



KOALAS IN CARE Newsletter

Servicing the Greater Taree, Great Lakes & Gloucester Areas

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24 Hr Koala Rescue Service

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Volume 5

Koala Care Facility Report



'Harper' - released after a check-up

'Koala breeding season' had a late start in our area this year. Usually we start seeing koalas being admitted from early September, however our admissions were down compared to other years over September/October and it was November before we started the rush of patients. We believe that some good rainfall, cooler temperatures and a flush of new growth on the trees contributed to this. We anticipate that the season will run later this year. There has been the usual variety of reasons for admittance such as MVAs, wet bottom, conjunctivitis, eye injuries, abandonment, dog attacks and so the list goes on.

We are currently trialing some new treatments with our koala patients at our Facility. We have introduced the combination of 'Bowen Therapy' sessions for our koalas and the use of 'Australian Bush Flower Essences' to help counteract stress/trauma, to stimulate their immune systems and promote general well-being. We are lucky to have Nancy Dixon, a Bowen Therapist, working with us and this is complimenting the treatments provided by our attending Vets from Taree Veterinary Hospital. It is quite exciting to see some of the positive results of this work. (See Page 3 for more details).

One of our worst cases of conjunctivitis was admitted in November, 'Cookie' a male koala, couldn't see a thing due to the infection of the conjunctivae he was suffering in both eyes. (See pictures next page). He is progressing very well after surgery performed by Vet, Donald Hood and it is expected he will make a good recovery.

Unfortunately we already have 2 wet bottom cases in care. Our Facility usually treats 1-2 cases per year but we are starting to see this number increase. Motor Vehicle hits remain our biggest concern with Taree Bypass and the John's River area being a problem. Taree Bypass is expected to become a bigger problem with proposed development sites coming up in the near future.

I would like to welcome Nancy Dixon to the Facility Team and thank her for her enthusiasm in her work with our koala patients. I would also like to welcome Michelina Sirianni and Vivienne Moitie to the Facility Team, both these ladies are currently training with me during the morning shift.

Thank you to the Facility Team for being flexible and filling gaps when we have had roster changes. I very much appreciate the cooperation and assistance with the extra workload.

Christeen McLeod - Facility Manager

Merry Christmas &

A Happy New Year



To you all

Take Care on the roads &
watch out for us on the
road when you're driving!

'Downee'

President Paul's Report

Incorporating Habitat Report

Our thoughts are with those wildlife carers having to deal with the aftermath of several large bush-fires burning across the Nation and of course the loss of so many animals. As if our precious wildlife don't have enough to contend with, fires are probably the most devastating.

Our 'busy period' came with a rush, some two months later than normal due to an unseasonal cooler spring and good rainfall across much of our area.

It has been very pleasing to have the Dept. of Environment & Conservation, through the efforts of the NSW Wildlife Council, provide Insurance Cover for affiliated Wildlife Groups. This will remove a large burden from our finances and allow us to spend money on other projects/equipment to assist our koalas.

The development of Service Centres has taken on a bizarre direction on land on both sides of the Taree Bypass, our worst area for koalas being hit by cars. Three separate complexes are proposed, with one being given the go-ahead by Council last week, another has been on public exhibition, with

the RTA proposal still in the pipeline. These sites all have the potential to affect koalas adversely if they are not designed properly.

Our predictions to Midcoast Water came true recently during the upgrading of Bootawa Road as part of the major upgrade of infrastructure at the Storage Dam. A koala was found on-site and activities were stopped and moved to another part of the site until the koala moved overnight.

Small numbers of Christmas Beetles arrived in November but damage to leaf collection areas is minimal which is a bonus at this time of year.

I attended a Risk Assessment Workshop in November and will be implementing some new procedures into the group as a result of this workshop.

Like many other wildlife carers we will be working over Christmas/New Year but will be taking time out to spend time with family. Please take care on the roads over the holidays. Have a Merry Christmas.

Paul McLeod

President



'Cookie' - unable to see anything



'Cookie' - two days after surgery

Bowen Therapy helping KOALAS!

When Nancy Dixon approached me back in June with the offer to provide assistance to our Koala patients in the way of **'Bowen Therapy'** I knew very little about the technique. I met with Nancy to find out more about it and what benefits it may be able to offer our sick and injured koalas.

