



# Ipswich Koala Protection Society, inc.

NEWSLETTER  
February, 2011

## From the President

*I will keep this one short as I pretty much covered everything in my Annual Report in the last newsletter.*

*As you will see from the "Rescue Column" we have been kept reasonably busy with koala rescues although I'm not sure if "rescue" is the right terminology. The majority of our call outs are for koalas that are already dead, dying or beyond saving. It was most depressing compiling the list. You will also notice that we have travelled some very long distances. Some of these rescues involve a whole day on the road.*

*With the recent wet weather we have also been inundated with calls for other wildlife. Thankfully we have managed to stay on top of it so far.*

*I have started to compile a few lists for goals that I hope we can achieve this year – a wish list: a to do list: projects, activities and fundraising lists (no bucket list just yet – we don't have time). As the year unfolds I will keep you updated and informed on where we're at and how you can help. We are always open to suggestion and definitely open to offers of help.*

*IKPS has achieved so much already and I still have great expectations for the future. I trust everyone is well rested from the Christmas break and ready to forge into 2011.*

*Ruth.*

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Your continued support is **absolutely vital** to this society. Please renew your membership.

Permits, receipts and membership cards for those who have paid should be included with this newsletter.

### A.G.M RESULTS

New Committee? ..... No, it's still the same. Our Annual General Meeting was held on 31-8-10, with the, (almost predictable), result of the Management Committee remaining unchanged. For our newer members, hopefully, I will be able to introduce our committee members one by one; either later in this newsletter, or in the next couple of newsletters, (dependant on time and how desperate I am to fill up an empty space).

- Ruth Lewis ..... President
- Marilyn Spletter ..... Vice President
- Helen Darbellay ..... Secretary
- Graham Mason ..... Treasurer
- Helen Suthers ..... Minutes Secretary
- Anne Dull ..... Wildlife Registrar

### WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

Keep the first weekend of April free. We're holding a wildlife workshop, BBQ, spotlighting and sleep over.

#### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**3:00 pm** – The workshop. Much of the information for the rescue and/or care of wildlife is fairly basic and applies to most of the animals we rescue and care for so that will be covered first.

**4:30 pm** – Then we can break into groups, (macropods, possums, bats) and go into more detail about the care of specific animals.

**5:30 pm** – BBQ. The meat will be supplied, but it would help if some members could bring a plate of salad, (please let us know if you can). BYO drinks.

**After dark** – Spotlighting at Gumtips Nature Refuge. BYO sturdy footwear, torch or spotlight, insect spray and water bottle.

**Camping/sleepover** – We can arrange for some tents if we know in advance, or BYO tent, caravan, etc. and your own bedding, (mattress? pillow, blanket).

#### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**6:00 am** – Breakfast. Bacon & eggs, sausages, tomatoes and toast. Tea & Coffee.

**Everyone welcome.** Bring the whole family, including your wildlife babies. **RSVP** by Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March.



As we have many new members, I would like to once again explain some of the terms used in this column:

**Euth** = euthanased  
**Wasted or wasting** = emaciated, extremely poor condition  
**Bursas** = ovarian cysts – no cure  
**Cystitis** = diseased bladder  
**Conjunctivitis** = infected eyes  
**MKH** = Moggill Koala Hospital  
**R&R Centre** = our Rescue & Rehab. Centre, Mt Forbes  
**PM** = Postmortem  
**Body score** = number between 0-10 to indicate condition  
**Reproductives** = all female reproductive organs  
**Toothwear** = approximate age, ascertained by how many teeth are worn down and how far down are worn.

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4/8/10 GATTON – adult female found dead on the Warrego Hwy. Very flat, body score 10. Remarkable, considering she was eleven and a half years old.

5/8/10 ESK – adult male hit by car. Multiple internal and external injuries. Euth.

6/8/10 MINDEN - adult female. Taken to MKH for health check. Assessed, microchipped and released the same day.

9/8/10 ROSEWOOD – adult female transported to MKH suffering from conjunctivitis. On assessment also found to have diseased reproductive organs. Euth.

9/8/10 INNISPLAIN – adult female in really poor condition (body score 0), also found to have diseased reproductive organs. Euth.

9/8/10 WEST IPSWICH – adult female. Unfortunately she also had diseased ovaries. Euth.

9/8/10 COOMINYA – adult male attacked by 3 greyhounds. He had punctures to all of his internal organs and had to be euthanased.

