



# Ipswich Koala Protection Society, inc.

## NEWSLETTER June 2011

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well – we are once again nearing koala mating season (you can tell because the boys have smiles on their faces), and it’s business as usual.

The past few months have kept us busy and the lead-up to Christmas will more than likely be the same.

The Ebenezer Industrial Investigation Area seems to be at a standstill, so I have nothing to report on this subject. However I am keeping an eye out for any new developments and will pass on any information I uncover. I’m a pretty good sleuth.

A recent “ad” placed in the Courier Mail by DERM – Koala Nature Refuges Programme was, (to say the least), a little confusing and maddening. It read:

**“Urgent action is needed to protect South East Queensland koalas and halt their decline”**

*Ironic isn’t it? The answer is so simple. Why do we bother and why do I feel like we are fighting a lost cause?*

**Answer** – because our iconic koalas cannot fight this battle for themselves. Their only hope is US.

*Habitat destruction – stop knocking down their homes. Koala habitat is also home to many other native animals.*

*Our fight will continue. The State Government (Queensland Transport) has already recognised our mapping and moved the Southern Freight Rail Corridor 2klm out of core koala habitat and DERM & GHD have mapped the Ebenezer/Mt. Forbes area as high value bushland. Let’s hope the ‘powers that be’ in charge of planning the Ebenezer Industrial Estate have some common sense and recognise the value of our work.*

*Remember the State Government is committed to protecting koalas in South East Queensland (their words) and with a 64% loss on the koala coast in the last ten years, (probably more now – this study was done a couple of years ago), “we” can’t afford to make the same mistakes that have been made in the past.*

*I promise I won’t be so cranky in the next newsletter. It’s hard not to get frustrated.*

*Ruth.*

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### WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

Our inaugural combined wildlife workshop and spotlight night was a great success – the workshop was anyway.

Over 30 people attended the workshop coming from as far as Pine Rivers. Annette Colling - RSPCA wildlife co-ordinator – was kind enough to come out and explain her role at the RSPCA and how we can help.

Our fantastic vet was also on hand for any assessments or examinations and for those who weren’t squeamish, she conducted a post mortem on a brush tail possum that had been in care for a short time before it died. It was most interesting and educational for carers to see this side of wildlife caring.

After the workshop and a general chat the barbie was fired up and the storm clouds rolled in. Anyone brave enough to stay over pitched their tents (camper trailer for me and Helen, long suffering husband slept in the house in a real bed) and prepared for a great night.

We did manage to go spotlighting as planned, but I think the wildlife weren’t as stupid as us and cuddled up somewhere drier than where we were. All accept the cane toads.

All in all it was a great weekend and we will more than likely plan to do this again.

### THANK YOU

Protection of the Earth and Wildlife Association, (in Perth) has fundraised on our behalf and sent us another \$2000.

Sarah Copeland has been producing and selling cards featuring photos she has taken of some of our wildlife babies. Profits from this have netted IKPS more than \$250.

Owen Nattrass, (Ric’s father), has donated \$1000.

Australia - Japan Wildlife Conservation Education Foundation has donated another \$200.

Mr. M. Lewis is a member of the public who rang us a couple of months ago when he found a baby ringtail possum. Unfortunately the possum died just as Marcie and Nick arrived but he donated \$300.

Hazel Holman has been one of our members for many years and makes a donation every year. Hazel recently sent us a letter informing us that our society has been named a beneficiary in her will. She also included a donation cheque of \$400.

Olivia and the French film crew, producers of One Planet, donated \$500 for our participation in the filming of a documentary “Wild Orphans.”

The Ipswich District Canoe Club for the \$100 donation towards the raising of Edward Rock.

## Proposed DERM/RSPCA partnership

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals Queensland (RSPCA) are exploring a partnership to enhance wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation in Queensland.

Eleven information sessions throughout Queensland were planned to provide carers with information on the proposed partnership and the opportunity to comment on the *DRAFT* of the review of the Code of Practice – *care of sick or injured protected animals by wildlife carers*.

Ipswich was not included in these sessions (as usual) and Helen and I considered having a Thelma and Louise weekend and attending the session at the Whitsundays. Would have made a good story for the next newsletter.

After several phone calls and emails Helen and I convinced organisers that Ipswich did in fact have wildlife and that our local carers should be afforded the same opportunity to be informed and have input. So number 12, Queen's Park Enviro Education Centre, Ipswich was added to the list.

Ipswich and surrounding areas were well represented with approximately 40 carers representing several wildlife groups. I have it on good authority that this was the largest (and best behaved) group that DERM/RSPCA had met with. So congratulations guys on your support.

