

Friends of the Koala

Annual Report 2023/2024



A photograph of two koalas on a tree branch. One koala is in the foreground, looking towards the camera, while another is slightly behind it. The background shows out-of-focus foliage with autumn-colored leaves.

Contents

Introduction	03
Our impact in 2023/2024	04
Patron's message	06
President's report	07
General Manager's report	08
Financial report	09
Koala Data	11
Data Management	12
Northern Rivers Koala Hospital	13
Koala Research	14
Rescue	15
Hotline	16
Leaf Harvest	17
Plantation Maintenance	18
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	19
Northern Rivers Koala Partnership	21
Community Education and Engagement	22
Advocacy	23
Area Coordinators	24
Emergency Response	26
Our Partners	27

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 484 members, 221 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 55,500 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.



“

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



Our impact in 2023/2024

Koala Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

344	Koalas rescued	33%	Release rate
114	Koalas released	7,188	Hotline calls answered
81	Koalas vaccinated		
Only	Koala Hospital in the region		



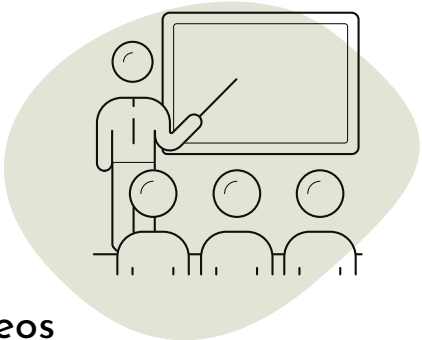
Habitat Protection and Enhancement



40,247	Trees distributed free of charge
2,490	Trees sold
4,647	Trees planted
\$160,000	Habitat restoration project funding secured

Community Engagement and Education

650+	People educated through tours at Friends of the Koala
26	Local schools, markets and events attended
9,713	Subscribers to monthly e-newsletter
1	Regional Koala Count
1	Northern Rivers Koala Conversation
21,500+	Views of new educational web pages and videos



Our impact in 2023/2024

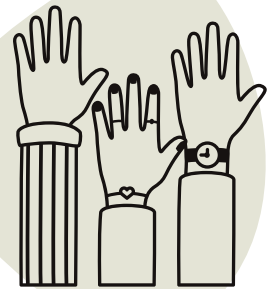
Advocacy



- 10** Submissions to development applications
- 7** Presentations at Council meetings
- 7** Attendants at the NSW Koala Summit, 1 submission to NSW Koala Strategy review
- 50+** Letters to and meetings with politicians at local, state and federal level
- 10** Regional Koala Network & Partnership meetings hosted

Our People

- 221** Active volunteers
- 55,500+** Volunteer hours
- \$2,564,100** Value of volunteer hours
- 484** Members, 83% in the Northern Rivers
- 5** Permanent staff members



Financial Sustainability

- 1448** Individual donations from over 39 countries
- 1819** Adopt a Koala packages purchased
- 4** Bequests received





Patron's message

Friends of the Koala's mission is to make a key contribution to Australia's biodiversity by ensuring the conservation of the iconic koala and the preservation and enhancement of koala habitat, particularly in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. Introduced in the Strategic Plan 2013-2018, the statement still serves us well.

Our region is a long-acknowledged koala stronghold. Despite the relentless hunting which persisted locally into the Depression, the first official NSW koala survey conducted in 1949 concluded that their greatest density was on the Far North Coast. Of the 109 'colonies' identified across NSW, 26 were north of the Clarence River.

Three-quarters of a century later and koala monitoring is a regular occurrence in the Northern Rivers, at least in the four local government areas (LGAs) which have comprehensive koala plans of management (CKPoMs) in place. During this year Lismore, Byron and Ballina councils all surveyed koala activity in the areas covered by their CKPoMs. Tweed's will commence later in 2024. Records collected by Friends of the Koala are an important component of local koala monitoring.

Not unexpectedly, Byron and Ballina's surveys of their coastal koalas show they are struggling. In Byron, only 23 of the 76 sites surveyed demonstrated koala activity; two 'significant'. 70% of sites were inactive. In Ballina, 24 of 66 sites surveyed were active; 5 'significant'. 64% of sites were inactive. Both represented a small change over time: a decline in Byron and an increase in Ballina.

Lismore's koalas on the other hand are at least persisting, and perhaps thriving in some parts. Lismore's study surveyed 75 field sites and examined LGA-wide historical records for the 2017-2022 period. The results show the south-east is pretty much full - 88% of the mapped koala habitat is occupied (50% being optimal). A whopping 48 sites demonstrated 'significant' activity. Occupancy or activity levels across the CKPoM area remained unchanged from previous surveys.

Across the LGA, koalas occupy 73% of the available habitat, a 4.5% increase in occupancy. Quite extensive areas support long-standing resident populations which appear to be expanding: in the north-east around Repentance Creek, Dorrroughby and Rosebank and in the south, within the CKPoM area stretching to the border with Richmond Valley Shire. The impacts of disease, vehicle strike and dog attack remain consistent with previous studies.

The Richmond River floodplain has the highest known koala occupancy in the region and arguably the state but the indications are that Lismore's south-east koala population may have plateaued. If we want koala numbers to increase, connecting and extending their habitat, be it restoring existing vegetation or planting out new areas, is vital.

Thank you all for your part in pursuing our heartfelt mission. I hope it gives you enjoyment and satisfaction.



Lorraine Vass AM
Patron



President's report

As I conclude my ten-year tenure on the committee, this will be my final President's report. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated people.

For over 38 years, the volunteers and staff of Friends of the Koala have been passionately dedicated to koala conservation in our region. Watching the organisation grow over the past ten years has truly been a highlight of my professional journey.

It's the people who make this organisation so special, and we are fortunate to have had many exceptional individuals amongst us. One such person is our Patron and former President, Lorraine Vass. After four years of dedicated service as Patron, Lorraine is stepping down, and I want to express my deepest gratitude for her invaluable contributions.

This year, supported by the government, seven of us travelled to Sydney to participate in the 'Koala Strategy Makeover.' The resounding consensus from the 150 experts present was clear: habitat protection must be the top priority for koala conservation (and for many other species as well).

We continued to advocate for funding, submitted numerous reports on regional developments impacting koalas, and, with the help of our Area Coordinators and Regional Koala Officer, Angie Brace, collaborated with local councils to hold our first Koala Count in September last year.

