



**Bushfires**  
**VITAL HABITAT  
LOST**

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**HOW YOU CAN  
HELP KOALAS**

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HOMECARE**

# KEMPSEY WAZZA, 'SUPER KOALA'

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*Wazza in the Intensive Care Unit, after her bandages were removed. Drag injuries are visible on her right foot.*

## Koala stuck in car radiator grille!

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In September 2019 a motorist was driving up the Pacific Highway and felt a thud. Although in a difficult area, he did stop and quickly checked underneath the car, the back and sides. He did not see anything.

To his horror on arriving at work in Frederickton, near Kempsey, the driver found a koala stuck in the grille at the front of the car. Distraught that he hadn't checked the front of the car, and fearing the worst, he called the Koala Hospital and rescue staff were immediately dispatched. In the interim with the assistance of some nearby

people, he managed to extricate the koala expecting the koala to be unconscious and severely injured.

To everyone's surprise once removed, the koala took off and went straight up the nearest tree.

Once the rescue team arrived, in spite of the fact the koala had climbed the tree - being hit by a car at 110 kph and being stuck in the car grille certainly warranted capture and examination!

Staff at the hospital were notified to be ready for potentially serious injuries. Sometimes koalas and other wildlife can indeed be seriously injured by motor vehicle impacts but still manage to take off filled with a rush of adrenaline and cortisol (stress hormones) and can cover a surprising distance before collapsing. The hospital has had koalas climb trees with horrific fractures after suffering impact injuries.

On arrival the koala was called Kempsey Wazza at the request of the driver (male or female he didn't care!).

Once staff had settled the koala and placed her under anaesthesia, everyone expected the worst.

What did staff find? No fractured limbs, no facial fractures and no serious bleeding! What we did find were very nasty drag injuries to the front of her lower legs and tops of her feet which suggests her feet were down on the road for a short

period. Wazza must have pulled her legs right up into the grille area (smart koala) as if they had stayed on the road for the 10 kilometres, it is likely the damage would have been horrific.

Staff treated the injuries, bandaged them and gave her pain relief which Wazza responded to well.

She started eating later on that evening and settled in well in the ICU unit. Staff treated her injuries for the next ten days. As she had healed so well, the bandages were not replaced after this time.

Kempsey Wazza or should we call her 'Super Koala' was moved to the outside yards for rehabilitation, climbing well and gaining weight.

Kempsey Wazza has now been released into a beautiful area of koala habitat well away from the Pacific Highway.

Hopefully there will be lots of 'super joeys' from this 'super koala' well into the future.



*Wazza's drag injuries, healing well.*

*Front cover image: Kempsey Wazza, just prior to her release.*

# REPORT BY PRESIDENT, SUE ASHTON



The bush fires in the Lake Innes Nature Reserve south of Port Macquarie in late October and early November had a devastating effect on the local, genetically diverse koala population and the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

Under the guidance of the Rural Fire Service (RFS), trained volunteers conducted search and rescue exercises to retrieve injured koalas. They worked tirelessly in hot, smoky, dangerous conditions to find koalas and bring them to the Koala Hospital.

The teams in the field were supported by volunteers at the hospital, many doing back-to-back shifts to receive, assess and care for the injured koalas. Simple, but essential tasks like washing rescue bags, cleaning and preparing rescue baskets kept the rescuers supplied with necessary equipment.

In addition, the local community and wider population rallied to

support the Koala Hospital. We received donations of food for the rescuers, mittens for injured koala's paws, pharmaceutical and medical supplies. Some children emptied their money boxes and with others, made donations of money to the hospital. All funds raised will be used to purchase water stations which will be positioned in the burnt out bushland to supply water to koalas and other wildlife.

On behalf of Koala Conservation Australia (KCA) I want to thank the community for their generosity and support and to our volunteers, a heartfelt thank you – this was a team effort and we could not have done it without you.

While other news was overshadowed by the fires, in early October the KCA was awarded a five million dollar grant from the NSW State Government. This is a great honour and with it carries a lot of responsibility.

