

# GIVE ME A HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES

## Radio Tracking Julie and Chantelle

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### ABSTRACT

In July 2001 staff from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) conducted a regional koala survey in Pine Rivers Shire and the koala population was estimated at 4,600 adult individuals. It was suggested that Pine Rivers had the healthiest population of koalas in South East Queensland.

Significant koala populations live in the residential areas of the Shire and in fact, some urban areas had higher koala densities than many of our bushland areas. At this time, I can guarantee that our koala populations have been significantly reduced by deaths associated with motorists, dog attacks and disease. The problem as we all know is fundamentally related to the loss and fragmentation of bushland habitat.

My story begins with two young female koalas released back into the urban areas of Pine Rivers Shire after treatment and rehabilitation at the Moggill Koala Hospital (MKH). The exploits of these two young ladies were followed on a weekly and often twice weekly basis for many years. A great deal of information was gleaned about their home ranges, tree preferences and behaviour. This is their story.



Julie



Chantelle

## INTRODUCTION

The pressures facing our urban koala populations are extreme. Loss and fragmentation of habitat, being hit by cars or trucks, attacked by dogs and disease has brought about a radical decline in the koala population of Southeast Queensland. State and Local Governments seem to be either unwilling or unable to retain remaining bushland habitat and regrowth essential to the survival of koalas and other native wildlife in urban areas. Neither the State nor Local Government treats the replanting of koala food trees and other natives to provide ongoing food and shelter with the urgency it requires.

Clearing of remaining remnant, as well as unprotected non-remnant bushland habitat and regrowth has forced koalas into parks, reserves and isolated pockets of green spaces within the residential developments of our Shire. Backyards containing pockets of native vegetation that include koala food trees are now the last bastions for this “flagship species”. Rising insurance costs, litigation and liability issues have sounded the death knell for large trees in suburban backyards. Unfortunately, many residents fearful of damage/costs to themselves and their properties have been removing mature natives particularly koala food trees from their properties.

Education programmes have not stopped tree clearing; they have not decreased the numbers of koalas being killed on our roads, or reduced koala fatalities from dog attacks. In fact, localised extinctions of koalas in the suburbs of Pine Rivers Shire could well be an unpleasant reality in the not too distant future.

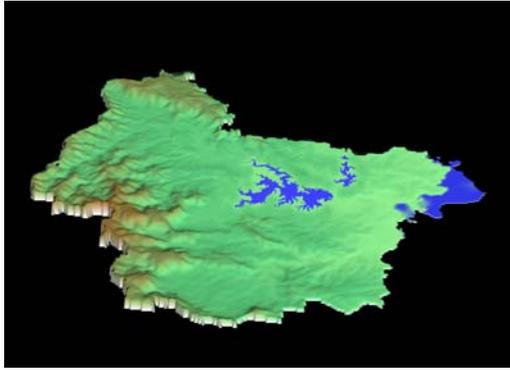
A range of approaches is required to ensure the survival of Queensland’s faunal emblem. There is an urgent need for research to determine the carrying capacity of remaining bushland incorporating koala habitat. We need to know more about home range requirements, movement patterns and the social structure of koalas in Pine Rivers.

Long-term radio tracking of koalas is the only way of answering many of the above questions. It could also address the viability of relocating urban koalas when their home ranges have been destroyed by development. This paper serves to highlight some of the problems facing koalas in urban areas. However, it raises more questions than it answers.

## INTRODUCTION TO PINE RIVERS SHIRE

Pine Rivers is situated approximately 25 kms north of Brisbane in southeast Queensland. The Shire encompasses an area of approximately 77,000 ha. Two major rivers, the North and South Pine Rivers, flow through our region. The large catchment of these rivers has provided for the establishment of two large water reservoirs, Lake Kurwongbah and Lake Samsonvale covering a combined area of approximately 2,300 ha. Esk Shire borders Pine Rivers to the west, Caboolture Shire to the north, and Redcliffe City to the east and Brisbane City to the south.

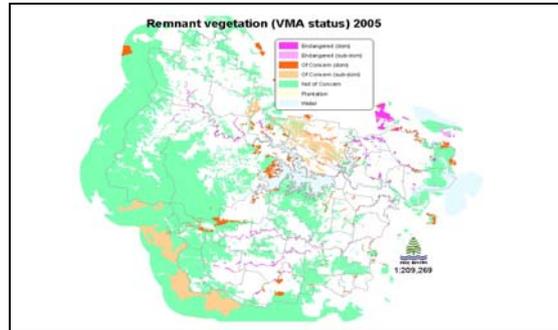




Toward the western part of Pine Rivers, the D'Aguiar Range, a spur of the Great Dividing Range, stretches from north to south. Eucalypt forests cover much of the range with some of the wetter and more protected gullies supporting rainforest communities. Approximately 7,000 ha. has been cleared and developed for residential, commercial and industrial purposes.

Between the D'Aguiar Range and the urban areas is a mixture of eucalypt remnant patches, acreage properties, small villages and farm areas on cleared fertile flats.

The majority of the remnant vegetation is dominated by tall open forest and open forest and woodland communities typically consisting of *Corymbia citriodora*, *Eucalyptus fibrosa* subsp. *fibrosa*, *E. tereticornis*, *E. moluccana*, *E. siderophloia*, *E. racemosa* and *E. tindaliae* (Sattler and Williams, 1999).

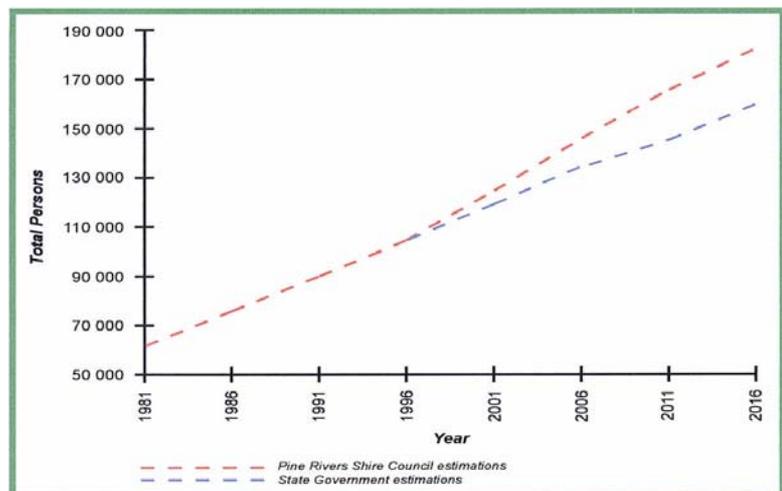


The almost continuous riverine forests, that in previous times covered one or both banks of streams in the Pine Rivers' catchment, has been cleared and/or is now fragmented. Open forests and woodland have been almost totally cleared (Bowden, 1999, Pp. 24-25).

The eastern part of Pine Rivers Shire was predominantly cleared during urbanisation with remnant eucalypts and areas of parkland containing some remnant eucalypt vegetation. Unprotected regrowth exists in many urban locations and these vegetated pockets provide food, shelter and opportunities for koalas and other wildlife to disperse. Most of these remaining pockets have been scheduled for clearing.

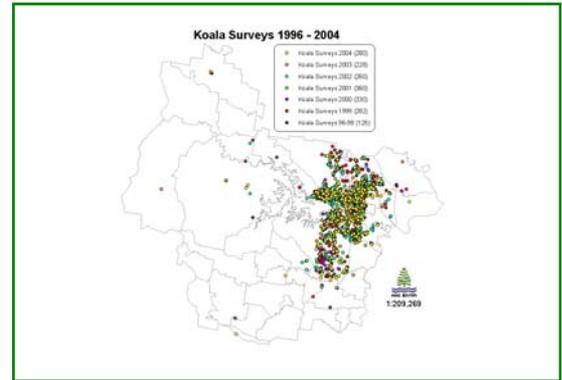
### Pine Rivers Today

The population in Pine Rivers Shire predominantly resides in urban areas concentrated around the eastern 15% of the Shire. The population is growing rapidly and has now reached 137,000 people. From a farming community of 6,000 in 1954, it is expected to reach 200,000 by 2021. We have one of the fastest growing local authorities in Australia. With population growth placed at 4.9% per annum - almost four times the national average - comes increasing pressure on the natural environment (Pine Rivers Shire Council Annual Report for 2003/2004).



## Koalas in Pine Rivers Shire

The Koala Research Unit of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) assessed the status of the koala population in Pine Rivers Shire in 2001. Koala surveys and records of koala sightings contained in the QPWS database suggested the population was significant, healthy and robust. Approximately 4,600 koalas were estimated to inhabit Pine Rivers Shire. The majority of eucalypt vegetation toward the western part of the Shire contained low koala densities. However, significant koala populations exist in the residential areas in the eastern part of the Shire. The area of greatest significance to the koala population is the remnant eucalypt vegetation located around Lake Samsonvale and Lake Kurwongbah (Dique, D., Preece, H., and de Villiers, D., 2003).



