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The Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's Koala Recovery Partnership Highlights Koala Conservation at United Nations Event in New York



Dr Rebecca Montague-Drake (centre) on the floor of UN HQ, with Cheyne Flanagan (left) Koala Hospital Port Macquarie and Nick Boyle, Director Welfare, Conservation and Science at Taronga Zoo

As part of the United Nations World Wildlife Day on 4 March 2020, Cheyne Flanagan Clinical Director Koala Hospital Port Macquarie, and Dr. Rebecca Montague-Drake, project lead of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation's Koala Recovery Partnership project, were invited to attend official proceedings on the floor of the United Nations Head Quarters in New York.

This provided an incredible opportunity for the mid north coast region to feature at the United Nations and allowed Cheyne and Rebecca to talk directly with United Nations delegates to inform the global audience about the threats that face koalas, as well as to showcasing the work that the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation and the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital are undertaking for Koala conservation in key Koala habitats across our region.

The United Nation's World Wildlife Day has become the most important global annual event dedicated to wildlife and the day includes the Jackson Wild 'Wild Ideas' Think Tank which this year had as a theme of 'Global Warning: Wildlife vs Wildfire', exploring the impacts of global change on wildlife habitats. The UN Ambassador for Biodiversity attended the event together with key scientists from around the world.

Dr Montague- Drake observed "The day was inspiring, particularly hearing from youth delegates and from countries that have set strong conservation targets, and are moving actively towards them, such as Costa Rica which has nearly achieved its target of 30% of its land mass being a protected area, or India which has achieved so many amazing conservation outcomes, including reversing the decline of Tigers. It was fantastic to hear of the social and economic success stories that have accompanied these conservation gains. Not surprisingly, the day was also very sobering, as we were reminded that 1 million species are faced with extinction and of the inescapable reliance of humanity upon healthy ecosystems"



Cheyne Flanagan, Koala Hospital Port Macquarie with Dr Rebecca Montague-Drake outside the UN HQ New York

The Koala Recovery Partnership Project is a project of the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation, funded by a consortium comprising the NSW Government's 'Saving Our Species' Program, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and Kempsey Shire Council.

To find out more about *World Wildlife Day 2020* visit <https://www.wildlifeday.org>

To find out more about the Koala Recovery Partnership visit <https://www.koalarecovery.org.au>

To find out more about the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation visit <https://mncjo.nsw.gov.au>

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