The three networks we belong to remain strong: the NSW Wildlife Council (representing rehabbers across the state), the NR Koala Network (25 organisations working on regional conservation strategies), and the NR Wildlife Network (all regional wildlife hospitals). Additionally, we joined forces with Port Stephens Koala Hospital and Koala Conservation Australia (Port Macquarie) to establish the NSW Koala Alliance.

This year brought its challenges: beloved koalas lost to road incidents and many others with disease euthanised, reduced funding for staff costs, and the passing of one of our founders, Audrey Hyde.

Unfortunately meetings with the environment Minister Penny Sharpe, regarding funding for the refurbishment of the Hospital and operation costs were not fruitful but with the Koala Strategy and wildlife sector review underway we hope in future the rehabilitation sector will be recognised and supported financially by the government for the crucial work we undertake on a daily basis.

It also brought us hope: the work being undertaken by University of Sunshine Coast around vaccinations which we are a part of plus the volunteers and staff who quietly get on with the job of driving this organisation on a daily basis. You are the best.

Our staff and volunteers are the heart and soul of this organisation, driving everything we achieve. FOK is not one person, it is many hearts wanting to make a difference. I wish you all the very best and hope our paths cross again soon as I will continue to volunteer when I can.

Warmest regards
Aliison



Aliison Kelly
President



General Manager's report

Together, we've made meaningful strides in protecting koalas and their habitat, and we're deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this shared mission.

This year has been one of growing impact, innovative initiatives and unwavering passion and dedication of our people, partners, supporters and the wider community. Together, we've made meaningful strides in protecting koalas and their habitat, and we're deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this shared mission.

In our rescue and rehabilitation efforts, we made significant progress, rescuing and admitting more koalas to our Northern Rivers Koala Hospital and increasing the percentage released back into the wild. This success reflects the unwavering commitment of our volunteer and veterinary teams, who work tirelessly to give every koala the best chance at recovery and a safe return to their habitat. A groundbreaking milestone was becoming the only wildlife hospital in NSW licensed to vaccinate all koalas under our care—a vital step in combatting chlamydia, the leading cause of death for koalas in our region.

Our commitment to advancing koala health took another leap forward with the completion of equipment installation for our new Research & Diagnostics Laboratory at Southern Cross University. This cutting-edge equipment will enable crucial research and enhance conservation efforts. Additionally, with the approval of our construction certificate, we're now one step closer to expanding our hospital, which will allow us to care for even more koalas in the future.

Habitat protection and enhancement remained at the core of our mission. From community tree plantings to weed control, and from local DA submissions to advocating for legislative changes on a state and federal level, our team's behind-the-scenes efforts were pivotal in safeguarding koala habitat, including successfully protecting koala territory from two major development applications. Our community nursery

continued to thrive, producing and distributing the native plants vital to koala habitats. It remains a cornerstone of our conservation efforts.

Community education and engagement efforts also significantly increased this year, made possible through the collaboration with local councils and the dedication of our staff and volunteers. In addition to attending and speaking at 26 local events and welcoming hundreds of visitors to our facilities, we co-hosted the first region-wide Koala Conversations event, bringing together diverse audiences to discuss conservation challenges and solutions. Online, our new educational videos, web pages and blogs reached over 21,500 people, raising awareness about koalas and the threats they face. We also prepared for the launch of the Regional Communication Campaign, which aims to reduce car hits and dog attacks, and improve recognition and reporting of koala injury and disease.

This year, engagement surveys highlighted the incredible commitment of our volunteers and staff, while providing insights into how we can continue to foster a workplace where people feel valued and inspired. At the heart of our success is, and has always been, the passion and dedication of our people.

Each milestone achieved this year reflects the collective effort of everyone involved. Thank you for being part of this journey. With your continued support, we continue to fight for a brighter, safer future for koalas.



Silva Everaers
General Manager



Financial report

We want to highlight the incredible impact of in-kind contributions, pro bono and discounted services, and in particular emphasise the countless hours volunteered by our dedicated team.

This financial year saw the strengthening of long-standing relationships and the formation of new ones, for which we are deeply grateful. The unwavering generosity of our supporters shone through once again, with contributions spanning (recurring) donations, bequests, grants, partnerships, nursery income and other revenue streams. Each financial contribution—whether large or small—directly supports our mission to protect koalas and their habitats. This essential financial backing allows us to fund lifesaving treatments, resources, equipment, and vital facilities.

Friends of the Koala continues to inspire trust and confidence among government bodies, charitable foundations, businesses and private donors alike, thanks to the tangible outcomes of our conservation efforts. Over the past year, we were proud to secure thirteen new grants and oversee the successful implementation of several ongoing, multi-year initiatives.

Amongst other things, these grants enabled us to:

- fully fund wages for our volunteer coordinator, regional koala officer, habitat restoration project officers and partially for our veterinary team
- execute multiple habitat restoration projects
- fund a variety of volunteer team and administrative costs, including equipment, vehicle costs and PPE
- partially fund koala vaccinations against Chlamydia and start work on a professionalised koala database
- continue the Koala Hospital building expansion project
- prepare for natural disasters and emergency evacuation through equipment and PPE
- increase community education and engagement efforts

The nursery continues to play a key role in advancing Friends of the Koala's mission to restore koala habitat across the Northern Rivers while generating vital financial support for our operations.

We want to highlight the incredible impact of in-kind contributions, pro bono and discounted services, and in particular emphasise the countless hours volunteered by our dedicated team. While not included in our income figures, the combined value of these contributions in time and resources is estimated to exceed \$3.5 million.

The transition to an external accounting firm has not only led to an ongoing 35% decrease in costs of financial management, but also significantly improved and streamlined our processes, including the depth and timeliness of reporting, increased automation, transparency and accountability and optimised grant management and reporting.

This year, Friends of the Koala worked hard on a variety of fundraising initiatives to diversify our income sources, to adapt to a significant decrease in available funding from key partners, including for veterinary team wages, lack of government support for ongoing operational costs and the economic situation leading donor participation rates declining nationally.

As a result, we expected and budgeted for a substantial deficit this financial year, to be covered by funds available in our Public Care Fund. Through a combination of fundraising efforts, grant applications, business partnerships and the generosity of our supporters, we are glad to report a net loss of -\$27,192 before depreciation, versus a budget of -\$158,870. Asset depreciation was \$47,559 this financial year, bringing the total year result to -\$74,751.