The home ranges of Julie and Chantelle are located in the suburb of Petrie on land within the Urban Footprint. The area is classified as an “Urban Koala Area”. The SEQ Regional Plan states, “that urban development in these areas will require detailed planning to identify and manage habitat areas and corridors to assist koala survival” (SEQ Regional Plan 2005-2026, Pp. 30-31).

No evidence gathered to date supports the above claims. House blocks average 600 to 700 square metres in size with some blocks large enough to support several mature koala food trees and other natives. Petrie historically has provided habitat for a relatively large number of koalas (QPWS Koala Database & Pine Rivers Shire Koala Database).

Julie and Chantelle came to be well known by residents living around their home range. Many became involved with ensuring these koalas were safe and in good health. Locals rang many times keeping us informed about their daily movements and behaviour.

By way of tribute to these very special koalas, Wally (The Bear) Finch, a well-known bush poet living in Pine Rivers Shire wrote “**Ode to Julie**” in July 01 (Appendix 3) and “**Chantelle**” in September 98 (Appendix 4). These can be found at the end of this paper.

## TRACKING JULIE AND CHANTELLE

### Background Information

A public meeting in July 1995 was held at the Pine Rivers Shire Council. Residents concerned about the plight of the koala joined forces and the Pine Rivers Koala Care Committee (PRKCC) was born. One of the objectives of this small, volunteer, not for profit group was to obtain a realistic estimate of the koala population and detail the movements of male and female koalas to develop a better understanding of the size of their home ranges. Our hope was to obtain funding to track several koalas. We began the tracking programme in 1996 after obtaining sufficient funds from the Bray Park Holy Spirit Catholic School to purchase two radio-tracking collars.

PRKCC borrowed a Titley Electronics Regal 2000 receiver unit specifically designed for wildlife research from the Pine Rivers Wildlife Preservation Society. With the permission of QPWS the tracking programme began in October 1996 when Shirley McRae and I began tracking a young, blind, adult female koala called Chantelle. In July 1999 another young female koala called Julie was added to the tracking programme.

I will begin with Julie’s story and the reason for so doing will be evident as we progress.

## JULIE'S STORY

Julie was brought into MKH on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1999. It was suspected she had been hit by a car on the corner of Youngs Crossing Road and Dayboro Road in Petrie. No injuries were evident during her health check (Body Score 8, Toothwear 6.5, Weight 6 kgs) and a pinky female (approximately 80 grams) was found in her pouch. Julie was micro chipped, and collared before being released the next day into trees directly opposite her rescue location.

Tracking was usually done on a weekly basis. When young were present we checked on her twice weekly (Appendix 1). Julie's home range was small and consisted of many healthy koala food trees mixed in with other native species such as wattles and bottlebrush. She favoured native trees and on almost every occasion was found in koala food trees. Occasionally Julie rested in a poinsettia that was part of her home range.

Her female joey was first seen in early November 1999. Separation began in February 2000 and by April we were unable to locate her youngster. It was at that time that a large section of bushland on the southwestern corner of the "Petrie on Pine" Estate was cleared by bulldozers. Eight koalas moved across the road into the lower end of Merv Ewart Reserve. This clearing appeared to have precipitated Julie's move back onto Dayboro Road.

Interestingly enough she never crossed Dayboro Road, which was probably a good thing. Many koalas are found dead along this road as a consequence of car hits. In fact it has the dubious reputation of having the highest number of koala road kills in Pine Rivers Shire.

Towards the end of June 2000 we became aware that Julie may have pouch young but it wasn't till the beginning of August that we were able to confirm our suspicions and saw her most recent joey. In January 2001 we became concerned about Julie's health, she was looking brown and her body condition had deteriorated. We wanted to flag her down for a health check, but Julie was never low enough in a tree to attempt a rescue.

Fate intervened and on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2001 Julie was attacked by dogs at one of her favourite haunts in Mirrigan Court and killed. Julie would have shown no concern coming to ground to access another food tree here. The property owner didn't have dogs so Julie's mental map of her home range did not include dogs at this location.

However, at that time the property owner was caring for his son's dogs whilst his son was away. Julie was caught by surprise and raced towards the nearest tree. Residents said they saw her push her joey up the tree before she was savaged. Julie's horrific death was distressing to all who cared and watched over her for the last 20 months of tracking.

We took Julie's body to MKH for autopsy. The post mortem revealed the dogs had punctured Julie's liver, caecum, stomach and both kidneys. She also had signs of pneumonia, which could explain her poor body condition, and why according to the property owner she was on the ground earlier on in the day (Body Score 5, Toothwear 7.5, Weight 5.5 kgs).

Julie's terrified 1.3 kg male joey was captured and immediately taken to MKH for a health check. Billy had no physical injuries and was released into foster care. At 2.5 kgs he went into the MKH Kindergarten. On 21st June 2001, 3 ½ months after he was rescued, Billy was released into a relatively "safe" bushland site off Scout Road in Kurwongbah.

## REMARKS

Julie's home range was small, approximately 1 square kilometre and contained a number of different species of mature, healthy koala food trees in an area with a rich soil substrate and regular rainfall. She moved methodically down one side of her home range and back along the other, crossing Youngs Crossing Road several times to access different food trees. Since we began tracking Julie more than half of her home range has been cleared for housing. In addition many of the older koala food trees in areas such as Merv Ewart Reserve began to suffer from dieback related problems. Over the years, we have observed an increase in the rate of decline of native vegetation on disturbed land in Petrie and elsewhere.

Aside from tree removal for agricultural, pastoral or urban development, this decline has involved death of trees from senescence (ageing) and dieback. Dieback is the premature, and relatively rapid decline and death of trees from interacting environmental stresses. These stresses may be caused by: pathogens, insects, drought, fire, grazing, fertilizing, salinity, soil compaction and damage by machinery (Wylie and Landsberg, 1987, p. 331-2).

Research in Queensland has shown a direct relationship between the modification of original tree cover and the severity of dieback. Of the 42 Eucalyptus species listed by Wylie (1986) as being dieback-affected in Queensland, 27 are known koala food trees, including such primary food species as *E. tereticornis*, *E. crebra*, *E. microcorys*, *E. propinqua* and *E. punctata*. This has major negative consequences for all koala populations.

### **CHANTELLE'S STORY**

Chantelle was rescued from Styles Road, Petrie and bought into the MKH on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1996. Magpies trying to protect their chicks had attacked her. After an initial health check (Body Score 7, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.2 kgs) it was discovered she had a pinky female in her pouch.

Both eyes were damaged in the attack but the extent of the injuries could not be ascertained. After treatment, her eyes were stitched closed to facilitate the healing process. Chantelle remained in care at MKH for approximately three months. I came to know her whilst working as a volunteer carer nurse at that facility and she was a favourite with everyone who came in contact with her.

The vet believed Chantelle's visual problems were temporary. However, it was discovered she was totally blind in one eye with limited vision in the other. QPWS policy at that time was to euthanise visually impaired koalas. Chantelle had excellent health and youth on her side as well as many MKH volunteers wanting her to be given the opportunity for survival.

QPWS gave PRKCC permission to radio track her and we were also charged with assessing her ability to cope with limited vision. Chantelle was collared, ear tagged and microchipped before being released into bushland above the North Pine Country Park on Dayboro Road in Petrie on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1996.

According to QPWS policy, koalas must be released into the same location they are rescued from. Chantelle was released into bushland above North Pine Country Park approximately 3 kms from her rescue location. It took Chantelle almost two years to get back to what we finally determined was her home range (Appendix 2).

We tracked Chantelle every day for the first seven days. During that period she appeared agitated, confused and disorientated. She was constantly raising her head and sniffing her surrounds. As the days passed she appeared to settle down and we felt more positive about her ability to cope.

Total panic ensued when we lost her signal on 10<sup>th</sup> November and began an unsuccessful visual search of the area. The tracker was taken to our expert in Whiteside to check for faults. He rang us on 16<sup>th</sup> November to let us know he found Chantelle in a property on the corner of Whiteside and Dayboro Road in Whiteside - over 2 kms from her previous location.

The property owner picked up Chantelle from Dayboro Road around 10pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November. She was totally confused and had been walking around in circles. He popped her in a box and bought her back to his place where he believed she would be "safer". Chantelle was recaptured and taken to MKH for a health check on 16<sup>th</sup> November (Body Score 6, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.2 kgs), her female pinky was found dead in the pouch. She was released back into North Pine Country Park the same day.

Over the next few months Chantelle moved in an easterly direction down through the body of North Pine Country Park. She would spend from two to four days in each tree, all of which were large koala food trees. To our dismay Chantelle began heading in the direction of Dayboro Road finally crossing safely sometime on 23rd February 97.

Chantelle's movements were purposeful as she headed in an easterly direction down the bushland dirt track towards acreage properties. We have observed many koalas using dirt tracks rather than crossing scrubby bushland.

By April 97 she had left the bush and settled down in Newlands Avenue for almost one month. Chantelle appeared relaxed and was managing well utilising the many large koala food trees dotting this large dog free acreage property. She visited nearly all of the properties along Frenchs Road and Normanhurst Court.

