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A Global Opportunity to Promote Koala Conservation

The United Nations' *World Wildlife Day* is held on March 3 each year to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

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. The 2020 Think Tank theme is 'Global Warning: Wildlife vs Wildfire', which will look at the impacts of global change on wildlife habitats, and examine the road ahead with presentations on possible solutions to the crisis.

The UN Ambassador for Biodiversity will attend the event together with key scientists and invited guests.

To celebrate *World Wildlife Day 2020*, Jackson Wild have invited the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to New York as a key presenter, and to be the beneficiary of key fundraising events.

Cheyne Flanagan, Clinical Director of the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, (now known as Koala Conservation Australia) will attend, accompanied by Koala Ecologist Rebecca Montague-Drake who is employed by the Mid North Coast Joint Organisation to lead the Koala Recovery Partnership Project across the Mid North Coast of NSW.

At these events, they will be promoting koala conservation, and discussing the numerous threats that exist for Australia's biodiversity. They will also highlight the work of the Koala Recovery Partnership Project which is 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.

Sue Ashton, President of Koala Conservation Australia said they are honoured that Jackson Wild has invited the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to be the recipient of, not only key fund-raising events, but to present and participate in key discussions.

"I know that Cheyne and Rebecca will do a great job bringing their experience and wealth of knowledge to this global stage," said Ms Ashton.

In a media release announcing the theme for *World Wildlife Day 2020*, CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero said, "World Wildlife Day is a good opportunity to call on governments around the world, civil society, private sector and individuals to add their voices and take actions to help conserve wildlife and ensure sustainable use before it's too late".

Cheyne Flanagan agrees whole-heartedly "We can all make a difference, whether it's using our voice, penning a letter or making wise choices about purchases, whether they be big or small".

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

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