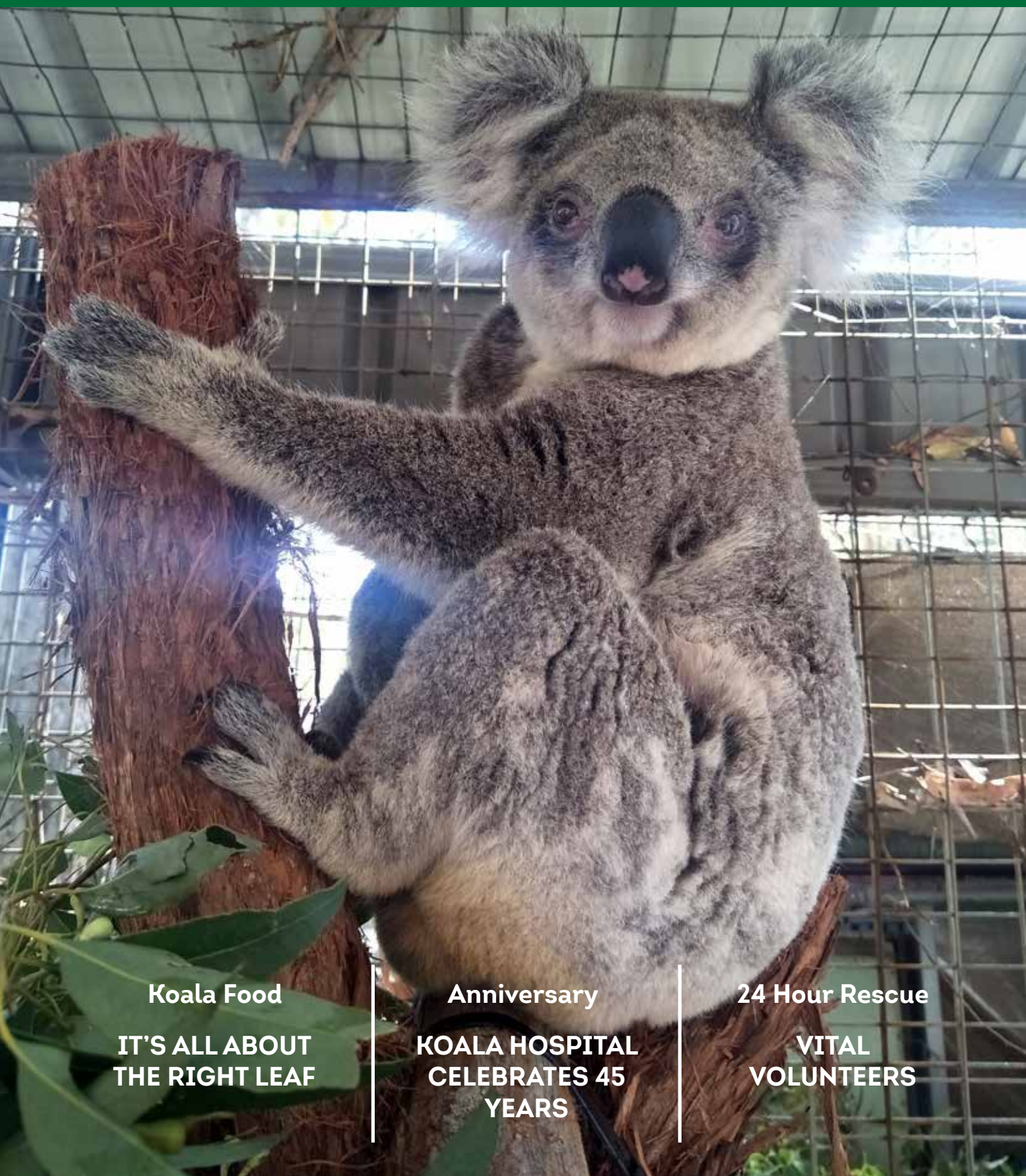


GUM TIPS

December 2018



Koala Food

**IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE RIGHT LEAF**

Anniversary

**KOALA HOSPITAL
CELEBRATES 45
YEARS**

24 Hour Rescue

**VITAL
VOLUNTEERS**



Maria River S.F. Traacey's eyes are much improved following treatment at the hospital.

