described as “cool” fires that tend to burn the undergrowth and move throughout the landscape usually without causing major destruction (although there are times they do!). Most of the time low intensity fires do not make it into the tree canopies. These fires tend to be more manageable and are often actively undertaken during cooler months to remove high vegetation fuel loads before the heat of summer commences.

High intensity fires are a different story altogether. A combination of plenty of dry fuel on the ground (leaves, branches, small bushes, thick vegetation etc.), lack of rain, high temperatures and dry winds are the ingredients for serious “fire weather”.

These fires often move alarmingly fast, becoming so hot they create their own firestorm and consume everything in their path. These fires more often than not burn right to the tops of the canopies of the trees and beyond. Flames from these fires can leap many metres up into the sky (even reported by airline pilots) and are simply terrifying to witness. Fires such as these wipe out entire forests, entire species of plants and wildlife, human homes and sadly people’s lives.

A fair percentage of bushfires and grassfires can ignite as a result of a lightning strike. The remainder of fires are ignited by arsonists. It is beyond belief that someone would deliberately cause so much destruction. The Limeburners Creek National Park fire is believed to have had seven arson ignition points.

From a wildlife perspective low intensity fires are an excellent way to manage forested areas and it is generally accepted that “some collateral damage” is better than a total wipeout and in effect is nature in action.

For a koala their fire survival strategy is to move higher in the tree when a fire front is coming, or if given ample time, koalas will come to the ground and move to moister refuge areas. Koalas cannot cover the large distances that kangaroos and faster ground dwelling species can do but in low intensity fires their survival is pretty well ensured.

On occasion, the trunks of the trees may remain

burning for a few days and koalas can burn the pads of their feet when descending to the ground, suffer some burns if on hot ground or they can suffer radiant heat burns to their hindquarters.

Smoke inhalation can be an issue as well if there is a lot of scrubby understory that produces thick smoke. The Koala Hospital has certainly had to admit some of these koalas but thankfully these injuries are usually well treated and most of the time they are successfully released. Alternatively during most of these “control burn low intensity fires” the majority of koalas do not suffer any injuries at all, and remain happily in the tops of the trees munching away where their foliage remains unharmed.



A koala with burnt and disfigured claws from a bushfire shows the difficulty that the animal has to do something as natural as climbing.

High intensity fires are another matter altogether. As described before – these fires are so hot, so intense, so fast and so big they virtually wipe out everything. The koalas in their haste have no alternative but to climb to the tops of the trees and once the flames hit the canopy and beyond – the koalas do not survive. Other arboreal species can sometimes hide in tree hollows or under rocks with many surviving the holocaust.

Working with burnt koalas and all other species of wildlife is a field of veterinary medicine that is probably one of the most difficult. It is also very distressing.

Burns injuries are unique. Often koalas come in with what appears to be minimal injuries but over the course of a few weeks, these burns can just deteriorate rapidly. For a koala as well as any tree dwelling species or one that is required to move quickly across the ground – burns to the hands and feet are the determining factor. For tree dwelling species if the burns to the hands and feet have the capacity to cause permanent damage that will prevent them climbing and sourcing food, then they are not releasable.

As wildlife people we are not in the habit of simply

Bushfires - A wildlife persons dread

letting an animal live a life of permanent pain. It is also very difficult to ascertain in the early stages whether the burnt koala admitted to care will be successfully released.

The Koala Hospital does not go on percentage of burns to the body as occurs in humans – we gauge our burns assessment on burns to the hands and feet. We have had many koalas over the years with minimal burns to the body (and therefore would have been considered to have a very low score on percentage of burns to the body) but have had awful burns to the hands and feet.



The burnt claws of NATF Zenani that were that badly damaged she could not be released into the wild again.

Some of these koalas have healed incredibly well with the nails on their hands and feet growing back and so these koalas have been able to be released. While other koalas have had severe burns to their digits that damaged the nail bed so badly that they have grown back as chalky stumps – no claws at all. These koalas can also have another problem with contracture of the skin (no matter how much work we put into treatment) and often the black leathery pads on the hands and feet remain soft and pink.