Financial report

Although we unfortunately expect further decreases in available grant funding from long-term partners, all effort will continue to be made to compensate for this through alternative fundraising initiatives, grant applications and advocacy.

We can observe the following in comparison to the results of last financial year. Grant income increased by 9%, donations decreased by 8% and retail and other income remained relatively stable, leading to a 3% increase in income overall. Donations include income from our adopt a koala program for which the income has doubled compared to last financial year, now making up 17% of donation income. Retail income is made up of nursery income (96%) and merchandise sales (4%), both slightly increasing year on year.

Expenditure increased by 9%, due to increased investment in Work Health and Safety, marketing and fundraising, habitat restoration, community education and volunteer appreciation.

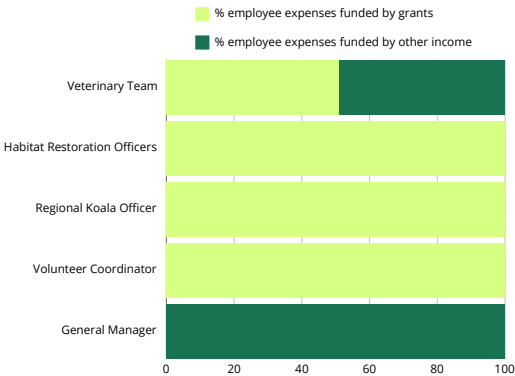
Employee expenses decreased by 4%, and are 51% funded by grants. Since 2021, veterinary team costs have remained stable, whereas administrative team costs have significantly decreased from 2022 onwards, replaced by grant funded positions dedicated to habitat restoration and community education.

Following the financial year results, as of 30th of June 2024, Friends of the Koala has \$686,118 available in the Public Care Fund for investment in the execution of our strategic objectives. In addition, \$824,624 grant funding received in advance is reserved for and will continue to be used for the execution of grant agreements. Including non-current assets, and minus liabilities, total equity is \$1,200,120.

Revenue and Other income	23-24	22-23
Grant Income	819,331	752,057
Donations	373,489	404,807
Retail Income	182,540	179,286
Sponsorship & Other Income	66,051	69,026
Total Revenue & Other Income	1,441,411	1,405,176

Expenses	23-24	22-23
Administration & Motor Vehicle Expenses	167,582	94,236
Employee Expenses	639,062	663,798
Finance charges	5,694	4,405
Marketing & Fundraising	101,576	49,683
Koala Hospital & Habitat Expenses	302,451	254,494
Rescue & Rehabilitation	32,308	51,644
Advocacy & Community Education	38,067	27,127
Volunteer Travel	25,963	22,210
Volunteer Appreciation & Training	16,857	5,785
Repairs & Maintenance	120,264	155,656
Utilities	18,779	16,284
Depreciation & Amortisation	47,559	49,739
Total Expenses	1,516,162	1,395,061

Net profit excluding asset depreciation	-27,192	59,854
Net profit including asset depreciation	-74,751	10,115



Silva Everaers
General Manager



Beth Wilson
Treasurer



Koala Data - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

Admitted: 344 | Released: 114 | Still in care: 5 | Died: 225 | Gross Release 33%

Total Deaths (admitted or not): 311	Deaths within 24hrs: 183 (53%)	Rehab Release 71%
Total not admitted: 1369	Live: 1283	Dead: 86

LGA	Admitted	Outcome	Cause of Death	
Ballina	15	Released - 6 In Care - 0 Died - 9	Vehicle collision - 0 Disease Chlamydia - 7 Disease other - 1	Dog attack - 0 Other - 1
Byron	52	Released - 9 In Care - 0 Died - 43	Vehicle collision - 5 Disease Chlamydia - 29 Disease other - 7	Dog attack - 0 Other - 2
Clarence Valley	19	Released - 10 In Care - 0 Died - 9	Vehicle collision - 2 Disease Chlamydia - 4 Disease other - 2	Dog attack - 1 Other - 0
Kyogle	23	Released - 6 In Care - 0 Died - 17	Vehicle collision - 2 Disease Chlamydia - 10 Disease other - 5	Dog attack - 0 Other - 0
Lismore	180	Released - 62 In Care - 3 Died - 115	Vehicle collision - 14 Disease Chlamydia - 68 Disease other - 21	Dog attack - 3 Other - 9
Richmond Valley	22	Released - 8 In Care - 0 Died - 14	Vehicle collision - 4 Disease Chlamydia - 7 Disease other - 2	Dog attack - 1 Other - 0
Tweed	19	Released - 7 In Care - 2 Died - 10	Vehicle collision - 1 Disease Chlamydia - 8 Disease other - 1	Dog attack - 0 Other - 0
Other	14	Released - 6 In Care - 0 Died - 8	Vehicle collision - 2 Disease Chlamydia - 5 Disease other - 0	Dog attack - 0 Other - 1
Total	344	Released - 114 In Care - 5 Died - 225	Vehicle collision - 30 Disease Chlamydia - 138 Disease other - 39	Dog attack - 5 Other - 13



Data Management

Our numbers show how critical it is to get koalas into care as early as possible. 53% of admissions were euthanased within 24 hours due to severe injury or disease progression. The earlier we can begin to help a koala, the higher our success rate.

Since 2017 we rescued between 320 – 350 koalas from the wild each year. For 10 years prior we rescued 200 – 250. These numbers indicate how critical the koala situation truly is. The predominant thing that we can see in the numbers is that more and more koalas are both coming in to care and we’re losing more and more koalas.

Comparing full years against each other, the picture remains comparatively similar each year since 2017. Chlamydia is the predominant reason for capture, accounting for roughly 50% of the encounters. The release rate for koalas with Chlamydia remains at an average of 18-20%. Collisions with cars account for around 15% and other diseases for close to a further 15%. The final 20% of reasons to come into care span reasons like being orphaned, falling from the tree, encounters with dogs, being found in an unsuitable environment and extreme weather events.

Through admissions and sightings reports we collected information on more than 1700 koalas in the region. This information is used by us to look at DA’s that are submitted in our LGA’s and present cases concerning their impact on koala welfare. We can argue with confidence using solid figures that have been collected for more than 40 years.

One reason that contributes to us capturing more koalas every year is the success of our educational efforts to raise awareness about koalas in the community. We rely on our community to notice koalas in crisis and report them immediately so that we can act swiftly.