11/8/10 BELLBIRD PARK – emaciated adult female found on the ground. She had impacted leaf in her mouth from an old injury to the lower jaw. Possibly from a fall at some time. Euth.

17/8/10 MILBONG – adult female hit by a car. Dead from massive head trauma. Also found to have cystitis.

20/8/10 GOODNA – adult male (just scraped into adult category – tooth wear 2), attacked by dogs. Multiple punctures to torso and internal organs. Euth.

20/8/10 GATTON – adult male hit by car (100kmp/h on the Gatton Bypass). Dead.

23/8/10 MORETON VALE (from memory this is somewhere near Atkinson's Dam) – *KIRBY* adult male suffering with cystitis. Treated at MKH and released on the 9/11/10. (YEAH).

23/8/10 HARRISVILLE – adult male attacked by a Bull Terrier and Bull Mastiff. He died soon after.

24/8/10 STANTHORPE – adult female hit by car on the New England Hwy (100). Dead – fractured skull, ruptured lungs.

26/8/10 LOWOOD – *HARLEY* – adult male with conjunctivitis. Successfully treated at MKH and released on the 23/9/10.

1/9/10 RATHDOWNEY – *HENRY* – adult male, conjunctivitis in both eyes. Successfully treated at MKH and released on the 21/9/10.

2/9/10 LOWOOD – *MR. SPENGLER* – adult male picked up on the road. Assessed, microchipped and released later the same day.

13/9/10 ATKINSONS DAM – adult male attacked by Rottweiler. Multiple punctures. Euth.

13/9/10 LOWOOD – adult male with a body score of 0 (skeleton), pneumonia. Euth.

17/9/10 ATKINSONS DAM – adult male in poor condition. Pneumonia. Euth.

19/9/10 PITTSWORTH – adult female hit by car. Multiple internal and external injuries. The good part (?) is she was 15 years old. Surprisingly her reproductive's were fine.

24/9/10 MUTDAPILLY – adult male hit by car on the Cunningham Highway. He had conjunctivitis in both eyes, but was pretty flat. No other stats.

24/9/10 WILSONS PLAINS – adult female in poor condition. She had conjunctivitis in both eyes, pneumonia, kidney failure, diseased reproductive's and cystitis, (not much she didn't have). Euth.

24/9/10 FREESTONE – adult male stood on by cows. He had fractured ribs and left femur, also the lungs had haemorrhaged. Euth.

27/9/10 HARRISVILLE – adult male hit by car (60). He suffered cranial bruising, haemorrhaged bladder, lungs and kidneys. Euth.

11/10/10 WIVENHOE POCKET – adult female (2 years old). *SKYE* was admitted to MKH for treatment from a possible fall. Unfortunately she died from her injuries on the 11/10/10.

5/10/10 CALVERT – adult female – Euthanased due to diseased ovaries, uterus and bladder. Also wasted.

6/10/10 PEAK CROSSING – adult male found on the ground. Emaciated due to pneumonia and cystitis. Euth.

7/10/10 TOOGOLAWAH (ARROW rescue) – adult female hit by a car on the Brisbane Valley Hwy (80). Died from injuries. She was also found to have diseased ovaries and cystitis.

7/10/10 TOOGOLAWAH (ARROW rescue) – adult female attacked by dogs. Multiple punctures to internal

organs. Euth.

12/10/10 ESK – *KERRI* - adult female taken to MKH in poor condition. She also had a large back rider with her, (time for the child to leave the nest). Bub was placed in kindy (see below). Mum was given lots of TLC and released on the 9/12/10.

12/10/10 ESK – *DIANA* (Helen can explain why we have the Royal Family names) – Kerri's baby weighed 1.7kg on arrival. She went into koala kindy and was released on the 9/11/10.

14/10/10 PEAK CROSSING – adult male body score 0. Had trauma to his tongue possibly from a fall. He was unable to eat. Euth.

15/10/10 FERNVALE – adult male hit by car on the Brisbane Valley Hwy (100). Dead – crushed skull, fractured jaw, bruised lungs and pelvis.

19/10/10 SOUTHBROOK – *ATHOL* – adult male admitted to MKH from injuries suffered from a possible car hit. He was in poor condition and failed to respond to treatment. He was euthanased on the 23/10/10.

20/10/10 PITTSWORTH – adult male roughly 10 years old (not bad for a male in the wild). Dead – trauma to lungs.

