



GUM TIPS

AUTUMN 2023



Growing
Koala Food

KCA introduces
Masterbrand

KCA National
Conference
May 2023

A LITTLE MIRACLE – ROTO JAZ COMES INTO THE WORLD

Dr Astrid van Aggelen

Roto Jaz was born at the Koala Hospital in April 2022. His mum, Wauchope Jade, was brought into the Koala Hospital in 2020 after she was found in the middle of Wauchope township but her location of origin was unknown.

His dad, Ruins Way Baz, was a survivor of the bushfires in 2019. He was badly burnt, losing claws on hands and feet so is unable to climb high into trees and therefore is unable to survive in the wild. Roto Jaz's name is the perfect mixture of Jade and Baz!

Luckily, Jaz did not have to face the hardship that his parents had to face. He was born in captivity and as he has grown in the last few months he has brought joy for visitors observing his behaviour and for volunteers who care for our koalas at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital.

For all pregnant koalas the gestation period is around 35 days. All little joeys are born completely furless, blind and deaf, the size of a jelly bean, weighing less than one gram. They are referred to as 'pinkies' and crawl their way up to their Mum's pouch. Once Roto Jaz reached Jade's pouch he attached to one of his mum's teats.

For the first four and half months of his life, he hid in his mum's pouch and was completely unnoticed until regular health checks revealed a little bulge in



Joey Jaz inside his mum's pouch.

his mum's pouch. During this time he progressively developed fur and his eyes and ear canals slowly began to develop and function.

He then began making occasional appearances out of the pouch, being seen more frequently by vets and koala carers in September 2022. At round 5 months of age, mum Jade began to 'pap' Jaz - meaning that she fed him faecal content stored in her caecum. This is an essential process which enables joeys' guts to digest the highly toxic eucalyptus leaves which become their staple diet. Papping develops the good bacteria that live in the koalas' gut and this is necessary for their digestion. While Jaz was still feeding on his mother's milk from the teat in her pouch he was slowly starting to become a more independent feeder. Once Jaz was papped, he started feeding on eucalyptus leaf, imitating its mother.

Hospital staff and volunteers started seeing him appear more frequently in late September 2022. He was mainly active at night, learning to climb on his mum's back. Progressively he became bigger, starting to eat more and more leaf and exploring the gunyah by himself.

He is now too big to fit in his mum's pouch. Jade is still allowing him to feed on milk but she is progressively weaning him, a process that will be complete around

Cover image: Mother Koala, Wauchope Jade with her joey Roto Jaz



Little Jaz out of the pouch.



Mum Jade teaching her joey to eat leaf.

11-12 months of age. She has also progressively started to put some distance between them and she will decide when it is time to completely separate from him. When this time comes he will have an enclosure of his own!

His parents would have tragically died if they had not been rescued. Instead, we are able to enjoy Jaz's presence and watch him grow

and learn to become a strong, beautiful and independent young male koala. These wonderful events reinforce our commitment and reward us for continuing the quest to save the species from extinction.



Roto Jaz now too big for the pouch and becoming more independent.

CONTENTS

A Little Miracle Roto Jaz Comes into the World2	Wild Koala Breeding Project Update 11
Collaborating with Colleagues4	Breeding Facility Building Underway..... 14
Growing Koala Food - Knowledge Shared6	Koala Conservation Australia's New Masterbrand..... 16
Koala Care Experiences for International Volunteers9	KCA's National Conference - Time is Ticking 18
	Koala Adoptions..... 20

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COLLABORATING WITH COLLEAGUES

Dr. Shali Fischer

Opportunities to share experiences and knowledge are crucial for the ongoing learning for all of those within the wildlife rehabilitation sector.



At Friends of the Koala, Lismore, a joey practicing climbing in the Koala Kindy. I loved the innovation of the use of rope.

Unlike commercial practice, there are often limited medical resources and options for referral to a specialist. Together, we can help find solutions for the koalas we see, which will hopefully lead to more positive outcomes in the future.

Koala Conservation Australia's (KCA) Port Macquarie Koala Hospital aims to provide the best treatment possible for the koalas in our care and as such, to improve our practice, we often seek to learn from colleagues in the field.

Recently, as one of the wild life vets at KCA, I was given the opportunity to visit Friends of the Koala (FOK), a busy koala hospital located in Lismore, in the beautiful Northern Rivers region of NSW.

Whilst there, I was able to share ideas and experiences regarding case management, treatment plans and the day-to-day running of another facility dedicated to koala care. There is only so much one can learn from a textbook, so getting some hands-on experience gave me much more confidence in doing procedures crucial for clinical practice - including bone marrow aspiration (collecting a sample of bone marrow for microscopic analysis), peritoneal tap (collection of fluid from the abdominal cavity) and faecal analysis. These skills help with diagnosis and management of a number of medical conditions that we often encounter.



