



# Gum Tips

Quarterly Magazine of the  
Koala Hospital Port Macquarie

2nd Quarter 2018



**Kundabung Mikha**

# Kundabung Mikha



**A** call came over the rescue line one Tuesday afternoon in September 2017, reporting a little koala by the side of the Pacific Highway near Kundabung. Our rescuers soon arrived to discover a small male koala sitting low in a sapling tree on the highway side of the wildlife fencing. The wildlife fencing runs for many kilometres along both sides of the highway, and is designed to keep wildlife off the road.

We suspect the koala was struck by a vehicle. There were obvious injuries including cuts and scratches on his legs, arms, body and face; a very cloudy, white eye; and most alarmingly his right arm was hanging limply by his side.

Our rescuers suspected a dislocated shoulder, although an X-ray at Port Macquarie Veterinary Hospital confirmed a displaced fracture of the bone in the upper arm, the humerus. The vets operated to stabilise the fracture internally with a plate and screws.

Kundabung Mikha then returned to the Koala Hospital for rehabilitation. We knew that Mikha would endure a difficult recovery. After a few weeks we began daily, low impact physiotherapy to help Mikha use his arm again.

We are ever conscious of how distressing it is for koalas to be handled or to be otherwise engaged with humans, so the sessions were very short, morning and afternoon. Before long he was using the arm to grab at leaves and to hold himself up. All the while, the Koala Hospital was working closely with Port Vets to treat Mikha's right eye.

We then ran the course of different treatments, however the eye remained slightly swollen and cloudy. Mikha's visual capacity was tested, his left eye was normal, however the milky right eye was diagnosed with minimal to no vision. He was blind in one eye.

Koalas can do well in the wild with vision in one eye, therefore after a few months of recovery, the next test for Mikha was to see how well he could climb. We placed him in a rehabilitation yard with a good climbing tree. After two days he was high in the tree, and came down only to feed at night, on the fresh leaves we provided daily.

After observing how well he was moving around the tree, we began preparing for his release. All we had to do was to wait for him to come down to us, so we could assess his eye once more.

His eye was now exophthalmic, or protruding out of the socket. This swelling may have been a result of glaucoma, with the fluid in the eye being developed more quickly than the eye could deal with it, therefore increasing pressure inside the eye. Unfortunately, his eye had to be removed. The skilled vets at Port Macquarie Veterinary Hospital removed Mikha's eye and he is now in rehabilitation again.

Mikha is eating, climbing and recovering well. We are looking forward to releasing him back to the Kundabung area where he was found, on the wildlife side of the highway fencing.

*Our Koala Rescue Line 6584 1522 operates 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. If you see an injured koala call this number and let us make sure they have a chance at full recovery.*



*X Rays from Port Macquarie Vet Hospital outlining the extent of the Injury to Mikha's arm and the repair that was needed.*

# Koala Care in Europe

The Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie will soon be exchanging ideas on koala preservation with the head of Europe's Koala Breeding Program in Germany, Mario Chindemi from the Duisburg Zoo.

Koala Hospital President, Jane Duxberry and the Kiosk Manager Susanne Scheuter, (a volunteer who moved from Switzerland and who now works



Above: Mario with President Jane Duxberry and a disinterested Breeza Grant when Mario visited recently.

at the Koala Hospital), hosted the visit. As Mario's English was limited, Susanne kindly acted as an interpreter.

Mario's visit is further acknowledgement of the Koala Hospital's worldwide reputation as a leader in koala research and in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild koalas in Australia.

The Duisburg Zoo, founded on 12 May 1934, is one of the largest zoological gardens in all of Germany. It is also especially well known for its dolphinarium and since 1994, for the breeding of koalas.

The zoo controls the koala breeding program for all the zoos in Europe.

Far less well known are the breeding successes in other areas, for example, with fossas (carnivorous mammals from Madagascar) and red river hogs.

The zoo is located in the northern part of the Duisburg urban forest on the border with Mülheim on the Ruhr. A federal highway divides the zoo into western and an eastern parts, which are joined by a bridge.

The zoo holds 8,000 animals, with many different species and runs a successful conservation breeding program for Europe.

A representative of Duisburg Zoo last visited the Koala Hospital 15 years ago and hopefully with this recent visit and the exchange of information these visits will become more regular in the near future.