22/10/10 PURGA – *BOW* - adult male admitted to MKH with conjunctivitis. He was completely blind and also had cystitis. Euthanased on the 26/10/10.

23/10/10 DALBY – *DOLBY* (not my doing this time). Hit by car on the main road out of Dalby. We ran our regular shuttle service and he was admitted to MKH the same day. His injuries were successfully treated and he was released on the 3/11/10.

26/10/10 WIVENHOE POCKET – adult female found dead in a paddock. PM showed that she had kidney failure, diseased ovaries, uterus and bladder. She was also only a body score of 1.

27/10/10 GOODNA – sub adult male hit by car on Ipswich Motorway at the new road works. Dead. Toothwear 1.5. This was a sad rescue. The previous day we were told about a koala in the construction site on Ipswich Road – up a tree and perfectly healthy. Our permit does not allow us to capture healthy koalas. In hindsight everyone is an expert and we should probably have gone out to this koala. But then where do you put it. It will more than likely go back to where it came from and will still be under threat of car hits or dog attacks. Dammed if you do and dammed if you don't. He had a fractured hip and pelvis, fractured right femur, severe internal haemorrhaging to lower torso. In other words he had been run right over.

27/10/10 THAGOONA – adult female hit by car (100). She died from her injuries – crushed head, ruptured lungs, haemorrhaged caecum. She was nine and a half years old and in perfect health.

28/10/10 RATHDOWNEY – *ORLANDO* (he was quite cute) adult male attacked by bull terriers. Fortunately his

wounds were superficial and he was treated at MKH and released on the 2/11/10.

29/10/10 LOWOOD – adult male found dead. PM showed that he had pneumonia and was wasted.

3/11/10 COOMINYA – adult female – same old story – diseased kidneys, uterus, bladder and wasted.

3/11/10 COOMINYA – adult male dead on the ground. Pneumonia, cystitis and wasted.

4/11/10 MOUNT TYSON – adult male attacked by dogs. Dead – ruptured liver and kidney, punctured caecum. More than likely he was on the ground already – in really poor condition suffering kidney failure and cystitis.

5/11/10 AMBERLEY – *ROSELLA* – adult male. A return to MKH. Suffering from conjunctivitis, blind in both eyes. Euth.

8/11/10 PEAK CROSSING – adult male hit by car on Ipswich Boonah Road (100). Dead – all internal organs haemorrhaged, crushed hip.

9/11/10 TOOGOLAWAH – adult female (2 years old), hit by car on the Brisbane Valley Hwy. Dead – fractured femurs, internal injuries.

9/11/10 ATKINSONS DAM - sub adult female (1 year old). DEAD – injuries consistent with a fall from a tree – ruptured lungs.

12/11/10 GOODNA – *MASON* – adult male rescued by the general public from the main street. Admitted to MKH. Assessed, microchipped and released the same day.

12/11/10 AMBERLEY – *OLIVER* – another return from Amberley. His last visit was for conjunctivitis. This time it would appear that he has had a fall from a tree at some stage. He was in extremely poor condition and had infection and tumours to the right shoulder, collarbone and sternum. Euth.

13/11/10 EBENEZER – *CRYSTAL* (return) adult female found on the road side. Completely blind, diseased ovaries and uterus. Euth.

13/11/10 SUMMERHOLME – *McLAY* – adult male admitted to MKH with conjunctivitis. Successfully treated and released on the 11/12/10.

15/11/10 EASTERN HEIGHTS – *CASHEW* (and Ruth can explain why we have nutty names) – adult female admitted to MKH with slight cystitis. Still receiving treatment.

18/11/10 COOMINYA (ARROW rescue) – adult female and her 900gr male baby. Both dead from a car hit (100). Massive internal and external injuries.

19/11/10 MILLMERRIN – adult male already dead. Pneumonia, wasted.

20/11/10 BRASSALL – *HAZELNUT* – rescued from imminent danger. She could possibly have been hit by a car and the people did have a very large dog. Taken to MKH where she was assessed, microchipped and released later the same day. It is getting harder to put them back

where they came from. They are territorial and have quite a small homing range.

20/11/10 WILLOWBANK – adult female found on the drag strip at Willowbank. She had conjunctivitis, diseased ovaries and uterus, cystitis and wasted. She had milk in her teat but we were unable to find her baby. Euth. (baby turned up later).