The natives were not restless. Some concerns were voiced and rightly so. We have all had encounters with the RSPCA call centre. But the DERM hotline also has/had hiccups.

Some chinese whispers and rumours were also laid to rest.

Unfortunately the *Draft* Code of Practice was not available on the night for perusal, but hopefully it will appear on the DERM website soonish. I have been able to view the C.O.P. and there are some standards and guidelines that are a bit fuzzy and some that are impossible to comply with. I would encourage all carers/members to take the time to have a look at it, ring me with any queries or concerns and IKPS will make a submission to DERM with our concerns and any changes we feel need to be made.

A trial period is planned to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and run for a one -year period. So once again let me know if you encounter any problems or dramas so that we can supply feedback to DERM/RSPCA.

### NEW MEMBERS

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

**KANO SHIMIZU**  
**LAUREN STEEL**  
**ALEXANDRA KERR**  
**MADONNA O'BRIEN**  
**& BEN HERDERSON**  
**JOEL & SABRINA GOODINGHAM**



In the last newsletter Ruth wrote "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 Euthanasia." SORRY, the article will require more space than I have available in this newsletter, it will have to wait until the next one.

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6/1/11 WILLOWBANK – adult male found at the Willowbank drags. Body score 0 (barely alive), severe cystitis. EUTH

24/1/11 GATTON – sub adult male, only 1.5 years old, attacked by 4 very large dogs, multiple internal and external injuries. DIED.

24/1/11 GATTON – adult male from the same address as the previous koala. Also killed by the same dogs. On PM also found to have had pneumonia, kidney failure and in very poor condition. This koala was probably already on the ground when attacked by the dogs. Unfortunately the young one previously was not. He would have been taken by them while he was moving from tree to tree. DEAD

24/1/11 ATKINSONS DAM – adult male – another dog attack – Rottweiler this time. He had multiple punctures to his kidneys, caecum, lower intestine and the lower torso was mutilated. DEAD

26/1/11 CAMIRA – adult female rescued and transported to MKH. Unfortunately her reproductive organs were diseased, but the good news is she was 10.5 years old. This is a really good age in the wild, particularly as we had assumed that koalas at Camira were now almost extinct. EUTH

28/1/11 LOWOOD – adult male, once again body score 0, suffering renal failure, cystitis, and was starting to prolapse. EUTH

1/2/11 AMBERLEY – adult female with no sign of recent babies. Bad news is her reproductive's were diseased, good news is she was another old girl. 10.5 years. EUTH

3/2/11 MORWINCHA – (on the way to Aratula) adult female resembling a floor mat. I think it's safe to say she was hit by several trucks on the Cunningham Highway. Not able to get any statistics or ascertain her age but did manage to take DNA which is really important. DEAD

28/2/11 GATTON – adult female named *BARBIE* would have just weaned her bub. Unfortunately she was found tangled in barbed wire and had been for some time. The injuries to her leg had started to infect her whole body and the hip was torn from the socket possibly where she had struggled to get free. Unfortunately the only option was to eliminate her suffering. EUTH

28/2/11 AMBERLEY – adult female approximately 9 yrs old. Not bad for this area. Her reproductive organs were diseased and she had severe cystitis. EUTH

7/3/11 TOOGOLAWAH – adult female in really poor condition approximately 8 years old. Diseased reproductive's and cystitis. EUTH

13/3/11 PEAK CROSSING – adult male hit by a car on Ipswich Boonah Road. Rescued and transported to MKH by Randall darling. He had sustained massive head injuries, (the koala, not Randall). EUTH

24/3/11 WILLOWBANK – adult male, *FORMAN* (he featured in a newspaper story recently), rescued from the Cunningham Highway once, only to go back across and get rolled by a car. He was one of the lucky ones. He had mild conjunctivitis and a graze under his chin from the car. He was treated at MKH and released on the 1.5.11

31/3/11 LOWOOD – adult male in poor condition found dead on the ground. PM showed pneumonia, cystitis.

1/4/11 CRESSBROOK – adult female and her baby, (2kg big baby), *ABBEY* and *BRODIE*. Mum was found to be down in condition (so would you be, lugging that baby around all day), transported to MKH where mum is still receiving TLC and Brodie is now independent and taking up residence in kindy with the other kids. Brodie will be released early next week – back to where he came from. Mum will stay for some more R & R.

