



Welcome

**NEW VET & NEW
PROGRAM MANAGER
JOIN HOSPITAL**

Introducing

**GUULAGU KOALA
CUSTODIANS**

Updates

**WILD KOALA BREEDING
& WILDLIFE DRINKING
STATIONS**

KEEPING KOALAS WILD

Thanks to overwhelming support from people across Australia and the world, the Wild Koala Breeding Program is now a major goal for the Hospital.



A young joey has been brought in for her weekly check-up at the Hospital's clinic. In homecare, she is given every support possible to help her reach breeding age.

Koalas across both New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland have been in serious decline for many years. Many organisations including the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital have been endeavouring to reverse this decline for a very, very long time. Taking in sick and injured wild koalas for treatment and care, tree planting, research into disease and behaviour, conservation and management of existing habitats are critically important tools in achieving this goal. Of course, much more needs to be done.

High on the wish list for the Koala Hospital for many years has been a wild koala breeding program where progeny bred from 'breeding stock' are released to repopulate depleted populations throughout New South Wales.

To achieve this goal requires us to work in collaboration with a number of organisations and to conduct this program following strict scientific methodology. We are honoured to be the only facility in Australia (indeed the world) to be entrusted with this vital project.

It is important to say here that the recent horrific bushfires of 2019 and 2020 and all the disasters that resulted from them, actually had one silver lining. To develop a robust and appropriate wild koala breeding program is an expensive venture, and the incredible level of donations from people all over the world is now supporting and enabling this work. Donations and support came from concerned individuals and families, as well as businesses and organisations who read and watched the media reports and responded so quickly and so generously. We will always be grateful to everyone for enabling us to not only

Front cover image: Ballina Franklin is a stunning young male koala, who is now a permanent resident at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. Unfortunately Franklin is not suitable for release back to the wild, but he is an excellent, healthy candidate for breeding!

provide the wildlife drinking stations (see pages 6 and 7), but to also now put in place the breeding program.

We are currently at the planning and development stage. This involves forming agreements between all the relevant collaborators and partners, planning and design of enclosures (which are quite specific), setting up stud books, applying for all the relevant scientific permits and working within the guidelines and support of the NSW Government.

A review of ten Australian threatened species conservation breeding programs, commissioned by the Koala Hospital, was recently completed. Findings from this review will be a useful guide to assist the planning and management processes. The wild koala breeding program must stand up to rigorous scientific scrutiny so it is imperative that we get the foundations right before we go ahead.

It is indeed a work in progress and we are well on the way to achieving a major goal for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital – to rebuild wild koala populations across New South Wales. Watch this space!



Three in a tree! Three juvenile koalas climb a large eucalypt in the Koala Hospital's dehumanising yard. Along with other young koalas, they are preparing for release back to the wild soon, where we hope they will successfully breed.

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Editor: Becky Harrington

Contributors: Cheyne Flanagan, Sue Ashton, Rebecca Montague-Drake, Phillipa Beale, Matt Whatman, Arlene McInherny, Becky Harrington

Photography (unless individually credited): Carole Grant AFIP, FAPS, Scott Castle, Gaby Rivett, Peggy Eather, Sue Ashton, Becky Harrington

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REPORT BY CLINICAL DIRECTOR, CHEYNE FLANAGAN



Cheyne Flanagan recently celebrated 20 years as Clinical Director with the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital! Thank you, Cheyne, for your leadership, good humour and sheer hard work over so many years. Everyone at the Hospital wishes you every success in your exciting, new role as Director of the Wild Koala Breeding Program.

The Koala Hospital like everyone else has found 2020 a challenging year. Drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19. So many have asked how we are coping. Due to an excellent team spirit we have all coped well so far with the daily work going on the just same behind the scenes.

In the first wave of COVID-19, we employed a strategy of having two separate teams doing all the koala care - one morning team and one afternoon team who did not come into contact with each other. The goal here was to ensure the koalas would still receive first class care if for example a morning team became sick or had to self-isolate. We would then have a back-up team ie the afternoon shift to take over and vice versa. It worked well. We started to relax a little, but given the second wave of infection in NSW and Victoria we have reverted to separate teams. We all follow the strict guidelines

put in place by the government and so far we have not had any issues. The welfare of the volunteers, staff and of course our koala patients is paramount.

