



SET TO GO: A recovered Frodo.

Up, up and away: it's super Frodo

HER name means "wise by experience".

For the sake of Frodo, the pellet-riddled koala Joey, carers and fans across the world hope she lives up to her name and stays far away from danger after her release back into the wild.

Six months after the tiny orphan arrived at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, Frodo was given the all clear and was released.

The hospital team behind Frodo's recovery say it is cause for great celebration and they hope never to see the little "show-off" again. At least inside their doors.

Frodo weighed a tiny 1.9kg when she was found critically injured from shotgun pellets near her dead mother by a property owner at Jimna, 30km south-west of Maleny on November 5.

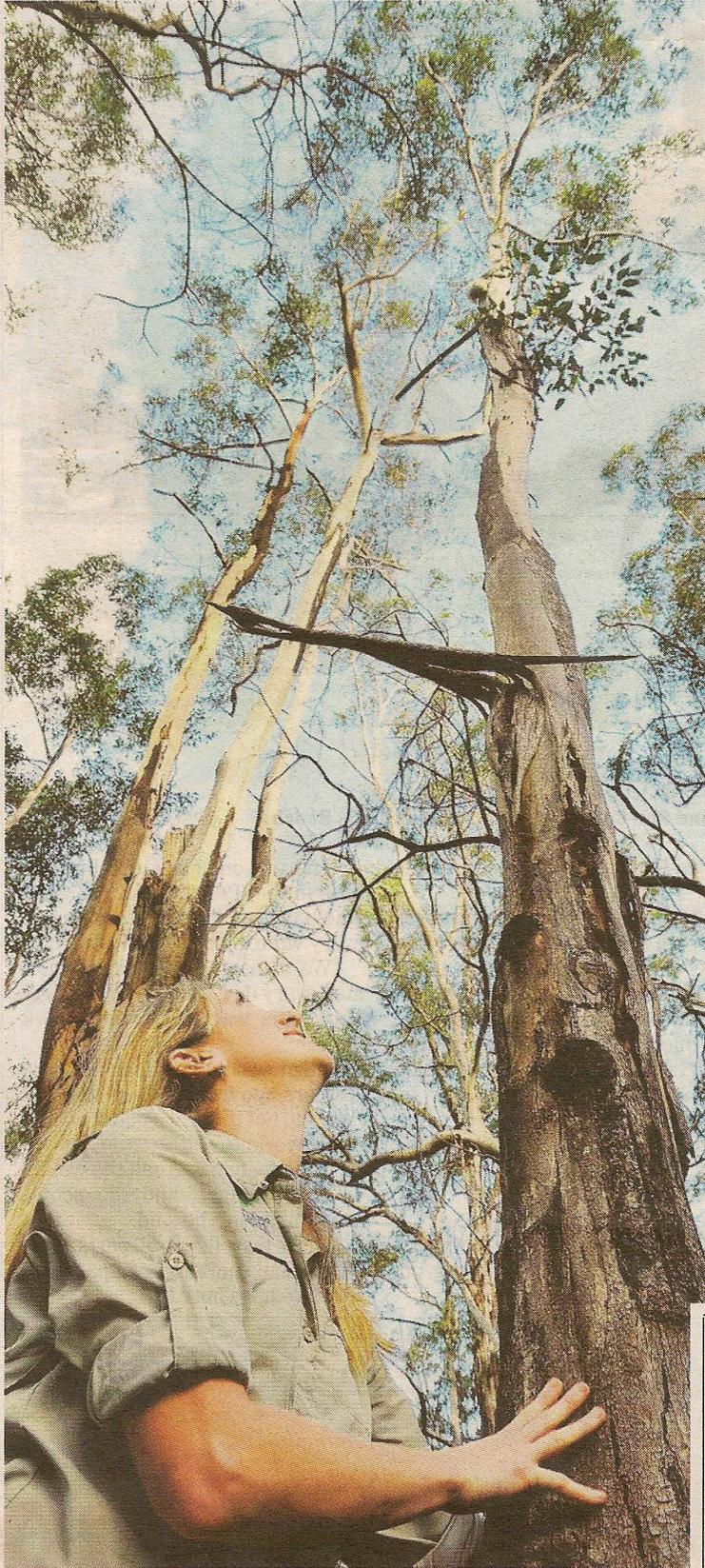
Seven of 15 pellets, including one lodged in Frodo's skull, were removed in two operations just weeks after her arrival.

The others have never been removed.

Hospital wildlife veterinarian Dr Amber Gillett said late last month Frodo would be released when she had put on another 400g.

At 4.1kg, with a bonus 100g of indulgence, Frodo was given her freedom.

"Releasing Frodo back into the wild was a great feeling," Dr Gillett said. "She was such a special



LEAVE PASS: Frodo the female koala is about to be returned to the wild after recovering from being shot.

PHOTO: BEN BEADEN

case who overcame horrific injuries and health challenges to amaze all of us here at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital."

Frodo's shooting sparked outrage across the world as attention on her fight for survival gained significant momentum.

Earlier this year the State

Government amended the criminal code for the maximum penalty of imprisonment from two to seven years for serious animal cruelty convictions.

Dr Gillett gave Frodo her final clearance on June 9, but the whereabouts and date of Frodo's release have remained secret.