24/11/10 MILBONG – adult male in poor condition. Injuries consistent with a fall from a tree. Old break to lower jaw. Euth.

24/11/10 WILSONS PLAINS – RADFORD – this was his third visit to the hospital. Adult male. 1<sup>st</sup> visit was a dog attack and he was released, 2<sup>nd</sup> visit was a fall from a tree, he was treated and released. This time he was not so lucky. He possibly had another fall or was hit by a car. Trauma unknown. Euth.

26/11/10 BELLBIRD PARK – BELLE – adult female attacked by dogs. A mastiff and a foxie (probably the mastiff did the damage). She was admitted to MKH, treated and released on the 6/12/10. The same week she was released, the tree she was released into was cut down. Let's hope she found another one.

26/11/10 WARWICK – adult female hit by car on the Cunningham Hwy (100). Died from injuries – flat.

27/11/10 BELLBOWRIE – adult female found on the ground in a local park. Body score 0. pneumonia. Euth.

29/11/10 MORWINCHA – adult male hit by car or cars on the Cunningham Hwy (100). Dead – ruptured lungs, liver and caecum.

30/11/10 THAGOONA – BECK – adult female suspected dog attack. Taken to MKH for assessment. Microchipped and released later the same day.

12/12/10 MT FORBES – SYLVESTER – sub adult male taken off mums back by 2 cattle dogs. Admitted to MKH, treated and released on the 20/12/10.

12/12/10 PLACID HILLS – adult female found dead on the ground. Injuries consistent with a fall from a tree. She had a 1 day old pinkie in her pouch which had to be euthanased. She also had milk in her other teat, large back rider not with mum.

17/12/10 ROADVALE – VALE (original) - sub adult female found on the ground. Transported to MKH for assessment. Microchipped and released the same day.

20/12/10 PURGA – adult female attacked by dogs. She managed to climb a tree with half of her intestines protruding from her back. I guess 3 mastiffs will do that to a koala (or even your child – it is beyond me why people want such big dogs). Fortunately we have a wildlife vet on call because every other vet in Ipswich referred us to Underwood for after hours assistance. She was euthanased immediately. On the up side she did have diseased ovaries and cystitis. Her life looked pretty grim either way.

28/12/10 BOONAH – CAROL – adult female found on the ground, possibly from a fall. She was transported to

MKH for assessment. Although she is down in condition and has a toothwear of 11, she is otherwise clean and no sign of disease. She will stay at the hospital until her body score improves and will be returned to Boonah for release.

29/12/10 JEEBROPILLY – WOODY – young male found sitting on the side of Ipswich Rosewood Road. He has conjunctivitis in both eyes. He is only a toothwear 1 and no mum was anywhere to be seen. He has been admitted to MKH and is still receiving treatment.

29/12/10 RADFORD – adult male in captivity. This is the same area that Radford came from (previous rescue). He was in poor condition and was euthanased. Pneumonia and kidney failure.

31/12/10 REDBANK PLAINS – adult female toothwear 11. This area has been earmarked for development and clearing started last week. She had diseased ovaries, uterus and cystitis. Euth.

2/1/11 WILLOWBANK – ZOI (pronounced zoeii – confused?) – sub adult female found on the drag strip at Willowbank. I'm pretty certain that it was her mum that was euthanased earlier in the "Rescues". She is down in condition and has slight conjunctivitis in both eyes. She may also have the start of cystitis. She is receiving treatment at MKH and will be returned to Willowbank when she gets the all clear.

4/1/11 MUTDAPILLY – adult male in a tree (rescued by Marcie and Nick – first rescue with the ambulance. Their last rescue was in a canoe in the middle of Wivenhoe Dam). Unfortunately he was completely blind had cystitis and kidney failure. Euth.

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For new carers, and even experienced carers, this number of koalas euthanased is probably quite alarming. In the next newsletter Helen will endeavour to explain the ins and outs of koalas, how they are affected by disease, and how they are assessed for return to the wild, treatment or euathanasia.



#### OUR ORPHANS and ORPHAN UPDATE

(combined because it's been so long since the last report that some orphans have come into care, been raised, sent to kindy and been released)

**Tidge** – weighed 910g when he was found on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug. with no sign of mum. He is now in kindy.

**Footloose** – came in after she fell from her mum on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. She had nerve damage and was unable to move her legs, (hence the name). She died 9 days later.