The Koala Hospital believes that a science-based approach to making changes to the management of koalas is the only way to go.



Koala's eye badly affected by chlamydia. Note conjunctivitis, pus, proliferative tissue.

MARIA RIVER STATE FOREST TRAECEY

In late September this year, whilst surveying the Maria River State Forest for koalas (more on this later), a young female was discovered suffering from acute bilateral conjunctivitis and was captured and brought to the hospital. On examination under anaesthesia, Traacey (named after one of the Forestry personnel) was found to be a young female in reasonable condition but was suffering ocular (eyes) chlamydial infection. This disease is not uncommon in disturbed habitats. The disease was so advanced that Traacey would have struggled to see and would have likely been in considerable pain. This young koala was immediately started on a treatment plan which also included eye surgery. Unfortunately Maria River SF Traacey isn't the easiest koala to treat which makes it difficult at times!

The Koala Hospital decided to partner with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Forestry Corporation NSW to conduct a number of research projects to find out how koalas move within unlogged reserves within NSW State Forests and whether they move into logged areas as well. We are also very keen to see what happens to koalas who may live adjacent to, and currently use forested areas that are planned to be logged. Our intention is to ascertain the long-term health status of these koalas, their breeding capacity, recruitment and dispersal of young koalas into other locations and of course their ultimate safety.

The Koala Hospital believes that a science-based approach to making changes to the management of koalas is the only way to go. Hard data and hard evidence of what

does and does not work is the way to make positive management changes to protect koalas and all other wildlife. This is why we have decided to work with DPI and Forestry Corporation to solve these problems together. We have been highly criticised for doing this work but the staff at the Koala Hospital are confident we are on the right track and will continue to do this work well into the future.

Maria River SF Traacey has responded well to treatment and will shortly undergo a post treatment screen under anaesthesia to test her chlamydia status and general health.

Maria River SF Traacey will then be fitted with a radio tracking collar and followed for 12 months to see where she moves, what she does and whether the disease returns.

In early 2019 as part of the first stage of this project, more koalas will be captured on Forestry land, examined, health screened and fitted with radio collars and also followed.

All of this work will take time but the Koala Hospital is confident it will be worth the effort.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT, JANE DUXBERRY



Welcome to our new look Gum Tips, incorporating our new design and logo, we hope you enjoy this modern, fresh look!

We are fast approaching the end of another interesting year. All volunteers have been kept busy despite the reduction in koala numbers admitted to the hospital. It only seems like yesterday that we dealt with the big fire on the North Shore and yet that was last December. There was also another fire just south of Laurieton in September, but fortunately no injured koalas were found. Let us hope that we have no major fires over the coming summer.

As well as looking after sick and injured koalas, the hospital continues to move forward in both research and conservation and a good deal of time is spent training veterinary students and wildlife carers from across Australia and overseas. Our clinical director, Cheyne Flanagan, continues to liaise with various government bodies to try and find a way to stem the loss of our koalas.

On November 7th Port Macquarie's Mayor Peta Pinson officially opened the month long exhibition at the library showcasing the history of the Koala Hospital and you can read more in the article inside this edition. The Mayor and council continue to support our

hospital in any way they can.

We will also have our official 45th Birthday Morning Tea in December and Leslie Williams our Member for Port Macquarie will officiate at this event. Leslie Williams is a wonderful supporter of our hospital. You can read more about this in the next Gum Tips and more birthday events are planned for the coming twelve months.

At this time I would like to thank everyone for their support and wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year and if you are in Port Macquarie don't forget to visit our hospital and enjoy meeting these wonderful animals and the people that look after them.