The grant is to be used exclusively to redevelop the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. The project will provide a world class, nature-based tourism attraction in regional NSW. This attraction will be unique to the North Coast area and Australia.

The main features of the Koala Hospital's redevelopment are:

- New rehabilitation and permanent resident koala yards
- Training, research and education spaces
- A retail shop
- Koala museum and theatre
- Interpretive signage and ground level walkway
- Lifts to access an aerial walkway
- A walkway through the trees
- A new clinic
- A new administration area
- Indigenous story telling space including indigenous food garden
- Education nature walk

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# BUSHFIRES DEVASTATE VITAL KOALA HABITAT

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## Impact on wildlife, koalas in particular, has been catastrophic.

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Recent bushfires over northern and north-east NSW, have been major news. The Mid North Coast, including the Port Macquarie area, has suffered badly, including the Port Macquarie area, and at time of going to print, it is feared that significant areas of our vital koala habitat may have been destroyed.

Late October saw the first major fire begin (ignited by lightning strike) in tinder-dry bushland bordering a residential road in Port Macquarie, and strong winds intensified the blaze a couple of days later. The Crestwood/LINR (Lake Innes Nature Reserve) fire gained momentum and travelled quickly south towards the coastal suburb of Lake Cathie. In the space of hours the fire was a terrifying inferno for firefighters and for residents whose homes lay in its path. To give some idea of the size and intensity of the blaze,

smoke from the Crestwood/LINR (Lake Innes Nature Reserve) fire impacted Sydney for several days, even though the city is nearly 400 kilometres to the south of Port Macquarie.

Owing to incredible work by the men and women of the Rural Fire Service, working night and day to contain the fire, the fire was brought under control. Some terrible human tragedy has resulted from this fire, and in addition we believe the impact on wildlife, koalas in particular, has been catastrophic.

Within Lake Innes Nature Reserve, Lake Innes Conservation Area and the Innes Peninsula 3,000 hectares of pristine bushland has been devastated by fire, two thirds of which is regarded as core koala habitat and food trees. This area is vital to the genetic diversity and strength of the local koala population, providing an important sanctuary from human development and threats from cars, dogs and people in general. This koala population is of national significance.



*LINR Peter's feet are thoroughly cleansed prior to application of burns cream, soft wadding and bandages.*



*LINR Matt was dehydrated and listless on admission to the hospital. Here he is receiving vital fluids from the clinical team.*



## Volunteer teams from Hospital have rescued koalas from the firegrounds.

Volunteer search and rescue teams from the Koala Hospital, working under the guidance of the Rural Fire Service, walked the Crestwood/LINR firegrounds, looking for affected wildlife. Unfortunately not long after this first major fire was brought under control, weather conditions worsened again, and new fires began in other areas bordering the nature reserves. Older fires were also fanned into action again, adding to the nightmare scenario. At the time of printing, the Hospital has not yet been in a position to estimate the full scale of the disaster in terms of impact on the local koala population, and their habitat.

So far, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has 30 koalas in care from several firegrounds. Very few koalas have been

found dead. It is suspected that the heat and intensity of the fire has incinerated the remains of many animals (including koalas) reducing them to ash within the fireground. The rescue effort will continue for weeks to come.

Koalas which have been burnt are dehydrated and in significant stress. When they arrive at the Hospital they are given fluids and 24 hours of peace and quiet in our Intensive Care Unit. Following that, under anaesthetic, the koalas' injuries are assessed, wounds are thoroughly cleaned, burn cream (the same medication as used on human burns) is applied, then soft padding and bandages. They are also offered a formula feed twice daily, which helps support their recovery. The wounds are re-dressed every 3 days for many weeks. They will remain in care for six to nine months, until their injuries are healed, but also until their habitat has regenerated sufficiently to sustain them again.



*The fireground is a tragic sight to rescuers searching in hot conditions and dangerous terrain.*



*Volunteers, Rita Saunders and Gaby Rivett, feed nourishing wildlife formula to LINR Paul and LINR Mary.*

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital extends a heart-felt thank you to the local community and the many individual people and organisations nationally, even internationally, who have donated money and gifts in kind to help us with our work at this time. For our organisation, dedicated to the conservation of koalas, this is a difficult time. The support of so many caring people of all ages is uplifting emotionally, and helps us in practical ways to continue our work.