In October I asked Nancy to visit one of our 'wet bottom' koalas who was not progressing well and whose appetite was quite poor irrespective of the things we had tried. He had his first session, which took only about 10 minutes, and we noticed over the next 24-48hrs that he started eating and he seemed to be more content. He has had a few sessions now with some very encouraging results.

We are using Bowen on several koalas at present, each with different problems. Each koala has responded in a positive way ie its appetite has improved, they appear to be more relaxed, in general they seem to cope better with the confinement and handling that is required in caring for them. The beauty of this technique is it is non-invasive, gentle, the koalas obviously feel comfortable and relaxed after a session (some go to sleep during a session) and if a koala has injuries that are sore and they don't want to be touched, this technique can be done through a surrogate touching the patient which is such a bonus.

Having had a Bowen session myself I can report that I have had the most restful sleeps ever since and have felt quite energised which is great considering the number of Koalas in our care at present.

We are also trialing Australian Bush Flower Essences and are using two at present. These are in the form of a spray mist which is sprayed onto a cloth or in the air in the koala's unit.

'Emergency' is being used when the Koala is admitted, especially after trauma, for the first few days to help them cope with the stress and keep them calm.

'Calm and Clear' is being used after the initial trauma, when required, while they are being held in captivity for recovery to help them cope with being confined.

We have found these are having very positive effects on the koalas allowing them time to heal and recover in a more relaxed state. This is of course complimenting our existing regime of veterinary treatment that our Vets prescribe for our patients. Our hope is that this will enhance the road to recovery for each individual giving them the least amount of time in captivity.

Christeen McLeod, Facility Manager

Bowen Therapy - What is it?

Tom Bowen, although he had no formal training in health care, became widely acclaimed as a therapist, treating over 13,000 patients a year. Even now we still come across clients of Mr Bowen who were children at the time. He held free clinics for the disabled every Saturday morning and treated his local football team, race horses and small animals.

Bowen therapy is a very gentle form of body work on the soft tissues that promotes a deep healing response, not only on the musculoskeletal framework, but also the fascia, nerves and internal organs. This integrated response improves circulation, lymphatic drainage and aids in the assimilation of nutrients and elimination of toxins.

The results can be remarkable, even from one session. Usually only a few treatments are needed for most conditions, while occasional maintenance sessions may be advisable for chronic complaints. The technique is suitable for all complaints and conditions (no matter how long ago they occurred) and is appropriate for anyone, from pregnant women, newborn babies, the elderly, frail and disabled.

'Every body is better with Bowen' is our motto.

Despite the complaint, almost every client tells of a deep relaxation, improved sleep and feeling energised. Clients are usually treated clothed on a massage bench but may be seated, or even standing, if necessary.

Bowen Therapy is now taught around the world by Ossie and Elaine Rentsch, who were invited in 1974 by Mr Bowen to work with him and document the technique. They are dedicated to preserving the technique and ensuring that it is taught in its original form.

An adapted form, EMRT, has been developed for horses and large animals (Equine Muscle Release Therapy) while CCMRT (Cat and Canine Muscle Release Therapy) is used to treat small animals, *including koalas*. Animals often respond in an immediate and dramatic manner which is heart-warming.

It's a privilege and constant delight to be a Bowen Therapist, and assist both people and animals, to relieve pain and promote healing.



Nancy Dixon - Bowen Therapist (Bowtech)