We have vaccinated a total of 81 koalas during the year. We have seen 8 vaccinated koalas return into care with Chlamydia within 3 years.

This map gives a great visual of how large an area FOK services and where the koalas were rescued.

The legend shows the numbers and a coloured icon for each LGA.



Katrina Jeffery
Data Coordinator



Northern Rivers Koala Hospital

Of those koalas assessed by our veterinary team that progressed to treatment in our hospital and rehabilitation centre, we achieved an impressive release rate of 71%.

This year has been exceptionally busy for our hospital, with 344 admissions. Our overall release rate for koalas alive at the time of admission stands at 33%, which is a 6% increase versus last year. Unfortunately, many koalas are rescued with injuries or illness so severe that they are unable to be saved. However, of those koalas assessed by our veterinary team that progressed to treatment in our hospital and rehabilitation centre, we achieved an impressive release rate of 71%.

A significant change this year is our new name: we are now officially the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital!

We are excited to welcome two new veterinary nurses to our team, Louise Napoli and Marcia Bergamini. Both bring a wealth of experience in treating various wildlife species and have quickly become invaluable members of our hospital team.

Additionally, several dedicated volunteers have been trained to assist us, proving to be lifesavers during our busiest times. Their diverse skills mean that they have been able to support us with lab testing, data entry, general veterinary nursing and hospital cleaning.

Friends of the Koala continues to provide veterinary assistance to rescued koalas 24/7 with the help of other Veterinary Hospitals. We wish to thank Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and North Coast Emergency Vets for their consistent ongoing support.

This year's miracle koala is Hobi, an orphaned joey who arrived in critical condition—barely breathing and very cold. After nearly nine months of care at FOK, Hobi is set to be released later this year. His journey reflects the unwavering dedication, care, professional expertise and teamwork of our staff and volunteers at the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital and Friends of the Koala.



Dr Jackie Reed
Superintendent Veterinary Surgeon



Dr Jodie Wakeman
Veterinary Clinical & Research
Director



Research

We remain committed to advancing koala health through innovative research and collaboration, ensuring a brighter future for this iconic species.

In 2024, we contributed to several exciting research projects, primarily focusing on the development of vaccines for chlamydial disease. Recognising that prevention is more effective than treatment, securing the registration of a reliable vaccine remains a top priority for us. We are entering our second year of the University of Sunshine Coast chlamydia vaccine rollout project, which enables us to vaccinate and monitor 100 healthy koalas released from our hospital each year.

We are also commencing a new collaboration with UniSC to assess the efficacy of their chlamydia vaccine in hand-reared joeys. Over several months, we will evaluate the joey's immune response to a vaccine featuring a more accessible adjuvant. Should this vaccine prove effective, it will significantly expedite koala chlamydia vaccine registration resulting in increased access of the vaccine for all wildlife hospitals Australia wide. The hospital will be funded \$70,000 from UniSc for our contribution to this project.

This year, we participated in a study examining the potential of blood biomarkers KYN (kynurenine) and TRP (tryptophan) as diagnostic tools for chlamydial disease in koalas. We submitted the majority of blood samples for the Sydney University project, collected from koalas already undergoing assessment and treatment at the hospital. While the study indicated that these biomarkers may not specifically detect *Chlamydia pecorum*, they effectively identified unhealthy koalas compared to clinically normal individuals, regardless of the underlying cause.

We are proud to announce that Friends of the Koala staff members have been recognised as co-authors on the following journal submissions:

- **Preliminary analyses of kynurenine, tryptophan, and the kynurenineratio in plasma as potential biomarkers for systemic chlamydial infections in koalas** by Chien- Jung Chen.

- **Dominance of Vaccine-Specific *Chlamydia pecorum* ompA Genotypes in Koalas from North-Eastern Australia** by A/Prof Derek Sarovich.

Additionally, we have contributed to several other projects this year, including:

- **Koala Health Hub, University of Sydney Herpesvirus Study:** Postmortem samples from ten koalas were sent to KHH looking for a link between the presence of intranuclear inclusion bodies (in liver cells) and Herpesvirus infections in koalas. They are also looking at improvements to PCR testing for Herpesvirus in frozen liver samples.
- **University of Queensland Joey Faecal Cortisol Study:** Hair and fecal samples were collected from joeys in our care to assess stress hormone levels. This research aims to enhance the veterinary team's ability to identify and manage stress in joeys, ultimately improving their outcomes.
- **University of Sydney Koala Milk Project:** We collected milk samples and pouch swabs from anesthetized lactating female koalas. This study focuses on analysing key components of koala milk to develop a specialised alternative milk product for hand-reared joeys.
- **University of Sydney Koala Pangenome:** Blood samples from locally rescued koalas were collected to contribute to a reference genome for the Lismore area, enhancing our understanding of koala genetic diversity in the region.

We remain committed to advancing koala health through innovative research and collaboration, ensuring a brighter future for this iconic species.



Dr Jodie Wakeman
Veterinary Clinical & Research
Director



24/7 Rescue Team

The efforts of the rescuers this year has been amazing. Those involved in rescue give their all every time they go out.

This past year has been demanding for our rescue team. Although we have over 50 rescuers on our list, less than half are actively involved in rescues. Koala rescues, assessments of koalas, signs put up, traps set, and koala transport is done by a small group who are doing the bulk of the work. Sometimes of course this is because the area that the rescuer lives in doesn't have many rescue requests in a year. This is creating a heavy work load for those who are engaged in rescuing, and we occasionally face high-stress weeks with above average numbers of rescues. Since July we held two rescue workshops, but despite over 20 people attending it did not increase the number of active rescuers. Understanding why these individuals don't pursue rescue opportunities is challenging, but it's crucial for increasing our number of active rescuers.

To address the uneven participation, I plan to contact all listed rescuers who aren't currently involved in rescues to assess their willingness to engage in rescues and identify what support they may need. Hopefully this will encourage their participation in future rescues. In addition, we are looking to implement a mentoring program where new rescuers can accompany experienced rescuers. This approach has worked well in the past and should help new rescuers gain confidence. Overall getting started is the hardest part for new rescuers, but with the right support they can become valuable members of our team.