We began tracking her twice weekly. On 19<sup>th</sup> August 97 a koala rescuer was called to Normanhurst Court. A koala joey had fallen from the tree, along the roof and down into the gutter. It was rescued and put back with the mother who happened to be Chantelle. The joey fell again, we decided to catch both animals and take them to MKH for assessment.

Chantelle was fine (Body Score 7, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.6kgs), her collar was changed and she was released back into Normanhurst Court the next day. The injured 384-gram male joey named Pierre went into care but died on 22<sup>nd</sup> August from injuries sustained from the fall.

During the month of September Chantelle visited houses along Mona Vale Way and Lindfield Drive crossing Beeville Road several times. By October she had moved into Vera Murray Park (off Dayboro Road) where she stayed till early December 97. In January 98 Chantelle turned south heading towards Warrimoo Drive and Kuring-gai Chase. This area contains many large koala food trees to the rear of houses built close to the street line.

Chantelle continued heading in a southerly direction parallel to Beeville Road through Pymble Avenue in February 98 and into Wilf Crump Park where she stayed for one week. We spotted a large male at the same location who had clearly taken an interest in Chantelle and was following her from tree to tree.

When next we saw her she had moved some distance down Beeville Road probably precipitated by the male koala's pursuit. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 98, at 8 Killarney Court, I found a dead 50-gram male pinky at the base of the tree in which Chantelle was located. MKH could not determine the cause of death. Chantelle moved next door for two days. Curiously enough she went back to 8 Killarney Court, came to ground and spent some time sniffing the area at the base of the tree where her joey's body lay before moving on.

Her southerly journey continued during March and April 98 arriving at 5 Avery Court on 19<sup>th</sup> May 98 where she was seen mating. The male koala's attentions precipitated her shifting in a northeasterly direction into Bordeau Crescent.

By June 98 she had returned to James Hinkleman Gardens, located in the Petrie Water Purification Plant (PWPP). We believe this site was her original home range. The grassed and treed area of the Plant covers 4.25 hectares and contains a large number of different koala food trees of variable heights with many large, mature trees nestled amongst other natives. This area supports many koalas and provides a "safe" haven for a range of wildlife in spite of being surrounded by residential properties on all sides. Motor vehicle access is limited to daylight hours during the week and at night the site is closed to traffic. Dogs are unable to access the property because wire fencing encloses the Plant on all sides. The relatively safety of this location and the abundance of koala food trees played a crucial role in Chantelle's survival.

Wire fences were no obstacle to Chantelle. Staff at the Plant saw her feel her way along. She regularly climbed under or over the wire fence on the Avery Court, Victoria Court and Bordeau Crescent side of the Plant to access koala food trees at the back of the houses. In August 98 we were convinced that Chantelle had pouch young. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September we saw her joey's head emerging from the pouch for the first time. 'Totally Wild' filmed Chantelle and her female joey at James Hinkleman Gardens in September 98. The story celebrated her success in getting back home under challenging conditions. Chantelle moved to different vegetated areas within this location till May 99.

Ongoing problems with a fluctuating radio signal required a collar check. However she was never low enough in a tree to capture. By 9<sup>th</sup> October 99 the radio tracking signal had totally failed. We did visual checks every two days. In November a pool trap was erected around the isolated tree Chantelle was using. Somehow she managed to escape taking her joey with her. We found them in a near by tree none the worse for their experience.

Visual contact was lost in December 99 but we still spent 30 mins every two days wandering around the PWPP trying to find her. The help of local residents was enlisted via a letterbox drop of the streets abutting the Plant asking everyone to keep an eye out for her and to call us if she were sighted.

Chantelle and her joey were found on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2000 in Bordeau Crescent. We erected the trap and a call came in on 17<sup>th</sup> March informing us that Chantelle and her joey were caught. By the time we arrived Chantelle had escaped once again. I picked up the joey and her cries of protestation bought Mum down and both were taken to MKH for a health check.

Chantelle's fur was brown, typical of a lactating Mum in the latter stages of feeding a joey. She was in good health (Body Score 8, Toothwear 5.5, Weight 6.4 kgs) and her pouch contained a 40-gram male pinky. Chantelle's collar was replaced, a new left ear tag inserted to replace the one torn out and she was returned to James Hinkleman Gardens that afternoon.

We named the female joey Gi Gi (Body Score 8, Toothwear 1, Weight 3.1 Kgs - no young present). She went into care until her claws, worn down from escape attempts, had regrown. Gi Gi was then released into the PWPP on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

Because of ongoing problems receiving a radio signal visual checks were done every two days as Chantelle meandered around the PWPP and Victoria Court. The tracker was subsequently sent in for servicing. Chantelle was caught on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2000 and a new collar attached. Her male pinky weighed approximately 100 grams at that time and we named him Napoleon.

We spotted Gi Gi in Bordeau Crescent on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2000. From June to October Chantelle stayed in the PWPP crossing into Styles Road, St Denis Court, St Quentin Road and Bordeau Crescent, all of which abutted the Plant. On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2000 we saw young Napoleon for the first time and both were doing well. We checked on Chantelle and her joey every 3 days as she made her way along Woonara Drive outside the PWPP.

At the end of April 2001 we noticed a large male following Chantelle around and on 9<sup>th</sup> May we found her in a large poinsettia in Joorra Avenue close to Dayboro Road. This dangerous location required an intervention and she was relocated to James Hinkleman Gardens.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2001 Gi Gi was found dead after being hit by a car on Dohles Rocks Road in Kallangur. She had travelled approximately 15 kms in the 16 months since her release. The post mortem revealed that Gi Gi (Body Score 9, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.4 kgs) and her 600-gram pinky female had multiple internal and external injuries. We were deeply saddened by their deaths.

From May to 20<sup>th</sup> August 01 Chantelle moved around within her 4 km home range. On 21<sup>st</sup> August we were called to St Denis Court and found her on the ground walking in circles quite distressed after being harassed by a male koala. Chantelle was relocated to Woonara Drive just outside the PWPP.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, a car hit Chantelle on Dayboro Road. The driver helped her up a nearby tree before calling us. By the time we arrived she was too high to rescue. With the help of staff working at the Plant and several rescuers including ourselves a daily vigil was established at Woonara Drive. Chantelle stayed in the same tree till we rescued her on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A health check revealed she was very lucky only suffering scratches and bruising to her paws, arms and legs (Body Score 8, Toothwear 7.5, Weight 6.2 kgs). She was returned to James Hinkleman Gardens.

By January 02 we were pleased to report evidence of pouch young. In March fluctuating signal strength indicated that the battery on Chantelle's collar needed replacing. She was captured on 11<sup>th</sup> April and taken to MKH for a health check (Body Score 9, Toothwear 7.5, Weight 6.8 kgs). Wires extruding from the casing on her collar required a total collar change. We named her 3 month old furred female pouch young Seline.

Faulty equipment whether related to the collars or the radio tracking device proved to be an ongoing problem. Once again daily visual checks were the only way of keeping a track of Chantelle's whereabouts. On 20<sup>th</sup> July we captured her in Victoria Court and replaced her collar once again (Body Score 7, Toothwear 8, Weight 6.4 kgs). Seline was also given a thorough health check (Body Score 9, Toothwear 1, Weight 1.1 kgs) and both were released at the back of Victoria Court. By October 02

Seline began to separate from Chantelle with the distance between them growing till we lost sight of her in January 03.

Chantelle appeared to be coping well. In June 03 one of her favourite locations in Avery Court was sold. The new residents owned a Blue Heeler and told me in no uncertain terms they would not be restraining their dog at night. Staff from Pine Rivers Shire Council Animal Control Unit visited the property informing the residents of Local Law 42, which required them to keep their dog restrained when koalas were visiting. Chantelle still came to ground to access other koala food trees on this property but was never harmed by the dog. We saw her new joey on 31<sup>st</sup> July 03.

Chantelle began to rest and shelter in exotics during periods of strong winds, rain and heat. No untoward events occurred over the next 9 months as she moved around her home range. Chantelle frequented the same streets but occasionally checked out a different property on her travels.

In February 04 we learned that Chantelle's joey was a boy and named him Jacques. Over the next few months Chantelle's body condition began to deteriorate markedly. She moved towards the edge of her home range, eventually crossing Dayboro Road to utilise koala food trees in a vegetated strip abutting the road. At the beginning of May she was found in a large Blue Gum on the roads edge. We decided to capture Chantelle for a health check. With the help of another rescue team we attended the site twice daily. Chantelle was clearly experiencing problems and climbed further down the tree each day eventually coming to ground on 15<sup>th</sup> May 04. She made no attempt to elude capture and we picked her up leaving Jacques happily munching tip in a nearby tree.

Chantelle was admitted to the Koala and Wildlife Hospital in Beerwah in poor condition, suffering from dehydration and brown. A health check conducted by the Hospital Manager, Gail Gipp revealed her teeth were worn down to the gums in several places (Body Score 3, Toothwear 10, Weight 6.7 kgs). She had a female pinky weighing approximately 250 grams in her pouch. Neither would have survived if left to their own devices so Chantelle was admitted into care that day.