The numbers of koalas admitted to the hospital has been slightly lower than normal over the last few months, but with breeding season now underway, this is likely to change.

Due to the amount of koalas lost during the drought and the bushfires we are likely to see major changes in the urban and peri-urban populations of koalas over the next five years.

Our dream and goal of breeding wild koalas for conservation purposes is getting closer to reality with an enormous amount of work and planning occurring as we speak. Now more than ever there is an urgent need to undertake this work and we are in a first class position to achieve this.

We would really like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters world-wide for amazing donations to help us reverse the decline of wild koalas - we cannot do this work without your help.

We would also like to thank Philips Australia who recently donated a brand new ultrasound machine. It is an amazing piece of technology and every time it is used, we discover more useful applications. Sonography is a very important diagnostic tool in koala medicine and we would be lost without it.

Due to really good recent rainfall and predicted weather pattern modelling for next summer, we are hoping that the likelihood of major bushfire events will be low. Hopefully many lessons have been learned and management of forest systems will change for the better in the future.

We wish everyone good health and stay safe during this difficult time.

REPORT BY PRESIDENT, SUE ASHTON



As the year unfolds, we continue to face many challenges. The bush fires and the outpouring of support from local, national and international communities, has brought about significant changes for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

November 2019 through to March 2020, we were in operational and survival modes. Each day, we needed to find people to work in the yards, caring for the 79 koalas we had at the hospital or to sit by the phone and handle the many enquiries and offers of help and support we received.

The community's support through financial donations was overwhelming and has enabled us to bring forward a long-term goal, to develop the world's first wild koala breeding program.

This program brings with it huge responsibilities - to koalas, donors and the community. We are discovering there is much to learn and we are determined to 'get it right' and offer a best practice wild koala breeding program. We have identified the key partners and key stakeholders for the

project and are in the early days of planning.

The breeding program will be fully funded with donations made to the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital's Go Fund Me® account, 'Help Thirsty Koalas'. In a way the public, who so kindly donated to the account, are also owners of the breeding program. We are honoured to act on their behalf as the facilitators of a program that we are determined will start to rebuild the wild koala population in New South Wales. Learn more in the Keeping Koalas Wild article in this magazine.

In other news, this month we welcome a new addition to our staff. Dr Phillipa Beale joins the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital as its Clinical Director and Cheyne Flanagan, who recently celebrated 20 years with the hospital, moves to become the Director of the Wild Koala Breeding Program.

These are busy and exciting times for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, and I thank you for your ongoing interest and support.

IMPORTANT!

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital is open 7 days a week (excluding Christmas Day).

But owing to COVID-19, YOU MUST BOOK your visit online in advance.

To book go to www.koalahospital.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you to the Koala Hospital.



KOALA HOSPITAL'S DRINKING STATIONS NOW IN THREE STATES

Wildlife drinking stations are now supporting precious animals and birds.

Readers and supporters will be aware that the outstanding level of donations sparked by the horrific bushfire season of 2019/2020, is enabling the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to fast track two important new projects. As well as the Wild Koala Breeding Program the Hospital also continues to make and deploy wildlife drinking stations, the original focus of the GoFundMe® campaign.

We are pleased to report that 140 drinking stations have been built, the majority now deployed in New South Wales with one each in Victoria and Queensland. Agreements are in place for each station to ensure that they are locally managed and maintained on an ongoing basis, particularly vital as we move towards summer.

More than thirty of the Koala Hospital drinking stations have been strategically placed across northern NSW from Byron Bay on the coast across to Moree, nearly



Students at Tinonee Public School take a closer look at the drinking stations (image courtesy of Tinonee PS).

400 kms inland. The Hospital worked with NSW Government's Saving Our Species program and also Conservation Volunteers Australia, Friends of the Koala in Lismore and Koala Gardens at Tuckurimba. Sites were selected based on impact from drought and fire, and to support biodiversity hotspots. The stations are mostly on private land and passionate landholders are crucial to the success of the drinking stations, ensuring upkeep of the drinkers into the future. Near Wardell,

north of Woodburn, four drinking stations have been deployed with the support of the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council within Ngunya Jagoon; this is an Indigenous Protected Area, where tragically 80% of the land had been impacted by bushfire. Further south in NSW, many stations are now doing their vital job in the Blue Mountains, and as far as Bathurst.