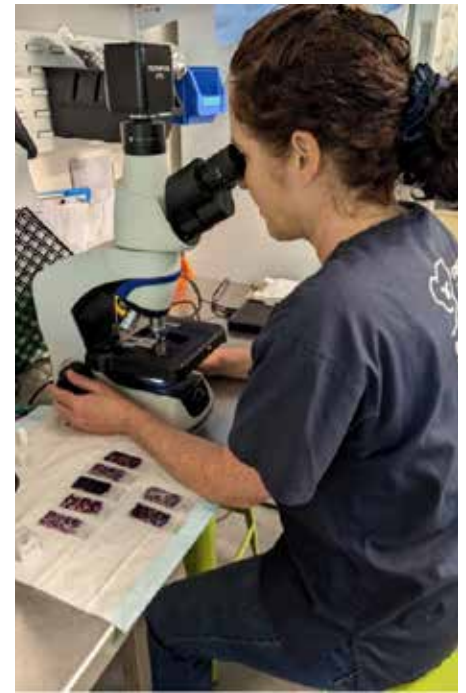
Putting theory into practice! Here I am performing a bone marrow aspiration on a koala.



Nurse Liz Mcleod preparing some samples for cytological analysis.



Dr. Jodie Wakeman and nurse Liz McLeod examining a joey. The use of a baby cradle to hold him snug in place is a brilliant idea I will be implementing.



Vet, Dr Jodie Wakeman, assessing faecal samples for abnormalities.

I met with Clinic vet of FOK, Dr Jodie Wakeman, and nurse Liz McLeod and was able to discuss issues raised at a recent Koala Symposium held in Sydney where hot topics, such as the koala chlamydia vaccine and emerging koala infectious diseases, were raised.

Friends of the Koala have started trialling a chlamydia vaccine

FOK have already started their pilot vaccine program so I was especially keen to discover what positive results they were finding. Koala and wildlife facilities throughout Australia are researching and testing to find better treatments, including vaccinations, for the now endangered species. This involves working with universities and other research organisations in collecting samples from the cases we see. Databases are being created with incidents and treatment procedures helping us

to identify where problems are and enabling us to look for trends and patterns in disease prevalence - which is key in identifying the main threats and what measures we may be able to take to mitigate them.

Implementing shared practices has produced positive results for one of KCA's sick koalas.

I was especially fortunate to be able to discuss specific cases in our care at Port Macquarie Koala Hospital - such as a critically unwell koala. He was treated for chlamydia, but has since shown signs of dysbiosis (an imbalance of the crucial gut flora in a koala, which can often be fatal). I was given some pointers on how to manage intravenous fluid therapy in a koala, which we have since initiated in this koala and found it to be a practical tool for him and future cases. Dr. Jodie was also keen to discuss our pain



On the final day we managed to fit in a mountain bike ride. The trails are brilliant!

management plans in koalas and I was happy to pass on some of our practices for using oral anti-inflammatory medications.

Through visiting a town like Lismore, that experienced devastating floods a year ago, I have seen the resilience and determination of the local community to bring back the vibrance of the town. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit to the Northern Rivers region and appreciated the experiences I had there.

GROWING KOALA FOOD – KNOWLEDGE SHARED

Scott Castle

Gaining and sharing knowledge can achieve a positive change and increase the ability to succeed.

Koala Conservation Australia's (KCA) koala food tree plantations share knowledge between researchers, arborists, horticulturists, landscapers and volunteers with a passion for gardening...and of course all with a passion for koalas.

KCA operates two koala food tree plantations; Maria River Plantation which is on Port Macquarie's north shore and Moripo Plantation which is inland, west of Wauchope.

Maria River Plantation

Maria River Plantation (MRP) was established in 2014. It consists of 101.6 hectares (Ha). The parcel of land is broken up into three main areas:

- Plantation, 17.5 Ha
- Riparian zone and associated riparian native vegetation, 16.3 Ha (the interface between land and a river or stream.)
- Native bushland (Sclerophyll forest, freshwater wetlands and heath complex) 67.8 Ha

The original trees were planted by our volunteers with expert guidance from Forestry Corporation NSW. They offered



Maria River Plantation.

advice while the young seedlings were growing to mature, functioning, plantation trees. Some subsequent plantings at MRP have been koala food trees donated by **Forestry Corporation NSW.**

Last year thousands of trees were planted by **All Above Restoration Australia.** The advice offered from their team regarding fertiliser use and planting methods have been shared with our plantation volunteer teams. Our volunteer teams also planted thousands of trees at MRP last year, in very moist conditions.

Plantation Management

Discussions with **Taronga Zoo** and **Western Sydney University** provided insight into the plantation management of their vast plantations. From those discussions, we have adopted harvesting methods to better manage our koala food trees. Two examples are pollarding (cutting the tree trunk, to promote the

growth of lower branches); and coppicing (cutting the trunk close to the ground, encouraging shoots from the base). We share our experiences with other wildlife groups to encourage knowledge exchange regarding koala browse management.

