



## Lesley enjoys being back after hospital

SHE was fashionably late and then when she arrived yesterday, she couldn't make up her mind.

Lesley the koala could be forgiven for being a little tentative upon her release back to the wild after a 10-month stint in Australia Zoo's Wildlife Hospital.

When you are a Noosa koala, beating the odds is a day-to-day battle for survival, but five-year-old Lesley was found close to death on Leslie Drive at Noosa Heads after being hit by a car.

With Lesley rests much of the local koala gene pool and according to the experts like Carolyn

Beaton from Koala Diaries, the numbers are not stacking up. "Within the (Noosa National) Park we still believe there are 11 from Noosa Heads to Peregian," Ms Beaton said.

"In the greater Noosa area we have estimated about 30 – we had several hundred in 2000."

Recently, Ms Beaton's bid for local council and federal funding to set up a koala tracking program in Noosa National Park was rejected. She said the program was back to square one, but locals have assisted by tracking Lesley's movements and posting them on Koala Diaries.



**HOME AGAIN:** Murray Chambers from the Sunshine Coast Koala Wildlife Rescue Group releases Lesley the koala at Noosa Springs after a stint in hospital.

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