In the state of Victoria, Tehree and Hamish Gordon have set up a drinking station on their private,

unfenced wildlife sanctuary within Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. Many species of birds, as well as koalas, possums, wombats, wallabies and kangaroos all live within, or pass through this important sanctuary; all now benefit from access to fresh water. Passionate conservationists, Tehree and Hamish have also owned and managed the Dingo Conservation Centre there for 15 years where pure-bred dingos are now breeding and flourishing under their protection.

One of the Koala Hospital drinking stations was recently delivered to private land between the Tallebudgera and Currumbin valleys in southern Queensland. No natural water source exists on the property, adding significant stress to wildlife during times of fire and drought. The property owner was delighted to report that the first koala visited on the second evening after installation, announcing his presence with very noisy bellowing! We already have reports of at least five more regular koala visitors, including juveniles to the drinker. The area is home to many other species of animals and birds, all potential users and beneficiaries.

Of course, our drinking stations have been, and continue to be deployed closer to Port Macquarie, in coastal and hinterland areas of the Mid North Coast. A few weeks ago we were delighted to receive

a call for two stations from Karen Austin, Principal of Tinonee Public School, near Taree. The school is adjacent to known koala habitat, and students and teachers often enjoy sightings; it is not unusual for a couple of local regulars to actually cross the school yard, whereupon the children quietly stop what they are doing, respecting the koalas' right to safety and access to their habitat.

In November 2019, Tinonee School came under threat from bushfire and was evacuated and while the school was spared, the devastation to the surrounding environment meant the school decided to act. Five water containers were placed amongst the koala food trees adjacent to the school for all stressed and needy wildlife,

and students took responsibility for ensuring the water was topped up and kept fresh. Karen Austin explained how excited the school now is to have the new drinking stations installed, and going forward the students will help to monitor and maintain them, ensuring they are always important water sources for local wildlife. Karen Austin said, 'We are humbled to be able to do something to help koalas and other animals and birds. Students who are experiencing anxiety or stress are often helped by quiet time amongst the koala trees, watching and looking for these peaceful creatures, illustrating just how much we humans need the animals and the environment.'



A drinking station being set up in blackened bush in the Blue Mountains earlier this year (image courtesy of KDVideo for Science for Wildlife).

RESTORING KOALA HABITAT: UPDATE BY THE HASTINGS-MACLEAY KOALA RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

How can we ever forget the devastating bushfires which swept through the Hastings-Macleay Region last summer? While many eucalypts in our region can re-sprout following low/moderate intensity fires, fires of severe intensity, such as were experienced in many places last summer, will kill them. Many people are now thinking about replanting fire-affected areas and cleared portions of their rural properties in order to mitigate habitat losses. The Hastings-Macleay Area of Regional Koala Significance has been fortunate to receive funding through several avenues to help people undertake these works. Associated projects are outlined below.

Tree Change for Koalas in the Macleay

This project will include species likely to be important in a hotter, drier world.

The Macleay Landcare Network received a Konica Minolta Landcare Grant to help implement its Tree Change for Koalas project. This project will support the capacity of three volunteer-run

community nurseries to grow and supply appropriate koala food and habitat tree species according to provenance and land type. It is important to use locally-sourced trees when undertaking planting programs due to complex relationships between soil chemistry, leaf nutrients and koala gut microbiomes. The participating nurseries are the Pandanus Nursery, located at South West Rocks, Grassy Head Nursery and the Bass'n'Bull Native Plant Nursery in Bellbrook. Three seed collection days have already been undertaken by keen volunteers and Landcare Coordinator, Andy Vinter (see photo). The Koala Recovery Partnership is providing in-kind support, particularly in the identification of suitable species for propagation and areas for seed collection. Andy and Koala Ecologist, Rebecca Montague-Drake are also working on educational material to support the project. This project is unique in that in addition to propagating the most common koala feed trees, the nurseries will also propagate species likely to be important for koalas in a hotter, drier world, important shelter trees and also 'nitrogen fixing species'. Such species are often overlooked when restoring koala habitat but ensure that the eucalypt leaf (that is, the

koala food) has the best possible combination of nutrients.

Post Fire Koala Habitat Recovery Program

Projects will target areas of high soil fertility and connectivity.

