

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mother's Day at the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital: A Celebration of Koala Mums and Joeys and their Resilience and Recovery

Northern Rivers, NSW, Australia – As Mother's Day has started, Friends of the Koala and their Northern Rivers Koala Hospital share heartwarming tales of survival, inviting the community to celebrate the resilience of koala mothers and joeys, and the unwavering dedication of wildlife rescuers, carers and veterinary teams. This year has been particularly challenging for NSW's busiest Koala Hospital, with a record 22 orphaned and injured joeys in care, part of a 20% increase in admissions of koala patients at the hospital.

One touching story involves Tara and her joey Graham, who faced a critical situation when Graham was entangled in a barbed wire fence, while his mum Tara was nearby unable to help. "Graham's journey was fraught with pain from severe injuries and shock, necessitating multiple surgeries and intense care." explained Dr Jodie Wakeman, Veterinary Clinical and Research Director. "Barbed wire injuries can cut off the blood supply to tissues and sometimes the full extent of the damage is not known for several days or weeks." Under the watchful care of the hospital staff and volunteers, Tara and Graham have now returned to the wild, their bond intact and spirits high.

Lilian and her joey Valley's journey began with a car accident where Lilian was badly injured, but her joey Valley, who was estimated to be about three and a half months old, was protected in her pouch. Despite Lilian's initial paralysis and head injury, she has made a miraculous recovery. "Observing Lilian regain her strength and coordination has been incredibly inspiring. It's a testament to her resilience, and the care we strive to provide," Dr Jodie Wakeman remarked. Their story has reached a happy conclusion as they have released back into their natural habitat, where Valley will be able to explore life outside of his mum's pouch in the wild.

In the spirit of Mother's Day, Friends of the Koala offers a unique gift option: adopting a koala. This sustainable gift supports the ongoing care and treatment of koalas like Kookie, a former hand-reared joey released in March 2023 who has matured into a nurturing mother herself. Kookie spent six months in home care and Koala Kindy at Friends of the Koala after her mum was hit by a car in September 2022. A member of the public saw the accident and found Kookie on the road, thrown from her mum's back. Their immediate call to the 24/7 Friends of the Koala rescue hotline saved Kookie's life. "Seeing Kookie thriving and now mothering her own pouch joey fills us with immense joy. It's a beautiful reminder of the impact of our work," shared Dr Jodie Wakeman.

Silva Everaers, General Manager at Friends of the Koala, highlighted the essential role of the organisations 300 volunteers, who are crucial to these success stories. "Our volunteers tirelessly nurture these koalas back to health. Their commitment is the heartbeat of our operations." she stated. With the rise in koala admissions, the need for donations is more pressing than ever to secure medical supplies, equipment, and veterinary treatment. "We urge the community to help us continue this vital work. Your support, whether through donations or adopting a koala, makes a real difference."

This Mother's Day, celebrate the remarkable stories of motherhood and recovery at Friends of the Koala. Consider adopting a koala as a meaningful gift that contributes to the welfare of these cherished animals and supports the heroes behind their rescue and care. Personalised koala adoption e-certificates arrive in your inbox straight away.

Adopt a koala this Mother's Day at <https://friendsofthekoala.org/adopt-a-koala/>.

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