Meanwhile the drought continues across eastern Australia and the problems facing koalas continue to increase. To support koalas and other wildlife, the Koala Hospital will provide as many wildlife drinking stations as donations and funds allow; these will refill automatically and will be placed in bushfire and drought affected areas. If you would like to help us, please visit the Donations page on our website to learn more.

# THIRD NATIONAL KOALA CONFERENCE

Exciting news! The Koala Hospital is pleased to announce we will be hosting for the third time, the National Koala Conference on the 15th-17th May 2020. It will be held at Sails Resort in Port Macquarie who have a great conference centre.

The conference will be a science-based conference and it will have the same theme as the last two conferences - "Their Future is in our Hands". Topics presented

will include diseases, drug breakthroughs, legislation matters, population studies, wildlife carer issues, genetics, surgical techniques and so the list goes on.

Speakers come from all over Australia and internationally and will cover a wide range of topics and it will be a full three days of information. The conference dinner has always been well received and we usually find an interesting after dinner speaker as well. We will

also be awarding our "Golden Leaf Awards" which will be given for the university doing stellar work for koalas, the best young upcoming researcher, the best wildlife group and an organisation doing the most for the wildlife community.

We also hold behind the scenes tours for all conference delegates before and after the conference itself. We will be calling for speakers and registration for delegates at the end of 2019.

## HOSPITAL ACTIVITY (AUGUST – OCTOBER 2019)

The data below illustrates a very busy period for the hospital; it does not include the recent bushfire victims, the first of these being admitted on 2 November.

### REASON FOR ADMITTANCE TO KOALA HOSPITAL

Chlamydia	12
Motor Vehicle Accident	18
Dog Attack	8
In dangerous location	22
Other	28

### OUTCOMES

Released following health checks and if needed, treatment	42
Continuing to undergo treatment or in homecare	14
Euthanased, died or dead on arrival	32

Unusual admissions over the last 3 months include a koala rescued from the lounge room of a family home, one stuck between a gate and a fence, another rescued from a swimming pool, and a koala found in a caravan park with fishing line tangled around her legs.



**THANK YOU**  
to the firies and the wildlife volunteers

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**For the love of print**

# JOEYS IN HOMECARE: UPDATE



## Koala Street Keli – always hungry

Koala Street Keli (pronounced Kee-Lye) was found by a member of the public laying on the ground in a small reserve in Port Macquarie. There was no sign of the little joey's mother, despite a thorough search of the area. Weak, listless and 'flat', he was found to have a fungal infection particularly on his face. When foster Mum, Judy, took him into homecare, she applied a special ointment regularly over his entire body, to treat the fungal condition

Thankfully Keli has always known how to eat, and tucks into his 4-hourly formula feeds with enthusiasm. Interestingly he had already been 'papped' by his mother (see September '19 Gum Tips to learn about pap) so Keli has also enjoyed eucalyptus leaf from day one in homecare. Thanks to Judy's care and commitment to him, we are happy to report that Keli is making good progress and gaining weight steadily; meanwhile his fungal infection is improving all the time.



## Reading Mickey - newest patient in homecare

Mickey came into the hospital at the end of September. She was found under a parked car calling for her mum, having been chased there by a cat. The rescue team searched for her mother with no success, and so brought her back to the hospital. Luckily Mickey was unharmed, barring superficial scratches. She weighed 1.2 kg and after thorough checks in the Hospital clinic, Mickey was transferred into home care.

Mickey is doing well in home care and has bonded with her new human 'Mum', Susanne. She enjoys fresh leaf and special formula every day but is quite picky! Mickey's favourites are Forest Red Gum, Scribbly Gum and Tallowood. The specialised one-on-one attention that these little joeys receive in homecare gives them a better chance of thriving, providing a similar experience to the care they would normally receive from their wild mother.