Dip Ed; Dip HM; Bowen Cert IV

KOALAS IN CARE Admissions

September - December 2006

Date	Name	Age	Sex	Reason for Admission	Area	Result
26/5/02	Boobook	AM	F	Will remain in care due to her disability & ongoing treatment - <i>remains well</i>	Tinonee	Permanent Care
13/9/06	Norrie	J	M	MVA? Suffered trauma to chest & abdomen	Bunyah	Dead on arrival
24/9/06	Kimba	AY	M	Wet Bottom - <i>treating</i>	Kimbriki	In Care
24/9/06	Natalie	AY	F	Healthy - Dangerous area	Halliday's Pt	Released 25/9/06
24/9/06	Koala	A	U	MVA - on highway	Taree Bypass	Dead
21/10/06	Koala	?	U	MVA - on highway	John's River	Dead
29/10/06	Harper	AY	M	Eye injury - check	Tinonee	Released 31/10/06
29/10/06	Downee	Juv	F	MVA?/unwell - <i>treating</i>	Taree South	In Care
29/10/06	Koala	?	U	MVA - on highway	Moorland	Dead
7/11/06	Carrie	AM	F	R eye conjunctivitis - <i>treating</i>	Wingham	In Care
15/11/06	Forester	Juv	M	Healthy - Dangerous area	Taree South	Released 15/11/06
17/11/06	Koala	?	M	MVA	Old Bar	Dead
20/11/06	Belle	AY	F	MVA - # nose; # jaw; all incisors # or missing; ear torn from head	Belbora	Euthanased 20/11/06
20/11/06	Back Joey of 'Belle'	J	U	MVA - unknown injuries	Belbora	Not Found
20/11/06	Unfurred Joey of 'Belle'	FJ	U	MVA - very immature	Belbora	Euthanased 20/11/06
22/11/06	Cookie	AY	M	Bilateral Conjunctivitis - advanced, requiring eye surgery - <i>treating</i>	Dingo Tops	In Care
28/11/06	Puddlepot	AY	F	?Dog Attack/Wet Bottom - unwell - <i>treating</i>	Taree South	In Care
30/11/06	Koala	AY	F	Healthy - Dangerous area	Gloucester	Relocated by NPWS

MVA - motor vehicle accident

FJ - Furless Joey J - Joey (to 1 yr) Juv - Juvenile (1 - 2 yrs) AY - Young Adult (2 - 5 yrs)

AM - Mature Adult (5 - 10 yrs) AA - Aged Adult (10+ yrs)

U - Unknown sex



Fundraising Report



The group has been fundraising at the local markets, including John's River and the Hub. This gives us an opportunity to also talk to the public and distribute our brochures.

We accompanied Manning Area NPWS at 'A Day in the Country at Killabakh' in November. It poured rain all day but that didn't dampen the attendance of the public. It was a profitable day for us.

Tickets in our current raffle have sold well and it will be drawn on 16 December at the Hub markets. If you missed out on buying some tickets we will be having another raffle in the new year.

Paul and I gave a talk at the 'Legacy Village' in Taree informing the group of the history, the

aims and what Koalas in Care is about. The ladies were very interested in both the talk and the photos, most having no idea of the work we do in the area. They were surprised that we service such a large area. We were happy to receive a donation from them and appreciated their purchase of our cling-on koalas.

We are planning a Fashion Parade in April in Taree and will have all the details in our next newsletter.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for your support over the last 12 months and I hope you will continue to support KOALAS IN CARE in the future.

Barbara Witham

Fundraising Coordinator



Joan Rolls on our stall at Killabakh - A Day in the Country 2006.

Fundraising and donations are the basis for providing for the koalas in our Care!

NSW Wildlife Council Inc

Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian Wildlife

The Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the NSW Wildlife Council Inc was held in Sydney on 12 November 2006.

The Council has achieved a lot in the first twelve months of its existence, after a tremendous effort by the Committee and Members.

The most successful result for over 4000 carers of the groups affiliated with NWC has been the securing of Public Liability and Personal Risk Insurance. This huge win came after a lot of hard work by the Council's Vice Chairman, Stan Wood, who has worked consistently and tirelessly with the Insurance Company and the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to achieve this great result.

The DEC has paid the insurance premium on behalf of the groups who are members of NWC, which is an incredible saving for our wildlife groups.

If you would like to read NWC's Newsletters you can go to their website at www.nwc.org.au

Christeen McLeod & Barbara Witham,

KIC Representatives for NWC.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party was again held at 'Fish Fish Fish'. Those who attended enjoyed a delicious meal, good company & a few merry drinks. It was great to see some of our new members join us for this occasion & take the opportunity to meet other volunteers. Thank you to the Staff of 'Fish Fish Fish' for providing great service & delicious food once again.

It was even better that the phone didn't ring & no Koalas required our help during dinner.

Paul & Christeen

Welcome to our new Members

Working Members

Nancy Dixon

Michelina Sirianni

Diane Wells

Roy Wells

Vivienne Moitie

Supporting Members

Leah Neilan

Nicole Rusina

Rae Galea

Julie Garlick

John Formby



Christmas Party - everyone engrossed in conversation



A Thank You to our Supporters!

Donald Hood, Stuart Knox, Rob Brudar & Staff at Taree Veterinary Hospital for their caring attitudes, advice & ongoing support in the treating of our special koala patients.