Within the Hastings-Macleay, both the Macleay Landcare Network and Hastings Landcare Incorporated were the recipients of 'WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants'. The money will be used to revegetate areas with koala feed, shelter and nitrogen-fixing species using contractors or materials. This is a real win for participating landholders, who often want to replant areas, but have limited time or funds to do the planting and maintenance. While only relatively small areas can be revegetated through this scheme, the projects will target areas of high soil fertility and connectivity, so as to have the best possible outcomes for koalas and other wildlife. The Koala Recovery Partnership will help guide the best areas for plantings to occur and species selection.



Keen Macleay Landcare Network volunteers ready for a big day collecting koala habitat tree seeds! L to R: Larry Vincent, Graeme Carrad, Andy Vinter (Landcare Coordinator), Claudia Petrie, David Adams, Wendy Kaczan, Chris Kaczan (image courtesy of Mark Ryan).

Koala Habitat Planting Map

The right trees in the right location for maximum benefit.

This product has been created by the Koala Recovery Partnership. Property owners and land managers in either the Kempsey or Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Areas, can click on an area of the map at fine-scale, and be provided with an appropriate list of koala feed trees and nitrogen-fixing species for that location. The mantra of the product is 'The right trees in the right location for maximum benefit'. This is important as some

species do better on the coast, or in the hinterland, on creeks or ridge-tops. This is a great tool which can guide planting projects and support landholders undertaking habitat restoration. The product is available online at: <https://arcg.is/1SbPf1> or google 'Koala Habitat Planting Map'. The webpage has some great information about managing restoration programs and outlines ways that planting koala habitat can benefit other species as well.

Annual Free Koala Food Tree Distribution

Managed by the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, this program continues to provide landholders with free koala feed trees, kindly donated by the Forest Corp

Grafton Nursery. These trees go like hot cakes, showing that we have many people in the region wanting to help koalas!

The Koala Recovery Partnership thanks all the committed volunteers associated with the above programs, our keen local Landcare Coordinators, Andy Vinter and Stephen Allwood, and most importantly, the landholders who are enabling habitat restoration works on their lands.

The Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Partnership is proudly funded by the NSW Government's Saving Our Species program, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Kempsey Shire Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, and hosted by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation.

If you are interested in restoring koala habitat on your property, or would like information about these programs, please contact the Koala Recovery Partnership on 0480 230 128 or email us at rebecca.montague-drake@mncjo.nsw.gov.au. We are here to help!

NEW KOALA HOSPITAL WILL BE STATE OF THE ART

World-class tourism destination will retain the Koala Hospital's unique natural setting and magnificent native trees.

In 2019, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital received incredibly exciting news. Our application to New South Wales (NSW) Government for a grant to rebuild the Hospital had been successful!

Funded entirely by private donations since it started in 1973, the much-loved and well-used Hospital is in need of major change and renovation in order to continue best practice in treatment of koalas, to further improve the visitor experience, and to increase education, training and research facilities. Whilst we will continue to depend on public generosity for running costs, this substantial grant of \$5 million is now enabling us to rebuild the Hospital and deliver a new, world-class nature-based tourism destination.

Program Manager, Matt Whatman, joined the Koala Hospital in June 2020, with the responsibility to manage and oversee the redevelopment. We are delighted to welcome Matt on board; he comes with more than 12 years' experience in client-side project management and is motivated by the Koala Hospital's vision. Matt also has experience and understanding of the volunteer

sector himself, having played an important voluntary role as Chairman of the local Nature School in Port Macquarie in recent years. As Program Manager at the Koala Hospital, Matt will also oversee the design and construction works needed for our other major new project, the Wild Koala Breeding Program (see pages 2 and 3).

The new Koala Hospital is in the pre-construction phase, meaning that planning is underway to define how this project will be delivered over the next couple of years. Key planning elements include a facilities brief, refinement of the budget and timelines, decisions about how we will engage with consultants, builders and stakeholders, and setting the reporting requirements. Soon a consultant will be engaged, and the design, consultations and approvals will be completed to enable construction to commence.

The Koala Hospital is adjacent to the heritage building, Roto House, and located within a National Park, which means a number of requirements of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service must be met. These include an amendment to the current Plans of Management, various environmental approvals and a design certification.

Five shortlisted architects will provide quotations

in the coming months. These architects have been selected for their experience in ecological sustainable development, working in a natural environment, iconic architecture, tourism and their alignment to the Koala Hospital's vision.