After an adjustment period Chantelle settled in and enjoyed the supplementary paste that she was fed twice daily. The condition of Mum and joey improved considerably and grey fur emerged through the brown. On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005 Chantelle's Body Score was 10, Toothwear 11 and Weight 6.5 kgs. Chantilly's Body Score was 9, Toothwear 1 and Weight 3.7 kgs. Both appear alert, bright, happy and content within the familiar surrounds of this outdoor enclosure.

## **REMARKS**

I have no doubt that Chantelle was stressed by the visual constraints imposed by her injuries. Both joeys conceived during the two years it took for her to reach her home range died. To release her under these circumstances without a radio tracking collar and regular checks would have been inhumane. We were able to intervene on many occasions to get her out of dangerous and life threatening situations. It is my belief that she would not have survived as long as she did without our help.

Chantelle dealt incredibly well with all the hazards of traversing unfamiliar ground and found her home range. This is an amazing feat for a visually impaired koala considering the challenges she faced on her journey. Upon reaching the Petrie Water Purification Plant she settled down and became more relaxed in her surrounds. There was a marked reduction in hyper vigilant activity. Interference from males usually sent her into unfamiliar territory, which clearly distressed her, however, once she returned to familiar ground, she became visibly more relaxed. Over the years Chantelle amazed us with her Houdini like skills in escaping traps and eluding capture.

QPWS considers reproductive viability an essential component for a successful release. If the ability to rear several joeys to sub adulthood meets that measure then her release was successful. Chantelle was a good, patient and caring mother. Although Pierre died, Gi Gi, Napoleon, Seline and Jacques grew into healthy young sub adult koalas. We noted that her joeys left her when they were ready rather than reverse.

Chantelle favoured large koala food trees specifically Spotted Gums, Blue Gums and Tallowwoods. She would stay in these trees for several days to a week at a time only coming to ground to access other food trees or escape from hormone crazed males. Many of the properties she visited on her travels contained large koala food trees as well as other natives. It is also true to say that many of these

trees have now been removed as properties have been subdivided. They have also been cut down for a range of other reasons that have nothing to do with the health of the tree.

Koalas continue to live wherever suitable habitat is to be found. Any significant reduction in the number of koala food trees will cause a reduction in the number of koalas, which can be supported. The distribution of the koala is related to the presence of preferred food trees and the koala primarily lives in trees growing on nutrient rich soils. Clearing continues with dieback and senescence causing a further decline in native vegetation particularly eucalypts (Reed, Lunney and Walker, 1991, p. 71) in many parts of Pine Rivers Shire and elsewhere.

The major threats to koalas in Pine Rivers in order of importance continues to be loss and fragmentation of habitat and mortality associated with cars and domestic dogs. Dique (2002) suggests that not all koalas hit by cars or attacked by dogs are reported which means the actual losses are certainly much higher. The reporting of sick and injured koalas has increased dramatically. We are seeing more koalas from Pine Rivers being admitted to the Koala and Wildlife Hospital in Beerwah from stress related chlamydial diseases.

The solution to these problems is clear and has been for many years. We must protect the koala's habitat with improved and effective legislation. The koala must be conserved within its preferred locations, namely the now largely degraded or cleared valleys of the east coast, ranges and tablelands and along the watercourses of the western slopes and plains (Reed, Lunney and Walker, 1991, p. 71). Funds are urgently required for land purchase, tree planting, habitat restoration and the development and preservation of safe wildlife corridors. Additional funding must be allocated to scientific research to determine the carrying capacity of remaining koala habitat.

## **CONCLUSION**

We learnt the value and importance of having efficient and reliable tracking equipment and the need to have several radio tracking collars, rather than just two. Radio tracking two koalas cannot add anything significant to scientific research. More research using a greater number of radio-collared koalas will reveal home range requirements and movement patterns that will be of use to the long-term survival of our urban/rural koala population. Results gleaned from such research could determine the viability of relocating koalas from urban areas destroyed by development into koala habitat located on land protected for a range of purposes including water catchment. In addition, the rehabilitation and regeneration of unsuitable bushland habitat protected from development could with hard work and financial investment support koalas and other wildlife in the future.

This tracking programme did highlight a number of things. It showed us that home ranges could be quite small provided the habitat is healthy and contains a variety of koala food trees as well as other natives. It proved that a visually impaired female koala could survive in the midst of suburbia provided residents are educated about the perils facing koalas and behave in a responsible fashion.

Residents living around Julie and Chantelle's home range became quite knowledgeable about koalas, their requirements and behaviour over the years. They developed a sense of "ownership" for these special koalas and began to understand on a deeper level that humans are a part of the natural environment and must do their bit to help support the wildlife dependent upon it.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank Pine Rivers Shire Council for the use of their maps and the help given by their staff. Audrey Casalaina, Environmental Officer deserves acknowledgement for her efforts in transferring the sightings of both koalas onto maps used in the PowerPoint Presentation. Additional thanks to the Koala and Wildlife Hospital in Beerwah for supplying some of the images used in the PowerPoint Presentation. A big thanks to Vicky Wilson, Secretary of Koala Action Pine Rivers Incorporated, she has helped turn this paper into an interesting and visually informative PowerPoint Presentation.

I acknowledge the forward thinking members of the Pine Rivers Koala Care Committee for implementing and supporting this radio tracking programme, to the Bray Park Holy Spirit Catholic School for funding two radio-tracking collars and to Pine Rivers Wildlife Preservation Society for the loan of its radio tracker.