Above: Mario with Koala Hospital Asst. Clinical Director Scott Castle who is discussing the hospitals koala care protocols.

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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 Koala Hospital Open Day

Open Day is the main fundraiser of the Koala Hospital each year, and of equal importance, it is designed to help raise awareness of koala conservation.

This was the 22nd year that we have held our Open Day, and it is always a great opportunity to educate and interact with the public. Over the years the event has grown in content and interest from the public and last year our wonderful volunteers formed an Open Day committee to co-ordinate planning for the multifaceted event. They

This year we enjoyed the BBQ of course, with the sausages and egg and bacon sandwiches rolling all day. For entertainment, the local talent who generously donated their time included the ukulele band Z Chords, Sing Australia, The Koala Orchestra, Daniel Hopkins on guitar, Ishtar Goddess Belly Dancers and children's entertainer Troppo Bob was again, so dazzling!

Tony Decker closed the day out with the enormous auction, with the aid of the lovely ANZ ladies and our very own Gemma. We also thank



*Clockwise from the top: The crowd enjoying a beautiful day at the Open Day / The kids were attended to all day with face painting and the likeness of koalas / Sing Australia entertaining the crowd with their songs and True Blue looking on / The White Elephant stall supplied all manner of articles for the crowd in attendance.*

worked tirelessly as always, to ensure that the event this year was a grand day out for families... and indeed it was!

Our Open Day began with Uncle Bill who was representing the Birpai People, with the Welcome to Country ceremony.

We were also quite fortunate to have our own local state Member of Parliament Leslie Williams and the Port Macquarie Hastings Mayor Peta Pinson, who joined us for the day.

the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the use of the lawns at Roto House Historic site.

Thank you to Hello Koalas for allowing Ranger Riley to spend the day and for the Koala Trail information stand.

Thank you also to Toyota and Hastings Primary for the use of their marquees; and to Belle Property for their marquee, and the talented artist Cervello who camped underneath it with her beautiful art activities.

# a special day for all the Community

We provided all the usual stalls, face painting with Charlie and other volunteers, games, white elephant, craft, books, cakes, slices and preserves, plant sales, raffles and the obligatory chocolate wheel with loads of prizes to be won.

Our friends at St John Ambulance Service kept us safe for the day and the people at the Curly's



L\_R: Margret Meagher, Mayor Peta Pinson, John Allison and MP Leslie Williams. Margret and John are from Hello Koalas.

Café van kept all the caffeine addicts happy and smiling on the day.

Our friends at Cassegrain Winery had staff on hand and they also got involved in the day and they assisted where needed.

And of course our koalas were on exhibit for interested spectators with our volunteers running guided tours operating throughout the day.



Above: Tony Decker the Auctioneer from LJ Hooker kept the crowd on their toes with his quick fire repartee.

Thank you to everybody who attended our Open Day, who took part in our wide ranging activities and learnt about our koalas and enjoyed the day.



Above: The kids were kept occupied during the day with local artist Cervello and her koala inspired canvases.

As always the involvement of the community goes a long way to helping us save koalas, which of course is the focal point of the hospital.

The Koala Hospital Open Day is held every year on Easter Saturday, so if you were unfortunate to miss our event this year make sure you come and say hello to us and the koalas next year.



Above: The ukulele group The Amazing Z Chords were on hand again with their unique entertainment.

Donations can be made to our charity, The Koala Preservation Society Australia Inc. while visiting the Hospital or you can also donate online at [www.koalahospital.org.au](http://www.koalahospital.org.au). All donations over \$2 are tax deductible within Australia. Koala adoptions are also available online, you can also become a Member through our site when you log on.

Or you can just check out our website for all the Hospital Happenings with all our koalas and events.

Right: Smile! And you too can look like a happy koala.



# Clinical Director's Report



This second quarter of the year has been very exciting, to say the least! We've commenced new scientific endeavours including new pharmaceutical trials to combat Chlamydia; data collection for measuring cortisol (a stress hormone) levels in wild and captive animals; ongoing GPS tracking of local koala populations; a new GPS tracking program following the post-release movements of the koalas rescued from the Limeburner's Creek National Park bushfires; the addition of two beautiful koalas from our rehabilitation program to join our exhibit koala family; and these are only the highlights we could squeeze into this article.