These factors will prevent release of this koala and it is our view that koalas with these healed injuries can potentially suffer a lifetime of pain. So for all veterinarians and wildlife personnel across the country – making decisions on what is best

for the burnt patients in their care is not easy. All of these wonderful people need public support without criticism.

At the end of 2017 and into early 2018 a major “section 44” fire (requiring the Rural Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service and plane and helicopter water bombing) occurred in the Limeburners National Park on the northern side of the river from Port Macquarie. This enormous fire burnt out over 10,000 hectares of magnificent coastal heath, scribbly forest and impacted on a very significant population of koalas.

Over a two week period the search and rescue team from the Koala Hospital, assisted by staff from Port Macquarie Hastings Council, NPWS personnel and Forestry Corporation searched tirelessly in 35 degree plus heat and found 54 koalas in a particular corner of the park.

Thankfully a lot of this area was low intensity burnt, with pockets of high intensity canopy wipe out. There were a number of pockets of relatively unburnt areas and there certainly was quite a few koalas who had moved into these sites and had survived quite well. The team did find some dead koalas nonetheless.

The team did bring in seven burnt koalas with radiant burns to their hindquarters and hands, feet and noses. These koalas were traumatised by the whole event and were extremely scared.

All of their burns injuries were not so severe that euthanasia was required so we decided to try a different method of treatment this time due to a number of reasons. Basically put in a nutshell everything we did was minimal along with prime quality supportive nutrition and fluids. We left them alone right up the back of the hospital with minimal interaction.

Interestingly enough all of these koalas have healed extremely well and are now ready to be released. The standard method would have been daily treatment of their burns and we are 100% confident that these koalas have healed within the same time frame as ones that had been heavily treated. A big learning curve for us.

In 2017 a group was formed consisting of Port Macquarie Hastings Council, Kempsey Council, NSW Rural Fire Service, Office of Environment and Heritage, NPWS and the Koala Hospital to put together a plan for protection of koala habitat in the event of large bushfires.

This is still a work in progress and as a lot was learnt from the Limeburner's Creek National Park fire and we will use this information for better management in the future.

Article by Cheyne Flanagan, Clinical Director

2018 Koala Hospital Happenings

Australia Day and our Icon

Australia Day Ambassador Liz Deep-Jones and Mayor Peta Pinson thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit to the Koala Hospital.

This year the Koala Hospital celebrates it's 45th year. In 1973 Jean and Max Starr set up the Koala Preservation Society, a not for profit association established to run the Koala Hospital.

Their legacy proudly lives on with visitors from all over the world coming to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital too see our native icon and the work carried out by the staff and volunteers.



L-R: Mayor Peta Pinson, Liz Deep-Jones, Jeanette Jones, and Councilor Peter Alley with a curious Oxley Kaylee looking on

The ladies, along with Liz's mother Jeanette and Councilor Peter Alley thoroughly enjoyed the meeting with the koalas and hearing interesting information provided by their tour guide Jennifer.

They were on a tight time frame due to official Australia Day ceremonies, but visiting the Koala Hospital on Australia Day was a priority on their list.

Koala Sightings

The rescue team are on call 24/7 should you see a koala in need. Phone: 6584 1522 or contact sightings@koalahospital.org.au if you see a wild koala.

All sightings will be entered into our data base which is then shared with Port Macquarie Hastings Council and also uplifted to the NSW Government Bionet data base (formally NPWS Wildlife Atlas).

This information forms a big component for decisions regarding potential development applications and is therefore very important information.

Oysters in the Vines

Every year Cassegrain Winery invites the Koala Hospital to attend it's "Oysters in the Vines" day. The Volunteers from the Koala Hospital set up a stall where koala related items are sold.

It's a wonderful fundraiser for the hospital as Cassegrain also kindly donates bottles of wine for us to raffle throughout the day.