Appendix 1

TRACKING JULIE

17th JULY 1999 to 8th MARCH 2001

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</u>
17.07.99	Located on the fence of a house at the corner of Youngs Crossing Road & Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Possible car hit taken to Moggill Koala Hospital on 18.07.99. Pinky female approximately 80 grams present. Body Score 8, Toothwear 6.5, Weight 6 kg.
18.07.99	Released into trees located at Merv Ewart Reserve on the corner of Youngs Crossing Road & Dayboro Road.	Fortunately Julie and her pinky female joey showed no evidence of any injuries.
22.07.99	Moved across Youngs Crossing Road onto the roadside verge behind the second house from the corner of Dayboro Road.	Julie was found sitting in a spindly tallowwood tree.
28.07.99	Travelled across 3 vacant lots facing Youngs Crossing Rd.	The clump of trees was scheduled for clearing in preparation to sell the vacant lots.
06.08.99 to 20.08.99	Clump of trees on a vacant lot facing Youngs Crossing Road.	Julie frequently moved to different trees within the clump for the entire period.
26.08.99	18 Mirrigan Court, Petrie.	This house had 3 mature koala food trees in the backyard.
31.08.99	Opposite 144 Dayboro Road.	A long stretch of native trees grew clumped together included several koala food trees grew at this location. They provided a buffer between Dayboro Road and the nearby houses.
03.09.99	22 Mirrigan Court	Once again several koala food trees were located on this property.
07.09.99 to 14.09.99	Opposite 142 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Moved to various trees within the treed section during this time.
22.09.99 to 29.09.99	Opposite 140 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Once again moved between trees.
01.10.99 to 24.10.99	Merv Ewart Reserve in Petrie.	Four large mature Eucalyptus tereticornis grew in this section. Already evidence of mistletoe and dieback were negatively impacting on all the trees at this location.
28.10.99	Opposite 142 Dayboro Road.	In the treed section.
04.11.99	Opposite 146 Dayboro Road.	In the treed section. Julie's female joey was seen on her belly for the first time.
18.11.99	Corner Dayboro Road & Youngs Crossing Road.	Another small clump of native trees including koala food trees were located on the corner.
24.11.99 to 24.12.99	Merv Ewart Reserve in Petrie.	Joey was clearly visible on her back as she moved from tree to tree during this time.
01.01.00 to 30.01.00	Corner Dayboro Road & Youngs Crossing Road.	Moving from tree to tree within the small clump of native trees at this location.
06.02.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Julie was snoozing in a food tree located in the stretch of native trees growing on the main road. Joey was in the same tree but no longer on Julie's back.
13.02.00	On a vacant allotment off Mirrigan Court.	Her joey was not located.
19.02.00	199 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Julie was resting in a large poinsettia tree, no sign of her joey.
24.02.00	On the vacant allotment off Mirrigan Court.	Julie had her joey with her. Local residents informed me that her joey was seen sitting on a nearby wooden fence crying and distressed the day before.
01.03.00	44 Mirrigan Court (inside the fence).	Both Julie and her joey were sharing the same tree.
08.03.00	16 Mirrigan Court.	No sign of her joey.
15.03.00	Corner of Dayboro Road & Youngs Crossing Road.	In a clump of trees on the road edge and no sign of her joey.
22.03.00	Corner of Dayboro Road & Youngs Crossing Road.	In a different tree in the same clump. No sign of her joey.
04.04.00	22 Mirrigan Court.	No sign of joey.
13.04.00	Merv Ewart Reserve	In a mature Blue Gum. I think her joey has dispersed.
20.04.00	Lower end of Merv Ewart Reserve, Petrie.	In a section of scrubby land containing just one koala food tree with other natives.
27.04.00	Opposite 155 Dayboro Road.	In a clump of native trees that included several koala food trees.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</u>
30.04.00	<i>8 koalas moved into the lower end of Merv Ewart Reserve in Petrie after bulldozers cleared land on the other side of Youngs Crossing Road.</i>	<i>A.V. Jennings conducted major tree clearing in the southwestern end of "Petrie on Pine" near the river. This took place over several days and a large stand of healthy koala food trees were torn down.</i>
04.05.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Located in a tallwood in a clump of native trees bordering the road verge.
11.05.00 to 18.05.00	Opposite 154 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Moved into a Blue Gum midst a clump of native trees bordering the road verge.
28.05.00	Top end of Merv Ewart Reserve.	Sitting basking in the sun in a mature Blue Gum.
03.06.00	Corner of Dayboro Road & Youngs Crossing Road.	In a clump of native trees on the corner.
11.06.00	Opposite 154 Dayboro Road.	Once again in a clump of native trees verging the road edge.
21.06.00	Opposite 148 Dayboro Road.	As above. Julie may have pouch young.
02.07.00	Top end of Merv Ewart Reserve, Petrie.	In a mature Blue Gum.
08.07.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road.	In a clump of native trees verging the road.
16.07.00	On vacant land in Mirrigan Court. Second lot down from Dayboro Road.	Other animals including Julie have used koala food trees on this site regularly.
20.07.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road.	In a clump of native trees verging the road.
03.08.00	On vacant land on Youngs Crossing Road.	Saw Julie's new joey for the first time on her belly.
10.08.00	18 Mirrigan Court, Petrie.	High in a Blue Gum enjoying the breeze.
17.08.00 to 24.08.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	In a clump of native trees that included several koala food trees.
31.08.00 to 05.10.00	Opposite 158 Dayboro Road.	Moved to various koala food trees and other natives in a stretch of trees that verge along the roads edge.
12.10.00	Opposite 154 Dayboro Road.	Once again in a clump of native trees verging the road.
19.10.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road.	In a clump of native trees that included several koala food trees.
26.10.00 to 23.11.00	Opposite 154 Dayboro Road.	Moving from tree to tree within a clump of native trees verging the road.
29.11.00 to 07.12.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road.	Utilising different trees within a clump of native trees that included several koala food trees.
14.12.00	Opposite 158 Dayboro Road.	In a spindly black wattle towards the end of the stretch of natives verging the roads edge.
21.12.00	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road.	Joey is now a back rider. Two other koalas located in the same stretch but in different trees.
01.01.01	Opposite 158 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	In a stretch of native trees verging the roads edge.
07.01.01	Vacant Lot 40 in the "Petrie on Pine" Estate.	Julie and her joey were in a clump of native trees facing Youngs Crossing Road.
14.01.01	Merv Ewart Reserve.	Julie is looking very brown and the trees on that side are suffering from severe dieback related problems.
21.01.01 to 28.01.01	Opposite 156 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Utilising different trees within a clump of native trees that included several koala food trees. Julie seems to be in poor condition.
04.02.01	Opposite 154 Dayboro Road.	Julie's poor condition is probably related to feeding her joey.
11.02.01	Opposite 158 Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Julie and her joey were located towards the end of the stretch of native trees verging the road edge.
22.02.01	In Merv Ewart Reserve.	I would like to catch her to check on her condition but she is always too high to reach with a flagging pole.
03.03.01	18 Mirrigan Court.	Sitting in a Blue Gum.
08.03.01	18 Mirrigan Court, Petrie.	Julie was attacked and killed by dogs. Her 1.3kg male joey was pushed up a tree. He was rescued, had a health check and being only 1.3 kg went into foster care. We called him Billy.

## Appendix 2

### TRACKING CHANTELLE 1<sup>st</sup> November 1996 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</u>
01.11.96	Released into bushland opposite North Pine Country Park on Dayboro Road.	Chantelle was keen to get out of the cage and up the Blue Gum but initially appeared distressed. She was left after 15 mins of observation and last seen eating leaf near the top of the tree.
02.11.96	Moved about 30 metres in a northeasterly direction.	Observed to be tilting her head frequently, moving up and down the tree constantly sniffing the air. She seemed agitated.
03.11.96	Moved another 80 metres in an easterly direction.	Still in what appears to be good bushland. Observed for 15 mins, ears flicking and restless - eventually she did settle into a tree fork.
04.11.96	Moved another 60 metres in an easterly direction.	Appears to settling down a little and not quite so agitated. Fell asleep in a tallwood.
05.11.96	Moved a further 150 metres in an easterly direction down to Sideling Creek, Petrie.	She was aware of the pipping sound of the tracker and was looking down. Reacts strongly to any unusual sound or movement from the ground.
07.11.96 to 09.11.96	In the first house (unnumbered) on the eastern side of Sideling Creek.	Several different species of mature koala food trees found on this property and the trees are in good condition. Informed residents of her situation and they will keep an eye on her. No dogs present.
10.11.96 to 16.11.96	Could not locate Chantelle at all. No signal on tracker.	Have lost contact. Checked location on a visual basis daily. Could be a tracker related problem - equipment being checked by Noel Blackford in Whiteside.
<b>16.11.96</b>	<b><i>Signal detected in Whiteside. Chantelle found at 4 Whiteside Rd. Whiteside (2 kms from previous location).</i></b>	<b><i>Resident found Chantelle walking around in circles in the middle of Dayboro Rd. at 10pm on 10.11.96. He caught her using a box and took her back to his place. Chantelle was taken back to MKH for a health check (Body Score 6, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.2) her pinky female was dead in the pouch and removed..</i></b>
17.11.96	Returned to bushland in North Pine Country Park, Petrie.	She was released into a stretch of koala food trees at the top of North Pine Country Park.
18.11.96 to 04.12.96	Bushland in North Pine Country Park, Petrie.	She has remained in approximately the same location changing trees and moving down towards the Historic Buildings at this location.
05.12.96 to 31.12.96	Still at North Pine Country Park moving around the hotel.	Chantelle is moving through the treed area near the hotel but at the rear of the property.
01.01.97 to 22.02.97	Still at North Pine Country Park but heading towards Dayboro Rd. Petrie.	She has been changing trees regularly remaining within 100 metres of the hotel. In February she started heading slowly towards the trees facing Dayboro Rd., which is of some concern.
23.02.97 to 15.03.97	Crossed Dayboro Rd. Petrie and began heading down the track.	Chantelle crossed the road overnight and is on the track opposite the hotel. She has been moving in an easterly direction changing trees every few days and ended up in Dave Burton Park near Frenchs Rd. Petrie.
16.03.97 to 06.04.97	On the heavily treed property at 12 Newlands Avenue, Petrie.	House lots are large with mature koala food trees located in the backyards of many properties. Won't be checking on her daily because she seems to be managing well.
10.04.97 to 15.04.97	Back of 23 Frenchs Road, Petrie.	In a mature Blue Gum.
20.04.97 to 30.04.97	Corner of Frenchs Road & Warringah Grove near Sideling Creek.	Chantelle is moving to different trees through the bushland at this site managing to cross the creek where water levels are low.
06.05.97 to 12.05.97	23 Frenchs Road.	In a mature Blue Gum.
17.05.97 to 20.05.97	26 Frenchs Road.	Many properties along this stretch of Frenchs Road have at least one mature koala food tree in the backyard, sometimes several.
25.05.97	27 Frenchs Road.	Directly opposite last sighting.
04.06.97 to 11.06.97	7 Normanhurst Court.	Sitting in a large Bottlebrush on 4.6.97 but when I checked later in the week she had moved into a Grey Gum.
18.06.97	34 Warringah Grove.	In a Spotted Gum.
25.06.97	7 Normanhurst Court.	In a Spotted Gum.
02.07.97	6 Normanhurst Court.	In a Blue Gum.
10.07.97	5 Normanhurst Court.	In a Bottlebrush.
18.07.97	3 Normanhurst Court.	In a Tallowwood.

