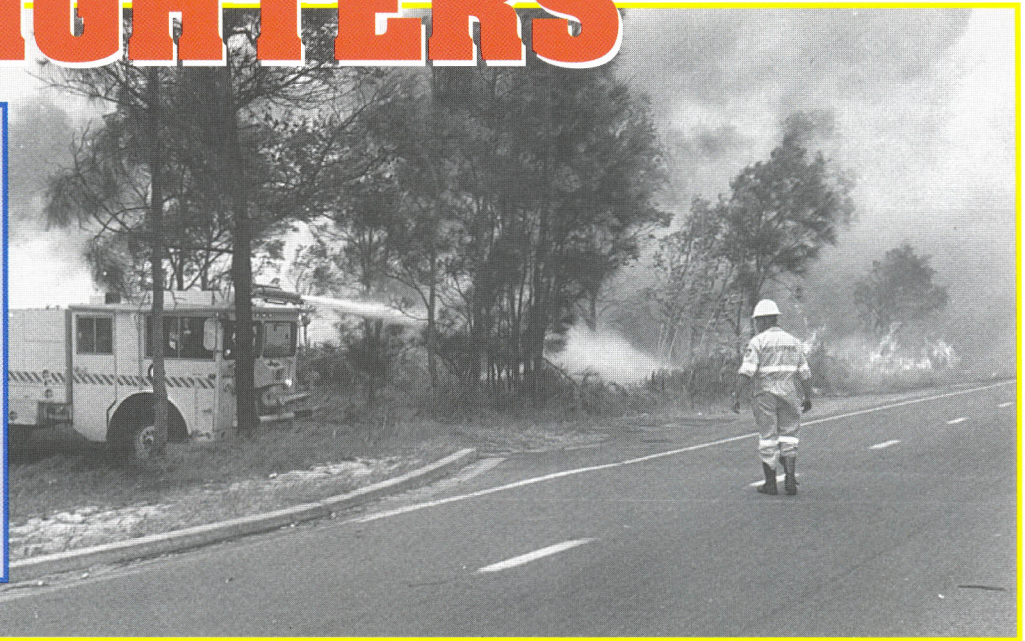


SULPHIDE FIRE FIGHTERS

The Sulphider pays tribute to those employees who volunteered their time and risked their lives to save property and lives during the January 1994 bushfires. Many Sulphide employees assisted in fighting fires; rescuing burnt and injured native animals; or endured hardships as a result of the fires.

The Sulphider interviewed several employees whose lives were touched by the January bushfires.
More stories pages 4 & 5.



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Koala Rescue



Left: Occupational Health Nurse Margaret Mavin nurses the badly burnt "Cinders".

Below: "Lenny" being fed 'milk' by syringe.



During the recent bushfires Occupational Health Nurse, Margaret Mavin, was actively involved in rescuing and caring for injured koalas.

Margaret is a member of the Awaba Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and was called upon by Audrey Koosmen, President of The Native Animal Trust Fund - Hunter Region, to assist in the rescue of injured animals.

"We had a four wheel drive vehicle so we could go right into the burnt areas and liaise with the Port Stephens Bushfire Brigade," Margaret said.

Audrey together with Margaret and her husband Sammy, a Mobile Crane Driver at Sulphide, went to the Raymond Terrace area to look for any burnt or injured animals, particularly koalas.

"During one of our searches we saw a lot of dead animals, but were able to save a mother and baby koala and a large male koala we named 'Lenny'."

"We also picked up a dehydrated male koala 'Ben' from a resident in Tanilba Bay. This was transported to another carer in the area," she added.

The other animals were transported in special

rescue boxes to Audrey's home at Toronto.

Each afternoon after work Margaret changed the dressing on 'Lenny's' badly burnt feet.

The volunteers set up a home base at Williamstown Community Hall, searching every day for injured animals.

Margaret talked about one special koala named 'Cinders', who was found in a very poor condition eight days after the fires.

"I became very attached to Cinders because every afternoon I had to dress the burns and hand feed her. Now Cinders will only take food from me."

"We also needed to collect specific species of gum leaves daily, as adult koalas can eat up to 10 kilograms of leaves each day," she said.

'Cinders' is now recovering well, and thanks to Margaret's attention, she is being rehabilitated and can now sit in a tree and has had her first walk. Margaret said it will be months, though, before her hands and feet will be tough enough for the bush.

"The experience has been unbelievable and very rewarding," Margaret said.