## 'Devastated' describes volunteers at the Koala Hospital on the 30th October....

...when we learned that our little fighter, Ocean Drive Pixie, had died overnight.

Pixie was the smallest joey that the Hospital had ever taken into care; at just 195 gm on admission, she was covered in a thin layer of fuzzy fur and homecare 'Mum', Barb carried Pixie in a home-made 'pouch' next to her skin for warmth day and night for the first weeks. Pixie was a fighter from the start and showed real character and the will to live. Not surprisingly, she captured everyone's attention, including national and international media! Pixie had been gaining weight and appeared to be thriving. Research has shown that tiny koala joeys are notoriously difficult to raise, one of the reasons being that they miss out on important antibodies from their wild mother's milk throughout lactation. Their immune system can be compromised, leaving them susceptible to infection. At the time of going to print, the Hospital was still to confirm the cause of Pixie's death.

We thank experienced homecarer, Barb, for her care and commitment to Pixie over five months. Whilst foster carers try not to get too attached, Barb admits to missing the lively youngster, who will always have a special place in her heart, and in the hearts of all the volunteers at the Koala Hospital.

# PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT: WILD KOALA ADOPTION

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What better way to show you care about our precious Australian koalas? Share your care with friends or relatives by adopting a wild koala as a gift.

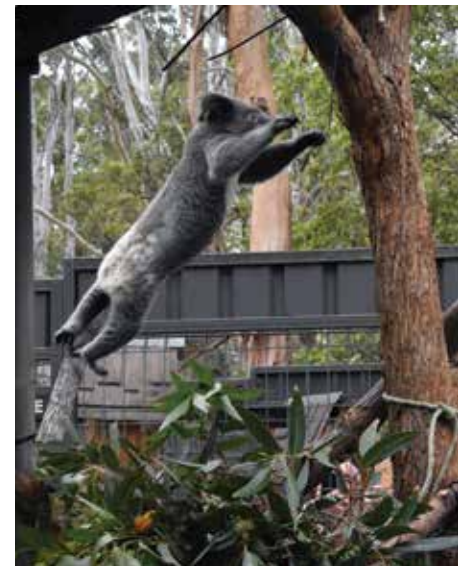
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## Your special gift will

- Help to rescue and care for sick and injured koalas
- Enable us to release rehabilitated koalas back to the wild
- Support the conservation and expansion of all-important habitat
- Assist our research to find solutions to declining koala populations throughout the country
- Expand our educational work with schools and throughout the community



*Rose watches carers working in her yard.*



*Young Rose can be quite active!*

## **New! LISMORE ROSE**

This young, abandoned koala was admitted into care with Lismore Friends of the Koala and transferred to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital on 7 November 2018 weighing around 550 gms. Rose presented to the hospital underweight, anaemic and with poor kidney function. With good treatment Rose responded, and gained weight. Staff also felt

that Rose was developmentally delayed.

Because of her behavioural impairment and ongoing renal issues, Rose was not considered a good candidate for release. Lismore Rose is now in permanent care here at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. She will have ongoing monitoring of her health and behaviour and will be given 5-star care.





## New! LION LEO

In early September 2019 a home owner found a young male koala in the backyard with her dogs and was concerned the koala may have been attacked. Our rescue team was dispatched and the young koala was captured. On examination at the Koala Hospital, staff were pleased to find he only had a laceration on one foot. They also found he had amazing, beautiful blue eyes! This is a rare genetic phenomenon in koalas who occasionally do get admitted to the Hospital having one blue eye and one brown eye but not both.

The Koala Hospital has been working with the Lions Club of Port Macquarie-Tacking Point in putting together the Koala Smart program for schools throughout the Hastings and Macleay Valleys.

The Koala Smart program is about getting students to come up with ways to reverse the decline in koalas on the Mid North Coast and then to implement these projects into the real world with the support of the Koala Hospital and Lions. The results so far have been amazing. The Koala Smart program is so important that our blue-eyed Koala, Lion Leo as he has been called, has become Ambassador for the Koala Smart program.

Meanwhile, Lion Leo is now back in his home range and who knows, in the future, we may have more blue-eyed koalas from Leo's offspring.