We have entered a **Biodiversity Conservation Trust** conservation agreement on the bushland adjacent to this plantation. Detailed ecological reports are prepared as a part of this process. This complex ecological knowledge will be shared with our volunteers and visiting schools and universities.

Maria River Nursery

The Plantation Manager at MRP, Rory Thoms, is a horticulturist with extensive experience at plant and tree propagation. We recently built a nursery at MRP and germinated our first koala food tree seeds. Volunteers, pricked the seedlings and planted them into tube stock

trays that will later be planted in the ground. Wild koalas will benefit from the actions of our volunteers for potentially hundreds of years to come whether they are planted at one of our plantations or into clearings in existing eucalypt forests.

Photos: Rory Thoms, Maria River Planation Manager, planting recently pricked seedlings in our nursery.

Moripo Park Research Plantation

Moripo Park Research Plantation was established in 2019 on 50 acres of land on the Hastings River, leased from the P.G. Dukes Foundation at Moripo Park.

Experimenting with different planting techniques

Working with an ecologist, the planting was designed to give KCA an opportunity to test hypotheses about different planting techniques. An experienced agriculturist ripped the soil for us, using the contours of the hillside and keyline-ripped the slopes of the land.

A keyline ploughing pattern follows the landscape creating drainage to better distribute water across the land. Keyline is a set of



Rory Thoms, Maria River Planation Manager.

Planting recently pricked seedlings in our nursery.



Moripo Park Research Plantation planting contours.

principles, techniques and systems proposed by an Australian mining engineer and farmer, P.A. Yeoman in the 1970s which form the basis for the sustainable development of rural and urban landscapes.

We used a Yeoman's Plough, a **subsoiler** with very thin shanks, created in the 1950s by P.A. Yeoman. It was designed to lift and aerate the soil while minimising soil disturbance. Our planting design offered generous room between trees, allowing wide growth in the lower limbs. A different approach to our Maria River Plantation.

Research on leaf chemistry at Moripo

Charles Sturt University student, Teresa Cochrane, completed a project that tested differences in growth rates and leaf chemistry between seedlings planted with different planting treatments at Moripo Plantation. Two papers from this study are now being published in peer reviewed journals from Teresa's dissertation.

Koala Conservation Australia is pursuing further research on

nutrition and effects of different harvesting techniques, as well as many disease and clinical studies.

Fauna nesting boxes

At Moripo Plantation, we are working closely with ecologists who have installed ten different sized nest boxes to accommodate various faunal species. We will monitor these nest boxes and confer with the ecologists to better understand which species frequent the property and how they may help us with biological pest control to keep insects from eating or negatively affecting our koala food trees.

Volunteer data analysts improve our capacity to track our research

Knowledge is shared both ways. Our volunteers bring years of experience into our teams. Not only do our volunteers provide us with horticultural, silvicultural and general gardening experience, we now have data analysts on each of our plantations who are working together to improve the plantation databases, and harvest management. Their work is as



One of the 10 Fauna boxes placed at Moripo Plantation.

exciting as data analysis could be, and we will share our successes with other organisations with plantations growing food for the care of captive wildlife.

Educating the Community to enhance our koalas' future

We host many volunteer days at our plantations offering different experiences to volunteers, schools, universities and other conservation groups. It gives our teams great satisfaction to know that by sharing our knowledge of the entire propagation process, we encourage broader conservation efforts.

Sharing knowledge encourages connection between professionals, saves cost and time on training, enhances the ability to perform better sooner, and creates a healthy, competitive-free environment. Koala Conservation Australia is always searching for new connections, partnerships and knowledge to further our ability to best care for our koalas...because their future is in our hands!



Volunteer Bowen Pearson planting at Moripo Park Plantation.



Volunteer George Duval at Moripo repairing tree guards.

KOALA CARE EXPERIENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

After three long years of Covid19 and travel restrictions, Koala Conservation Australia (KCA) is again operating its one-month International Volunteer Program.



Ursula Straub takes used browse from koala yards.

Each month two international volunteers can experience KCA's operation.

Successful applicants can learn how koalas in permanent or temporary captivity live in enclosures specifically built for them. They work in the koala yards assisting with daily cleaning and the preparation of browse allocated to each koala. Browse is the correct name for the fresh eucalyptus leaf and branches cut from leaf collected by KCA's leaf collectors.

The leaf is collected several times a week and delivered to the Koala Hospital. Koalas will usually only eat the kind of eucalyptus from the area in which they were rescued so volunteers need to understand how feeding koalas is such a specialist activity.

A difficult, and sometimes challenging, task is attending the rescue of a sick or injured koala. This valuable experience enables volunteers to understand more clearly the different threats that are contributing to a decline in Australia's koala population.

A more positive experience is attending the release of a koala



Cordelia Ahr cleaning a koala yard.

that has been successfully rehabilitated and has been given the 'all clear' to be returned to its home by the Hospital's vets.

Hospital vets encourage volunteers to observe some clinical procedures and assessments which reveal health issues and injuries suffered by koalas in the wild.