Kevin Carter (Manning Area Manager NPWS) - for ongoing support & guidance.

Terry Evans (Area Manager Barrington Tops NPWS) - for ongoing support & guidance.

Bushland Fair Newsagency - for charging for plastic bags & donating the proceeds to KIC.

Bayer Australia - for their donation of Baytril to treat our koalas.

***Please support the people who help the Koalas of our area.**

Colin Mulcaster of 'Diversey' for donating washing powder & hand cleaner to our Facility.

Rae Galea - donation of fundraising items.



Manning River Times

Wingham Chronicle

Great Lakes Advocate

Gloucester Advocate

Prime TV

NBN TV

Nicole Rusini - donation of fundraising items.

Craig Evans, McDonald's Taree - supporting KOALAS IN CARE.

Bourkes Transport Industries - for supplying newspapers for our koala units.

President Paul attends

'Risk Assessment Workshop'

While we should always strive to work in a safe manner, looking out for ourselves and fellow workers, it should always be the goal to improve or change work practices if problems arise. After my recent attendance at a 'Conservation Volunteers Australia Workshop' we have begun compiling a *Risk Assessment Manual* to provide clear documentation of tasks our Working Members perform. As with any exercise, this project covers the scenario of 'if it is not documented its not done'. Risk Assessment Forms are basic easy to read statements highlighting potential risk situations and how to minimise conflicts.

Supporting Memberships

Want to help the Koalas of our area but can't volunteer your time because of other commitments?

No problem, you can still help and not have to do a thing - **become a Supporting Member!**

Simply contact us for a 'Supporting Membership' form and we'll mail it to you. Send your completed form and your cheque for \$27.50 back to us for processing. It is that simple - your membership will help provide for the koalas being admitted to our Care Facility and you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to their care. **Do it today and keep informed by receiving our Newsletters!**

Make a good Christmas Present!

Donation Boxes

Thank you to the following businesses for housing our Donation Boxes:

Bushland Fair Newsagency - Taree

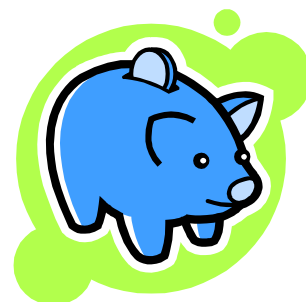
Marloy's Pastries - Taree

Tinonee General Store - Tinonee

Bushland Bakery - Taree

Wingham Vet Clinic

Please support these local businesses!!





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KOALAS IN CARE Inc.

Servicing Greater Taree, Great Lakes & Gloucester Areas

Management Committee

2006 - 2007

Office Bearers:

Paul McLeod - President

Christeen McLeod - Vice President/Secretary

Joan Rolls - Treasurer

Committee:

Barbara Witham - Fundraising Coordinator

Terry Rolls - Committee Member

Marie Smith - Committee Member

Other Positions:

Aimee McLeod - Newsletter Coordinator/Editor

Christeen McLeod - Facility Manager/Public Officer

Ken Stanmore C.P.A. - Auditor

Dr Donald Hood B.V.M.S. - Patron

NB All above positions are honorary.

***Koalas admitted to our Facility are treated by
Taree Veterinary Hospital Veterinarians***

KOALAS IN CARE INC. relies on the generosity of the public for donations and support to enable us to care for and rehabilitate koalas for release back to the wild. We cannot achieve this without your kind donations, so please make a donation or become a Supporting Member today. Why not tell your family and friends about how they can help save the koalas in our area?

CALENDAR

Contact 6552 2183 if you would like information on upcoming events.

The Team will be having a bit of a break from fundraising over January & will be concentrating on our Koala patients.

Management Meeting - 3 February 2006

Christmas Raffle Winners

1st - Mrs Vivienne Moitie (Purple B 61)

2nd - Miss Shirley Smith (Green E 44)

3rd - Miss Katrina Thomas (Blue F 98)

4th - Mrs Fischer (Blue F 79)

5th - Mrs Vivienne Moitie (Purple B 60)

Congratulations to You All!

Thank you for supporting our Fundraising events.

Editor's Note

We apologise for the delay in getting the Christmas edition of our Newsletter mailed out to you. The Team has been extremely busy with Koala rescues & caring for our furry patients.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Editor Aimee