



There are no bears in there—only koalas!

Yanchep hosts International Visitors

Thursday, 4 August was an important day in the continuing sister-state relationship between Western Australia and Awaji Minami in the Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The park hosted a delegation from Amaji Minami to recognise the 30th anniversary of this sister-state relationship which is being marked by the gift of four koalas from WA to Awaji Minami : Yume, Nozomi, Mirai and Yuuki. Yume, Nozomi, Mirai and Yuuki were named following a public competition. These names were chosen from 1645 entries because they offer some support to the earthquake communities.



Alison Pritchard, Park Manager and John Wheeler, Senior Ranger conducted a tour of the park for the international delegation and Jon Kelly, Mayor, City of Wanneroo, and Daniel Simms, Chief Executive Officer, City of Wanneroo.

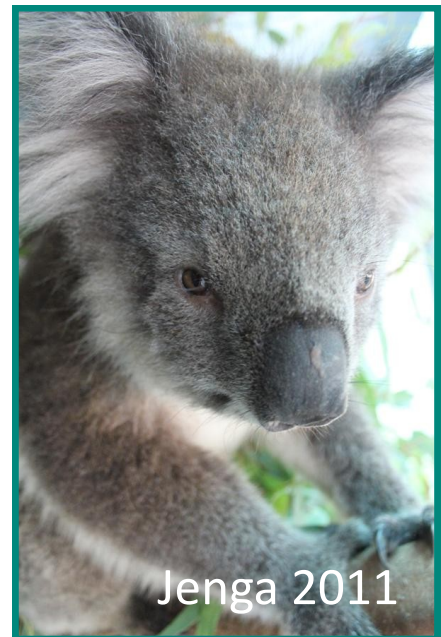
Together with important information about the park’s programs, the visitors experienced many of the joys of the park: they walked the boardwalk to see the koalas in their natural environment and watched the kangaroos on the lake front.

A special feature of the day was an insight into Noongar culture. James Spurgeon, Yanchep National Park, Parks and Visitor Services officer, demonstrated some traditional tool making techniques.

The koalas were raised at Yanchep National Park and in March this year, John Wheeler and Heather Beswick (previous PVS Manager), accompanied the koalas to Japan to ensure that they settled well into their indoor facility.

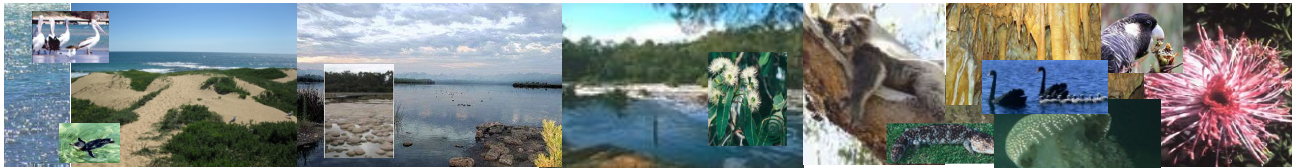
John said, “It was a great opportunity to see the results of our program and to see the continuing dedication of the Japanese team.”

“The koalas that we once knew so well are now all settled. They are celebrities.” assured Theda Gilbride, Acting Licensing Coordinator (Wildlife), Nature Protection.



Yes—Koalas definitely have personalities. Notice Jenga’s scarred nose.





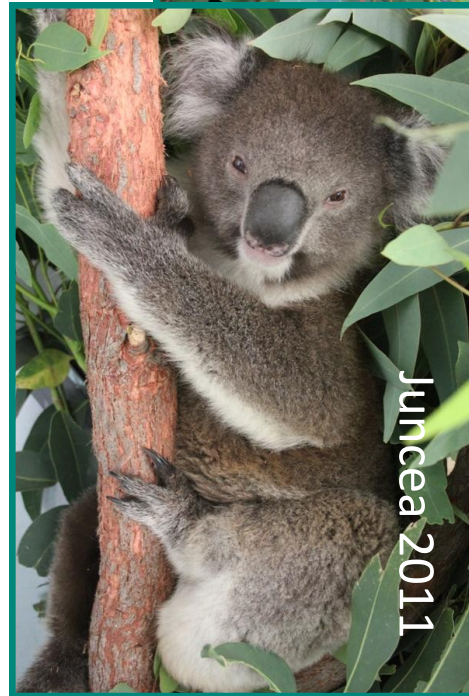
In 2003, Koalas were given to Minami Awaji. Interest in the koalas continues to be high with over 400,000 visitors a year.

Senior people from Awaji Minami formed the delegation. Mr. Katsuhisa Nakata, Mayor, Minami Awaji City; Mrs. Sachiko NAKATA, Spouse of Minami Awaji Mayor; Speaker, Minami Awaji City Council, Mr. Keiichi ABE; Mr. Takeshi MATOBA, Manager, England Hill; Mr. Hirotsugu IMOTO; Mr. Makoto HAYASHI, Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division, Minami Awaji City.

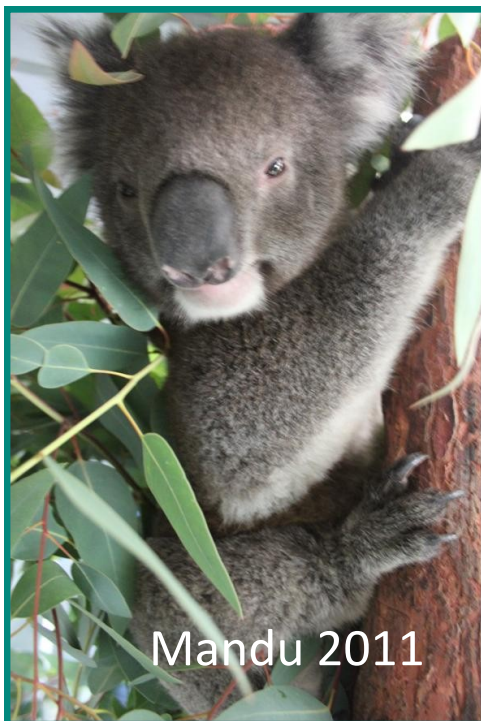
Every picture tells a story, doesn't it?*



Cinder 2011



Juncea 2011



Mandu 2011



*Apologies to Rod Stewart but one should always strive for correct grammar.





Awaji welcomes news friends

Amid great celebrations, Premier Colin Barnett officially presents Governor, Mr Katsuhisa Nakata with the koalas.



An incredible journey

Transporting four treasured Australian mammals to Japan is no easy task. One wonders what the koalas were thinking. This raises the question. Do koalas take their inspiration from famous baseball player, Satchel Paige, "sometimes I sits and thinks, and sometimes I just sit"?



The Yanchep team coordinated the move in meticulous detail. Remember, they were parting with some special friends whom they had reared.



And they are off!



Department of Environment and Conservation

Settling in

Although immensely pleasurable, John and Heather's trip was designed to meet strict export guidelines: there must be a transition to the new environment of period of ten days..

Spot those claws on the paws! Koalas have three fingers, two thumbs and extremely sharp claws for climbing. Like anyone, koalas have bad days so handlers need to wear protective clothing.



Restraint training for medical purposes



Our environment, our future



