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## Hit koala left to die

Nicole Fuge | 27th July 2011

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RUSTIC, a male koala, was hit by a car on Tuesday, July 12 on the corner of Pierce Ave and Racecourse Rd, Caloundra and left to die.

Sunshine Coast Koala Wildlife Rescue volunteer Ray Chambers was deeply saddened and angered by the incident which occurred near an animal reserve, especially as we enter koala season and numbers are rapidly decreasing.

"We had a koala hit by a car and left on the side of the road to die," he said, fuelled by emotion.

Mr Chambers said Rustic was found about 2.30pm by a fellow volunteer, who attempted to peel him off the road and place him in the bush.

"He pulled over, saw this bundle on the side of the road, got out and saw it was a koala," he said.

"When he got to him, he thought he was dead. He lifted his head, the koala looked at him and then he died.

"There were wheel tracks on his head and blood on the road. He would have been traumatised, he would have been hit about 10am.

"The thing that's disheartening is no one rang it through, he was left there to die.

"It could have been a different story if it was reported immediately."

Mr Chambers confirmed it was not "Caloundra's last koala", however he was disgusted that the person responsible did not care.

"Here we have someone who hit the koala in the middle of the day and left him there to die," he said.

"Caloundra's down to its last koala. We have a handful living on the Caloundra turnoff, he's come from there. Where he got hit is koala habitat."

Mr Chambers was most disappointed it happened after all the public awareness.

As a result, he has pushed for koala signs to be erected along the busy road.

"We need people to understand, in today's society, you can't have people hitting a rare animal and not doing anything about it," he said.

"Numbers are so critical."

To report an injured koala please contact Sunshine Coast Koala Wildlife Rescue's Ray Chambers on 0423.618.740.



Ray Chambers is not happy that a Koala was hit on Racecourse Road and left to die.

John McCutcheon

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