Over the coming weeks, visitors and volunteers may notice activities at the Koala Hospital related to the redevelopment. As well as surveying work, an arborist will be recording all the trees within the development 'footprint'. After the koalas themselves, the trees are one of the most important aspects of the redevelopment. A priority within architectural designs is the retention of the magnificent native trees which are a feature of the Koala Hospital and Roto House.

This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government's Restart NSW program in association with Koala Conservation Australia Inc.



Koala Hospital Program Manager, Matt Whatman, enjoys a little downtime with permanent resident, Emerald Downs Mary.

A WARM WELCOME TO DR PHILLIPA BEALE

BSC DVM PHD



Dr Pip Beale

Veterinarian, Phillipa (Pip), takes up the role of Clinical Director at the Koala Hospital from September.

Interested all her life in conservation of natural ecosystems and in animals, Pip started university with a biology degree at the University of New South Wales Sydney. Wanting to understand more about how animals functioned on the inside, she went on to undertake a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Melbourne. During these studies Pip remained focused on wildlife health and undertook an elective in conservation medicine and a placement at a zoo. She also received an Anne Martin Scholarship to attend the Wildlife Disease Association conference in Cairns.

Pip continued to pursue her interest in wildlife conservation through research and completed a PhD at the Australian National University in ecology and evolution, focusing on koalas

and common brushtail and ringtail possums. Her PhD studies enabled her to learn more about how animal health intersects with the environment in a wildlife setting. Her research explored how changes in ambient temperature impact nutrition in marsupial folivores (leaf eaters), such as koalas and possums. This fascinating topic has direct applications for management of marsupial (and indeed other herbivore) populations going forward, as feeding is so fundamental to their existence.

Pip explains, 'While further research is needed, my project highlighted how climate change will alter the nutritional requirements of herbivores, and how, in order to conserve populations of animals into the future, we must take this into account. If we are setting aside habitat for koalas, we need to consider that individual trees differ in their chemistry. Knowing the species is not enough, we must actually measure the nutritional quality of forests and scale up for the future.'

Following completion of her PhD, Pip worked as a field assistant on projects assessing koala habitat

within forests on the mid north coast and on the south coast of New South Wales. She was also involved with koala husbandry when thirty koalas were rescued from the recent bushfires and housed at the Australian National University.

Pip also loves science outreach and communication and contributes to the popular science journal, 'Conservation Physiology in Action'.

Pip told us, 'I am really excited to become part of the team at the Koala Hospital and to be able to combine my veterinary background with koala research. It feels like a really practical way to be able to contribute to conservation of koalas and with so many animals through the door, we can try to answer a lot of important questions.'

Outside of work and academia, Pip enjoys the outdoors, yoga and occasionally trying to surf. 'Perhaps in Port Macquarie, I will become an actual surfer, rather than an aspirational surfer!' Pip also enjoys creative pursuits including painting as well as listening to music, reading all sorts of books, and cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

RECYCLING PROJECT SHOWCASES CHILDREN'S KOALA ART

Recycling stations have become exhibition points for colourful artwork by local school students.

A new recycling project at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has become a win-win initiative.

Not only are we now successfully managing our recycling and earning funds through the *'Return & Earn' scheme, but also the large waste bins throughout the Hospital have become exhibition points for colourful artworks by local primary schoolchildren.

The project was developed by Koala Hospital volunteer, Anne Ditton, who realised much more could be done to effectively manage our waste. She was keen to do better for the environment and earn funds for the Hospital. But Anne also has an eye for art

and saw the opportunity to involve local children in getting visitors to take notice of the recycling information and bins around the Hospital.

Working with fellow volunteer and artist, Peggy Eather, Anne approached local schools to take part in an art competition to create colourful, original pictures to decorate the bins. Schools responded with enthusiasm, and criteria for judging included originality and artistic merit, clarity of message, and use of colour. Twelve lucky winners have already received their gift packs of koala-related prizes. In addition, once COVID-19 regulations allow, the winning students will be treated to a VIP tour of the Koala Hospital with the chance to learn more about the animals and how we treat and care for them.

We are grateful to recycling and waste management company, J R Richards & Sons, who donated brand new bins for the project;

we also thank SNAP Print & Design, Port Macquarie, for their excellent print production of the children's artworks. Peggy created clear, bright information signage in multiple languages to accompany the new bins. Anne is delighted with the results of the project because the eye-catching recycling points are encouraging visitors to dispose of their waste appropriately, and generating some income for the Koala Hospital. She said, "It has been great to work with local schools too. There is so much creativity out there, and these children really understand the importance of recycling and the environment. They were delighted to be helping us help koalas too."