Working closely on another project with Sydney University, we are trialing the efficacy of a drug program to fight Chlamydia in koalas. There is currently no vaccine for preventing Chlamydia contraction in koalas, therefore best practice is to treat koalas with clinical evidence of Chlamydia with various pharmaceuticals, good nutrition, and a relatively low-stress environment. When the Chlamydia is in remission, presenting no visible signs of infection, the koalas are released back to the exact location from where they were collected, provided that there are no extreme stressors, and that the habitat is still there! If successful, the new program will reduce our need of handling the koalas seven-fold!

Speaking of handling koalas, we had a fascinating body of scientific work presented to us regarding the stress hormone, cortisol. The Koala Hospital invited Dr. Edward Narayan, Senior Lecturer in Animal Science at University of Western Sydney's Hawkesbury Campus, to discuss the data around cortisol levels in wild and captive marsupials, including koalas. Without going into the details too deeply, the data described a marked increase in "stress levels" of animals which were being handled by humans when compared to animals which were not being handled. A "resources" page will soon be available on our website with interesting and important scientific papers and information. The presentation was attended by some of our volunteers, local and neighbouring wildlife and koala carers, and delegates from Billabong Zoo and Oakvale Wildlife Park. We are compiling valuable data to help answer questions regarding cortisol levels in wild populations of mid-north coast koalas.

Showcasing our now 45 year association and excellent working relationship with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, the continued GPS monitoring of our local populations has given us a first-ever insight into the home-range sizes of, and the behavioural traits of individual koalas in urban and peri-urban habitats. This is fascinating

data and a testament to the application and the sustained commitment of the Council's Ecologist, and of their Natural Resources Officer. We thank Port Macquarie-Hastings Council for the support of our local koala community, and our ever-growing quest for knowledge. The fire-affected koalas that we rescued from Limeburner's Creek National Park have been rehabilitated and released with GPS radio-tracking collars to monitor their transition back to the recovering habitat.

The individuals were returned to the exact GPS coordinates (and the exact trees were identified by their rescuers). The Koala Hospital is collaborating with Biolink Ecological Consultants and Saltair Flora and Fauna on the monitoring project. These koalas are being tracked and observed every day until October, to monitor how they disperse and integrate back into the population. At the end of this six month period, we will recapture all of the koalas, give them a quick examination, remove the collars, and return them to their new locations, and they'll be free to go about their koala business. This project will provide valuable information for post bushfire wildlife management.

The State Government has determined that two of our long term patients are to remain with the Koala Hospital indefinitely and have been granted exhibition status. From next month our visitors will be able to meet our new residents Byabarra Jones and Yarranabee Scott.

With an ease up of the hot, dry weather, we have noticed a decrease in the admissions of Chlamydia cases. The extended periods of rain may have also placed a pause on land clearing for development, which would definitely have an immediate and positive effect on the health of local animal populations, as well as the occurrences of car-strikes and dog attacks.

Now we're ready to tackle the next three exciting months!

**Scott Castle**  
*(Asst. Clinical Director)*  
*in the absence of*  
**Cheyne Flanagan**



*Right: Kirsty from Biolink Ecological Consultants, and Bernard from Saltair Flora and Fauna.*

# From the *President's* Pen



Since our last issue of Gum Tips we have had a busy time at the hospital looking after the 7 bushfire victims and watching them improve on a weekly basis with lots of tender love and care from all at the hospital. With just the necessary treatment, quiet time, lots of lovely fresh leaf they have all managed to bounce back well in readiness for going back out.

Two of the females were found to be carrying pinkies and that was exciting news to all. In late April we released the 7 back to their home range and wish them all the best. It is amazing how fast the bush regenerates after a fire and we can only hope that is the last fire for a very long time.

We also had another very successful Open Day at Easter and I would like to thank all involved from the workers to the wonderful local community that supported our event. I would particularly like to thank all the businesses that supported us with kind donations of money, goods for raffles and auction and food for sale on the day. The money raised will help greatly with looking after our koalas.