In addition to koala care shifts they have shifts in our souvenir shop, and shifts with our visitor guides to understand the importance of educating the public about koalas.

From late 2023 International Volunteers will be able to participate in our Wild Koala Breeding Program which will operate from 'Guulabaa', Place of Koalas, at Cowarra State Forest, west of Port Macquarie.

During their stay international volunteers are given the opportunity to visit at least one of



International volunteers, Cordelia and Ursula assist other volunteers in sapling planting at Moripo Plantation.

our koala tree plantations. In January, Cordelia Ahr from Switzerland and Esther Straub from Germany, the first two international volunteers in three years, visited Moripo plantation west of Wauchope. They learnt how to plant young eucalyptus trees and see trees growing at different stages of development. It was a valuable opportunity to spend a day in the beautiful Australian bushland and learn how we can create plantations to meet the needs of our koalas.

The International Volunteer program has always been extremely popular, and our 2023 program is already fully booked. The volunteers come from all walks of life and not necessarily areas associated with animal care. Both January international volunteers, a Lecturer in Family Law and a Primary School Teacher respectively, said they thoroughly enjoyed their experience and have taken away a great deal of knowledge about KCA to pass on to friends and colleagues in their home countries.

The volunteers complete a survey at the completion of their stay so that we can make sure the program, and what it offers, is of value to participants and we can make changes/additions to keep it relevant and enjoyable for those attending the program.

Opportunities for Work Experience.

Koala Conservation Australia also runs a one-week Work Experience Program relevant to people undertaking animal studies or wildlife carers.

Online training webinars

In addition, KCA will be introducing online training where wildlife carers, veterinarians and veterinary nurses can get a sound understanding of koalas, koala behaviour, their ailments /injuries and subsequent treatment. The courses will consist of a series of webinars presented by KCA's Cheyne Flanagan who ran the Koala Hospital for almost 25 years and is a leading expert on koalas. An optional, onsite placement at the Koala Hospital will be offered as part of the training.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

KCA also offers work experience opportunities for students taking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Full details of our programs can be found on our website www.kolahospital.org.au under the 'Support Us' tab.

WILD KOALA BREEDING PROGRAM UPDATE

Cheyne Flanagan

Koala Conservation Australia's (KCA) Wild Koala Breeding Facility (WKBP) will be completed in 2023. The site is located 16 kilometres west of Port Macquarie and the construction of the facility is well underway with occupation time getting closer.



North Eastern slope of quality coastal koala habitat.

Meanwhile, the process behind setting up and establishing the breeding program has been, and continues to be, enormous and complex.

In early 2021, good collaborative relationships were formed via many face to face and online meetings with all the key stakeholders who are essential to this project.

KCA's founding partner, Taronga Conservation Society, has been involved since the beginning along with the University Sydney, Wildlife Genomics of the Australian Museum, Australian National University and other ancillary institutions. A number of meetings were held with other stakeholders, including key areas of work under the NSW Government Koala Strategy team.

The key focus for the last two years has been preparation to apply for a scientific permit to undertake

the entire breeding project. These permits are not only critical for the breeding program to go ahead but to form the framework and boundaries of everything we wish to achieve. They are granted for a three to five year period.

So what are the two permits?

The Translocation Permit, along with the Animal Ethics Permit, are both detailed and highly complex.

Firstly, the Animal Ethics Permit.

The application for this permit took around 18 months to complete and submit. It is all about animal welfare, and following best practice in all aspects of the program. It includes a detailed comprehensive Disease Risk Assessment and details related to how koalas will be captured, the policies and procedures involved and the plan of how the facility will be constructed and operated. We

also have to detail the health and wellbeing of all the breeding koalas and the all-important preparation for release of progeny.

The draft permit was submitted a number of times to the first Animal Ethics Committee for comment and a number of amendments were made. The final draft was submitted to the NSW Government Animal Ethics Committee and, after a number of weeks, KCA's permit was approved.

Secondly, the Translocation Permit

The draft of this permit, again, has taken almost two years to compile with many amendments and changes, plus lots of consultative meetings with the relevant parties. As the name states, it details, when and where our bred juveniles can be released. This permit is currently with the NSW Government and we are waiting for its final approval.