Go to [www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt-a-koala](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt-a-koala) to read their stories and select your koala.

Koalas from the recent bushfires are also now available for adoption.



Lion Leo is Ambassador for Koala Smart and has stunning blue eyes.



## Adopt A Wild Koala Package – received by post



- Printed Adoption Certificate (includes photo of your adopted koala, koala name, date and the name of the person adopting). You can include a special message to the recipient if the adoption is a gift.
- Printed story about your adopted koala
- Booklet about koalas
- A Koala Hospital bookmark
- A copy of latest Gum Tips, the official newsletter of the Koala Hospital

Cost: \$60 per year within Australia (\$40 of which is tax deductible within Australia

\$70 per year overseas adoptions (includes postage)

## e-Adopt Package – received by email

- E-Adoption Certificate (includes photo of your adopted koala, koala name, date and the name of the person adopting)

Cost: \$40 per year (fully tax deductible within Australia)

Wild Koala Adoptions are actually great gifts at any time of the year – for birthdays, anniversaries, in fact whenever you want to share your care for threatened, wild koalas.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP KOALAS

## Koala numbers are declining, but you can help.

- 1. Don't remove eucalypts** and native vegetation from your yard or property. Koalas need both \*food trees and shade trees. Habitat destruction is the number one cause of population decline.
- 2. If you can, plant more koala \*food trees** native to your area.
- 3. Provide koala/wildlife drinking stations** particularly during summer. Anchor this off the ground, in the fork of

a tree to reduce danger from predators. Remember to top up the water, and place a stick or large stone in the water to help small animals to get out.

- 4. When driving, slow down and stay vigilant** in areas of known koala activity, or where you see koala signs, at all times of day or night. Koalas have poor eyesight, and don't understand traffic danger.
- 5. Keep your dog on a leash during walks, and restrain any outside dog overnight.** Even the most gentle dog will potentially attack a koala which innocently crosses their yard to get to food trees. Dog attacks are common!

- 6. If you see a sick or injured koala, stop** and telephone your local wildlife rescue organisation immediately. Be prepared by keeping contact details in your mobile phone.



*This water bowl secured in a tree provides water for all wildlife. Note the stick which enables small animals to get out, if they fall in.*

\*You can find out which species of tree your local koalas eat by contacting your local Landcare group.



*Westhaven Barry at the Koala Hospital.*



*We know koalas can climb, but this is amazing! Lauren and Juho sent us this photo of Barry at the summit of Mount Cook, New Zealand.*

## WHERE'S BARRY?

Westhaven Barry lived at the Koala Hospital for many years, and suffered from advanced scoliosis and kyphosis. This meant his spine was curved both to the left and right, and also curved outward. But that didn't stop Barry from becoming a talented escapee and seeking adventure. On early morning Hospital inspections, Barry was always found, but not necessarily inside his own enclosure! Staff started using the catch phrase "Where's Barry?". Barry was a character and firm favourite at the Hospital; although he died in 2015, many staff and volunteers still remember him with a smile.

Now we are asking for your help to keep Barry's adventurous spirit alive. The Koala Hospital has "Barry" plush toys available for purchase, so that you can take Barry with you wherever you go. Just keep him

in your sights though, or you just might find he's disappeared on his own again!

Purchase Barry in person at our souvenir shop at the Hospital. Then email your photographs of Barry showing where his travels have taken him to: [info@koalahospital.org.au](mailto:info@koalahospital.org.au). We will then share his adventures with our readers and supporters.

