



**Australian
Koala
Foundation**

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Merlene Konz to hold book signing at Save the Koala Shop

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[WARIALDA, NSW] - The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is excited to announce a special book signing event at their Save the Koala Shop in Warialda on the 5th November, 2024. The exclusive one-time only event will feature well-loved Inverell local Merlene Konz, who will be hosting a signing for her children's book titled, "Kassie the Baby Koala & the Bush Telegraph." Authored and illustrated by Merlene herself, the book has become a popular favourite among children in New South Wales and beyond. The book signing will be open to the public and is a prime chance for Koala lovers to meet Merlene, and to purchase Koala themed gifts from the AKF's Save the Koala Shop.

Date: 5th November 2024

Time: 10am – 2pm

Location: 23 Stephen St, Warialda NSW 2402 (Save the Koala Shop)

This book signing initiative is the first of many collaborations the AKF hopes to cultivate within the community heading into 2025.

"We've had a strong appreciation for the Warialda and surrounding community for a number of years now," says the AKF Chair, Deborah Tabart OAM. "We're delighted to know that our Save the Koala Shop is well received, as are our conservation projects in the area as well. We're hoping that in the New Year we can continue to use our resources to host events like this and do even more in the community that we know love and respect Koalas as much as we do."

Originally released in December last year, "Kassie the Baby Koala & the Bush Telegraph" was inspired by a Koala encounter Merlene had when she was returning home late one evening. Coming across an injured juvenile Koala, Merlene safely transported it to a local vet who then transferred it to a licensed carer. The Koala was then rehabilitated and released, thanks to Merlene's quick thinking.

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About the Australian Koala Foundation

The Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) is the principal non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to the effective management and conservation of the Koala and its habitat. Our main goals are to refine and update the Koala Habitat Atlas

mapping of all wild Koala habitat and to get the Koala Protection Act enacted to ensure Koalas and their habitat are protected.