

Australian Koala Foundation

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## Love Among the Gum Trees: Koala of the Month Award

## 14 February 2024

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is delighted to announce the Koala of the Month award for February, introducing two special Koalas with an extraordinary love story. This month, the AKF proudly introduces the Koala couple, <u>Bobby</u> and <u>Milo</u>, as the recipients of the Koala of the Month award.

**Cass Hancock, Head Keeper of Ballarat Wildlife Park**, has witnessed Bobby and Milo's romantic coupling from day one.

"These two Koalas could give Romeo and Juliet a run for their money. They're constantly cuddling and canoodling and scurrying off to be together.

"It was love at first sight. Just like Juliet, Milo loves to sit at the tallest part of the tree and enjoys looking down on her enclosure. When we brought Bobby in, he spotted her high in the tree and was head over heels in an instant." Says Hancock.

The loved-up pair have also blessed Ballarat Wildlife Park with a joey, Muffin, and are predicted to continue to grow their fluffy family.

Bobby is a big ladies man who sports a permanent "milk moustache" with the white patches of fur around his mouth and even loves to cuddle all his keepers if Milo is asleep and doesn't feel like a cuddle.

**Deborah Tabart OAM, Chair of the Australian Koala Foundation**, highlights the significance of showcasing the emotional lives of Koalas.

"Bobby and Milo's love story is a lovely reminder that although Koalas are solitary animals in the wild, they, like us, seek love and affection.

"This Koala of the Month edition really humanises them and emphasises the importance of preserving habitats where such connections can thrive," says Tabart.

Bobby and Milo, affectionately known as the "Valentine's Koalas," have been inseparable since they first crossed paths in the Ballarat Wildlife Park. Their days are filled with shared eucalyptus feasts and cozy naps in the branches, creating a picturesque scene of love under the Australian sun.

This February, the Australian Koala Foundation invites animal lovers and conservation enthusiasts to join in celebrating Bobby and Milo's love story. Adopting these sweethearts through the Adoption Program means supporting not only their flourishing romance but also contributing to the conservation efforts aimed at protecting Koalas and their habitats.

For more information on how to adopt <u>Bobby</u> and <u>Milo</u> or to contribute to the Australian Koala Foundation's conservation initiatives, please visit our <u>adoption page</u> on savethekoala.com. Let's unite to safeguard the love stories unfolding in the wild and ensure a thriving future for our beloved Koalas.

## Australian Koala Foundation

GPO Box 2659 Brisbane QLD 4001

Ph: 61-7-3229 7233 Email: akf@savethekoala.com www.savethekoala.com