GOOD LUCK and SAFE TRAVELS



*Barry took a trip to Indonesia recently! Here he is keeping a watchful eye for Komodo Dragons as he dries off in the sunshine.*

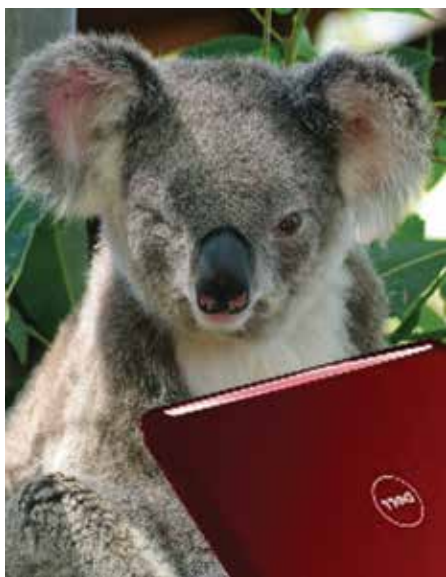


## GOODBYE, OXLEY KAYLEE

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*Earlier this year the hospital said goodbye to a special resident, Oxley Kaylee. Kaylee was a calm and gentle koala who touched everyone's heart. One-eyed and three-legged, she defied the odds to reach old age. Those of us who started enjoying Gum Tips a few years ago will remember that Kaylee even had her own column! Ghostwriter, Gaby Rivett, recently penned a fond farewell.*

"Well now – fancy me being asked to be the local reporter for the Koala Hospital newsletter! I



suppose that now I've recovered so well from the nasty business of having my injured hind leg amputated, they must think it's time for me to get busy and earn my keep with some quality journalism. And here I am with a prime viewing position from the top of my own private gum tree."

This was Kaylee's introduction to her very first column 'Gum Drops from Kaylee' in 2011. She had her own way of expressing her thoughts. No subject was taboo! On her (solar-powered!) laptop, Kaylee wrote about disappearing habitat, car strikes, dog attacks, visitors, volunteers, even construction work.

She loved giving opinions and also talking about herself. She admitted to 'losing her heart' to Westhaven Barry, Barrington Xavier and lastly Breeza Grant. She also had great admiration for Alpha Cheyne, and thought Alpha Scott was 'rather pleasing to the eye'.

Kaylee loved listening to the tour guides talking to visitors about the troubles facing koalas, whilst at the same time appreciating the lovely

juicy leaf that was provided on a daily basis. The best koala BnB in Port!

The column changed to Kaylee's Kolumn in late 2017 and she kept writing up until mid 2018. But Oxley Kaylee was feeling tired and wasn't as active. She started to lose her appetite so Alpha Cheyne gave her a health check. Close to 17 years old, Kaylee's muscle tone was wasting and her teeth were very worn. All signs of old age.

The volunteers were put on notice. Oxley Kaylee had lived her years and she could leave us anytime.

Resilient to the end, Kaylee continued her daily life of eat, sleep and observing the daily goings-on at the hospital. Then one day she heard the eucalyptus leaves rustling in the wind in that special way that only koalas can hear. In August Kaylee said her final goodbye.

Goodbye and thank you, Oxley Kaylee, we will miss you. Thank you for your quirky narratives and for letting me fix your 'typos'.

## GOODBYE, ELPARRA DAVID

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Another long-term resident of the Hospital, Elparra David, also passed away recently. David was a mellow koala with poor eyesight, who was with us for more than six years. He died in comparative old age. The Hospital successfully treated his original chlamydia and returned him to the wild, but David kept being re-admitted for various reasons, then re-released, earning him the title of 'repeat offender'! The final

straw came when he was admitted with significant trauma to an eye, probably caused by a tree branch. The Hospital decided he was no longer suitable for release. David was a great ambassador for his wild cousins; staff appreciated his calm and gentle nature and loved telling his story to visitors, while David enjoyed his daily formula feed, as well as fresh eucalyptus leaves provided each day.



# LIBBY FISHER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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*Libby and koala friend, Merri, at Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria. Photo courtesy of Libby's Koala and Wildlife Crusade.*

*My name is Libby Fisher from Diamond Creek in Victoria and I'm 14 years old and a koala crusader.*

*Koalas, they are my favourite animal. I just love everything about them. I have heard from a few people that they believe that koalas will be extinct in Queensland and New South Wales by 2050 and that makes me really sad because then that just means that our Victorian koalas are all that is left.*

*And also koalas are getting hit by cars and they are also getting attacked by dogs because when their habitat is destroyed they then have to go find a new one.*