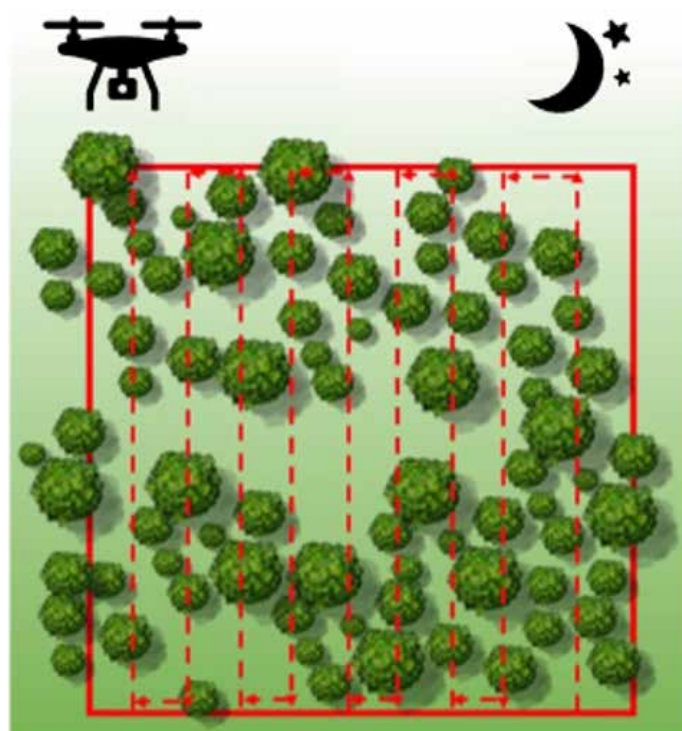
Surveying Vegetation habitat

Early in 2022, Taronga and KCA began a “desk top analysis” looking at vegetation habitat maps of national parks up and down the mid north coast of NSW. Work with the Wildlife Genomics of the Australian Museum has shown that even though the genetics of coastal koalas do have clusters in different regions – as a metapopulation, koalas are similar from Grafton right down to the Hunter region of NSW. This information allows us to be more broad-scale in our approach and widens the monitoring sites available to us.

This “desk top analysis” was backed up with on ground assessment of the chosen sites – walking and driving, looking at accessibility, terrain and understory. It also included assessing recovery from fires and floods.

Surveying Koala Numbers

In the winter of 2022 we commenced drone monitoring survey work of sites chosen to look for koala numbers within these locations. This was done in association with Dr Ryan Whitt from the University of Newcastle.



The drone survey is conducted in a 'lawn mower pattern'.

Drone surveys

At each site a quadcopter drone (Mavic 2 Enterprise Advanced) equipped with a thermal camera was deployed after sunset to pick up the heat signature of a koala. This type of survey work must be done after dark as during the day there is too much interference from sun heated trunks of trees and other objects. As it is impossible to survey an entire National Park, a 900 hectare plot was aligned with 25 hectare grids (which gave a total of 300 hectares surveyed per park) and was stratified to represent the proportional available habitat and koala habitat suitability. This was mirrored across each park surveyed for consistency.

Surveys were programmed into a “lawn mower pattern” and drones flew at a standardised height of 70 metres above ground. Photo imagery was also collected along with thermal signatures.

Ground observations

Koala detections located in real time visualisation were validated by on ground observers using the spotlight technique using a 200 metre radius looking for koala “eye shine” (which is quite distinct), trees were identified and scats were collected for later analysis. This difficult task was performed at 11pm in dark and cold conditions navigating thick heavy forest, often with limited access. The team had to repeatedly traverse difficult terrain to find the koala’s tree and collect this data.

Coorabakh National Park had extremely difficult terrain. It is heavily forested with enormous trees which made access a problem and only two koalas were located in the lower elevation. It is unlikely that this park will be included in future planning and allows us to eliminate unsuitable sites.

Of the three initial sites monitored for koala activity only one was deemed to have good numbers of koalas. We had anticipated that this would be the case but it needed to be confirmed. The other two sites had very low to nil koala activity and were also considered unsuitable for future work as accessibility was extremely difficult.

Earlier this year we began the second stage of “desk top analysis” looking at the vegetation models of koala habitat in other locations on the mid to north coast of NSW.

Ground-truthing chosen sites

The sites chosen have just recently been “ground truthed” and assessed by a team from KCA and Taronga. This involved us driving and walking to check for accessibility. The terrain and hazards were assessed and links to other habitats found. Tree species had to be identified and evidence of koala activity detailed. It was pleasing to see evidence of koalas in three of the sites chosen (determined by unique scratch marks on trees).

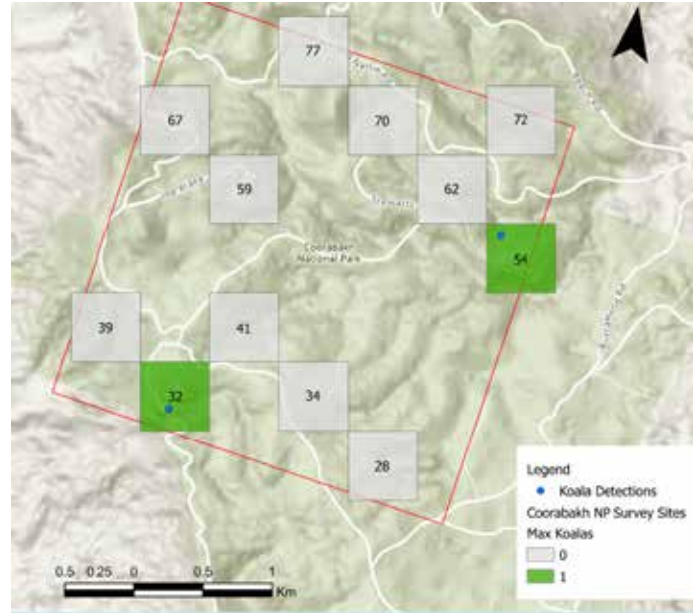
All of these sites are within National Parks. The 2019/20 bushfires had a major impact on one park in particular - not only was the vegetation reduced but it also suffered a large loss of koala numbers. This park will be suitable for release into the future but currently it requires a few more years to recover before that is achievable.

