



# Ipswich Koala Protection Society, inc.

## NEWSLETTER

August 2010

---

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hmmmm – where to begin? I've sat here long enough thinking about what I needed to say in this report. Apart from the fact that we have been really, really busy with koala rescues (as you will see from the Rescue column), we have been really, really busy with other important koala "stuff".

Unless you have been living on Mars for the past few weeks, I am sure you have probably seen the media coverage of what was the proposed "high impact, large footprint, difficult to locate Industrial Estate" earmarked for "Ebenezer South". The fact that there is no such suburb is beside the point. At the same time as the State Government contacted the local residents with this investigation, we had already planned to hold an information day for local residents with regard to the "other" industrial area in the Mt. Forbes/Ebenezer area. We (the whole team) worked into the night to fold, stamp and lick envelopes to be delivered to roughly 1700 locals who fell into this area.

I would have to say the day was well supported with many curious neighbours popping in to peruse out stats and maps. David Pahlke (ICC Division 10 councillor) was on hand to answer questions as well, and a rather large contingency from the Greens Party. A big thank you to the Mt. Forbes Rural Fire Brigade for manning the barbie and selling drinks on the day. The general feel was that no one was in support of an Industrial Area in their back yard.

After lengthy meetings and much media coverage, the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning made this media release "*a preliminary site report of the land, located south of Goebels Road, revealed the area was not suitable*". He said "*the most telling constraint from the surveys of the site was the amount of vegetation regrowth that was not recorded in existing mapping. The findings conclude the area has major issues including valuable flora and fauna, including potential koala habitat.*" The media release also stated that the planning work is continuing on the separate 5,000 hectare Ebenezer Regional Industrial Area.

IKPS as recognised stake holders in the area were invited to attend a 3 day Enquiry by Design workshop run by the Department of Infrastructure and Planning. With bags of homework (I could hardly get it off the ground), maps, statistics and oodles of ammunition, Helen and I prepared to go to war – we were going to be very good.

Helen insisted we sit right in the front row so it was impossible to miss us. I laid out all my "stuff" on the floor in front of me – not that I was trying to frighten or intimidate anyone.

Helen went into the workshop prepared for the worst, and I was hoping for the best. (Good cop/Bad cop). What a surprise when the crew from Place Design – they have been employed by DIP to carry out the investigations – started the show with a map of the area showing the constraints. The environmental constraints took up most of the first day.

In May 2010 the Department of Environment and Resource released the **State Planning Policy 2/10 - Koala Conservation in South East Queensland** and the **Koala Habitat Values Map**. (You can view these on the DERM website). Much of the area we have mapped ourselves as Ipswich's largest, healthiest koala population has been recognised by the State Government as High Value Bushland and High Value Rehabilitation. Finally something is going our way. This area is also covered by Melaleuca Irbyana, which is federally protected. During the course of the workshop we were able to put forward our ideas supported by our stats and maps and support the idea that the area south of Paynes Road should be left untouched. We pushed for nil loss of habitat and were very convincing in our argument. I think I made the comment that they shouldn't underestimate the passion of a couple of old grannies.

Our professionalism, experience, knowledge and willingness to work with and not against State and Local Government departments has stood us in good stead in past years and we will continue on this path in the future. A representative of DIP has suggested that we undertake an Action Management Plan for the area. This is now on my list of "to dos". One of the things we pointed out to others not so happy with the outcome was that the area is still zoned as "Regional Business and Industrial Investigation Area" which was confirmed by ICC. This "investigation area" has been in the pipeline since 1993, but with the current statistics on the decline in koala numbers in South East Queensland, it would be ignorant not to recognise that things have to change, not just for koalas, but for the whole of the environment.

This has turned into a very long report but I had lots to say. We will keep you posted on our future endeavours. Maybe we will even get it onto our website.

*Ruth*



19/5/10 WARWICK – Adult female dead on arrival at MKH. Emaciated, diseased reproductive organs, cystitis.

25/5/10 TOOWOOMBA – Adult male in very poor condition, kidney failure and cystitis. Euthanased.

29/5/10 WEST IPSWICH – *Kelly* – adult female fell into a swimming pool, transported to MKH, assessed and microchipped and released the same day. Approximately 5 years old.

3/6/10 HARRISVILLE – *Radford* – Adult male. Returned to MKH in poor condition, possibly a fall. His last visit he was a dog attack and has now developed cystitis. Still receiving treatment.