In the last couple of months we also had the pleasure of not one but two major TV stars and their crews. The first was Michael Portillo from the BBC who is doing a series called Great Continental Railway Journeys and a must stop for them was the Koala Hospital. We know that Great Continental Railway Journeys will be screened overseas this year and in Australia next year and when we know the dates we will post on Facebook and our website. The second was Dr Harry, filming for Better Homes and Garden; Dr Harry was very impressed with the hospital and the film crew were able to get a lot of good footage allowing them to produce two segments about our hospital and these were screened in May.

The next event in our beautiful area is the Hello Koalas Festival, from 7-11th June including a conference for two days and one of the guest speakers will be our Clinical Director. There will also be lots of exciting events around Port Macquarie and the surrounding area. Planned activities for our 45 years celebration will begin in August and we will let everyone know about these events shortly.

**Jane Duxberry**

## Thumbs Up

*(Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand)*



Thumbs Up to all the people who took up the offer of free trees. These trees will help our future population of koalas.



Thumbs Up to Brandon, who safely slowed and stopped traffic on Oxley Hwy to help move a koala off the road and out of harm's way. The koala was bleeding from the face, arms and legs after it had been struck by a car. Brandon called us immediately and stayed with the koala until we arrived. Thank you.



Thumbs Up to PMHC's Ecologist and Natural Resources Officer for their continued assistance with monitoring our koala community. Their work helps us understand our local koala populations and their data is also of national significance.

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

## Thank you Jennifer!

For the past three years Jennifer Baker has been the Koala Hospital Education Co-ordinator and sadly she will be stepping down from this position at the upcoming AGM to be held in May.

Jennifer is an extremely motivated person and this trait was reflected in the work she undertook in her time in the position. Apart from liaising with schools, organising/taking group bookings, outside day, evening presentations, attending to admin and email enquiries, attend Management meetings, doing yard work as a volunteer, host tour groups as a guide, train new guides, see to multiple fundraising events held during the year she also had time to supply Gum Tips with reports as well.

A passion and a love of our own native icon was quite evident.

Jennifer's smile will be missed.

*Right: Jennifer Baker who has resigned as Hospital Education Coordinator after 3 years.*



# Bushfire Koalas released and tracked

**P**ort Macquarie Koala Hospital released seven koalas, five of whom were fitted with radio tracking collars on 24th April. The project is partly funded by the Threatened Species Programme – Save our Species – an initiative of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. The koalas will be followed for the next six months.



*Above-Below: Koala Hospital clinicians Cheyne Flanagan and Scott Castle preparing the koalas for the radio collar fittings.*

The koalas were admitted to the hospital suffering burns injuries as a result of the Limeburners Creek National Park bushfires in December 2017.

The search and rescue team which included staff from Port Macquarie Hastings Council, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Forestry Corporation and trained personnel from the Koala Hospital conducted a search over a two week period and found a total of 54 koalas, most of which were located in pockets of relatively unburnt country. Sadly there were a few koalas that could not be saved and some had perished in the fire.

The project will be overseen by Biolink Ecological Consultants, and then the daily tracking of the koalas will then be undertaken by Saltair ecologists and the Koala Hospital staff.

The Limeburners fire caused a major disruption to the koala population in the area forcing them in closer together and changing the dynamics of the normal hierarchy and their food resources. This



*Above: Fitting the tracking collar.*



*Above: Asst. Clinical Director Scott Castle releases one of the koalas back into their home range for tracking.*

project will allow the Hospital to see the effects of reintroduction of further koalas back into the post fire habitat. The other aim of the project is to see how koalas who have suffered some damage to their hands and feet cope with a return to the wild.

The Koala Hospital trialed a different method of treating these burnt koalas. There was minimal intervention used, with the koalas being given high quality nutrition and kept well away from human contact to heal themselves. The results have been staggering in that all the koalas healed as well, if not better, than if they had been given regular treatments with anaesthesia/bandaging etc.

At the cessation of this project, the data obtained will be published.



*Above: Koalas back home again and happy in their natural habitat.*



# Hello Koalas Festival and Conference

The Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail began in 2014 with 50 Koala sculptures dotted across the Port Macquarie Hastings area. With the Koala Hospital as the principal partner, this public art project has been designed to promote environmental sustainability, cultural tourism, creative industries and very importantly community participation. It was conceived by Margret Meagher, Director of the Port Macquarie based organisation Arts and Health Australia.