Second drone survey mid 2023

This coming winter (2023) the second drone monitoring survey work will commence in the sites we have recently assessed.

Once KCA's Wild Koala Breeding Facility at Guulabaa, Cowarra State Forest has been completed we will commence sourcing breeding koalas both from chosen locations and via young healthy koalas that come through the Koala Hospital.

The breeding facility is funded through donations made during the 2019/2020 bushfires and we thank everyone for their support.



Survey finding of koalas in Coorabakh National Park. Two blue dots indicate koala location.



Two young joeys in the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital Joey yard.

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A SPECIALLY DESIGNED FACILITY TO HOME KOALAS BRED FOR RELEASE TO THE WILD TAKES SHAPE

Matt Whatman

It's been a long process, but finally, the construction of our koala breeding facility is well underway.

Construction commenced late 2022 with preparation of the two buildings, one to house Koala Conservation Australia's (KCA's) administration, staff and volunteer areas, and a second building to showcase care of koalas with a clinic and a laboratory.

The new facility is being built at the Guulabaa Tourism Precinct set in the beautiful Cowarra State Forest and visitors to the site will be able to view and learn about koalas in this natural setting from a suspended deck. Also on display will be many koala care processes such as the delivery, cutting and distribution of leaf, cleaning of enclosures which includes collecting koala scats and many more activities aimed at helping visitors understand the importance and care of Australia's iconic koalas.

The 'Issue For Construction' drawings have been finalised by the head consultants, Allen, Jack + Cottier, with the contractor, Lahey Constructions and the project is now well underway. Lahey was the successful contractor and started work late 2022. It is a Kempsey based, family business, established in 1946 and is well known in the area having been involved in several high profile building projects.

At the end of February, progress had been made on:

- The foundations – all work is complete, with screw pile foundations and in ground services in place.
- The concrete slabs – are poured and finished for both buildings.
- The Framing - wall, floor and ceiling framing and installed Koala yards have been set and all the koala yards completed for exhibit, rehabilitation and breeding koalas. The yards have been designed with the existing forest in mind, having pathways and fence-lines weaving through the existing trees. This will create a natural



Concrete slabs poured and wall, floor and ceiling frames are set.



North building of the complex under construction.

setting for all the koalas under our care and minimise the number of trees that need to be removed from the site for the security of koalas.

- The Feral proof fence – construction started in February. The fence is a requirement under the scientific permit to breed koalas and surrounds the entire breeding facility. It ensures that no feral animals can enter the property and equally none of koalas are able to escape.

The project is well on track to be completed in 2023, when KCA will welcome visitors and our first wild koalas into the breeding program.

KCA remains ever thankful to the kind donors who, following the 2019/20 black summer bushfires, donated funds which has enabled our long-term goal to become a reality. The facility will

eventually be home to up 100 breeding koalas and be a blueprint for other wildlife organisations to follow.

To learn more about the wild koala project and our partners, please visit [KCA's website](#).

The Guulabaa Tourism Precinct will offer a unique experience for visitors to the Mid North Coast region of New South Wales. The precinct will showcase wild koalas, a Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council run cafe and gallery, WildNets canopy adventure experience and a Big Koala. It aims to become a nature-based rest stop for travellers.

To learn more about the Guulabaa Tourism Precinct, please visit the [Forestry Corporation of NSW website](#) Forestry Corporation - Guulabaa – Place of Koala, Cowarra State Forest.

KOALA CONSERVATION AUSTRALIA'S NEW LOGO UNVEILED

Sue Ashton

It is time to introduce a single masterbrand and a logo that encompasses everything Koala Conservation Australia does.

In late 2019, before the catastrophic bushfires along the east coast of Australia, before the Coronavirus swept the world and before the devastating floods that moved through regional towns in NSW, Queensland and Victoria, a small marketing team at Koala Conservation Australia (KCA) began work on refreshing the organisation's brand.

What is a brand?

A brand is a product, service or concept that is easily distinguished from others and that can be easily communicated and marketed.

Working with KCA's sponsor, NRMA Insurance, a brand strategy was developed. The strategy recognized that KCA's business was changing. It was no longer just the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie, it had evolved and consisted of four main areas of business – the Koala Hospital, the Wild Koala Breeding Program, Conservation and Education.

Every part of the business contributes to KCA achieving its mission – 'to lead the world in the care and conservation of wild koalas'.