L-R: Our Koala Hospital volunteers flying the flag at Cassegrain were Jennifer Baker, Sue Marsh and Sue Ashton

Many picnics were spread out on the lawns as families and friends enjoyed the music, food and of course oysters and wine.

It was an extremely hot day and throughout the crowd you could see a lot of the plastic picnic plates being utilised as a very effective fan!



L-R: Happy recipients of copies of our Gum Tips magazine were Kayliana, Rhianna and Samantha Goodwin.

A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who braved the heat to raise money for our much loved koalas.



Kaylee's

GUM NUTS KOLUMN

Hello, hello! Back to my normal self – no hard hat thank goodness. It left a band around my head and my ears were squashed and it didn't do a thing for my fur – forget about a bad fur day more like a bad fur month! At least Alpha Cheyne is happy now that she has a brand new CLINIC! I remembered.

Well from the harrowing, windy pelting rain I had mentioned in my kolumn in last month's issue, we are now suffering the humidity and the sweltering heat!

During a long dry spell just before Christmas last year, we had an awful fire destroy an area not too far from here, but you can read all about that in this issue. From that fire we have more patients that came in for treatment in the new CLINIC.

They are all doing very well and there are some cuties among them especially Maria River Road Jane, Joanne and David not to be confused with our other David (Elparra).

Speaking of which he mustn't like me anymore because he's left me and went and did a swap with another male in the Exhibit yard. Maybe it's because I complained about his snoring like a chainsaw – not very thick skinned is he!

Well, now I have Breeza Grant to complain – oops I mean contend – no, no – I mean enjoy company with if he'd only give me the chance. He only has eyes for NATF Zenani. He bellows, hoots and rubs his scent gland and looks no, stares at her all day – well that's when he's awake anyway. I think I'll need ear muffs not a hard hat now. Do earmuffs squash the fur around the ears?

Anyway, I'm not the jealous type, but Breeza Grant is so cute in his own way – a little bit funny looking with that droopy left ear! Ahem.... really look who's talking, me – minus and eye and a leg – grrr...that's why he likes Zenani more!

I just can't stop talking about him he's such a charmer! Really puts on a show when the daily tour is on – just loves to be photographed (like moi!). I like how his tooshie moves about when he walks around the enclosure (sigh). I really have to stretch to see him so I hope I don't fall and end up in the CLINIC.

Mustn't think about him anymore...must be something else I can talk about? Yes....The tour guides had been very busy during the December/January holiday period with so many visitors. So many, that they had to have another daily tour. Does that make it – bi daily? Anyway, we had three groups enjoying the Koala Hospital. So, a special thank you to our Jennifer and her guide team for doing such a wonderful job in educating our visitors no matter how hot the weather had become. During that time, some of our search and rescue team would come back from a full day of 'searching and rescuing' all dirty with ash, sweaty and hot (oh Breeza!) – and they too were photographed!

Oh, did I mention the 'B' word again? I'm sorry (not). I'm all digits and thumbs today and simply can't concentrate on my kolumn. I'm sitting lower in my tree so he can hear me clicking my solar powered laptop keys with my lovely long nails hoping he may notice that I'm not just a pretty face but talented as well!

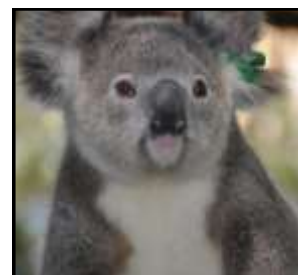
I think I'm in love! Apologies to Cheyne sitting in her CLINIC I'm doing what I'm not supposed to do – I'm anamorphasizing.....no, I meant I'm *anthropomorphism(ing).....I'm becoming human!

I best go before I physically change into cupid!!!!

*Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human traits, emotions and/or intentions to non-human entities....Animals.

Until next time – take care of yourselves and us!

Adopt a Koala



Amethyst Simon

A local home owner Simon, went out into his garage one morning to do a few odd jobs, heard a noise, looked around and there was a small koala sitting on the tyre of one of his children's bikes. Staff from the Koala Hospital "rescued" the offender and he was subsequently brought in for assessment.

