



**Friends of the Koala**  
**NWC Grant Report**  
**2023-2024**





# We have one goal: to save koalas from extinction

**For over 35 years, Friends of the Koala has been on the frontline of the battle to save the species.**

We are a grassroots organisation with close to four decades of experience working on critical, on-the-ground activities to conserve habitat and protect koalas individually and as a species. We have a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by koalas in our region.

We are the people that do the work, every single day. We rescue, rehabilitate and release koalas, protect and enhance habitat, assist with and initiate relevant research, educate the community and advocate on behalf of koalas at a local, state, and national level.

With 527 members, 251 active volunteers, and 5 permanent staff members, we operate the largest Koala Hospital on the East Coast of Australia. We tend to hundreds of sick, injured, and orphaned koalas each year. This is the only specialised Koala Hospital in the Northern Rivers, a region that is home to a significant, genetically diverse koala population.

Our holistic approach makes us especially effective. With our volunteers contributing 75,500 volunteer hours per year, Friends of the Koala keep operational costs extremely low, so your support goes further.

Friends of the Koala are a not for profit organisation. Revenue earned through membership, donations, nursery, partnerships and merchandise sales, goes directly back into the support, care and conservation of koalas in the Northern Rivers and beyond.

*Friends of the Koala acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Bundjalung Country. We recognise their enduring connection to this land, water and communities. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.*

*Our work is guided by their wisdom in sustainable stewardship and respect for all creatures particularly the koala. We are humbled to contribute to this legacy, recognising that this land always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.*



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*Friends of the Koala's holistic approach to koala conservation is something IFAW champions because we share the belief that koalas are ambassadors for Australian wildlife. When we protect them and their habitat, we give countless other animals a chance to thrive.*

**International Fund for Animal Welfare**



# Thank you

Dear NSW Wildlife Council,

We are pleased to report on the progress of project to increase the amount of koala rehabilitation runs at Friends of the Koala, for which we received generous funding through the NWC Grant.

Thanks to the support from a variety of partners and the NSW Wildlife Council, we have made substantial headway in increasing the capacity to rehabilitate koalas at our Koala Hospital & Care Centre. We have successfully completed the installation of the runs, fencing, plumbing & drainage systems, and the purchase of bins for leaf storage and leaf pot holders. Additionally, the koala tree log stands funded through the NWC grant have been purchased and installed. With a group of dedicated volunteers, including our plantation maintenance team which has collected the required logs and our Koala Care & Maintenance team who have designed and installed the stands, we are now able to house an additional 22 koalas on site at our Koala Hospital and Care Centre.

Our commitment to koala conservation has never been stronger, especially in the wake of the Black Summer fires, the 2022 floods and the ongoing increase in threats to koalas due to loss of habitat, car hits, dog attacks and disease. These events have highlighted the critical need for increased capacity to care for koalas, which our improved facilities will greatly support.

We are confident that the outcomes of this grant will have a lasting positive impact on the koala population in the Northern Rivers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support, not only through this grant, but also the insurance you offer and your advocacy for wildlife, all of which has been instrumental in our ongoing efforts to protect koalas. It is through partnerships like this that we continue to inspire and educate on the importance of wildlife conservation together.

Warm regards,

Silva Everaers  
General Manager





# Our Impact

## Our People

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**251** Active volunteers

**527** Members

**5** Permanent staff members



## Koala Hospital & Care Centre

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**2000+** Koalas released

**100+** Koalas vaccinated

**6000+** Koalas rescued

**10** Additional rehabilitation runs ready to use



## NSW Wildlife Council Grant

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**\$3,300** Koala stands - McKeeco Engineering

**\$660** Bunnings - screws timber & equipment for stands





# Friends of the Koala

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