Four main areas of business

The Koala Hospital

Staff and volunteers take care of koalas in our care, their needs and their rehabilitation. To help conserve this iconic species, KCA also contributes to research conducted by partners such as the University of Sydney, Australian National University, Southern Cross University and Queensland University plus government departments such as the Department of Planning and Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Services, and many others. KCA is currently participating in several chlamydia research projects and sharing knowledge with researchers in koala nutrition and neurological conditions.

The Wild Koala Breeding Program

This is a world first! Nowhere else in the world are wild koalas being bred for release back to the wild. KCA's program aims to breed wild koalas to bolster existing, at-risk

populations and to reintroduce koalas into previously occupied areas to support koala populations and post bushfire recovery.

Conservation

With two plantations, Maria River and Moripo, growing koala food trees, KCA is close to becoming self-sufficient. There are also plans to plant trees at several more sites in and around Port Macquarie. The Conservation team is also undertaking research into important areas of koala nutrition.

Education

Our onsite guides provide an invaluable service by educating the visiting public about wild koalas – their care, needs, threats and what people can do to help conserve koalas in the wild.

This knowledgeable team visits community groups and schools, often accompanied by 'Stuffie', a taxidermied koala, telling people all there is to know about koalas.

These four areas are supported by teams working in fundraising, administration, retail and maintenance. With only seven paid staff, much of this work falls on the 200 volunteers who provide their time and services on a regular basis.

The business name, Koala Conservation Australia, reflects the direction in which the organisation is going

With four equally important parts to KCA's business the brand strategy recommended the organisation move away from the name, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, which is only one part of the business and embrace a name that reflects the whole operation namely, conservation of the koala species. The business name, Koala Conservation Australia, reflects this and the direction in which the organization is going.

We are:

- A **holistic organisation**, made up of many parts, working in koala conservation, research, advocacy as well as care
- An organisation with **positive impact on a national scale**, able to support conservation in other regions and with partners, and
- A **proactive leader** in the long-term health of the species.

KCA's Board agreed with the recommendation to introduce a single 'masterbrand', and a logo that encompasses everything KCA does and gives it flexibility to support all areas of the business.

Following the advice in the brand strategy, the design agency, AreCreative, was asked to follow the guidelines provided by KCA's Brand and Business Strategies. Ben Creighton from AreCreative developed between 30 and 50 different logos, in addition to those left on the studio floor, for review and comment by the marketing committee. The designs varied

from complex designs using KCA to simple designs featuring a 'K'.

The final designs were selected by the marketing team and artwork prepared. Four designs with subtle differences were displayed at the Koala Hospital and staff and volunteers were asked to rank their preferred designs.

Based on the recommendation in KCA's Brand Strategy and feedback from staff and volunteers final artwork was completed to introduce KCA's new logo.

Today we introduce Koala Conservation Australia's new logo



And the colour palette

The crisp, fresh colours included in the palette encapsulate the evolving story of Koala Conservation Australia Limited. The colours used are indicative of those found in the koalas' natural habitat. The blues of the water and sky, the greens of the leaves, the yellows of the sun and the coast, the oranges and browns of the earth and soil and the grey tones of the koala itself.



KCA Leaf collection van and ambulance now sporting the new brand.



KCA'S NATIONAL KOALA CONFERENCE – TIME IS TICKING

Maria Doherty

We are close to losing our peri-urban and urban koala population.

Koala Conservation Australia (KCA) is hosting the National Koala Conference in May 2023, with the theme “Their future is in our Hands” and it cannot come soon enough. With koala numbers estimated (anecdotally, C. Flanagan pers comm, 2023) as around 200 koalas for Port Macquarie township (and approximately 2,000 for the wider Local Government Area), we are extremely close to losing our peri-urban and urban koala population. Australian government estimates of koala populations conclude that without on the ground action, koalas in NSW could be extinct by 2050. We therefore need to be implementing effective management plans immediately and doing all we possibly can, to stop the population decline.

Wild Koala Breeding Program at Port Macquarie

KCA has taken this responsibility on fully, with preparations well underway for the launch of our Wild Koala Breeding Program in

August this year. We have also addressed the main population threat of habitat destruction by striving to protect koala habitat at our Maria River property and at Innes Lake (investing millions in co-contribution with National Parks and Wildlife). KCA has partnered with state and local government to restore habitat and address the key threats to koalas (vehicle strike, chlamydia and dog attacks). We have many projects being undertaken in our local area and for the adjoining Local Government Area of Kempsey Macleay. Our Conference, the third we have hosted, will also assist, as it will bring together koala experts to share the most up to date knowledge and research which we can then apply in our race against the clock.

Expert academics and practitioners from across Australia to present at the Conference

The Conference, scheduled for 26 to 28 May, 2023 will be held at Panthers Auditorium here in beautiful Port Macquarie. Conference delegates are coming from far and wide to see and hear the latest and the best in koala

conservation. We have targeted wildlife veterinarians, wildlife carers, expert ecologists, state and federal government agencies, and university researchers to showcase their most current koala knowledge. Experts such as Professor Mark Krockenberger, a veterinary pathologist from Sydney University will speak about the latest in overcoming koala diseases. Mark is also giving the Conference opening keynote address and, as an expert, specialising in the declining Gunnedah koala population, he is a professional of some note.