31/3/11 MURGON – this is another orphan that came into care from Australia Zoo Hospital. Unfortunately she didn't survive the day. She had cranial bruising and ruptured lungs consistent with mum being hit by a car. DIED

11/4/11 MILBONG – *VALE* a return to MKH. Adult female only about 3 years old. Injuries were consistent with a fall from a tree – haemorrhaged small intestine and peritonitis. EUTH

12/4/11 WIVENHOE POCKET – adult female with a body score of 1 – found on the ground. Her kidneys had started to fail and she had no teeth. She was approximately 15 years old. Unfortunately we don't do false teeth. EUTH

12/4/11 OAKEY – adult male – pretty much a breathing skeleton. Kidney failure and cystitis. EUTH

13/4/11 WIVENHOE POCKET – sub adult female and her 15gr pinkie in pouch were attacked by 2 kelpie crosses. *ADELE* & *GAZ* were admitted to MKH for treatment but unfortunately her injuries were too severe to repair. She died under anaesthetic from ruptured lungs and fractured ribs. Her baby was euthanased as he was way too small to attempt to raise.

15/4/11 BRASSALL – adult male hit by car over near Sydney Street. Luckily the speed limit is only 50/60. He was admitted to MKH for observation, assessed, micro chipped and released 3 days later.

23/4/11 MOGERAH DAM – adult male in really poor condition. The people were able to pick him up and give him cuddles (I wouldn't recommend you try this at home). He had renal failure and cystitis. EUTH

25/4/11 COUGAL – NSW (just). Some good Samaritans picked this adult male up off the road presuming he had been hit by a car. They were kind enough to deliver him to MKH for immediate treatment. It was found that he had not been hit by a car, but was in extremely poor condition suffering with pneumonia, kidney failure and cystitis. He probably only managed to get that far onto the road and didn't have the energy to go any further. He was euthanased. But he is still one of the lucky ones. He actually got found and he is no longer suffering. How many are not found? EUTH

27/4/11 TOOGOLAWAH – *BEN* – adult male admitted to MKH with fairly severe conjunctivitis. He is still receiving treatment and will be released when he is fully recovered.

30/4/11 ESK – adult female in poor condition and another reasonably old koala. Approximately 9.5 years old. Her injuries were consistent with having fallen from a tree. Her pelvis and every rib on her left side was fractured and her left shoulder was dislocated. She also had cystitis. EUTH

1/5/11 HARRISVILLE – adult male collected from the Peak Crossing Vet. He was blind in the left eye and had an injury to his left foot. None of this is life threatening. He was euthanased

because he was approximately 16.5 years old, and as I've said earlier – we don't do dentures.

1/5/11 FERNVALE – adult female hit by a car on the Brisbane Valley Highway. Another oldie – roughly 10 years. Her lower jaw was fractured and she had ruptured lungs. She also had diseased ovaries. EUTH.

4/5/11 MEANDARAH – yep it's a long way. Nearly 700km round trip. I rang long-suffering husband and told him it was ½ hour from Dalby. That didn't sound too bad. It turned out to be ½ hour from Tara. *MYRTLE* was assessed and admitted to MKH with really severe conjunctivitis. Where her eyes had been weeping for such a long time all the hair around her eyes and nose was missing when she was cleaned up. She now looks somewhat like a racoon. This will be a, (*good excuse for a*), weekend trip for Helen and I to take her back, so watch out for another Thelma & Louise story sometime later in the year. (*We have yet to agree on which of us is Thelma*).

7/5/11 CLARENDON – sub adult male hit by a car. Luckily he probably just rolled under the car. He was assessed, micro chipped and released two days later. This was Marcie and Nicks first release. They are now officially koala “experts”.

7/5/11 HARRISVILLE – adult female attacked by a Staffy X Bully. She was admitted to MKH but died under anaesthetic. She had massive trauma to the lower torso, but also had pneumonia, diseased reproductive organs and cystitis.

8/5/11 PITTSWORTH – adult female found dead on a property. She was collected and transported to MKH. Her body score was only 3. PM showed cancer to all organs.

10/5/11 COOMINYA – young female attacked by dogs – tooth wear 1 – just a baby. She died soon after being rescued. She had multiple punctures to her lungs, liver and caecum. She was also suffering cystitis.

11/5/11 COOMINYA – adult female with a body score of 1, pneumonia, diseased reproductive organs, kidney failure and cystitis. EUTH



#### **OUR ORPHANS**

Not a lot to add to the ORPHAN column as it's been relatively quiet. Mind you every time I say that we get busy –

#### **ORPHAN UPDATE**

ROBUSTA- was found on the ground by the caller's dog on 14.11.10. He appeared to have no injuries but possibly fell from mum, (or was pushed or thrown. When a male koala sets his amorous sights on a female, he has no regard for the back-riding baby she may already have, that baby is just 'got out of the way'). Robusta's admission weight was 408gr. and he is from Cleveland, which is part of the koala coast. He's still in care, progressing *very* slowly. He now weighs just over 1kg, but after 6 months in care he should weigh a lot more.