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REPORT BY CLINICAL DIRECTOR, CHEYNE FLANAGAN

As the koalas on the coast are now in serious decline admission numbers to the hospital have also declined. We are still seeing chlamydia related cases which occur with disturbed habitat. So much is being removed for housing estates and other development. We have also been trialling new drugs to treat chlamydia which unfortunately have not been successful, so we will continue to use the current drug regime.

On a good note, a small population of koalas has been discovered on the outskirts of Wauchope, a town twenty kilometres inland from Port Macquarie. The hospital employed a scat detection dog, his handler and a team from the hospital to

conduct a search of the area and found evidence of koalas. We also borrowed seven "song meters" from Forestry NSW to detect koala calls. These song meters are fitted to trees and are programmed to be active during the night and pick up wildlife calls. We are still waiting on the results of these, and plan to provide updates in the next edition of Gum Tips.

The hospital has been hosting a number of undergraduate veterinary students, zookeeping students, wildlife carers and school students doing "work experience" to learn about working with wild koalas. Future wildlife warriors in the making.

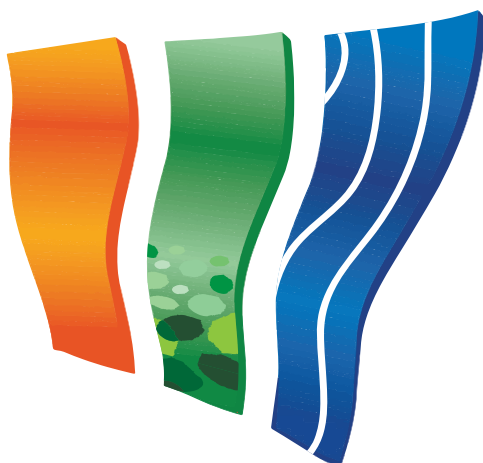
In February 2019, we will be teaching at a koala workshop for veterinarians in western Victoria to help them when koalas are brought to their clinics for treatment. This project is the initiative of IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare). We are looking forward to this.

Our region has had excellent rain over the last few months which we hope will reduce the potential for serious fires over summer. Meanwhile the western areas of our state are still in horrific drought with koalas and all other wildlife really suffering. Pray for rain.

We wish all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2019.



NSW
TOURISM
AWARDS
2018
**HIGHLY
COMMENDED**



Congratulations!

The Koala Hospital has been selected for a Highly Commended Award. This is a great honour and a big thank you to all involved.



ANNE'S FIRST DAY AT PRESCHOOL!

Congratulations to Anne Board, our new Education Coordinator. Recently Anne made a visit to nearby Cowarra Preschool, and had a ball making learning fun. The children enjoyed Anne's energy, and the fact that they could interact and participate in learning about koalas and why they need our help. Anne's friend, 'Stuffie', was a big hit too, as she enables children to get up close to a koala without causing stress. It is clear that Anne is a wonderful educational presenter, who enjoys her audience as well as her subject.

Phone the hospital or visit the website for information about how to book an education presentation.



HOSPITAL ACTIVITY (AUGUST - OCTOBER 2018)

REASON FOR ADMITTANCE TO KOALA HOSPITAL

Chlamydia	12
Motor Vehicle Accident	14
Dog Attack	5
Unusual behaviour or in dangerous area	15
Other	11

OUTCOMES

Released following health checks and if needed, treatment	26
Continuing to undergo treatment	6
Euthanased or dead on arrival of rescuer at scene	25*

**The most common causes of koala death are motor vehicle accidents, dog attacks and advanced chlamydia.*

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24 HOUR RESCUE

24 hour rescue, seven days a week is one of the Koala Hospital's biggest commitments, and we are lucky to have dedicated volunteers who man the phone line, or go out on rescues whatever the weather, night and day, to recover koalas in all sorts of trouble. Often these committed volunteers are on the rosters for both these demanding rescue tasks.