**'Return and Earn' has sites at 600 locations across NSW where the public can deposit eligible drink containers and earn 10 cents a container. Launched in December 2017, the scheme has collected over 2 billion drink containers, helping to reduce volume of litter in NSW.*



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Winning students from Hastings Public School, St Joseph's Primary School and Heritage Christian School are presented with their koala gift packs. Also shown here is some of the eye-catching student artwork displayed on our recycling bins.

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY

(MAY – JULY 2020)

REASON FOR ADMITTANCE TO KOALA HOSPITAL

Chlamydia	5
Motor Vehicle Accident	5
Unsafe location	16
Other	9

OUTCOMES

Released following health checks, treatment	19
Dead on arrival, died or euthanased	16

The data above indicates that fewer koala patients have been admitted over these cooler, winter months than in the hectic, preceding summer and bushfire season. With breeding season starting again from August, we expect koala numbers to increase.



Two of 26 koalas released locally back to the wild by the Koala Hospital earlier this year. After the 2019/2020 fire season, forest had fortunately recovered enough for them to be returned in April. Images courtesy of Port Macquarie Hastings Council.



GUULAGU KOALA CUSTODIANS

Guulagu Koala Custodians is a new voice for koalas, a group of community members from the Port Macquarie area with a focus on social advocacy for koala conservation. During the 2019/2020 fires, a conversation was sparked and local aboriginal and non-aboriginal people came together to start to explore ideas around koala conservation and a holistic model. Arlene McInherny, who has helped lead the group, is a Birpai traditional owner who has strong family ties to the koala. The koala is her great grandfather's totem.

When Guruk or what is known now as Port Macquarie was colonised, the Birpai word for koala was heard as "coola", and this was translated into English

as koala, but Arlene says g and k are joint sounds in her language and the correct local word is Guula. Guula is her great grandfather's name, and Arlene named her son, Guula to honour the connection to the koala. Arlene says that it is important to model caring for totem animals to our children, 'We have a cultural and spiritual obligation to care for the environment and in particular our totems'.

When Guulagu Koala Custodians started many people participated, concerned about the survival of the koalas. There continues to be immense knowledge within the group, some people having more than 20 years' experience in koala ecology. Other people are following a variety of strategies

in the community on a small scale. The group has started to brainstorm many different ideas, much of them framed around education and social advocacy. They seek legislation reform to prioritise koala conservation.

Meaning 'for koalas', 'Guulagu' is a local koala advocacy group seeking new participants.

Guulagu Koala Custodians will be coming together again. If you are interested in being part of this community group, please email guulagukoalacustodians@gmail.com. Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people are all welcome.

Koala Kids

MAJOR THREATS TO KOALAS

Wild koalas are found from west of Cairns in Far North Queensland right down into South Australia, with the vast majority of the populations on the coastal side of the mountain ranges right down into Victoria. Koalas rely almost totally on the moisture they obtain from the eucalypt leaf they eat, therefore most populations are found occupying better quality eucalyptus forests close to water courses and more fertile soils. Where koalas are able to live in undisturbed forests, free of human interference, the colonies tend to be much healthier and do not suffer the diseases and problems that koalas face which live at the human/bush interface such as urban and rural areas.

HABITAT LOSS: NUMBER ONE THREAT!

Clearing of eucalypt forests to harvest timber or to make way for housing, roads or other development is a major threat to koala populations.

