



Friends of the Koala Launches Hospital Expansion Campaign and 40th Anniversary Celebrations on World Wildlife Day 2026

MEDIA RELEASE – 1 March 2026

Friends of the Koala will mark World Wildlife Day this Tuesday, 3 March 2026 by officially launching fundraising for the expansion of the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital as part of its 40th Anniversary year celebrations.

The milestone event will see Tweed-based koala protectors, Team Koala visit Friends of the Koala in East Lismore to present a cheque that will help kick start the Northern Rivers Koala Hospital expansion campaign. The project will increase Friends of the Koala's capacity to treat sick and injured koalas and strengthen its long-term conservation work across the Northern Rivers region.

For four decades, Friends of the Koala has been a leader in koala rescue, rehabilitation, education and advocacy. What began as a small community group has grown into a highly respected volunteer-based professional organisation responding to hundreds of koala rescues each year.

Friends of the Koala President, Rhonda James said, "World Wildlife Day on Tuesday 3 March provides a fitting backdrop for our launch announcements which highlight the importance of protecting threatened species and the habitats they depend on. With increasing pressures from habitat loss, vehicle strike, dog attack and disease, the need for community participation and specialised wildlife veterinary care continues to grow."

The specialist Koala Hospital expansion will deliver improved treatment areas, enhanced rehabilitation facilities and greater capacity to respond to emergencies, ensuring Friends of the Koala can continue providing expert care for decades to come.

As Friends of the Koala celebrates 40 years of dedication to koala conservation, the Koala Hospital expansion represents both a commitment to the future and a call to the community to support the organisation's next chapter.

Media are invited to attend the cheque presentation and capture this important moment in Friends of the Koala's 40th anniversary year.

For further information or interview requests please contact:

President, Rhonda James: 0409 244 294

email rhonda@friendsofthekoala.org

Website [Friends of the Koala](#) | [Koala Charity](#) | [Save Koalas](#)