A new initiative is a dedicated transport team, which does not require full rescue capabilities and equipment making it more accessible for a wider range of volunteers. However, this is still a work in progress and brings its own problems with distance involved to pickup koalas at times due to the large region we service. Transport needs to be fast and efficient to organise, often the koala needs to be transported immediately and cannot wait.

Our rescue vehicle has now been operating with its new canopy for a significant amount of time, proving highly efficient in keeping our equipment organised and accessible. After installing the canopy, the vehicle required suspension work to ensure safety. This maintenance was completed this year, making the vehicle safe to drive. While we incurred some costs, prioritising the safety of the team and other road users made it necessary to do so.

The efforts of the rescuers this year has been amazing. Those involved in rescue give their all every time they go out. Rescuers are a driven breed of person, who's main goal is to save koalas whenever and wherever they can. The toll it takes on mental health is large and we all try to support each other in any way we can. Each and every rescue is important and rescuers always want to know what the outcome is for the koala they rescue and often will be in contact with community members letting them know that outcome. The last six month of the year has been a very busy time keeping rescuers on the job almost every day of the year.

At times rescuers can go out on releases of koalas they have been involved in the rescue of, which is a much needed release valve for the pressure rescuers are under dealing with so much trauma. As a part of the large team that is FOK we are proud of what we achieve with the support of the rest of the volunteers and vet staff. It takes a large team of people coming together to save any one koala starting with the community member, to the hotline, to the rescuers who go out, then the vet team, leafers and the rehabilitation team who do the daily shifts at the centre. And of course the other organisations we work with like NCEV and CWH. We couldn't do it without the network we have and that's something to be very proud of at FOK.



Paul White
Rescue Coordinator



24/7 Hotline

Hotline is the first contact most people have with Friends of the Koala and having an average of two to three people available to provide assistance, advice and support is essential.

Calls to the Hotline for the year 7,188

Approximately 70,586 minutes on calls (Average a little over 9 minutes per call)

This year hotline has been under increasing pressure with an ever increasing number of calls to the 24 Hour hotline. We have had a shortage of volunteers and not as many new volunteers joining us which has further increased the pressure on our hotliners.

It's almost 3 years since the hotline was almost taken out by the 2022 flood and the technology failures that followed but at the start of this year had us operating in the most efficient and effective manner, with an average of 21 operators covering 14 day shifts and 7 night shifts and 5 admin support group members operating 24hours a day to support them.

Sadly however we have lost some long serving hotline volunteers this year. Some have retired, others have left due to life changes which is pretty typical. Unfortunately however many have been due to changes within the organisation which has been unfortunate. The amount of time required to train and become proficient answering emergency calls is not insignificant so every loss is substantial.

Hotline is the first contact most people have with Friends of the Koala and having an average of two to three people available to provide assistance, advice and support is essential. Unfortunately with just 14 volunteers to cover more than 500 hours of shifts per week is unsustainable.

My hope is that we will find more volunteers to work on the hotline however we anticipate it is going to be difficult to fill 10 places prior to the chaotic Christmas and New Year period.



Luke Kane
Hotline Coordinator



Leaf Harvest

Leafing with FOK is a wonderful way to learn about eucalypts.

This year has been very difficult in terms of recruiting new volunteers. Several injuries, operations and illnesses have created multiple gaps in the roster to cover over an extended period. I am incredibly grateful to have William (Will-Bill-Phil) and Trev as experienced backups.

Gaps have also been created by good news - one of our leafers Eyleen has gained employment with Biolink conducting koala surveys - leafing with FOK is a wonderful way to learn about eucalypts. We also enjoyed a pizza night for Graham Jordan who left after 13 years to spend more time with his grandkids. Graham has received a FOK Honorary Life Membership award. Legend.

A special thanks to our hard working and resourceful supervisors Lee, David, Philip, Steve, Fiona, Dominique and our new supervisors Hayley, Jack and Les who find alternative and supplementary sources of leaf while the Plantation Crew continue to work at reviving the FOK Plantations which suffered extensive damage during the 2022 floods.

Another FOK Leafers Eucalypt identification field training session was attended by 13 leafers in the SCU grounds on 30/09/2023 with David Sharpe, our one of a kind eucalypt expert. A big thankyou to David for again volunteering his time and outstanding ecological knowledge. One interesting outcome of this workshop was the identification by David of an old growth tree at SCU originally mapped as Sydney Blue Gum but which was identified by David by the fruits and buds as an unnamed and locally common hybrid of Forest Red Gum and Flooded Gum. The workshop was followed by (more) pizza - thanks Jen for coming along and paying!

We have been very fortunate to have Graeme Hawley maintaining our equipment (long-handled loppers and pole chainsaws require regular maintenance) and the van. We had a workshop and BBQ at Burribi on 29/06/2024 with Graeme explaining the technical aspects of using and looking after the equipment to us.



Fiona Dawson
Leaf Harvest Coordinator





Plantation Maintenance

This year we have worked on not only planting out any spaces in our plantations with new trees but also extending where we can especially planting large numbers of Tallowood trees 203 this year and 102 Forest Red Gum both of which our leafing teams struggle to find enough off.

Friends of the Koala Plantation team has numbered 9 over the year with a core group of 7 what a magnificent team, also great support from the leafing teams when we have had some of our team off for health concerns and holidays. During the year we have planted 483 trees in the Friends of the Koala plantations to replace and extend the existing plantations. Our aim is to get the plantations to the point where there is enough leaf and variety in one plantation for the Leafers to come and harvest all the leaf they need for that day in one plantation.

The team also extended a plantation on private land in Monaltrie in Chilcott St where we planted 140 trees, as a plantation for FOK Leafers. The owners have plantings at different stages already being harvested by our leafing teams. Phil Ives a volunteer offered 64 trees mainly Forest Red Gum that he had nurtured in bigger pots which he donated for this planting.

Friends of the Koala received funding from IFAW to buy a new John Deere zero turn mower how wonderful was that, it has been a game changer for the plantation team. Ryan from RDO bought the mower out to the McKenzie Park Plantation on 22/9/2023 we all had a go, some of us very tentatively others very confident. Doug finished the mow on that day. Then Graeme King donated a new trailer on the 9/2/2024 for the mower, the old one had broken down in the middle of a round about on the way to a plantation, not fun but the local community where very helpful.