We have an impressive line-up of speakers, expert in koala genomics, diseases and pathology, population dynamics, koala behaviour, climate change impact, pharmacokinetics, cortisol and stress, BCT success, koala use of landscapes, immunology, sperm banks, koala microbiomes, eucalypt nutrition, use of eucalypts post fires, and koala food tree plantations. State Government will speak to the latest research results from the NSW Koala Recovery Strategy and CSIRO will lead an hour and a half workshop on the new national koala monitoring program. It's a stellar cast!

Project displays

There will be a number of koala research projects on display as posters for delegates to review and discuss with the author during the breaks.

One of the main posters on display will be detail our own **Wild Koala Breeding Program**.

KCA is leading this initiative in collaboration with Taronga Conservation Society. The display will explain the objectives of the Breeding Program and how we hope to set up the world's first ever wild koala breeding facility which will hopefully see the release of many young joeys a year to boost our local population.

The Conference is open to all those interested in koalas, including the general public, and we are expecting around 250 people to attend. KCA is running this fabulous not for profit Conference to educate, share knowledge, and raise awareness about the plight facing koalas.

We will learn results of the latest research and learn of the role wildlife carers can play in addressing population decline. The Conference will be instrumental in allowing us to apply and incorporate this knowledge as soon as we possibly can into protecting our beloved koalas.

Bookings open

Tickets for Conference attendance can be bought online via this link to Eventbrite <https://NATIONAL-KOALA-CONFERENCE.eventbrite.com.au/?aff=GumTips>



“ THEIR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS ”

NATIONAL KOALA CONFERENCE

3 DAYS 30 SPEAKERS

26-28 May, 2023

Koala Conservation Australia is hosting its third Koala Conference over 3 days this May. This conservation-based event will cover topics such as population ecology, climate change, pharmacokinetics and so much more! This is an event not to be missed! **Book now.**

Fri 26th, Sat 27th & Sun 28th | Tickets \$65 - \$370

<p>PROFESSOR MERRAN GOVENDIR PHARMACOKINETICS</p>	<p>PROFESSOR MARK KROCKENBERGER KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p>	<p>DR MICHAELA BLYTON MICROBIOMES</p>	<p>ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEVE JOHNSON KOALA BREEDING TECHNOLOGY</p>	<p>PROFESSOR PETER TIMMS CHLAMYDIA VACCINE</p>
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Register at: bit.ly/nkc-tix
conference@koalahospital.org.au

koala conservation australia

ADOPT A BEAUTIFUL JOEY

Adoption packages

Certificate sent by email as a printable file - \$50

Sent by post – Includes a certificate, your chosen koala story, a koala reference book. Also included in the package – a KH bookmark and the latest edition of GUMTIPS - \$70 within Australia or \$80 outside Australia.

Each Adoption is a one-off payment valid for 12 months.

To view more koalas for adoption go to 'Adopt' on the website (koalahospital.org.au) and click on 'Adopt'



ROTO JAZ

Roto Jaz is our new joey and was born at the Koala Hospital in April 2022. His parents both live here permanently – his mum is Wauchope Jade and his dad is Ruins Way Baz (a survivor of the Black Summer 2019 bushfires). Roto Jaz's name, just like him, is the perfect mixture of Jade and Baz!

Under our Exhibitors' Licence any offspring born of our exhibit animals remains in permanent care here at the Hospital. Therefore, Roto Jaz will enjoy the 5-star service we provide and we will have the joy of watching him grow and learn to become a strong and agile young male. Roto Jaz, once fully weaned, around 12 months of age, will have an enclosure of his own. Until then, enjoy the antics of mother and son and watch how this cheeky fellow becomes more and more independent and explores the world around him!

ALLUNGA AVE DAISY

Allunga Ave Daisy was found on 06/12/2022. She only weighed 1.5 kgs. Our rescuers went to look for her when her mother was found drowned in a pool. Daisy went into home care with one of our experienced carers and progressed really well. Within the space of 10 weeks, she put on 1.1kgs, and when she reached 2.6kg on 10/02/2023, she did not return to home care and, instead, was put in our joey pre-release yard with another joey, Granite St Peter.




The two joeys quickly adapted to each other's presence, and they happily share the tall tree in the joey enclosure where they will practise their climbing skills until they are old enough to be released together, in a safe site, in koala-habitat bushland surrounding the Port Macquarie township. If you pop in to Port Macquarie Koala Hospital you might be able to see them in the joey pre-release yard.



KOALA EMERGENCY RESCUE LINE – 02 6584 1522

If you sight a koala call us.

Also Check the website: Contact Us | Koala Conservation Australia Ltd (koalahospital.org.au) for your questions.

Or Email: info@koalahospital.org.au   



**koala
conservation
australia**