Today there are in excess of 60 koala sculptures with four Hello Koalas sculptures at the Koala Hospital — “Jimmy”, “Bushby”, “Bago Blossom” and “Sunshine”. The public response to the Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail has been very rewarding. These iconic koala sculptures, all hand painted by local artists, are now an integral part of the local area.

Following the success of the Koala Hospital’s 2nd National Koala Conference in 2017, which was part of the inaugural Hello Koalas Festival, there was an inspiration to create a smaller conference “Caring for our Koalas and our Environment”, as part of the 2nd Hello Koalas Festival that runs

from the 7-11 June 2018 this year. These events are to be held annually and The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital is the presenting partner.

The Hello Koalas Festival is great fun and hugely entertaining for all age groups while at the same time it will be focusing attention on the koalas and the importance of their conservation.

Port Macquarie-Hastings has the largest koala population on the east coast of Australia, but it is in decline, as it is in other locations in NSW. Our aim is to arrest this trend by raising awareness throughout the community as well as creating an event that people from out of town will enjoy and also learn about the plight of our koalas and the importance of caring for koalas against the loss of habitat, road strikes, dog attacks, debilitating health conditions like chlamydia.

The Koala Hospital is a key partner in this new event which aims to reach a broader audience and to create new methods of advocacy and community engagement to support the work of organisations dedicated to koala conservation and environmental sustainability.

The event comprises a one day conference on the 7th June at the Sails Hotel in Port Macquarie, with 13 speakers discussing all relevant matters regarding the koala. The conference concludes with drinks and dinner at Sails while watching the sunset on the Hastings River and some of the local dolphins making a splash.

On Friday 8th June, there will be some great field trips to the Koala Hospital, Sea Acres Rainforest Centre and Old Bottlebutt in the Burrawan State Forest. There will also be special guided tours of the Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail in town.

This annual conference is for everyone who cares about our koalas and the preservation of our environment — environmental scientists, wildlife carers, and community. The conference program, with speakers from the NSW Saving our Species Program and new Koala Strategy, Taronga Zoo, the Koala Health Hub at Sydney University, Planet Ark, Forest Science Centre, Forestry NSW, Port Macquarie Hastings Council and the Koala Hospital’s Cheyne Flanagan who will address a variety of topics that include koala conservation, environmental solutions for the community and local government, all the latest research, educational programs, and the draw of nature-based tourism.

The Koala Hospital is hoping for good crowds to support the Festival and at the events that are associated throughout it’s duration. Hello Koalas Festival and the Conference are both Destination NSW supported events. For more information you can consult the Hello Koalas website at [www.hellokoalas.com](http://www.hellokoalas.com).



Above: John Williamson the renowned Australian entertainer who is responsible for the artwork on “Sunshine” who resides at the Koala Hospital and a focal point for visitors and photos.

# 2018 Koala Hospital Happenings

## Bees and Koalas?

One day Bert Feringa and Karl Scheuter (both licensed beekeepers) were talking about giving “free honey” to their friends. Then thought why not sell our honey to make money for the Koala Hospital? And no more “free honey” for our friends! “They will not like us” argued Bert but they liked the idea!

The bees are working hard. They fly out in the first rays of the sun, forage all day and some come back even after sunset. A life full of work! I think if we would be able to tell them that their daily work is generating money for the Koala Hospital, they probably would be proud.



At the beginning of March the first honey jars were sold at the kiosk of the Koala Hospital. Customers who bought the honey were delighted about the beautiful taste of this organic honey.

Have you already put a spoon of this honey on your morning toast? No? Then it's high time to go to the Koala Hospital and buy a jar! Each 500g jar costs \$8 and \$4 will go to support the Koalas. What a great feeling!

## Thank you Cervello!

At one of our new feature tents on Open Day was the artist Cervello, sponsored by Belle Property Port Macquarie. Cervello provided the koala painting and coordinated the game, Pin the Leaf on the Koala. Children coloured the leaves that Cervello had designed and cut out, then when blindfolded, would place them onto the koala painting.

Cervello also designed and facilitated the Koala Tree design canvas. 100 participants from ages 5 to 75 coloured their own small area on the canvas. The Koala Tree project truly reflected the spirit of the day. The locals and tourists of a broad age-range and many walks of life, collectively enjoying the one event, to support the iconic koala.