This year we have worked on not only planting out any spaces in our plantations with new trees but also extending where we can especially planting large numbers of Tallowood trees 203 this year and 102 Forest Red Gum both of which our leafing teams struggle to find enough off. The FOK Plantation team have been and doing some riverbank restoration work in our plantations, killing invasive trees like Coral trees and Camphor Laurel trees and planting Casuarina trees and some Morton Bay figs in the slips on the river banks, hoping to hold the banks.

Now that we have a number of Team members with their Chainsaw licence we have been able to pollard some of the trees in our plantations, when they get too tall. Allambie Plantation we pollarded 37 trees as the agreement with council is to keep the trees to 4 metres as we want to have a good relationship with the neighbourhood. While we do this work we also cut logs to the right size for the replacement of perches in the Care runs at FOK.

A big shout out to the plantation team who have taken over the emptying of the leafing trailer this year. I thank all those who have helped with this task.



Heather Gillard
Plantation Maintenance Coordinator



Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Community Nursery

Our Bushfire Recovery Nursery in Lismore, which was made possible with funding received from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW), continues to produce and distribute thousands of free trees to landholders in the Northern Rivers region.

By the end of June we had distributed 250,206 trees with our extended project quota of 280,000 trees being approved by FNPW once we passed the original 240,000 tree quota.

Our total distribution of koala food trees this year (1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024) was 40,247 trees.

In addition to the free trees distributed, the Nursery also sold 2,490 koala food trees to Councils and private regeneration contractors. The combination of the above Grant, plus these and other plant sales in the nursery, generated approximately \$60,107 of profit for Friends of the Koala.

Our seedling propagation efforts were supported by tree donations from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment totalling 20,000 trees.



Mark Wilson
Nursery Manager





Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Hanging out at East Coraki & Corridor Creation Project

Soon the koalas will have more food to eat, reducing pressure on the bigger trees, and more places to shelter on hot days.

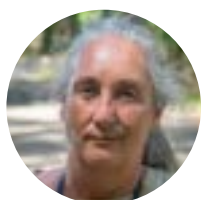
As part of the Australian Government supported Hanging out at East Coraki: koalas thriving in an agricultural landscape, we have:

- planted another 1703 trees on properties where koalas were overbrowsing, taking the total to 2838 trees. Soon the koalas will have more food to eat, reducing pressure on the bigger trees, and more places to shelter on hot days;
- removed and controlled weeds between and around koala food trees, with the dedication of contractors from Conservation Volunteers Australia, as well as freeing up regenerating saplings from entangling vines. Koalas can now move between trees in most areas without having to walk along the road to get to their next feed, and little trees are getting a chance;
- completed five visual health checks, with an average of 160 koalas observed during each health check. Although most koalas are healthy, including many females with joeys, there are some that are placed on the to be rescued or keep watch lists. We have rescued 17 koalas, 7 have been released, and everyone's favourite Polar Star is in permanent care;
- continued to engage with landholders and the broader community, with over 1000 volunteer/in-kind hours added to the project delivery. Community planting days have been a great success;
- begun work on a Landscape Management Plan and a proposed Translocation project with NPWS, to alleviate the pressure on the existing habitat, ensuring the koalas of East Coraki are sustainable in the long term.

With the support of the WWF Corridor Creation project, we have continued to get another 2321 trees planted for koalas, expanding on the plantings at East Coraki, as well as on other properties in the Northern Rivers where trees are also much needed. Habitat restoration has also begun on a property at Rous Mill and another at East Coraki.

We would like to thank all the landholders for their on-going support to the koalas and their habitat, without these landholders there would be many more koalas in need of rescuing.

If you would like to join any of our projects activities please contact Maria or Ina.



**Maria Matthes
& Ina Egermann
Project Officers**





Northern Rivers Regional Koala Partnership

The region is recognised for its significant ecological importance, which attracts ongoing support through the strategy to deliver tangible conservation actions, such as habitat restoration, population monitoring, and community outreach.

The Regional Koala Officer provides on-the-ground support for koala conservation projects, working closely with partners, stakeholders, and community members. This role was created to assist local conservation organisations and the six local councils in implementing koala conservation initiatives across the region. The position was developed collaboratively with regional partners and is funded by the NSW Koala Strategy. The region is recognised for its significant ecological importance, which attracts ongoing support through the strategy to deliver tangible conservation actions, such as habitat restoration, population monitoring, and community outreach.

Over the last 12 months, there has been further development and delivery of projects, with some highlights listed below:

- **Facilitated the Northern Rivers Koala Conversations event** in May, featuring over 20 activities such as tree planting, koala hospital tours, and a conservation-focused bike ride, attracting more than 550 participants across seven Local Government Areas (LGAs). The event culminated in a forum at Southern Cross University, where over 100 attendees discussed key conservation issues, driving community and industry engagement in koala protection.
- **Initiated the Northern Rivers Koala Count** across six LGAs to enhance citizen science efforts and improve koala sighting data.
- **Supported koala education and awareness initiatives**, including the delivery of presentations to over 100 students and collaborating with the organiser Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network, as well as local artists and Indigenous elders, to create a community-driven koala sculptures in 3 schools.
- **Collaborated with organisations dedicated to koala conservation** in the region, fostering a unified and strategic approach to protecting the species.
- **Provided support for the allocation of more than \$150,000** towards habitat restoration projects across the Lismore, Ballina, and Kyogle LGAs.
- **Assisted with the purchase and strategic deployment of six Variable Message Signs (VMS)** across three LGAs to reduce vehicle strikes and protect koalas in the Northern Rivers region.
- **Led the development of the Koala Tracks: Linking Northern Rivers Landscapes project**, prioritising habitat restoration in the Blue Knob/Mt Burrell and Lillian Rock areas. This project collaborates with local landholders to enhance koala habitats and establish crucial habitat linkages across the landscape between two important National Parks, aiming to restore over 67 hectares of habitat by early 2026.



Angie Brace
Regional Koala Officer





Community Engagement & Education

Over the past year, Friends of the Koala has made remarkable strides in community education and engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of koalas, the challenges they face, and the vital work we do to protect them

Over the past year, Friends of the Koala has made remarkable strides in community education and engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of koalas, the challenges they face, and the vital work we do to protect them. This collective effort, driven by the collaboration of our Community Education and Engagement team, Area Coordinators, the Joey Buddies team, and staff members, underscores the power of teamwork in achieving impactful outcomes.