*Give me a Home Among the Gum Trees - Radio Tracking Julie and Chantelle*  
Wanda Grabowski - Koala Act Pine Rivers Incorporated

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
23.07.97	5 Normanhurst Court.	In a palm tree.
29.07.97	6 Normanhurst Court.	Back in the Blue Gum.
05.08.97 to 13.08.97	3 Normanhurst Court.	Moving to different trees in this property. Several koala food trees of various heights located in the backyard.
<b>19.08.97</b>	<b>4 Normanhurst Court.</b>	<b>Resident told us a koala joey had fallen from the tree and rolled down the roof into the gutter. The joey was put back with Chantelle and it fell again. Both were captured and taken to MKH for assessment.</b>
<b>20.08.97</b>	<b>MKH - Chantelle checked out (Body Score 7, Toothwear 4 and Weight 5.6 kgs).</b>	<b>Chantelle's collar was replaced and she was released that day. The 384 gram injured male joey named Pierre was placed in care and died from his injuries on 22.07.97.</b>
20.08.97	3 Normanhurst Court.	Another female with belly rider located at the same location but in another tree.
23.08.97 to 30.09.07	During this period she stayed at all of the houses in Mona Vale Way, Petrie.	Chantelle moved backwards and forwards along this road stopping at various houses for several days. All houses have at least one or more koala food trees located on their properties.
05.09.97 to 15.09.97	During this period she moved from house to house in Linfield Drive.	Once again the houses along this street all have native trees in their yard with the vast majority growing at least one koala food tree.
21.09.97 to 01.12.97	Vera Murray Park runs off Dayboro Road, Petrie.	Chantelle spent time visiting all the koala food trees at this location.
06.12.97 to 11.12.97	Mezen Court.	Chantelle crossed Beeville Road and moved from tree to tree within a clump of native trees that included koala food trees.
17.12.97	52 Beeville Road.	Chantelle again crossed Beeville Road to this location and was feeding in a large, mature Blue Gum.
22.12.97 to 26.12.97	14 Warrimoo Drive.	Residents informed me that Chantelle had visited several houses in this street during this period.
01.01.98	7 Kuring-gai Chase.	This area contains quite a few koala food trees.
04.01.98	5 Kuring-gai Chase.	*****
13.01.98	7 Kuring-gai Chase.	*****
26.01.98	16 Warrimoo Drive.	*****
05.02.98	20 Pymble Avenue.	*****
10.02.98 to 17.02.98	Wilf Crump Park on the corner of Frenchs Road & Beeville Road.	This small park contains several different species of koala food trees and Chantelle moved from tree to tree during this period.
24.02.98	52 Beeville Road.	A male had been following Chantelle; this may have caused her to move.
06.03.98	8 Killarney Court.	I found a dead 50-gram male pinky at the base of the tree that Chantelle was sitting in. Cause of death could not be determined.
08.03.98	10 Killarney Court.	
10.03.98	8 Killarney Court.	Chantelle apparently spent quite some time on the ground sniffing the base of the tree where her baby was found.
18.03.98	49 Beeville Road.	
23.03.98 to 03.04.98	52 Beeville Road.	Chantelle spent the entire period sitting in either one of the two mature Blue Gums growing on this roadside property.
07.04.98	Vera Murray Park next to Oleron Terrace.	Once again Chantelle crossed Beeville Rd. to access this site.
10.04.98	39 Beeville Road.	Moved one block away.
14.04.98	54 Beeville Road.	Crossed the road again to get to this property.
21.04.98 to 28.04.98	52 Beeville Road.	Moved next door to previous location. Once again she moved to one or the other of the two mature Blue Gums growing on this property.
05.05.98	35 Beeville Road.	Crossed Beeville Road.
12.05.98	Car Park on the corner of Beeville Road. & Dayboro Road, Petrie.	The car park is large and contains many healthy mature koala food trees of various species.
19.05.98	Greg Pascoe Park.	This park is on the corner of Beeville Road and Relesah Drive contains two mature Blue Gums.
19.05.98	5 Avery Court.	Was seen mating.
26.05.98	18 Bordeau Crescent.	
02.06.98	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Directly opposite the Nursery at the Petrie Water Purification Plant. Many large koala food trees are growing on this site.
09.06.98	Reserve on Dayboro Road opposite Woonara Drive.	The reserve extends quite some distance along Dayboro Road and contains quite a few species of koala food trees.

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
14.06.98 to 05.07.98	Reserve on Dayboro Road opposite Woonara Drive, Petrie.	Chantelle moved from tree to tree throughout this period. At times she would spend several days in an individual tree.
10.07.98 to 19.07.98	On land behind 12 Victoria Court.	Chantelle stayed in the backyard of this house occasionally climbing the wire fence into trees at the rear of the Works Department land.
23.07.98 to 27.07.98	14 Victoria Court.	On Works Department land on the other side of the wire fence directly behind 14 Victoria Court.
31.07.98 to 19.08.98	Petrie Water Purification Plant	Chantelle is utilising several of the many koala food trees facing Woonara Drive at this site.
24.08.98	Greg Pascoe Park	Chantelle had been harassed by a male koala and moved across the Plant, over or under the wire fence, across Relesah Dr. and into the park.
28.08.98	11 Victoria Court.	Joey's head emerged from Chantelle's pouch.
02.09.98	14 Victoria Court.	Joey totally in pouch.
10.09.98 to 17.09.98	28 Bordeau Crescent, Petrie	This property contains 4 mature Blue Gums and Chantelle shifted trees several times during this period. Joey seen on all occasions.
<b>22.09.98 to 31.05.99</b>	<b>James Hinkleman Gardens at the Petrie Water Purification Plant</b>	<b>"Totally Wild" filmed Chantelle and her joey to celebrate two years back in suburbia. She was located every 2 days to determine her health and the status of her joey. Joey has emerged. Chantelle's fur looking very brown.</b>
08.06.99	At the rear of 28 Bordeau Crescent.	Utilising Blue Gums.
18.06.99	26 Bordeau Crescent.	Three mature Blue Gums and one Tallowwood are growing in the back yard. The radio-tracking signal has been fluctuating over the past month.
25.06.99 to 10.07.99	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle moves to various trees at this location. Additional koala food trees and other natives have recently been planted here to support the koala population utilising this site.
17.07.99 to 21.07.99	26 Bordeau Crescent, Petrie.	Chantelle was caught in the pool trap and her collar checked - did not disturb the female joey we have named Gi Gi.
28.07.99	49 St Quentin Road.	
06.08.99	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle has moved into a clump of native trees facing onto Woonara Drive.
13.08.99	Next to the Nursery.	She is in a mature Spotted Gum opposite James Hinkleman Gardens.
18.08.99	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Radio tracking signal still fluctuating, the problem must be with the tracker.
26.08.99 to 03.09.99	Works Department land.	Chantelle is feeding from koala food trees on Works Department land directly behind 5 Avery Court.
10.09.99	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	In trees near the Nursery.
17.09.99	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Still having problems getting a clear signal.
04.10.99	James Hinkleman Gardens.	At the rear of the Gardens facing Woonara Drive. Joey has emerged from her pouch.
<b>09.10.99</b>	<b>The tracking signal has totally failed.</b>	<b>We need to trap Chantelle and replace the collar after getting the tracker checked. Will be doing visual searches every two days.</b>
11.10.99 to 17.11.99	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle is moving to various trees throughout the area. She changes trees every few days and moves if disturbed by males.
<b>18.11.99</b>	<b>Petrie Water Purification Plant.</b>	<b>Set up the pool trap around an isolated Blue Gum and returned early the next morning to find she had somehow managed to get out of the trap with joey in tow. They were found in a nearby tree looking none the worse for escaping.</b>
20.11.99 to 22.12.99	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Checking Chantelle's whereabouts every two days as she moves across James Hinkleman Gardens. I found her near the ponds before she moved to the holding tanks on Woonara Drive.
<b>24.12.99 to 24.02.00</b>	<b>No visual contact was made of Chantelle or her female joey. I am very concerned that contact has been lost for this length of time.</b>	<b>Searches were conducted by two of us every two days. We walked around the site for 30 mins each time. I have enlisted the help of local residents by doing a letterbox drop of the streets abutting the Petrie Water Purification Plant. Have asked locals to keep an eye out for Chantelle and her joey.</b>
27.02.00	26 Bordeau Crescent.	Chantelle and her back rider in a large Blue Gum. Joey is well but Chantelle is very brown.
01.03.00 to 15.03.00	Still at 26 Bordeau Crescent, Petrie.	Erected the pool trap around the base of the tree and checked daily. Property owners checking several times during the night.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
17.03.00	26 Bordeaux Crescent.	<i>Chantelle and joey found in the trap. By the time we arrived Chantelle had escaped. I caught the joey and her cries brought Chantelle down. Both were taken to MKH for a health check.</i>
17.03.00	<i>Chantelle released into James Hinkleman Gardens.</i>	<i>Collar was changed. Missing left ear tag replaced. Body Score 8, Toothwear 5.5, Weight 6.4 kg - pouch held 40 gram male pinky.</i>
17.03.00	<i>Chantelle's female joey named Gi Gi - Body Score 8, Toothwear 1, Weight 3.1 kg in care.</i>	<i>Gi Gi's claws on all paws severely ground down in her attempts to escape the pool trap and follow her Mum. She will be going into care till the claws regrow. No young present during health check.</i>
22.03.00	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Signal still not clear. Tracker has gone into repair and will be checked out. Will do visual assessments.
24.03.00 to 24.04.00	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle is moving across the Gardens towards the filtration tanks. Changing trees every few days.
05.04.00	<i>Gi Gi released into the Petrie Water Purification Plant.</i>	<i>Gi Gi's claws have regrown and she was released into trees in the main body of the Plant.</i>
27.04.00	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Clump of trees near the wire fence facing Woonara Drive.
29.04.00 to 31.04.00	Not located.	A daily 30 min search did not reveal her whereabouts.
04.05.00	12 Victoria Court.	The tracker has been repaired but signal remains faint.
11.05.00	10 Victoria Court.	Ongoing signal problems require a collar change.
15.05.00	7 Relesah Drive.	Chantelle caught and collar replaced. Young male pinky now approximately 100 grams.
18.05.00	12 Victoria Court.	Residents informed us that Chantelle was originally attacked by magpie larks, not magpies.
28.05.00	5 Avery Court.	Located on the Works Department land behind the wire fence.
03.06.00	12 Victoria Court.	
11.06.00	20 Bordeaux Crescent.	
21.06.00	26 Bordeaux Crescent.	<i>Gi Gi sighted in a clump of Blue Gums.</i>
21.06.00 to 27.06.00	6 Styles Road.	Initially rescued from this location.
02.07.00	6 St Denis Court.	The backyards here contain several large koala food trees.
08.07.00	18 St Quentin Road.	
12.07.00 to 16.07.00	Back of the Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Large stretches of native trees that include koala food trees have been replanted between the more mature trees.
20.07.00	Woonara Drive.	On the other side of the wire fence enclosing the Water Purification Plant.
25.07.00 to 01.10.00	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle covered the entire area of the Plant utilising a range of mature koala food trees on this site.
05.10.00 to 14.10.00	28 Bordeaux Crescent.	Chantelle spent some time in each of the five mature koala food trees growing in the backyard.
19.10.00	Corner of St Quentin Road & Cambral Court.	Pouch quite large, saw a small foot dangling from the entrance.
26.10.00	12 St Denis Court.	Saw the joey for the first time on Mum's belly.
31.10.00	11 St Denis Court.	Both doing well.
03.11.00 to 20.11.00	10 St Denis Court.	The backyards of many of the houses in this area contain quite a few large koala food trees. We have named the joey Napoleon and both are looking good.
23.11.00	Outside the Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle and Napoleon in a Swamp Mahogany facing Woonara Drive.
29.11.00	30 Woonara Drive.	
07.12.00	31 Woonara Drive.	
14.12.00	39 Woonara Drive.	
21.12.00	31 Woonara Drive.	
26.12.00 to 01.01.01	12 St Denis Court.	Many of the houses in this area contain quite a few large koala food trees. Napoleon is a back rider now.
07.01.01 to 16.02.01	27 Woonara Drive.	An extremely large mature Blue Gum in excellent condition grows on the corner of this property. Checks done every 3 days and they move to different parts of the tree.
21.02.01 to 04.05.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle has been moving to different trees throughout the site. At times Napoleon is in the same tree or very close by.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
09.05.01	4 Joora Avenue, Petrie.	A large male followed Chantelle over the last week. She moved out of her home range and was found in a large poinsettia near Dayboro Road. It's too dangerous here and she was caught and released back into James Hinkleman Gardens.
16.05.01 to 26.05.01	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Moving to different trees during this period and was last sighted opposite the Nursery.
31.05.01	12 Victoria Court.	
08.06.01	5 Avery Court.	
14.06.01 to 22.06.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	In trees close to the Nursery.
29.06.01	James Hinkleman Gardens.	
05.07.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	In trees facing Woonara Drive.
16.07.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Moved to another clump of koala food trees.
28.07.01 to 29.07.01	28 Bordeau Crescent.	The residents have two Staffordshire Terriers. I spoke to them about Chantelle. They will keep their dogs in at night until she moves on.
<b>03.08.01</b>	<b><i>Gi Gi found dead after being hit by a car on Dohles Rocks Road in Kallangur.</i></b>	<b><i>Body Score 9, Toothwear 4, Weight 5.4 kgs - multiple internal and external injuries to the mother and the 600-gram pinky female in her pouch. Gi Gi has been on the move since her release into the PWPP on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2000. We are deeply saddened by their deaths.</i></b>
07.08.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Near the settling ponds facing Woonara Drive.
14.08.01 to 20.08.01	31 Woonara Drive.	Moving to different trees during this period.
21.08.01	7 St Denis Court.	Attacked by a male koala during the night. Chantelle came to ground, agitated and distressed. She was relocated back to the Petrie Water Purification Plant.
22.08.01 to 30.08.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle moved to various trees during this period.
<b>06.09.01</b>	<b><i>Hit by a car on Dayboro Road. The driver helped her up a tree and now she is too high to rescue.</i></b>	<b><i>We will be checking her on a daily basis till she is low enough to rescue. Have informed the staff at the Petrie Water Purification Plant to keep an eye on her and ring us immediately if she comes lower down the tree.</i></b>
<b>10.09.01</b>	<b><i>Woonara Drive in front of the offices in the Petrie Water Purification Plant.</i></b>	<b><i>Chantelle was rescued and taken into MKH for a health check. Body Score 8, Toothwear 7.5, Weight 6.2 kgs. Scratches and bruising to the paws of her arms and legs.</i></b>
11.09.01 to 20.09.00	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Changed trees several times.
25.09.01 to 25.10.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle moved down towards the settlement ponds and into trees facing Woonara Drive.
30.10.01 to 20.11.01	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Used a range of trees during this period - she generally favours Spotted Gums, Blue Gums and Tallowwoods.
25.11.01 to 05.12.01	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle moved back into the main body of the Plant.
10.12.01	15 Woonara Drive.	
15.12.01	20 Woonara Drive.	
21.12.01	6 Cambral Court.	
28.12.01	8 Styles Road.	
03.01.02 to 28.01.02	St Quentin Road.	Chantelle visited all the houses along this road containing koala food trees during this period.
02.02.02	51 Belrose Avenue.	Chantelle has never been here before.
07.02.02	11 Chartres Court.	Clear evidence of pouch young - belly moving.
12.02.02	12 St Denis Court.	
17.02.02 to 27.02.02	9 St Denis Court.	
04.03.02	10 St Quentin Road.	