TIDGE, TIPPER, THORN, BUDDY and WILLS have all graduated from Kindy and been released.

ROBERT – Robert is now attending kindy and is doing really well. He will be released in the very near future.

47grams Named BURNU by staff at AWH, his photo was in our last newsletter, and at that time I said that his chances were very slim. Unfortunately he didn't make it.

### Another 'WHO RESCUES THE RESCUER'

I was really hoping that this newsletter would *not* carry a story of the rescuer, (*me*), having to be rescued. By now you must be of the firm belief that I should not even be on the road, (*let alone off the road*), without a keeper or an attending tow truck. (This Penelope Pitstop really needs a Dudley Dogood). At least this time I was not actually performing a rescue, but I'm not sure if that makes it better or worse.

I was cutting leaf for Robusta, and instead of relying on whatever I could find along the sides of highways, I actually went to a koala-food plantation.

I had cut enough, (*really nice*), branches and instead of reversing out of there I decided to drive the perimeter to check out the rest of the plantation.

Long story short, with the sun in my eyes I just followed the track. Unfortunately, what looked like surface water on the track was really some very deep mud. This should not have been a problem because I was in my trusty 'all-wheel-drive' Rav 4. Unfortunately, all those wheels were stuck in the mud.

From past experience I knew that RACQ would not come tow me out being so far off the road, (*even if they could actually get in there – I had managed to drive between the posts and over the connecting cable to get in there because the proper entrance was under a few feet of water, and I didn't want to risk getting bogged*).

This time it was Graham Mason, with the able assistance of Celia, his wife and a winch, (*that's winch, not wench*), who came to the rescue. Thanks guys, that's another one I owe you.

### Edward Rock (Melon)

*A few members of Ipswich District Canoe Club were camping in Goomburra Forest Reserve during a very wet and chilly March 2011 weekend. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> dawned bright and sunny so we decided that as the weather had finally improved we would go for a walk before packing up our wet camping gear. Along the track bordering Dalrymple Creek Ed noticed something on the ground that looked like a baby Joey, very small with no fur and as it should still be in mums pouch we all thought it had already died from exposure. As we approached for a closer inspection the animal tried to stand on its spindly legs and squeaked in fright. Warren quickly picked it up and we saw it was a male Joey and as it was wet and very cold he placed it inside his shirt and jacket to keep warm. We went back to camp to make up a box with towels and a well covered hot water bottle to help warm the poor animal as it was shivering with cold. We named him Edward. We had seen Pretty-faced kangaroos and Pademelons in the camp ground and thought maybe Edward could be a Pademelon. On our way home and as soon as we had mobile reception I phoned Ruth at the Moggill Koala Hospital. Ruth's husband David met us on Cunningham Highway near Willowbank and took Edward home to be cared for by Ruth and she named him Rock Melon. A few days later when I saw Edward or Rock, he was thriving in Ruth's care. I think Edward Rock should really be called Lucky!*

Brenda Rackham



### THE GREEN THING

A trip down memory lane for those who remember – an eye-opener for those who have no idea

In the line at the supermarket, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags were bad for the environment. The woman apologised to her and explained, "We didn't have the Green thing back in my day." The cashier said, "That's our problem today; the last generation did not care enough to save our environment."

She was right, our generation didn't have the Green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned our milk bottles, soft-drink bottles and beer bottles to the shop, who returned them to the factory to be washed, sterilised and refilled. The same bottles were used over and over.

But we didn't have the Green thing back in our day.

In our day we walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. And who could forget the string bags to carry the shopping?

But we didn't have the Green thing back in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies, we didn't have disposables. We dried clothes on a line, not in a 220volt machine – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids wore hand-me-down clothes from their siblings.

But we didn't have the Green thing back in our day.

Back then we had one TV or radio in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a screen the size of a handkerchief, not one the size of a cricket pitch. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand; we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item we used wadded up old newspaper, not Styrofoam or bubble wrap. We didn't have air conditioning or self-cleaning ovens. We didn't have battery-operated toys or computers. We didn't fire up an engine and burn fuel just to cut the lawn; we used a push mower. We used hand-operated clippers to trim the shrubs.

But we didn't have the Green thing back in our day.

When we were thirsty we drank water from a glass filled from a tap; not a throw-away plastic bottle. We refilled our writing pens with ink instead of buying new pens and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of replacing the whole razor when the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the Green thing back in our then.

Back then people walked or took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not enough sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from a satellite 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful us old folks were, just because..... We didn't have the Green thing back then?