Our guided tours continued to inspire curiosity and compassion, with over 650 people visiting Friends of the Koala to learn about these iconic animals and their habitats. Beyond our doors, we have actively engaged with the community by attending or speaking at 26 local schools, markets, and events, sharing knowledge and raising awareness about koala conservation. We attended Primex for the fourth year running engaging with landowners and farmers. Thank you Primex.

The digital space has been a key focus for our educational initiatives. Through an array of blogs, videos, and social media posts, we have reached a wide audience, with over 21,500 views of newly created web pages and educational videos. This strong online presence allows us to connect with individuals far beyond our local area, spreading critical messages about koala conservation.

The Joey Buddies program has continued to grow, with highlights including a captivating photo exhibition that drew new subscribers and strengthened our engagement with koala enthusiasts. This initiative plays an essential role in educating and inspiring the next generation to become active participants in koala conservation.

Led by our Regional Koala Officer and in partnership with local councils, we have supported significant regional events

such as the Northern Rivers Koala Conversations event and the Regional Koala Count. These initiatives have brought communities together to celebrate and learn about koalas while highlighting the need for collective action. In preparation for the coming year, groundwork has begun for a region-wide awareness campaign, which will further amplify our conservation message across the Northern Rivers.

The combined efforts of our teams and collaborators have made a profound impact on community education and engagement this year. As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding our reach, innovating our approaches, and inspiring communities to work together for the protection of koalas and their habitats.

Thank you to everyone who visited, engaged with us at events or online, watched our documentary, subscribed to Joey Buddies, reported sightings, called our rescue hotline or in any other way got involved to learn and spread the message about koalas and the threats they face. We are incredibly lucky with the amount of support, involvement and engagement of our local community and beyond.

Please remember to drive slow on our roads and report all sightings on our website or hotline number!

On behalf of the Community Engagement and Education team, Joey Buddies team, Area Coordinators and staff members



Advocacy

The advocacy efforts of Friends of the Koala underscore our commitment to securing a future for koalas. We will continue to work tirelessly to influence policy, protect habitats, and foster collaborations that drive meaningful change.

This year, Friends of the Koala has been at the forefront of advocacy efforts, championing the protection of koalas and their habitats through direct action, collaboration, and raising awareness. Our advocacy work reflects the dedication, expertise, and tireless efforts of our team and partners.

We proudly attended the NSW Koala Summit with seven representatives from Friends of the Koala, a critical gathering to address the challenges faced by koalas. This summit allowed us to contribute insights and collaborate with other stakeholders to influence state-level conservation strategies.

Our team continues to play an instrumental role in advocating for policy change, including a detailed submission to the NSW Koala Strategy review. Additionally, our Area Coordinators dedicated significant time and expertise to writing submissions addressing developments impacting koala habitats in the Northern Rivers. This work yielded important outcomes, such as a significant win for koala habitat protection in Goonellabah. We were also proud contributors to the release of the Code of Practice for Sick, Injured and Orphaned Koalas, which sets robust care guidelines for koalas across the state and was released in July 2023.

A major milestone this year was the formation of the NSW Koala Hospital Alliance. This coalition, announced earlier this year, aims to unify and strengthen the efforts of koala hospitals across the state. Alongside this, we continued to participate in meetings with the Northern Rivers Wildlife Network to amplify our collective voice for wildlife in the Northern Rivers.

Through over 50 letters and meetings with politicians at local, state, and federal levels, we have consistently advocated for increased habitat protection and funding for koala rehabilitation organisations and hospitals. Our advocacy has also been supported by numerous press appearances, ensuring the public remains engaged and informed about these critical issues.

We continued to host bi-monthly regional koala network meetings, bringing together 21 organisations dedicated to koala conservation in the region and beyond. These gatherings have strengthened collaboration, shared knowledge, and amplified our collective impact and are a great networking opportunity for everyone.

In addition, advocacy is undertaken by all active Friends of the Koala volunteers when they are out in the community performing their range of activities related to koala care, conservation and protection.

The advocacy efforts of Friends of the Koala underscores our commitment to securing a future for koalas. We will continue to work tirelessly to influence policy, protect habitats, and foster collaborations that drive meaningful change. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for koalas..

On behalf of the Advocacy Subcommittee and Area Coordinators



Area Coordinators

Our Area Coordinators (Ina Egermann, Maria Matthes, Rhonda James, Dale Viola and Linda Swankie) play an important role in habitat protection, advocacy and community education across the Northern Rivers. You will find year reports of two of them below, other results have been included in our sections around Community Engagement and Education and Advocacy.

Well it certainly has been a challenging past year for koalas and volunteers alike. It has been an incredibly busy year with all of the below activities slotted in. Events attended:

- July 2 - Bangalow Monthly market information table.
- July 16 - Assisted with Tweed rescuers at an information table in Murwillumbah for World
- Environment Day.
- July 18 - Koala talk at The Farm Ewingsdale with Byron Shire Council and Angie Brace.
- July 20 - Information table at The Byron Farmers Market Byron Bay.
- September 14 - Information stall at Oak Tree Retirement Village Gardens Expo Day along with
- Mark Wilson.
- September 26 - Attended meeting Byron Shire Council, Brendan, Linda Sparrow to discuss mitigation steps for vehicle strikes.
- October 1 - Information table at Open Garden event at McLeans Ridges, attended with Mark
- Wilson.
- October 4 - Attended meeting with Federal Landcare to introduce myself as A/C to discuss how we could work together.
- November 11 - Information table at Federal Park Party. Koala presentation talk.
- June - Hosted an information table at the Rising Tide/Climate Convergence, attended with Maria Matthes.

I have been working with the Save Wallum Team as much as time will allow to provide data on koala sighting/rescues to hopefully enable this information to be used in the continued campaign to save this threatened area.

- October - Submission lodged to object to development of Wallum Brunswick Heads.

- October - email to Tanya Plibersek, Min for Env. Affairs in support of the Save Wallum campaign.
- November - Submission lodged to object to DA for development of area behind Byron Bay golf course.
- June - Submission lodged to NSW Planning supporting changes to existing approvals of Zombie DA's.
- June - Prepared an objection to a development near the Byron Bay Golf Course to be read out at a Byron Shire Council Meeting.
- June - Read a statement at Byron Shire Council meeting regarding objecting to a wedding venue planned for Hinterland Way, Bangalow. A known koala kill hotspot where many koalas have been hit and killed.