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
10.04.02 to 18.04.02	8 Styles Road.	
<b>24.03.02</b>	<b><i>Signal fluctuating, the battery probably needs replacing.</i></b>	<b><i>Unable to locate her although Styles Road and the streets off St Quentin Road were checked.</i></b>
<b>11.04.02</b>	<b><i>26 Bordeau Crescent.</i></b>	<b><i>Chantelle caught, wires extruding from casing around her neck - changed collars. Body Score 9, Toothwear 7.5, Weight 6.8 kgs - her furred female pouch young has been named Seline.</i></b>
15.04.02	10 St Quentin Road.	
20.04.02 to 29.04.02	James Hinkleman Gardens.	
03.05.02 to 10.05.02	Moving along the side of James Hinkleman Gardens.	Utilising trees at the back of Victoria Court and finally found at the rear of 5 Avery Court.
23.05.02	Works Department land.	Other side of wire fence near 5 Avery Court.
28.05.02 to 15.07.02	Chantelle is moving between Victoria & Avery Court.	Old collar is still problematic, doing daily visual checks. Local residents and Works Dept staff are keeping an eye on her.
<b>20.07.02</b>	<b><i>12 Victoria Court.</i></b>	<b><i>Took Chantelle and Seline into MKH - replaced collar. Chantelle Body Score 7, Toothwear 8, Weight 6.4 kgs. Seline Body Score 9, Toothwear 1, Weight 1.1 kgs.</i></b>
24.07.02 to 30.07.02	Works Dept land behind Victoria Court and Avery Court.	Chantelle and Seline moved from tree to tree along the wire fenceline behind the houses.
01.08.02 to 10.08.02	5 Avery Court.	
15.08.02 to 25.08.02	12 Victoria Court.	
30.08.02	5 Avery Court.	
05.09.02	12 Victoria Court.	
12.09.02	5 Avery Court.	
19.09.02 to 26.09.02	12 Victoria Court.	
05.10.02 to 24.10.02	Moved between 10 & 12 Victoria Court and 5 Avery Court.	Chantelle and Seline are climbing wire and timber fences to feed and shelter in different trees. Both are fine.
31.10.02	3 Avery Court.	Seline has been sitting several branches away from Chantelle.
07.11.02 to 21.11.02	5 Avery Court.	Seline is in a different tree from Chantelle and the distance between them has been growing.
28.11.02 to 04.12.02	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Chantelle is looking poorly, fur is brown and bones are protruding.
11.12.02	Woonara Drive.	Near the side of the road, her poor condition is clearly evident.
15.12.02	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Inside the wire fence facing Woonara Drive.
20.12.02 to 25.12.02	James Hinkleman Gardens.	A male koala has been in hot pursuit.
10.01.03	29 Boona Street.	On the corner of Woonara Drive.
12.01.03	12 St Quentin Road.	Chantelle's appearance is improving now Seline has gone.
29.01.03	12 Styles Road.	Despite the very wet weather Chantelle is looking better.
05.02.03	6 St Quentin Road.	
10.02.03 to 27.02.03	8 Styles Road.	No sign of Seline.
04.03.03 to 27.03.03	On Works Dept. land moving between Avery Court & Victoria Court.	
03.04.03	5 Avery Court on the Works Department land.	The new residents have a Blue Heeler Cattle dog and have been informed of Chantelle's presence.
10.04.03	Behind 10 Victoria Court.	On Works Department land.
17.04.03	Behind 5 Avery Court.	On Works Depart. Land.