Joanne

Calls come into the 24 hour Koala Emergency Rescue Line night and day, from concerned members of the public. They call about koalas they have seen injured, or which appear to be unwell, or are in dangerous areas.

As you can imagine, rescue can be a tough job, so let's hear what a couple of our dedicated koala rescuers have to say about what they do and why...

Meet Joanne Hollis

Joanne has been volunteering at the Koala Hospital for 7 years. She has many roles including hospital coordinator, team leader, supervisor. Joanne enjoys everything she does at the hospital,

but "Rescues are my fave thing!", she says.

What is the hardest thing about being a rescuer?

Finding an otherwise healthy koala, that has been killed, is terrible. Car accidents and dog attacks are deeply sad, but even if a koala is fatally injured, at least I know I have stopped further suffering by rescuing it. I know I really make a difference being a rescuer.

What's the best thing about being a rescuer?

Seeing koalas you've rescued being released back to the wild, that's the biggest thrill of all!. About 18 months ago, I was called out one evening to a dog attack. Sadly, the mother

did not survive, but the joey was successfully hand-reared and became a very bouncy, healthy juvenile. Recently, Balmoral Mini was released into sustainable habitat along with other healthy juveniles. Working with wildlife doesn't get any better than that!

Any funny stories about rescues?

I think humans probably cause the most smiles – we sometimes get called to non-koala rescues! We've driven in the dark to Laurieton only to find that a grey bundle on the road was in fact a plastic bag of rubbish! Wherever possible, it would be great if callers could double-check that what they think is a koala, really is a koala!

Meet Margaret Hearle

Margaret started volunteering at the Koala Hospital 10 years ago, and like Joanne, she has experienced many volunteer roles. Margaret has been a koala rescuer for 6 years and also regularly mans the emergency phone line.

What's the hardest thing about being a rescuer?

It can be quite a physical job and you really need your wits about you. I use different strategies, but I always try to make the capture quickly and with as little stress to the animal as possible.

What's the best thing about being a rescuer?

Helping koalas to survive, and to get back to the wild wherever possible. I am not exactly young these days, but I will carry on helping koalas as long as I possibly can. The species is under terrible stress owing to the development that we have allowed to occur throughout their habitat. Earlier in my life, I didn't have much respect for people who

hugged trees to stop deforestation; these days I would do it myself, to help koalas and all our wonderful wildlife!

Any funny stories about rescues?

One evening, we were called out to a family home, where a koala had casually walked through the open kitchen door and into the lounge room! When we arrived, the koala was sitting quietly and appeared to be watching the television, which was still on! I remember the family's pet parrot was flying around the lounge room too, wondering who the newcomer was. That was a lovely rescue really, as the koala was unharmed and was released, as soon as he'd had his health check.

Without amazing volunteers like Joanne and Margaret, who are prepared to disrupt their lives to help koalas, the hospital would not be able to carry out its vital role. Many more wild koalas would be left to suffer disease and injury, sometimes a slow and agonising death.

Thank you for all you do, Joanne and Margaret, and all our devoted rescue team below for caring so much – that's from everyone at the hospital plus our local wild koalas!



Margaret

-
- Marilyn Lees
 - Margaret Hearle
 - Joanne Hollis
 - John Barber
 - Joy Barber
 - Sheila Bailey
 - Michael Banicek
 - Scott Castle
 - Kathryn Reardon
 - Sue Stubbs
 - Caz Hewis
 - Michael Ames
 - Caz Ames
 - Betty Lambert
 - Sue Ashton

24 Hour Koala Rescue: 02 6584 1522

Goodbye Blinky Bill record sleeve and front sleeve of Blinky Bill record



HAPPY 45TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE KOALA HOSPITAL!

In celebration of 45 years of koala care and protection, Gum Tips is taking readers through the inspiring history of Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, in 3 parts.