*It's important for the younger generation to know that they can do something to help and that you don't have to say to yourself "When I grow up I want to...". You say "I want to do this now".*

*So I started fundraising in grade*

*five. I said to mum, "I want to do something" and so we came up with a little idea to go to a market and to raise some money and I sold little things like Australian pencils, little key rings and it just basically grew from there.*

*I believe we are almost at \$22,000 in the past three years. All the money that I raise, it goes to wildlife rescuers, carers and a few zoos all around Australia.*

*That money goes to buying formula for the koalas, pouches and everything. It also pays for vet bills because rescuers get nothing for free, they are all volunteers.*

*I do think people should care more about the Australian wildlife, just because it's what makes Australia, Australia.*

*So that is why I try and spread the message that the wildlife does need our help.*

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has benefitted from Libby's dedication and fund-raising since 2017 when, aged 11, Libby purchased five koala eAdoptions and five 'Plant a Koala Food Trees' a total of \$250. Later that year, she placed another order, this time to the value of \$225.

In August 2019 we received another donation from Libby, now 14 years of age, for \$500. Since then, Libby has donated yet again to help koalas in the current bushfire crisis.

A **BIG thank you** to Libby from the koalas, staff and volunteers at the Koala Hospital. She continues to raise awareness for koalas and wildlife through conservation talks at local guide groups, kindergartens and within her school.

If you would like to follow Libby's journey or support her cause - visit her website: [libbyskoalacrusade.weebly.com](http://libbyskoalacrusade.weebly.com)



# HARPER AND OLIVE SHOW THEY CARE



*Two recent visitors, both just eight years old, showed how much they care about koalas, when they donated the entire contents of their money boxes to the work of the Koala Hospital. Harper and Olive are not related or friends and each girl made the decision herself about what she wanted to do with her savings. Young people like Harper and Olive are inspirational. They care deeply about animals, they act quickly and are determined to make a difference.*

**Harper** and her Mum were driving home one evening in Port Macquarie, when they spotted a koala sitting by the side of the road. Harper urged her Mum to turn around and go back, and they realised the koala had been badly injured, likely by a passing car. Animal-loving Harper was very upset for the koala, but despite feeling distressed she sat quietly next to the koala hoping to be



*Harper and her mum, Mel, visit the Hospital.*

some comfort, while her Mum rang the Koala Hospital 24-hour rescue line.

Harper knew a bit about koalas but, after that night, her Mum decided they would visit the Hospital to learn more. Harper decided herself to bring along her money box and to the surprise and delight of Hospital volunteers that day, donated all the money in it to help our work! Mum, Mel, said 'I am so proud of Harper. She loves all animals, even insects, she is always rescuing even the tiniest creatures.'

Thank you, Harper, your kind and generous gift will help us to keep looking after sick and injured koalas at the Hospital, as well as enabling us to continue working on research and projects to save the species throughout the country.

**Olive** was excited about visiting Port Macquarie in the October school holidays with her family. She had saved some money and was determined to find something good to spend it on.

At the Koala Hospital the stories about the resident koalas touched animal-loving Olive, especially the story of NATF Zenani - a female koala now resident at the hospital who survived a bushfire a few years ago.

Despite first class home care, Zenani sustained serious burns as a joey to her feet and that means that her claws will never grow strong enough for her to be able



*Olive opens her Wild Koala Adoption package. Image courtesy of G Plunkett.*

to climb safely in the tree canopy. Although Zenani is well cared-for at the Hospital like all our koalas, she will never be able to live the life of a wild and free koala.

Olive knew exactly how she wanted to use the money she had saved. At the Hospital shop, Olive's Dad checked she was sure and then helped her complete a form to adopt Zenani. Hospital volunteers carefully counted out Olive's savings, awe-struck by the eight-year-old's generosity. .

Olive's Dad, Garth, said 'Olive is animal-mad and has always been very kind. Her wanting to use her money like this, is not such a surprise. But we are very proud of Olive. On her own, she did an amazing thing!'

Thank you, Olive, we can only agree with your Dad.