## 20 Years of Service

Team leader Pamela Whippy has just celebrated 20 years of service as a volunteer at the Koala Hospital and team members helped her celebrate the occasion with morning tea and a cake in her honour. Congratulations Pam!



Above: Pam Whippy enjoying her special surprise.

## Through the eyes of a Child

Peter Orr an ex Sydneyite who now lives in Salt Lake City in America with his wife Yasmin, and who has been adopting koalas at the hospital for years related this story about his 2 grandchildren Raul and Ricardo.

Yasmin was having a conversation with the youngest grandchild Ricardo, about Barrington Xavier and he was asking her when will they be travelling to Sydney so that they can visit him, play with him & hug him.

Yasmin told him that he was in a Koala Hospital for care and recovery. Ricardo then asked why she couldn't have him transferred to a hospital in Miami for care and he made a strong case that Barrington would receive excellent care because the Miami Hospitals reputation is great especially the one close to their home. Then he and Raul could visit him often and check in on his healing progress and overall health.

Peter said he was sure Ricardo's plan was to see that Barrington was fully recovered so that he and Raul could bring him to their condominium to live. It's all a matter of perception...and a child's is certainly full of innocence.



# Kaylee's

## GUM NUTS KOLUMN

**H**ello once again everyone! I hope you all have been keeping as well as I have been. Before I start my kolumn, I would like to say that in Australia we had a very important day in April. It was a little while ago now, but unfortunately turmoil is still around and I would like to say that us furry, cute iconic koalas would like to show our respect to all our fallen soldiers from the past, present and quite unfortunately, the future. Brave men and women who fight for our country and way of life.

We remember our ANZAC family on April 25th every year. We acknowledge them on that date but also now. Lest we forget.

Okay, before I start...again, do you like my hat? It's the slouch hat that our soldiers wear and isn't the poppy lovely?

Now off we go with this quarters kolumn! Firstly, I must apologise for literally wearing my heart on my forearm about Breeza Grant. I will no longer wallow in misery about him...a girl's got to have some pride and I was caught in a moment of weakness. Thank you to everyone who sent get well soon and thinking of you cards, I'm all better now!

We have had a busy time at the hospital and we are very happy to have released our bush fire patients back into their home ranges. We were also very pleased that two of the females were having joeys and with all the stress of the fires, capture, transportation and then kept here at the hospital didn't upset the mothers-to-be. In fact, with observation, good leaf and TLC our patients did very well.

There are now four joeys/juveniles located in the dehumanization yard and they get up to lots of mischief. I just love watching them climbing their tree with those lovely little white bottoms bopping around.

The TV personality Dr. Harry Cooper from Better Homes and Gardens came to visit recently. He was in THE CLINIC with Alpha Cheyne and sub Alpha Scott assessing a koala, Lorne Shawn (strange name I keep thinking shorn lawn...so funny, well, not really). Dr. Harry then visited the hospital patients and who would have thought it...

but where did he stay the longest time? NATF ZENANI! What's with that koala? What has she got that I haven't? Just because I'm missing a leg and an eye doesn't mean I haven't any feelings!!! I may be slightly, more than slightly older but I'm more experienced, I write a kolumn and I'm more rotund (curvaceous), males like that don't they?

Breeza Grant did, oops sorry. Anyway, back to Dr. Harry Cooper, he was very impressed with the hospital and all the volunteers. Well done to all!

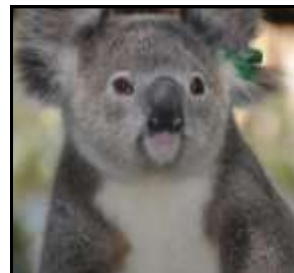
Our Open Day was very successful. The weather was warm and sunny and lots of visitors enjoyed the day. A big thank you to everyone on our Open Day committee for planning the special day as well as all the volunteers that helped, and of course - all the entertainers and visitors.

Before I lose battery power on my solar laptop (not very sunny today - rather cold actually and overcast) I would like to say goodbye to a special friend, Nathan Boyd. Such a lovely young man. We had our picture taken when he became one of our leaf collectors, I will miss his lovely smile and the leaf he would bring in for me, I mean to all of us. I hope he does well in his new job and that he won't miss me too much.