Previously Part 1 of the history told how Australia's first koala hospital was opened in 1975 in Port Macquarie by Jean and Max Starr, who recognised the desperate need to protect and preserve the local koala population. Interest in the hospital, and support for its ground-breaking work both within Australia and overseas, enabled the hospital to grow and develop. In 1985, in recognition of her tireless work to help this iconic species, Jean Starr was awarded the Order of Australia (OAM).

Part 2

Throughout the 1980's, awareness about the work of the hospital increased both at home and abroad. Dedicated workers and volunteers were engaging in pioneering treatments for diseased and injured koalas, and at this time the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital was the foremost authority on koalas in Australia. In the process of carrying out its core objectives (humane treatment, rehabilitation and, wherever possible,





John Williamson & Jean Starr with Ami G



L-R: Assistant Clinical Director, Scott Castle, John Williamson, Oxley Kaylee (above), Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan - earlier this year at the hospital

John witnessed the vital work of the hospital and saw firsthand the serious plight of our native koalas.

release) the hospital gathered new information about koala diet and digestion, physiology, health and diseases, social structures, behaviour and lifestyle, reproduction, environmental needs. Not surprisingly this new, high-achieving facility attracted the interest of zoos and zoology departments at universities within Australia and around the world. Since the 1980's the Koala Hospital has collaborated with many universities and zoos nationally and internationally in order to further research and knowledge about the species. The Koala Hospital continues this important role to this day.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, the ABC and commercial Australian television companies visited the hospital and covered its work in a range of programs. Popular domestic and international magazines, including National

Geographic also featured the hospital. International television interest included Tokyo Broadcasting Systems who filmed here in 1993 for a documentary about the koala.

In 1986, the Australian country music legend, John Williamson, visited the hospital, and whilst here, Jean and Max Starr brought in an injured koala for treatment. John witnessed the vital work of the hospital and saw firsthand the serious plight of our native koalas. The entire experience made a huge impression on John, and inspired him to write the song, "Goodbye, Blinky Bill"* , which became very popular throughout Australia. John donated royalties from the song to the hospital, and these funds supported the building of the John Williamson (Intensive Care) Wing during the late 1980's. This wing was officially opened in 1990 and provided 6 custom-designed

Intensive Care Units, which are still in constant use today.

John Williamson has remained an influential, supportive patron and visitor to the Koala Hospital ever since; he has provided generous financial assistance, and also donated his time, such as in Port Macquarie in 2013, when John entertained and sang for guests at the dinner event for the first National Koala Conference.

2005 saw further construction, adding an operating room, offices, day room, two further Intensive Care Units, and a souvenir kiosk.

Look out for Part 3 (the final instalment) of the history of Port Macquarie Koala Hospital in the next edition of Gum Tips.

**Blinky Bill is a cheeky koala character from a popular series of Australian children's books from the 1930's by author, Dorothy Wall. In the 1980's, a children's TV series and movie were also made about Blinky Bill.*

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RIGHT LEAF



NATF Zenani checking the leaf (Image Carole Grant)

Koalas are renowned for being selective, if not fussy eaters. In any given area of koala habitat they will only eat a handful of the eucalypt species available to them.

In the Port Macquarie/Hastings region, favoured food trees include Swamp Mahogany (sometimes referred to as being 'like a T-Bone Steak to a koala'), Tallowwood, and Forest Red Gum. Everyone at the Koala Hospital knows that the quality as well as quantity of the right species of leaves is highly important to the patients recovering from illness and injury. Koalas typically eat 1/2 kg of pure leaf (not branches) per day, but once you factor in the browsing and selecting of specific leaves which is so typical of koala

behaviour, we may need 5 times more than that per koala per day. Interestingly, koalas may at times also eat bark, stems and the buds of trees, plus they eat a number of non-eucalypt species such as casuarina, bottle brush, paperbark. Watch any of the feeding koalas at the hospital for a short while, and you will notice the process they go through of sniffing and checking before starting to eat a branch of leaves. What are they checking? Why do koalas prefer some species today, another species tomorrow? Why are some species preferred at certain times of the year?