**Zara** – 390g, was in the pouch when her mum was attacked by dog/s on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. (mum euth). Over the next few months it became obvious that she was experiencing breathing difficulties. By 6<sup>th</sup> Feb she was really struggling to breathe and she was euthanased. PM showed she only had about 10% of healthy lung tissue.

**Harry** – weighed 1.2kg, when he was found on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, too small to be without his mum. After a couple of months he went into kindy and has since been released.

**Tipper** – weighed 614g when his mum had to be euthanased after being the victim of a dog attack on 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. He now weighs 1.7kg and is still in care.

**Swift** – His mum was hit by a car on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. He weighed 450g. This is another case of the lungs being damaged in the accident but they cope for a few months. Swift was euthanased in Dec.

**Robusta** – was 408g when he was found alone on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. He is still in care and now weighs 620g.

**Thorn** – has been in care since 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. Obviously had a fall from fairly high. He has broken wrists and ribs. He is responding well and his injuries are healing. Fingers crossed he will be able to return to his original home.

**Buddy** – was 1.3kg. when found alone on the roadside. He is still in care.

**Robert** – was 1.1kg when found alone on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. Still in care.

**Ms Aree** – Sadly, she had to be euthanased

**Brem** and **Kiama** have been released

**Wills** – is in kindy, ready for release.



Our latest orphan is only tiny – just 47g. His mum was picked up in very poor condition and taken to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital suffering from renal failure.

At the moment he is still nameless, although he was given the name **Burnu** by staff at A.Z.W.H – (apparently it means ‘tree’). His chances of survival are very slim.

### WHO RESCUES THE RESCUER

Yes, another one. Well actually, in this story I had to be rescued twice. A couple of months ago I was called by the RSPCA to check out a wallaby supposedly stuck in mud. They didn’t tell me it was in the bottom of a quarry and I would have to hike down there. *I wish I had taken my camera*

All I could see of her was her head and the top of her back, the rest was under the mud. I stepped off the edge onto what seemed a nice hard crusty surface and immediately sank to mid-thigh and couldn’t move. It was that really sticky, smelly, clay-type mud. That was the first rescue – I had to be hauled out by the lady who had taken my down there, (and I really mean hauled, she had to get me under the armpits and clasp her hands together across my chest, sort of like a bear hug from behind). *Thank goodness there wasn’t a camera.*

I immediately called RSPCA back because I realised there was no way I could get the wallaby out without assistance and other equipment. Waited, rang again and waited, rang again, but time was becoming critical, there was no way of getting close to her and every time she struggled she dug herself deeper.

Then I had a brainwave. I sent some kids home to get their garden hose. I had one woman on each bank with an end of the

hose then got them to swing it back and forth, and out over the wallaby. I stood further up the bank closer to the wallaby and used my fully extended pole to push the hose under the mud next her while they pulled on the hose. It was a very long slow process, with many repeats of the process, but finally had her a lot closer to solid land. By this time everything, (and everyone) was so covered in thick mud that the hose trick wouldn’t work, just slid through their hands as they tried to pull. I went along the dry mud area, (this time testing every step), until I got to where the crust broke and I started to sink. This was only about 1½ metres from the wallaby, so I lay flat and crawled on my belly until I could reach her, (oh I am so glad no-one had a camera). I managed to loop one end of the hose around her under the mud and while the ladies pulled the hose I pulled her by her tail.

She couldn’t stand up. I needed the car. I had already sussed out how I could get it down there. I checked out the route again on my hike back up. Yep, easy, no problems. Well, except I turned right instead of left and went down the wrong track. Unfortunately, I ended up with the belly of my car sitting on the ground between two deep wash-out ruts, three wheels suspended above the ruts. *I wished I’d had my camera*, (didn’t think to use my phone). I called RACQ.

While waiting for the tow truck, I hiked back down the right track – (well actually it was the left track) – back to the ladies and the wallaby. Once she was steady on her feet we let her go and she took off. Another successful wildlife rescue.

When the tow truck, (finally), arrived I took the guy down and showed him my predicament. After some smirks and questions like “Gee Lady, how the hell did you manage to get it there?” (and other similar comments), he informed me there was no way he could get it out. He then took photos, *he* had a camera, he wanted to show the guys back at base, (probably with more smirks), and agreed to email them to me, (the photos, not the guys).