7/6/10 WILLOWBANK – *P.R.I.K.* – Adult male. The name stands for Pine Rivers Ipswich Koala – as Pine Rivers Koala Rescue were at our clinic to release skippies I got them involved in this rescue, hence the name. He was treated for mild cystitis and has returned to the Willowbank Drags.

11/6/10 CALVERT – adult male found on the side of the road dead. Hit by car (100klm) suffered massive, multiple internal and external injuries.

15/6/10 SPRING CREEK (Gatton) – *Coight* – Adult male admitted to MKH with conjunctivitis. He is from the site currently under constructed for the new jail. Still receiving treatment.

23/6/10 GOODNA – Adult female found dead. Kidney failure, diseased uterus, cystitis and extremely wasted.

25/6/10 COOMINYA – adult male approximately 4 years old attacked by dogs. Punctures to caecum, stomach and kidney. Euthanased.

26/6/10 ROSEWOOD – *Bernie* – Adult male. Got into a spot of bother in a suburban back yard with a pool, a dog and lots of low shrubs. Went to MKH to be assessed and microchipped and was released the same day into the Rosewood Golf Course.

26/6/10 COOMINYA – Adult female fell from a tree. She had a 624gr baby on her back. Unfortunately mum was euthanased – shoulder and left humerus shattered, bruising to her left lung and kidney. Her baby is in care with Helen (see Our Orphans).

27/6/10 GRANDCHESTER – adult female hit by car (at 3.00am) her right femur was torn from the socket, and the pelvic girdle was fractured. She was euthanased. Post mortem revealed she also had diseased uterus and cystitis.

28/6/10 ROSEWOOD – *Bernie* (from the 26/6/10) travelled in the wrong direction. From all of the nice trees he could have picked he decided to head over a fence with two of the biggest, ugliest dogs I have ever seen. He was dead when I arrived. Multiple internal punctures. I was devastated. (Days like this you want to quit).

28/6/10 BROOKWATER – adult female approximately 10 years old, found on the ground. She had the worst case of scoliosis I have ever seen. She was bent in two, I don't know how she got to be 10. She was assessed immediately by our vet and euthanased before reaching MKH. (Thanks Rebecca).

29/6/10 SPRING CREEK- *Russell* – Adult male (goes with Coight) from the new jail at Gatton again. Suffering conjunctivitis. Still receiving treatment.

30/6/10 PEAK CROSSING – Adult female found dead outside the Peak Crossing State School. Car hit (60k) – multiple internal and external injuries – otherwise clean, no disease.

1/7/10 ESK – Adult female, emaciated, diseased uterus, kidney failure. Euthanased.

2/7/10 ESK – *Aspen* – a return to MKH. Found sitting on a fence. Totally blind and suffering cystitis. Euthanased.

3/7/10 McKENZIE – *McGregor* – Adult male (don't ask); technically not Ipswich but what the heck, we managed to get it anyway. Adult male possibly clipped by a car. Once again this is where heaps of development is happening. (two more have come into MKH from the same area – 1 dead/1released). Assessed and released by Daisy Hill Koala Ambulance the same day.

4/7/10 AMBERLEY – *Mosey* – Adult male (Nikki's first rescue from a tree) possible fall. Admitted to MKH for observation. Unfortunately he was euthanased a week later. Found to have kidney failure.

4/7/10 THAGOONA – Adult female found on the ground. Almost run over by an industrial size mower. She was covered in prickles and in really poor condition. She has probably been on the ground for some time. Euthanased – pneumonia, kidney failure, diseased ovaries and uterus, wasted.

12/7/10 WILLOWBANK – Adult male really squashed outside the Willowbank Raceway. Hit by car (100k). Dead.

12/7/10 WARWICK – Adult male approximately 9-10 years old. Not bad for a male koala in the wild. He was euthanased due to pneumonia.

15/7/10 WISHART – *Mackenzie* – Adult male sitting on a road sign (this is the other one from outside of the Ipswich area. Thanks to Bryan Robinson for his efforts). Assessed and microchipped at MKH and released the same day.

16/7/10 BOONAH – adult male found in the middle of the road. Wasted and suffering from septicaemia (possibly from old trauma). Euthanased.