Leaf selection is likely to be driven initially by the mother's home range, but as a juvenile moves away to other locations, it's driven by soil moisture, soil quality and the gut microbiome of the koala

itself. They sniff at leaves to check the toxicity. Many koalas learn individual toxic smells through trial and error - some leaves actually make them sick and they learn not to touch them again. Leaf toxicity changes throughout the year depending on climatic conditions and season. Koalas found an available niche millions of years ago when eucalypts evolved which other animals were not occupying and their gut system has evolved to accommodate this. The koala's caecum is the secret to their ability to get as much nutrition as possible out of the leaf as they are hindgut fermenters - the eucalypt breakdown really occurs in the caecum. Koalas have also developed a low metabolic rate, and lower body temperature to conserve energy - hence why they sleep 18-20 hours per day.

Climate change is likely to cause major issues for koalas and other species.

Climate change is likely to cause major issues for koalas and other species such as possums and gliders who rely on eucalypts for food. The eucalypt leaf is likely to become more toxic to cope with increased temperatures and drier conditions.

Keeping up with supply and demand

The Koala Hospital, continues to work to raise awareness of the need to preserve local koala food trees and habitat. However, new sources of food trees of the right height are vital, as previous sources become less viable. In 2014, the hospital began a new plantation on the north shore of Port Macquarie; so far, the plantation is thriving, and even avoided the December 2017 bushfires!

The hospital is also very fortunate that many local landowners are happy for their koala food trees to be harvested twice a year by our



Koala Hospital plantation



Local food leaves

experienced leaf collectors. As a thank you, the hospital regularly organises a free distribution of tree seedlings (generously donated by Forestry Corporation NSW) to landowners in the Port Macquarie/Hastings and Kempsey/Macleay area. The next free distribution is in February 2019. Local property/landowners are invited to contact the hospital now to register their interest in this distribution.

Given all the factors at play, these are uncertain times for koalas. This is especially true for our wild koalas who often engage in dangerous behaviour such as crossing busy

roads, travelling through suburban gardens occupied by dogs, in order to locate food sources.

Only with the help of the local community can we ensure that enough all-important koala food trees flourish in order to support the wild population, as well as supplying the hospital patients with the diet they need in order to recover and return to the bush.

**Register now to get
free tree seedlings
(02) 6584 1522
www.koalahospital.org.au**

THANK YOU, JLG AND BUNNINGS



Two local companies, **JLG Port Macquarie** and **Bunnings**, gave back big-time in October to the Koala Hospital, and we would like to say a heart-felt thank you to the companies and their wonderful staff.

Two teams of staff from JLG worked hard over 2 days. One team went out to the North Shore Plantation and worked with our Plantation Manager on tree planting, whilst the second team came into the hospital and did a variety of tough jobs, improving the environs. They hacked out tree stumps, replaced pavers, and levelled the ground in many areas around the hospital; volunteers and staff are very grateful as these

were 'hard yakka' jobs which have now improved safety for everyone in and around the hospital.

Bunnings painted and upgraded several areas of the hospital including the kiosk shop, education shed and the laundry. All these areas are now bright and clean and with the provision by Bunnings of new fixtures and fittings, are now looking ready for the busy summer season. Courtesy of Bunnings the hospital entrance also now sports a smart modern Visitor Registration and Adopt-a-Koala Desk.

Both companies took time to consult about the best ways they could help, and went above and beyond to provide valuable, practical contributions.