Amethyst Simon turned out to be in good condition and as he had been found in an area not known for having a good koala habitat, so he was assigned for re-colonising.

As staff at the hospital had decided to release three other koalas all of similar age and health into a new area for re-colonising, our Amethyst Simon certainly fitted the criteria to be part of this new venture.

***For Adoption details login to
www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt***



Koala Hospital Activity Report

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
26.09.09	Oxley Kaylee	Left leg removed, damaged eye	Permanent
20.10.12	Ocean Summer	Limited sight	Permanent
16.07.13	Barrington Xavier	Limited sight	Permanent
02.12.13	NATF Zenani	Bushfire victim	Permanent
19.02.15	Maria River Road Ian	On ground - lethargic	Treating
08.10.15	Bellangry Wombat	Conjunctivitis	Permanent
11.10.15	Elparra David	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Permanent
03.06.16	Emerald Downs Mary	Glaucoma right eye,damaged left eye	Permanent
24.08.16	Breeza Grant	Hit by train - brain injury	Permanent
24.08.16	Guyra Allan	Both eyes injured/diseased	Permanent
31.1.17	PSK Tolley	On ground	Released
26.03.17	Morcombe Rick	Wet Bottom	Released
27.04.17	Mariners Cathie	Possible wet bottom	Released
27.05.17	Yarrabee Scott	Dragging left front paw	Treating
28.06.17	Davoren Ted	Wet Bottom	Released
15.07.17	Uralla Dane	Dehumanising	Release/Transfer
15.07.17	Inverell Nick	Dehumanising	Release/Transfer
05.08.17	Myoora Jarrah	Abandoned joey	Homecare
06.08.17	Byabarra Jones	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Treating
12.09.17	Kundabung Mikha	Broken arm	Treating
12.09.17	South West Rocks Zane	In yard with dogs	Released
16.09.17	Gunnedah Little Poppet	Bilateral Conjunctivitis	Treating
27.09.17	Gunnedah Mr Bear	Transfer from WIRES Gunnedah	Treating
27.09.17	Armidale Trinity	Transfer from Uralla WIRES	Release/Transfer
13.10.17	Horizons Parkway Bindi	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased
14.10.17	Lake Cathie Tilly	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Died
22.10.17	Kempsey Lucky	Bilateral conjunctivitis	Euthanased
23.10.17	Lake Innes Pongo	Research	Released
24.10.17	Pacific Highway Carwreck	MVA	DOA
26.10.17	Lake Innes Edward	Research	Released
27.10.17	Lake Innes Taj	Research	Released
30.10.17	Granite Baxter	On side of road	Released
31.10.17	Raven Hill Henry	Bilateral conjunctivitis, injured left leg	Released
06.11.17	St Andrews Coco	On road	Released
10.11.17	Balmoral Mini	Orphaned	Homecare
12.11.17	Nowendoc Bracken	Bilateral kerato conjunctivitis	Died
17.11.17	Milton Will	Brain trauma	Treating
20.11.17	Amira Boo Boo	Low in tree	Released
20.11.17	Mt Seaview Cameron	Conjunctivitis	Euthanased
25.11.17	Ruins Way Maxine	Unable to walk	Euthanased
25.11.17	The Point Drive Belinda	On ground	Euthanased
05.12.17	Boorganna Bec	Chlamydia	Euthanased