So, farewell until the next issue of Gum Tips. Everyone keep yourselves warm, as it's going to be a cold winter, or so the eucalyptus leaves are whispering.

*Take care until next time.*

### *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](http://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    |
| 27.05.17 | Yarrabee Scott         | Dragging left front paw              | Treating     |
| 05.08.17 | Myoora Jarrah          | Abandoned joey                       | Dehumanising |
| 06.08.17 | Byabarra Jones         | Bilateral conjunctivitis             | Treating     |
| 12.09.17 | Kundabung Mikha        | Broken arm                           | Treating     |
| 16.09.17 | Gunnedah Little Poppet | Bilateral Conjunctivitis             | Treating     |
| 27.09.17 | Gunnedah Mr Bear       | Transfer from WIRES Gunnedah         | Treating     |
| 10.11.17 | Balmoral Mini          | Orphaned                             | Dehumanising |
| 17.11.17 | Milton Will            | Brain trauma                         | Euthanased   |
| 11.12.17 | Maria River Rd Joanne  | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 11.12.17 | Maria River Rd Susanne | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 11.12.17 | Maria River Rd Jane    | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 11.12.17 | Maria River Rd Peter   | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 13.12.17 | Maria River Rd Sheila  | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 13.12.17 | Maria River Rd David   | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 20.12.17 | Illa Langi Nitayana    | Bushfire victim                      | Released     |
| 21.12.17 | Muston Pud             | Wet Bottom                           | Died         |
| 25.12.17 | Park Ronan             | Abandoned joey                       | Treating     |
| 31.01.18 | Crestwood Woody        | In yard with dogs                    | Treating     |
| 08.02.18 | Wauchope Chris         | Bacterial infection                  | Treating     |
| 14.02.18 | WIRES Willow           | Assess for release                   | Released     |
| 14.02.18 | WIRES Elaina           | Assess for release                   | Released     |
| 19.02.18 | Lake Brittany          | In yard with dogs                    | Released     |
| 28.02.18 | Lake Cathie Ken        | Geriatric on road                    | Euthanased   |
| 28.02.18 | Telegraph Point Roz    | On road                              | Died         |
| 06.03.18 | Kadina Lisa            | In wrong location                    | Released     |
| 11.03.18 | Ocean Drive Brenton    | Bilateral conjunctivitis             | Euthanased   |
| 16.03.18 | Yarran Seenoevil       | Sitting low in tree                  | Treating     |
| 19.03.18 | Ocean Drive Andrew     | MVA                                  | Died         |
| 23.03.18 | Laurieton Gnarly       | Dog attack                           | Died         |
| 29.03.18 | WIRES Edgar            | Transfer from WIRES                  | Died         |
| 06.04.18 | Calwalla Malee         | Found on ground                      | Died         |
| 09.04.18 | Orion Jenny            | Found on ground                      | Released     |

| Admitted | Name                   | Reason                           | Result   |
|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 09.04.18 | Lorne Shawn            | Sitting on ground - malnourished | Died     |
| 18.04.18 | MacLaren Nat           | Wet Bottom                       | Treating |
| 25.04.18 | Gordon Richard         | Front paw injured                | Released |
| 27.04.18 | Maria River Rd Susanne | Admitted for observation         | Treating |
| 25.04.18 | Roto Judy              | In wrong location                | Released |
| 21.04.18 | Lake Cathie Ichabod    | Possible dog attack              | DOA      |
| 03.05.18 | Armidale Don           | Transfer from Uralla WIRES       | Treating |
| 06.05.18 | Tasman Tanisha         | In yard with dogs                | Released |

## A welcome visit from Dr. Harry Cooper

**V**et and television presenter Dr. Harry Cooper has given the thumbs up to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. We had Dr. Harry visiting the koala hospital on April 11 during the filming for a Better Homes and Gardens segment.

He saw a full day at the koala hospital from the koala feeding through to koala medical tests and a koala release. Dr. Harry said he was impressed with the koala hospital.

“They have a very dedicated staff here and I’m smitten by so many volunteers that give their time to help,” he said. Dr. Harry said he also admired the koala hospital’s tie with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and both organisations were committed to koala preservation.

He said it was important for people to be aware that koalas were in the area and to be careful driving, particularly in areas of koala habitat. Dr. Harry said people should control their dogs and keep their cats inside.