*Top: Bunnings staff refurbish the education shed
Bottom: JLG staff attack the paving work at the Koala Hospital*

PLANT THE RIGHT TREES AND KOALAS WILL COME

And one Shelley Beach couple can prove it! When Judith Hansen and her husband, John, moved to Port Macquarie 16 years ago, they took the local koala signs with a pinch of salt. However, they soon realised that these iconic marsupials still call this town home, when a mother koala carrying her joey crossed their yard on her way to local food trees. Judith and John set about planting a koala-friendly garden with Tallowood, Narrow-Leaved Peppermint and Swamp Mahogany. As the food trees began to grow, so

did the visitor numbers. The couple have been rewarded a hundred-fold, with regular sightings. Judith recounted some favourite stories to our Sightings Officer.

The most memorable was a young koala we saw in a Tibouchina tree, near our verandah. We watched her and noticed that she had a bloody chest. The Koala Hospital came to the rescue. I named her Karla and she was returned with a clean bill of health and a tag. She became a regular feature of our lives for several years.

We know male koalas fight having witnessed an exciting territory dispute between Lookout Harry and Pacific Shulties!

Currently we have a regular visitor, Mum Imogen, who is rearing a new joey. The first time we saw her was in 2017, with her previous baby. It's



Imogen and joey (image courtesy of Judith Hansen)

such a joy to see them, and know that we planted the trees they call home most nights.

We are so lucky to share Port Macquarie with these beautiful animals, and must get better as a community at caring for them and the habitat they need. Whether visitors or locals, we all need to slow down on the roads, to avoid car strikes, which are often fatal for the koala; Pacific Drive is a very busy road and it most definitely runs through koala country.

OUR VITAL VOLUNTEERS

The Koala Hospital relies on an army of dedicated volunteers, who are vital to its success. Read what a local and an international volunteer have to say about their experiences.



Mick and Oxley Kaylee



Lord Bernie checks Elke is doing a good job

Mick Feeney

Local volunteer for more than 7 years including education, media, rescues, koala care, tour guide

What is good about volunteering at the Koala Hospital?

I have a love of people as well as koalas, and really enjoy interacting with visitors. I feel it is a great honour to explain the uniqueness of the species and to tell the story of the koala's plight. I think people are amazed that a wild animal can exhibit such an endearing, quiet gentleness; I defy anyone to feel stressed or angry when near a koala.

What is challenging?

I guess the biggest challenge for me is to know my subject inside out. I believe it is very important to have a lot of information at my fingertips and to know how to explain it clearly and in an interesting way.

Do you have a favourite koala?

I love them all, but I do have a special admiration for Oxley Kaylee. What a survivor! Kaylee lost a leg in a motor vehicle accident then, although she survived a bad fall from a tree, she had to have an eye removed. Yet here she is, 9 years later, still enjoying climbing her tree, and still eager for her new leaves each day. Kaylee is one brave, beautiful koala.

Elke Lattmann

International volunteer (September 2018) from Canada

What has been good about your experience?

It's been fantastic! From the beginning I was shown how to work closely with the koalas, and have been involved in so much. I was lucky on my first day, and observed a rescue, altogether I've been involved in 2 rescues and 2 releases. I saw my first koala joey, and helped to release him along with his mother, Warrego Jenny. There is even a koala named after me: Wrights Elke

What has been challenging?

Honestly, I haven't found anything very difficult. At the beginning I had to learn how to work in the yards, because you have to learn to not interact overly with the koalas, so they don't become too trusting. Also, being told to keep my eyes open for brown snakes, when out on rescues and releases, was a bit scary.

Do you have a favourite koala?

I love Armidale Don. He is calm and quiet but seems special to me. When he was first admitted he was quite ill. I worried about him and checked on him many times. I was very happy when he started to climb around the gunyahs in his enclosure and began to enjoy eating again.

Would you like to volunteer at the Koala Hospital?

Phone the hospital or visit the website for more information about how to volunteer as a local or as an international visitor.

MAYOR OPENS 45TH ANNIVERSARY DISPLAY AT LIBRARY

Following an animated pre-school story time about koalas, Port Macquarie Hastings Council Mayor, Peta Pinson, opened a Koala Hospital display at the library. The display told the Hospital's 45 year history from its start to today, where as the only hospital for koalas in the world, it plays a vital role in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild koalas and koala research and education.