Admitted	Name	Reason	Result
06.12.17	Koala Frankie	Possible MVA	Euthanased
06.12.17	Waniora Parker	On ground	Euthanased
07.12.17	Grandview Hemsley	Suspected Chlamydia	Released
07.12.17	Koala Justin	MVA	Euthanased
10.12.17	Maria River Road Amy	Conjunctivitis	Euthanased
11.12.17	Maria River Road Joanne	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.12.17	Maria River Road Susanne	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.12.17	Maria River Road Jane	Bushfire victim	Treating
11.12.17	Maria River Road Peter	Bushfire victim	Treating
12.12.17	Hudson Barbara	Food trees removed	Released
12.12.17	Kwinana Michelle	Possible chlamydia	Died
12.12.17	Lake Innes Rebecca	Dog attack	DOA
13.12.17	Maria River Road Sheila	Bushfire victim	Treating
13.12.17	Maria River Road David	Bushfire victim	Treating
15.11.17	Willandra Tobey	Research	Released
15.11.17	Lake Innes Pongo	Wet bottom	Died
16.12.17	Plomer Andy	Bushfire victim	Euthanased
20.12.17	Point Drive Aron	MVA	Died
20.12.17	Illa Langi Nitayana	Bushfire victim	Treating
21.12.17	Bunadeer Jill	MVA	DOA
21.12.17	Muston Pud	Wet Bottom	Treating
21.12.17	Mitchel Ronnie	Unsuitable environment	Released
25.12.17	Park Ronan	Abandoned joey	Treating
25.12.17	Steel Magnolia	Unknown	DOA
25.12.17	Lake Cathie Bonnie	Possible Wet bottom	Died

The BBC goes off the Tracks!

While most people were still in bed on a Sunday morning, a crew of six from the UK based British Broadcasting Company (BBC) visited the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital in late February.

Visiting from London, a team consisting of the presenter, Michael Portillo, a producer, camera man, sound recorder and two administrators had arrived at the hospital in time for the koalas' 8am morning feeding. Michael spent a good half hour interviewing the Hospital's Clinical Director, Cheyne Flanagan, before meeting 'Mini' an eight month old koala joey, feeding resident koala Breeza Grant and finally accompanying one of the volunteers on a koala release.

"Michael was interested in understanding the plight of koalas in Australia and the threats they face" Cheyne said. "He wanted to know about the Hospital, and to showcase the work we are doing to rescue and protect koalas." The BBC team was in Australia to film part of a travel and history documentary series they are producing, 'Great Continental Railway Journeys'.

It is the first time the presenter, Michael Portillo, has travelled the railroads of Australia using a guidebook from 1913, Bradshaw's Continental

Railway Guide, which tells stories about places the guide recommends. Michael is a well known and much loved broadcaster, a former Defence Secretary and former Minister for Transport in the UK. When researching places to visit as a part of the program, its producer said the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital was a "must see destination".

The completed program will be aired in the UK towards the end of the year and will screen in Australia in 2019.



Michael Portillo meeting "Mini" the koala joey and her carer Barbara Barrett at the Koala Hospital.

2018 Calendar

March 6	Management Meeting	10.00am
April 10	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 8	Management Meeting	10.00am
May 20	Annual General Meeting	10.00am
June 12	Management Meeting	10.00am

Gum Tips

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

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DISCLAIMER

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Koala Hospital worldwide websites

Germany—Lutz Michel
Liechtenstein—Viktor
Switzerland—Viktor
Europe—Viktor
Australia

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

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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



Maria River Road Jane recovering at the hospital after the Limeburners National Park fires.



The Koala Hospital volunteers - L-R Joanne, Susanne, Sheila, Jane and Gaby enjoying a short break from their search and rescue mission.



Maria River Road David another of the koalas rescued from the bushfires and enjoying the gum leaf flowers.



Maria River Road Sheila only too happy to enjoy some quality R&R time at the hospital after the fires.



Milton Will taking a little time out to enjoy his snack of gum leaves.



Kundabung Mikha only too happy too show just how sharp his claws are.



The Limeburners National Park bushfires and rescuing koalas can be very dirty and tiring work in 30+ degree temperatures.



Michael Portillo and the BBC crew recording the release of a koala back into its natural habitat.



St. Andrews Jude looking almost dazzled to have her photo taken but always willing to help the hospital.



Muston Pud looking extremely photogenic amongst his gum leaves.



**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

Gumtree Gallery



Westhaven Barry



Reading Steffi



Roto Randy



HKPS Tallimba



Roto Cherokee



Pappinbarra Solange



HKPS Cookie

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

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Email: info@koalahospital.org.au

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