# VOLUNTEER AWARDS AND THANK YOU'S

## **Congratulations, Margaret Hearle!**

Hands-on, passionate and thorough, Margaret is involved in so many roles at the hospital – team leader, koala rescuer, koala carer, retail assistant, and fund raiser! Several nights each week, Margaret also mans the rescue telephone line (5pm – 8 am), a big commitment and one she takes very seriously. Always willing to fill in at short notice, Margaret takes a keen interest in all aspects of the hospital's work.



*Margaret Hearle with President, Sue Ashton.*

## **Congratulations, Gaby Rivett!**

Gaby is an outstanding volunteer, and once she became a team leader, her organisational ability began to truly shine. Her progression to Supervisor was a perfect fit. Passionate, capable and always keen to learn, she has a quick eye for things which need cleaning, repairing, organising. A great mentor to others, Gaby is always willing to fill in shifts at short notice, and go that extra mile.



*Gaby Rivett with President, Sue Ashton.*



*Marjorie and Judy and their President's Awards.*

## **Congratulations, Judy and Marjorie!**

In October, the Hospital said thank you to two long-term volunteers, Judy Stace and Marjorie Wholohan, at the presentation of their Presidents Awards. Both of these hard-working ladies have volunteered at the Koala Hospital for an amazing 30 years each. That's a huge commitment over many years, and a measure of their dedication to the koalas and the overall work of the Hospital.

## **Thank you, Geoff Best!**

Volunteer, Geoff Best, has been pro-actively contributing to the Koala Hospital for over 13 years. During this time he has been Secretary, Education Coordinator, and played a leading role in a previous group, Friends of the Koala. For the last few years Geoff has worked hard as the coordinator of the local donation boxes for the Hospital. Geoff recently stepped down from this formal role.

## **Thank you, but not goodbye, Pam!**

A morning tea was held at the hospital in October to celebrate the contribution of volunteer, Pam

Whippy. Over 21 years this hard-working, dedicated lady has been a friend and mentor to many at the hospital, including our now Clinical Director, Cheyne Flanagan, when she arrived for her first day as a new volunteer many years ago!

A true character and certified koala-lover, Pam has worked in many roles: team leader, rescuer, tour guide, home carer, fund raiser. She has collected many memories and funny stories over so many years, and Pam is known for her 'wicked' sense of humour. 'There have been terribly sad times too, during bushfires and also rescuing injured koalas around the town, but you do what you can and I'm so glad to have had the opportunity.' Pam said. 'Plus friendships forged at difficult times are often the strongest!'

Pam is not leaving the hospital, but for health reasons is stepping down from a formal volunteer role. Thankfully, Pam lives close to the hospital and we look forward to visits from the indomitable Pam and her lively conversation over a cuppa in the hospital tearoom.



*Pam with staff and volunteers at the celebration morning tea.*

# KOALA Kids



## 'WHERE'S BARRY?' SPECIAL FEATURE!

Find these 10 words about Barry in the puzzle. What do these words tell you about the kind of koala Barry is?

- Adventure
- Fun
- Barry
- Hide
- Cheeky
- Kyphosis
- Found
- Travel
- Westhaven
- Scoliosis



## WHERE DO YOU THINK BARRY IS NOW?

Barry has been travelling again.



After snorkelling, Barry and his hoodie need to dry out



Underwater adventure!

You can find out more about Barry and his latest exploits on page 10.

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## Koala Emergency Rescue Line - Phone (02) 6584 1522

If you sight a koala in distress - call our  
Rescue Line 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

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

General Enquiries: 02 6584 1522

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



# NEW products available at the Koala Hospital shop



2020 Koala Hospital Calendars **\$12**

2020 calendars also now available from the eShop  
[www.koalahospital.org.au/product-category/calendar2020](http://www.koalahospital.org.au/product-category/calendar2020)



Colourful Koala  
Socks **\$7**  
(adults • one size  
fits all)

Children's socks  
also available

Great  
stocking  
fillers!



New range of youth and adult Koala Hospital T-shirts **\$28**

Youth sizes: 8, 10, 12, 14 • Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL

**Koala Conservation Australia Inc.**

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