In addition:

- Organising with Lismore and Bangalow mens sheds to make remembrance crosses for koalas to be erected at sights of vehicle strikes.
- Organising signage to be placed strategically around the Byron Shire in koala hotspot areas in an attempt to raise awareness of the potential of koalas crossing roads in these areas.

In the coming weeks I am hoping to have discussions with National Park Rangers of Byron Bay along with Bangalow Koalas regarding future plantings within the Arakwal National Park and the Cape Byron Lighthouse conservation area. Local Rangers have expressed a strong interest most especially due to the high rate of sightings being recorded in and around these areas. Would be wonderful to see this come to fruition.



Dale Viola
Area Coordinator Byron Shire



I always make a point of asking landholders if they have koalas and the importance of reporting sightings. Also give them info on what signs to look for to identify a sick or injured koala.

Some of the activities done this year were:

- Wrote various articles for the Northern Rivers Talking Turkey local paper, updating people on what's happening currently with koalas (with a particular focus on Kyogle koalas) and also stressing importance of calling FOK rescue hotline as soon as possible and reporting sightings.
- Attended various Area Coordinator Meetings and Regional Koala Group meetings
- Attended online presentation in August 2023 on Koala Genome project
- September 2023 – Delivered two presentations as part of the Kyogle Koala Festival. One in Kyogle to try to recruit more rescuers in this area and one in Cawongla on Koala Health and Habitat.
- Attended meeting with Angie Brace and Judy Faulks of Kyogle Council to discuss Kyogle koalas In October 2023
- December 2023 - Had Christmas BBQ at my place for all Kyogle Rescuers to get to know each other better, socialise and keep everyone keen to help each other.
- Attended Koala Research Symposium in Sydney March 2024 and discussed potential research projects with presenters

In June 2024 wrote a submission from FOK to object to the proposed amendment by Kyogle Council to remove the requirement for dual consent for Private Native Forestry which is a big issue in this LGA. Also submitted a personal objection as well.

Also in June 2024 wrote a support letter from FOK in relation to a funding bid for the Hanging Rock Community Nursery Project and riparian restoration.

Responded to online sighting of koala with a strange tag in Upper Duck Creek. Kept in contact with landholder who

subsequently attended a koala workshop and planted over 1500 trees on his property. He was very concerned about koalas and logging so I also put him in touch with Kyogle Environment Group to share some of his findings re the impending logging of Richmond Range adjacent to his property. Both Mick and KEG have benefitted from this. I visited Mick's property which is great and he is happy for us to use his site as a potential release site if one is needed in that area.

Identified suitable release site for Momo who was hit by a car on Summerland Way where there is little suitable habitat. Set up soft release enclosure with Chris and organised monitoring rota with Kyogle rescuers.

Visited soft release site at Louise's in Roseberry Creek to check it out and set up soft release site at my property. Also liaised with Emma at BRVVLN to identify potential release sites for koalas in Kyogle. She gave me contact details for koala/environment friendly landholders spread across the LGA (but they don't operate west of the range) to contact and visit (not yet had time to do this).

When out and about with work, I always make a point of asking landholders if they have koalas and the importance of reporting sightings. Also give them info on what signs to look for to identify a sick or injured koala.

Spoke to two vets, one in Kyogle one in Casino, to ask if they would be prepared to help Kyogle rescuers out of hours if a koala needed emergency pain relief or euthanasia. Both said to call and they would help if they could.



Linda Swankie
Area Coordinator Kyogle



Emergency Response

The NPWS funded bushfire PPE arrived just in time for the fire season, which allowed us to activate the NRWERT for the Tyagarah Nature Reserve wildfire. In collaboration with NPWS and RFS, the NRWERT, including FOK koala emergency response team (KERT), were part of the Incident Control framework.

The 2023-24 year was a busy year in the emergency response space. A WhatsApp group was established, dedicated to improving communication between the Northern Rivers Wildlife Network (NRWN) Emergency Response Coordinators from each of the wildlife care and hospital organisations in the area, including Friends of the Koala, Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital, Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, WIRES (Northern Rivers and Clarence branches), Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers, Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue, And Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers.

As the FOK Emergency Response Coordinator, I attended six NRWN meetings and 12 monthly meetings of the Northern Rivers Wildlife Emergency Response Team (NRWERT), as well as daily to weekly meetings, and intermeeting communications, when active and emerging emergency events required. I also attended the NPWS Wildlife Emergency Response Taskforce meetings.

The NRWN hosted the fantastic IFAW Bushfire Wildlife Search and Rescue Training, delivered by Slade Macklin from Total Fauna Solutions. Six FOK volunteers undertook this one-day training of practical information and team building skills in a recent fireground.

The NSW Government released the Wildlife in Emergencies Subplan, and the NPWS wildlife response during emergencies guidelines. The NRWERT has been developing a Northern Rivers Emergency Response Plan, and FOK prepared a draft Koala Emergency Response Plan. Jen Ridolfi (FOK Deputy Emergency Response Coordinator) prepared a FOK Emergency Evacuation Plan with support of relevant staff and volunteers.

The NPWS funded bushfire PPE arrived just in time for the fire season, which allowed us to activate the NRWERT for the Tyagarah Nature Reserve wildfire. In collaboration with NPWS and RFS, the NRWERT, including FOK koala emergency response team (KERT), were part of the Incident Control framework, providing NRWERT Incident Action Plans to the ICT, and participated in assessment, search and rescue actions, as well as an after action reviews with NPWS, NRWERT and KERT. FOK also activated it's KERT for intelligence and minor surveillance operations at a number of other firegrounds across the Northern Rivers.

If anyone would life to be part of FOKs emergency response team or for more information on the roles available and training required please contact Jen Ridolfi via volunteercoord@friendsofthekoala.org.



Maria Matthes
Emergency Response Coordinator





Our Partners

Friends of the Koala gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions made by our partners and supporters. Working with Northern Rivers communities, we collaborate with our foundation, principal, project, and community partners to achieve our mission and secure a future for koalas.

Foundation Partners



Principal Partners



Project Partners



Business Partners



Veterinary & Research Partners



Northern Rivers Koala Partnership



Northern Rivers Wildlife Network



Friends of the Koala

23 Rifle Range Rd,
East Lismore NSW 2480
(02) 6621 4664

www.friendsofthekoala.org
info@friendsofthekoala.org