20/7/10 AMBERLEY – adult female found on the ground. This was the day Helen and I were both tied up. The koala was picked up by the RSPCA and delivered to MKH. She was euthanased due to diseased ovaries and kidneys. Her caecum and lower spine were also haemorrhaged from the fall she had. The good news is she was 15 years old.

26/7/10 EBENEZER – *Marcia* – one of our orphans. Marcia came into care from M. Hines Road, Mt. Forbes the week after clearing had taken place. She was just a kilo. No mum could be found. She was sitting in a tree in the middle of a dam. Long suffering husband (he does have a name) and koala both ended up in the dam. Marcia got to kindy size and had been released for only 6 days when I picked her up again. She was sent home to her human mum (Marilyn) but did not make it. Her lungs were only functioning at around less than 20%. Marilyn and I had a few tears.

26/7/10 LOWOOD – Adult male collected from the Lowood vet. He had been hit by a car and had a compound fracture to his right leg. This would have been fixable. Unfortunately he also had fractures to his hip. This is not fixable. He was euthanased and the post mortem showed that his lower torso had been completely run over. His right kidney and lower torso had severe haemorrhaging.

27/7/10 TOOGOLAWAH – sub-adult female only 1.5 years old. Dead on arrival at MKH hit by car (100km). Crushed head, ruptured lungs and liver.

28/7/10 LAIDLEY – adult male rescued from the middle of the road by some very lovely people (Peter and Anna) who kindly delivered him to me in Rosewood as this was my Army night and David was playing with his fire truck. He (the koala – not David) arrived clinging to the back of the head rest of Peter's car. He was admitted with conjunctivitis which would have been treated – it was discovered that he had a major infection in the cloaca and bruising to the pelvic girdle due to some form of old trauma. Possibly a car hit or fall. Ranger (as he was named) was euthanased.



#### OUR ORPHANS

27/5/10 – Brem came into care weighing 1.5kg. He was found alone on the ground. He's doing really well and nearly ready for kindy.

26/6/10 – Wills (see rescue column for mum) was with his mum when she fell from a tree. He weighed 624gr and is powering on. He now weighs 900gr.

02/7/10 – Kiama (aboriginal for great spirit – named by her rescuers). Mum was hit by a truck on the Cunningham Highway near Amberley (100k). Fortunately for Kiama the people following saw mum get hit and the baby roll out of the way of the truck. She weighed 930gr on arrival and was very attitudinal. Fingers crossed that she will be OK, (seems to be so far), and doesn't suffer the same problems as Marcia.

**Next IKPS meeting – 3pm Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 10-14 East Field Crt, Deebling Heights. All welcome**

#### ORPHAN UPDATE

**Courage** – released back to Warwick

**Dustin** – spent several weeks in kindy and has been released

**Marcia** – was released. See our rescue column

**Shead** – after being released he came back into MKH down in condition. His home range is not the best place to live.

**Ms Aree** – has gone up in condition and her cystitis seems to have dried up. She still has conjunctivitis in one eye. She now weighs 2.3 kg.

**Unnamed baby** – unfortunately, he didn't make it, and he never did get a real name.

And a special update is **Paris**. She was hand raised and released more than 6 years ago and just look at her now.



Paris was picked up (again), a couple of weeks ago and brought in to MKH. She was checked out thoroughly and found to be perfect. She has also had at least two babies, (probably more).

Some people question the wisdom and 'rightness' of hand raising these orphans and returning them to the wild. They say the human imprint on them is too great for them to live successfully as wild koalas. We know for a fact that this is not so. Over the years hand raised orphans have come back into hospital, usually as a result of car hits or dog attacks, (the same reasons any koala comes into hospital), and they are no different than others. They are not tame. They have adapted to normal life without humans. In the case of females, they have usually reproduced, (we have to assume the males have done their share in reproduction too, though this can't be proven).

Hand raised orphans are not returned to the wild until it is certain that they no longer look for, or require, human assistance or companionship. That is what 'kindy' is all about – withdrawing human involvement, (with the exception of providing their food), and monitoring their progress and development, emotional as well as physical. Some people also raise the question of interfering with nature or altering the natural balance. There is nothing natural about the cars or dogs that altered the natural balance in the first place.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**This year our AGM will be held on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, at 10-14 East Field Court, Deebling Heights, beginning at 3:00pm. BBQ meal and swimming pool provided. BYO towels, togs etc. Everyone welcome.**

*See separate page included with this newsletter*

### NEW MEMBERS

*I.K.P.S extends a very warm welcome to our newest members:*

**ASHLEIGH MACLOT  
SAMANTHA FIELDING  
BELINDA BARTLEY  
& TRENT SCOTT  
THE MC BAIN FAMILY  
PENNY FULLERTON**



According to our records, quite a few members have not yet paid their fees. Possibly this is just an oversight, (or possibly an oversight in my record-keeping). If you have paid your membership but still have not received your membership card and/or receipt please contact Helen. If you have wildlife in your care and have not received a permit and/or copy of the Code of Practice please contact Helen.