CHLAMYDIA

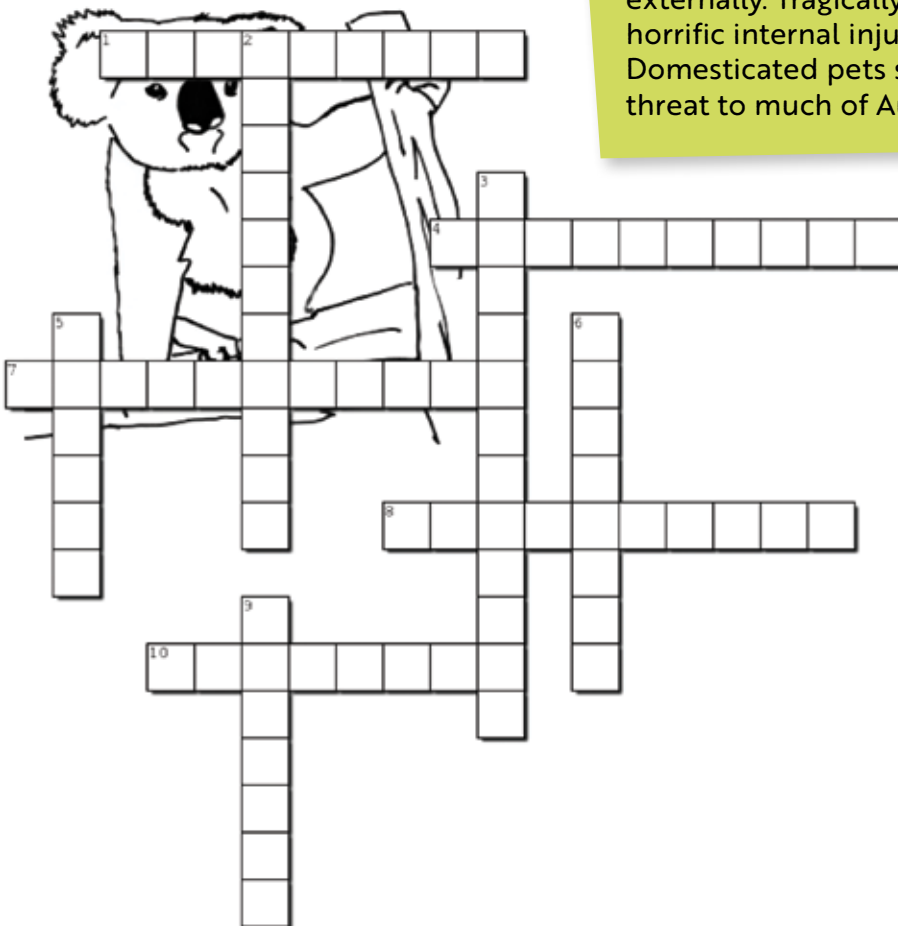
Chlamydia is a bacterial disease that can affect the eyes and/or the internal organs of the koala. Chlamydia is treated with antibiotics but the koala is never completely cured.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Animals hit by a car can suffer terrible injuries and many do not survive. Unless a koala is rescued after an accident and provided with appropriate care it will most likely die.

DOG ATTACKS

When a koala wanders into the territory of a domestic dog in search of food, the dog will often attack to protect their territory. A koala is no match for a dog, and the injuries may not be very obvious externally. Tragically, the koala has usually suffered horrific internal injuries that are beyond treatment. Domesticated pets such as dogs and cats can be a threat to much of Australian native wildlife.



Across

1. A disease threatening koalas
4. A group of animals living in the same area
7. are used to treat chlamydia
8. The type of tree from which a koala obtains food
10. Koalas obtain from eucalyptus leaves

Down

2. Suitable or proper
3. A animal lives with humans
5. Physical damage or hurt
6. Animals that are not domesticated
9. An illness or sickness

Answers
 Across: 1. Chlamydia / 4. Population / 7. Antibiotics / 8. Eucalyptus / 10. Moisture
 Down: 2. Appropriate / 3. Domesticated / 5. Injury / 6. Wildlife / 9. Disease



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

ADOPT A WILD KOALA ...AND HELP THE KOALA HOSPITAL'S VITAL WORK



Evans Head CW is a young male koala, who was found injured and walking in circles. He was treated first by Friends of the Koala in Lismore.

He was named 'Cangleska Wakan', meaning 'Sacred Circle', and became 'CW' for short. Poor CW had a ruptured eye, head trauma, and other lesser injuries, likely from a car accident. The trauma meant that his head tilt and slightly unstable gait continued. He also developed chlamydia temporarily.

The good news is that CW has responded well to all treatment. However his minor, but permanent, brain injury will prevent him from surviving in the wild. The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital welcomed CW with open arms onto our team of permanent koalas, and he has settled well into our care.

Evans Head CW is just one of the wonderful koala characters you can adopt at
www.koalahospital.org.au/adopt-a-koala

Koala Conservation Australia Inc.

ABN 74 060 854 479 | PO Box 236, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Licensed to rehabilitate and release sick, injured and orphaned native fauna under Licence No. 10044