



Who's going to pay Blinky's bill?

Anna Chisholm

EVER hear the one about the koala who walked into a bar?

Cleveland's Lighthouse Restaurant (below left), southeast of Brisbane, did last Sunday night when a curious creature paid them a visit.

"He just walked in the front door at about 8pm like a customer and climbed up the pillar and sat there for a good 20 minutes," owner George Diako said.

"I've been here for five years and I've never seen anything like it.

"Everyone posed for photos and he didn't seem bothered. Some of the tourists just thought it was just a standard thing.

"I have never seen a koala near the restaurant let alone at the point at Cleveland. There are some trees and we're near Foreshore Park but you don't expect it on the waterfront."

The mild-mannered koala (left) was

happy to stay for a while before climbing down the pole and scurrying back out the door. Manager Tim Varitimos said he was dangling over the water from the roof structure when wildlife rescuers plucked him from outside the bar area.

"He was a good size, a pretty healthy male from what the wildlife guys said. It's their mating season so they're quite active," he said.

Staff and diners are expecting the cuddly local, affectionately named Sooky, to return.

"He was taken to dense bushland nearby but if he finds his way back, he might just be a regular here," Mr Varitimos said.

What do you think? Email yournews@thesundaymail.com.au or write to us at GPO Box 130, Brisbane, 4001.