Luckily one of the neighbours had a 4WD, said he would have a go, said he’d managed to pull a few cars out of there, (so I’m not the only one). After he got his own vehicle out of a similar predicament, (while trying to manoeuvre around mine), he just dragged my car backwards until the wheels were on level ground then his mate drove it, (revved it up and bush-bashed it), all the way up the hill in first gear, fishtailing, spitting out dirt and gravel, vegetation and clouds of dust. Very impressive!

*Wish I’d had a video camera.*

P.s. I never did hear back from RSPCA and never got the photos from the towie.

### NEW MEMBERS

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

**THE KOHN FAMILY**  
**VICKI SWAIN**  
**DENISE O’HEHIR**  
**THE MITCHELL FAMILY**  
**DIANE CHIANG**  
**KYLA & PETER DEVITT**  
**OXANA BAKOVA**  
**TRACEY & GARTH LYONS**  
**JUDITH BRASS**  
**AMANDA MORRIS**  
**DAVID & ISOBEL JEFFRIES**  
**SARAH COPELAND**  
**KATHY SILK**  
**PHILIPPA DE PALO**



**REGISTER-HEADS:**

are those in charge of deciding the placement of animals with carers. These are our Register-heads:

POSSUMS & GLIDERS: Marilyn Spletter 0412 630 739  
KANGAROOS: Graham Mason 3288 8870  
WALLABIES: Elsie Leake 3282 4196  
FLYING FOXES & BATS: Jo & Michael Janssens 3271 1382

For information and/or advice on raising wildlife the following are the best contacts:

POSSUMS & GLIDERS:  
Marilyn 0412 630 739 or Ann 0423 655 181  
KANGAROOS & WALLABIES:  
Graham 3288 8870 or Elsie 3282 4196  
FLYING FOXES & BATS:  
Jo & Michael 3271 1382 or Helen 3282 5035

**THE REGISTRAR:**

is in charge of keeping a record of who has what, and how many they have, and advising register-heads which carers are available/waiting for a 'baby' and which are full up.

**REMEMBER, ALL WILDLIFE IN YOUR CARE MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE REGISTRAR:**

Ann Dull phone or text 0423 655 181.

**THE SECRETARY:** will advise the Register-heads and the Registrar which carers hold current Rehabilitation Permits, (permits to raise/care for wildlife). If you have not renewed your membership this year then your permit has not been renewed. In other words: **NO PERMIT – NO BABIES.**



The Camira Progressive Seniors Club has kindly made a donation to IKPS. Brenda Rackham is seen here handing the cheque to Ruth Lewis, (President), and Marilyn Spletter, (Vice President). All donations go towards the running of our ambulance, purchasing fridge magnets, new carry cages etc. – IKPS has no paid staff and relies entirely on memberships and donations. This donation was much appreciated.

**PROFILE – Ruth Lewis**

*from the editor: I cheated for this one as I have all this space to fill but not enough time to ask Ruth to prepare something or warn her that her profile is going to be first. I have actually just re-printed an introduction article she wrote for Cr David Pahlke's 'blog'. (I haven't a clue what a 'blog' is).*

Here it is -- My name is Ruth Lewis and I have been involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife for the past 20 years. I became involved with the Ipswich Koala Protection Society roughly 15 years ago. What started out as a hobby has now become my life, my love and my passion. Of course family fits in there somewhere. They are as dedicated and crazy as I am. Being a wildlife carer comes with a mixed bag of emotions – good days and bad days – and I could write a best seller by now (if I had the time). The IKPS run two 24/7 ambulances, have 5 other designated drivers, and can now boast a wildlife rescue and rehab clinic at Mt. Forbes, with a vet on call 24/7. It may sound exciting, but this is a non profit volunteer organisation and there are days when you are flat out, days when you just want to cry and days where you think you are beginning to win the battle. But I wouldn't swap if for all the money in the world (unless it was to buy land for wildlife).

*Ruth.*

**PROFILE – Helen Darbellay**

(and I've cheated for this one too, it's the article I wrote for Cr. Pahlke's 'blog' at the same time).

My name is Helen Darbellay. I have been rescuing and caring for wildlife since 1994, when I helped found the Ipswich Koala Protection Society, (although it was known as the Woogaroo Koala Protection Society), back then, and hand-raising orphaned koala joeys for the past 13 years. Although I have cared for almost all types of wildlife over those 16 years, my favourite is the koala, with flying foxes coming a very close second.

Helen Darbellay

*Please renew your membership A.S.A.P*