### SAVE THE KOALA MONTH

September is Save The Koala month. In recognition of this and as a celebration of what we have recently achieved towards saving our koalas, we are having a tree planting and sausage sizzle at our R & R Clinic, 110 Brass Rd, Mt Forbes on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, beginning at 10am. We are hoping to plant 200 trees and flowering native shrubs. Hopefully, tools and gloves will be provided.

### ROSEWOOD FESTIVAL

Once again we will be attending the Annual Rosewood Festival at Rosewood State School with our static display and driving our ambulance in the Street Parade. This year the Festival is being held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September, coinciding with Save The Koala Month. The Country Carnival is from 12 noon until 5:00pm, and the Street Parade will start rolling at 12:30pm.

### SO MANY TO THANK

(In no particular order, just as they come to mind)

The Australia-Japan Wildlife Conservation and Education Foundation for the donation of really good binoculars.

Cr David Pahlke - \$200 donation

Mt Forbes Rural Fire Brigade - \$200 donation and their assistance personning (such a word?) the BBQ, drinks etc.

Paul Woolf - \$50 donation

Hans Smallgoods – donation of sausages for our ‘Choices’ open day

Dr Jeannet Kessels, Springfield District Veterinary Clinic – \$300 donation

Cr Victor Attwood and his wonderful secretary Kerry for all the printing and copying

### REMINDER

It is a condition of your permit that wildlife in your care is not shown in public, (i.e. outside the privacy of your home). If you cannot juggle feeding times to fit in with your daily routine then maybe you are not in a position to be caring for wildlife just yet.



### NATIONAL TREE DAY

On Sunday the 30<sup>th</sup> July, Ruth and I, as Ambassadors of Ipswich went tree planting in Denman Park Nth Ipswich to celebrate National Tree Day.

### ROSEWOOD TREE PLANTING

And on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, David Lewis, Graham Mason and I planted trees in Mason’s Gully at Rosewood, although David managed to disappear before it was time to actually get our hands dirty, (he did have a legitimate excuse though).



### NEW PATRON

Long-time members will probably remember Ric Natrass, or at least know of him. Ric was our society’s founder, our first President and our Patron until his passing in September, last year. Until now we have not thought of anyone worthy enough to take Ric’s place as Patron.

Dr. Tony Wood comes with impressive credentials having been involved with koalas and koala welfare continuously since 1965.

Tony’s early days can be traced to Ipswich where he resided for some time and treated koalas in his home. When the Moggill Koala Hospital opened in 1990 he became the Consultant Vet. He visited the hospital once or twice a week but was also available whenever needed. At that time Ric Natrass was the Senior Ranger based at Moggill. Tony remained Consultant Vet at MKH for more than 10 years.

Tony has also run a successful veterinary practice at Fairfield, (now retired), and until recently was heavily involved with the World Koala Research Inc.

From Ruth: *Helen and I still miss Ric’s wit and charm (?) and the fact that he could outtalk anyone about anything. On many occasions we have both said “where’s Ric when you need him?”*

*We don’t talk about it much but there have been times when we have both been convinced that Ric is sending messages from wherever he is now. Things happen that are just too much to be a coincidence. And like those times, I believe that [this is another of those coincidences](#).*

*I was recently contacted by Tony – out of the blue – as the World Koala Research had decided to hang up their hats. [They](#) had generously decided to donate [their](#) funds to a like-minded group and had chosen IKPS as a worthy recipient.*

*We would never be able to replace Ric (and wouldn’t even try), but I am sure this is Ric’s doing. Everything happens for a reason (that’s my motto and I think I am slowly convincing Helen). [I told Tony all this and he probably](#) thinks I am crazy but he has kindly agreed to become Patron of the IKPS – without hesitation.*

*We are honoured to welcome him to the Society.*