Mayor, Peta Pinson and Hospital President, Jane Duxberry explain how the first hospital just for koalas began



Gaby Rivett at the Koala Hospital stand

STRANGE BUT TRUE...

What is volunteer, Michael Cater, looking for in this container of koala poo?

An internal temperature logger (about the size of an antibiotic capsule) is the answer! The loggers are part of Sydney University's research into how we can help inland koalas cope with drought & extreme conditions. The Koala Hospital's role is to assess how long the loggers take to reappear, which can mean checking a lot of poo every day!

As Michael says "I get all the best jobs!"



PUZZLE RAISES FUNDS

The local Port Macquarie health food store, Organic Belly, had a fun idea to raise funds for the Koala Hospital. They organised a jigsaw of a koala and for a gold coin donation customers and visitors to the store added pieces to the puzzle. Gradually the picture was revealed of one of the Hospital's most amazing survivors, Oxley Kaylee. Now that's one cool fundraiser!

L-R Anne Walsh and Jane Duxberry (Koala Hospital), store owner Melissa Leitch enjoy selecting puzzle pieces

SCHOOL RAISES FUNDS TO HELP KOALAS

Every year, Crestwood School in Sydney's Baulkham Hills, choose an endangered species as a focus for fund-raising. This year the school chooses koalas, and through their gold coin mufti day and toy raffle, they raised over \$1,300 which they donated to the Koala Hospital.

Thank you to all the staff, students and their families who gave so generously to us this year. It is a huge credit to the school that students are being encouraged to think about endangered species and are acting so positively to help.

KOALAS A HIGHLIGHT OF SCHOOL EXCURSION

The Koala Hospital is a highlight of the annual year 4 excursion at Kororo Public School, Coffs Harbour. The school recently sent us the following extract from their newsletter.

The 91 students who visited this year were engaged throughout the whole tour and inspired by the professional volunteer staff that assisted our visit. The students learnt facts and developed a sense of empathy for koalas that, without visiting the hospital, they would not have had the opportunity to do.

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital teaches our children a sense of care and allows them the opportunity to feel valued in helping a native animal, which the children love. It is for this reason, that we urge you (the school community) to support the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, they do more than save koalas, they educate and inspire our youth to become active and informed members of our society.



Little Long Flat Joy weighing in at the Koala Hospital. She is currently in homecare being treated for bacterial infection, but doing well.

THUMBS UP



Thumbs Up

To 8 year old Nicholas in UK who recently sent Ocean Summer a lovely birthday card! We hope Nicholas' dream to come to Australia one day and visit Summer is fulfilled.



Thumbs Up

To two young, budding musicians, who generously decided to donate all the money they earned busking at Port Central to the Koala Hospital. Thank you, Ellie and Georgie!



Thumbs Up

To the family who went to so much trouble to save a koala from their dog. They were a great help in rescuing this koala and in fact one of the adult daughters caught the koala before the rescue team! She came to the hospital the next day and asked for a form to join the team.



Thumbs Up

To one of our newest trained rescuers who managed to rescue a very sick koala in Lake Cathie. She had no equipment with her at the time but managed to make do with what was available in the car - a fishing rod with a rag tied on the end. Well done!

Did you know...? Koalas have 2 thumbs on each hand!

GUM TIPS is the official newsletter of the Koala Preservation Society Australia Inc. and is published quarterly.

Editor: Becky Harrington

Contributors: Cheyne Flanagan, Jane Duxberry, Sue Ashton

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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  koalahospital

General Enquiries: 02 6584 1522

www.koalahospital.org.au

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Find out more and order online:
www.koalahospital.org.au

Happy Christmas
and a healthy,
prosperous
New Year to all
our supporters,
volunteers and
readers! And a new
year and new hope
for all koalas!