The koala hospital, which has links with many organisations, is dedicated to koala conservation, care and research. The koala hospital has a great deal of value as a tourist attraction, Dr. Harry

said. “Long may it prosper”. The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital clinical director Cheyne Flanagan said the Better Homes and Gardens segment would showcase the koala hospital. “To have someone of Dr. Harry’s ilk here is wonderful and the visitors were all excited,” she said.

The Better Homes and Gardens segment will air over two Fridays, the 18th and 25th May.

*Article and photo reprinted with permission of Port News*



*A cameraman films Dr. Harry Cooper's visit to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital for a Better Homes and Gardens segment.*

## A Big thank you to our CHUM's

**O**n a Monday morning in May we had a very pleasant visit from our CHUM's. CHUMS (also known as the Camden Haven Ukulele Musicians) were at the hospital to woo the Monday morning crowd with a quiet koala themed set. What a great surprise!

But in a complete surprise CHUM's have very generously donated two koala-shaped ukuleles to the Koala Hospital. These were beautifully crafted by Bob, and the bags were elegantly stitched by Zilla (pictured).

At the makers' request, we will be auctioning these online, with proceeds coming to the Koala Hospital. The highest bidders win the ukuleles on Wednesday 27 June at noon (EST). Thank you very much Bob, Zilla and CHUMs!



*Scott Castle receiving the ukuleles from Bob and Zilla from CHUM's*

## 2018 Calendar

|              |                    |         |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| June 12      | Management Meeting | 10.00am |
| July 10      | Management Meeting | 10.00am |
| August 14    | Management Meeting | 10.00am |
| September 11 | Management Meeting | 10.00am |
| October 9    | 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><br><b>Ken Rivett</b> | <i>Contributors:</i><br><b>Sue Ashton</b><br><b>Scott Castle</b><br><b>Marilyn Lees</b><br><b>Gaby Rivett</b> | <i>Photography:</i><br><b>Scott Castle</b><br><b>Carole Grant</b><br><b>Gaby Rivett</b><br><b>Natalie Spratford</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.

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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>

### Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Committee

#### **Management Committee**

|                       |                |                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>President</i>      | Jane Duxberry  | president@koalahospital.org.au     |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Marilyn Lees   | vicepresident@koalahospital.org.au |
| <i>Secretary</i>      | Vacant         | secretary@koalahospital.org.au     |
| <i>Treasurer</i>      | Glenn Broomham | treasurer@koalahospital.org.au     |

*\*Also members of the Management Committee*

#### **Hospital Clinic**

|                                    |                 |  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| <i>Clinical Director</i>           | Cheyne Flanagan | clinicaldirector@koalahospital.org.au      |
| <i>Assistant Clinical Director</i> | Scott Castle    | asst.clinicaldirector@koalahospital.org.au |

#### **Administration**

|                               |               |                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
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#### **Co-ordinators**

|   |                      |                                     |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| <i>International Volunteers and Work Experience</i> | Joanne Hollis        | info@koalahospital.org.au           |
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| <i>Where's Barry</i>     | Barry        | barry@koalahospital.org.au     |
| <i>Koala Sightings</i>   | Sightings    | sightings@koalahospital.org.au |
| <i>Website</i>           | Bob Sharpham | bob@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



*They say that Byabarra Jones can sleep anywhere.....what do you think?*



*Volunteer Gaby with an ever energetic Breeza Grant who enjoys his early morning formula immensely.*



*St. Andrews Jude looks the picture of serenity as she enjoys some Me time on her gunyah.*



*Gunnedah Mr. Bear is a quiet koala, it could be due to his early morning meditation regime.*



*The CHUM's group serenading the koalas and early morning visitors at the Hospital.*



*Emerald Downs Mary holding on tight as she enjoys her morning feed.*



*Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan with one of the seven koalas that were released back in the Limeburners Creek area for tracking.*



*Volunteer Rita looks on as Asst. Clinical Director Scott Castle checks out a gunyah.*



*Breeza Grant is one very relaxed koala as you can tell by his newly acquired gum leaf eating habits.*



*Volunteers Gemma and Kathryn with an afternoon feed for Maria River Road Ian.*



**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**

**Telephone:** 02 6584 1522

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

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