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
24.04.03 to 28.04.03	5 Avery Court.	Chantelle has come to ground to change trees several times without problems from the dog so far.
01.05.03 to 08.05.03	On Works Department land moving between Avery Court & Victoria Court.	
12.05.03 to 16.05.03	James Hinkleman Gardens.	
20.05.03 to 29.05.03	12 Victoria Court.	She is at the back of the property on Works Land and is looking very wet and bedraggled after the rain.
05.06.03 to 09.07.03	5 Avery Court.	The new residents have removed all the smaller koala food trees planted by the previous resident. They were about one metre high.
14.07.03	James Hinkleman Gardens.	High in a blue gum, definite bulge in the belly region.
24.07.03	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Chantelle was located in trees on the Woonara Street side.
31.07.03	James Hinkleman Gardens.	Chantelle looking cool in watered conditions of the gardens. Saw the head of her pouch young for the first time.
07.08.03 to 19.08.03	5 Avery Court.	Chantelle favours the trees at the side of the property.
22.08.03	10 Victoria Court	At the back of the property near the fence line.
03.09.03 to 11.09.03	5 Avery Court.	Chantelle has been in the same tree for the entire time. The dog's presence may be hindering her movements.
17.09.03	8 Victoria Court.	Moved into a shady leopard bark tree, pouch area enlarged.
24.09.03	9 Releash Avenue.	In a Tulip tree, fur looking a little brown.
02.10.03	11 Victoria Court.	In a large blue gum, foliage looks better - not so dry.
13.10.03	5 Avery Court.	Back in the blue gum at the side of the property.
06.11.03	30 Bordeau Street.	It was a hot day and she was sheltering in a Poinciana.
20.11.03	1 Cambral Court	Another hot day, she was low in the shade of a Swamp Mahogany - belly protruding with a pouch young.
25.11.03	James Hinkleman Gardens	Chantelle was in the far corner of the Gardens, high in a blue gum.
02.12.03	James Hinkleman Gardens	In the middle of the gardens, quite exposed to the pouring rain.
10.12.03	Petrie Water Purification Plant	In a blue gum near the Gardener's Hut.
19.12.03	17 St Quentin Road.	In a spotted gum.
29.12.03	11 St Quentin Road.	In a spotted gum.
07.01.04	10 St Quentin Road	This area is quite breezy and she is sitting in a Blue Gum.
11.01.04 to 22.01.04	11 St Quentin Road.	Several gums at this house including a large spotted gum. Have not been able to determine the gender of the joey as yet.
29.01.04	17 St Quentin Road.	Again she was at the front of the property, more gums at the side of this location.
09.02.04	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Woonara Street side, inside the plant near the concrete tanks, joey on belly - she was hot, panting and in full sun.
17.02.04	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Woonara Street side, between the above ground concrete tanks and the in ground concrete tanks. Joey's head was inside pouch drinking.
24.02.04 to 12.03.04	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Woonara Street side, in the replanted section towards the middle of the plant. The joey is a boy we named him Jacques. Saw another Mum with a joey and 2 males nearby.
18.03.04	4 Woonara Drive.	Sitting in a blue gum opposite the Water Purification Plant. Had a good look at Jacques who is clearly doing very well.
22.03.04	Opposite 6 Woonara Drive.	Chantelle and her son are sitting in a Swamp Mahogany.
02.04.04	Petrie Water Purification Plant.	Facing Woonara Street in the middle of the site.
09.04.04	Woonara Drive.	Outside Water Purification Plant, on the edge of the road in a Swamp Mahogany. Jacques is sitting on a branch underneath Chantelle.
14.04.04	Woonara Drive.	Further down from the previous location and heading towards Dayboro Road.
21.04.04	Dayboro Road.	Located in a Blue Gum on the roadside edge of Dayboro Road, directly in front of Woonara Street. Jacques is sitting further up.
23.04.04	Dayboro Road.	She has moved further down the pathway, Jacques is above her and another male even higher in the same tree. This is a bad place for a visually impaired koala to be.
28.04.04	Dayboro Road.	In a different tree within the clump. Chantelle's fur is looking brown and I have some concerns about her condition. Jacques is in the tree next to her.

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>
<i>05.05.04</i>	<i>Dayboro Road.</i>	<i>Both Jacques and Chantelle are in a Blue Gum. I would like to give Chantelle a health check and have contacted another rescue team living in the area to keep an eye on her. If she moves lower into the tree we will try to catch her. Jacques looks big enough to manage on his own.</i>
11.05.04	Dayboro Road almost opposite Woonara Drive	Chantelle has moved into a mature Blue Gum next to the road - she is too high for a rescue attempt.
<i>15.05.04</i>	<i>Corner of Dayboro Rd and Woonara Drive (the housing estate side)</i>	<i>Chantelle is moving lower down the tree. It was about an hour before she struggled to the ground. She was taken to the Koala and Wildlife Hospital at Beerwah. We left Jacques munching away happily.</i>
<i>15.05.04</i>	<i>Koala and Wildlife Hospital at Beerwah</i>	<i>Chantelle was admitted to care suffering from dehydration. She was flat, looking brown and made no attempt to elude capture. Upon examination her teeth were worn down to the gums in several places.</i>

### Appendix 3

#### ODE TO JULIE

A koala we call Julie  
Was killed by two dogs today.  
Is this just a dull statistic?  
To write down and then file away?

No way! That's not the case at all!  
Because for months and months on end  
As we tracked her every movement  
Julie became a much-loved friend.

And although we're clearly saddened  
And most upset about her fate  
From all the many things we've learned  
There's so much to appreciate.

Statistics she has given us  
Are now data on which to act.  
Carefully collected details  
About her life and habitat.

The data bank from Julie's life  
Will serve her kind forever more  
And will help Koala carers  
To solve the problems we explore.

Julie's short life was not a loss  
For Julie had so much to teach  
Growing human populations  
About some goals within our reach.

Growing human population  
With its expanding urban sprawl  
Means the bush is always shrinking  
As highly valued trees will fall.

This is a price that we must pay  
But there's a bigger one to come  
We must replace the trees we've lost  
Or to bigger troubles we'll succumb.

We all know we need trees to breathe.  
In that great fact there's nothing new.  
So when we plant the trees we must  
Spare a thought for our fauna too.

Their survival is linked with ours  
So we must really understand.  
Conservation is harmony  
Between human kind and the land.

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## Appendix 4

### CHANTELLE

Come gather around I've a tale to tell  
About a young lady her name is Chantelle.  
She is small and cute and she lives near me  
Sometimes we see her in an old gum tree.  
Other times we see her down by the creek  
Or crossing a road like she did last week.

She is a koala all furry and grey.  
Her movements are plotted by night and day.  
It's not too hard, she's easy to follow  
Around her neck is a radio collar.  
She's only a koala; so, why the fuss?  
It just so happens she is special to us.

Her saga began at that time of year -  
That time when the baby magpies appear.  
Animals or children, women and men  
Nothing that moves can find safety from them.  
This time of year magpies get highly strung.  
***All of their instincts protecting their young.***

When magpies attack they swoop from the skies  
Trying hard to peck out their victim's eyes.  
For us who are mortal try not to judge  
As this is nature's way and she won't budge.  
Who are we to say what is right or wrong  
About what has worked so well for so long?

This was the time Chantelle chanced to be  
Wrong time of the year, wrong place, and, wrong tree.  
Magpies saw this as a koala attack.  
They came from above, the sun at their back.  
The bombardment it took Chantelle by surprise.  
In the first assault she lost one of her eyes.

Pressing her face against the branch of a tree  
Would seem the best way to give the best chance  
To protect her eyes and sight from the threat  
That kept on coming but she couldn't get  
To a position where safety was assured.  
That's how it happened - the other eye was gored.

And that's how Chantelle was found to be blind.  
Faced with the dilemma be cruel to be kind,  
Koala carers weren't sure what to do  
Left blind in the wild was something they knew  
Would give young Chantelle no chance to survive.  
Should she be put down or be kept alive?

Euthanasia was logical they were sure.  
But heart strings demanded do not ignore  
Something that was clear and so plain to see  
Chantelle, she had courage and personality.  
Thought of the choices still gives me shivers  
Fate would decide she return to Pine Rivers.

Help must be given before she could roam  
There in the trees in the Shire of her home.  
Moggill, is a name that means "water lizard",  
and the name of place where there's a wizard,  
Just one of a team for koala health,  
A vet who made the final choice himself.

And so the team with their science and skill  
Performed delicate surgery that thrills me still.  
How it happened I can't understand why.  
70% vision restored to one eye.  
Their labour of love they would discover  
Well worth the effort - Chantelle would recover.

There are problems to face as time goes by.  
Can Chantelle survive with only one eye?  
An eye that's not really working too well?  
That is something that only time will tell.  
Whatever her future I still have to smile  
At a chance that was given to make it worthwhile.

Don't know that much about logical stuff.  
Don't know when to quit when I've had enough.  
But I love a tale where the heart ruled the mind  
Over-riding the choice "be cruel to be kind".  
I want to believe Chantelle wins her fight  
Proving just for a change the heart can be right.

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Character Kaleidoscope  
Vol 2: "A Funburnt Country"

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