



Firefighter Jason Hall rides the hydraulic platform up to reach the concussed koala.

N13CS414

Injured koala rescued

Troy Kearns

A KOALA that almost became road kill on South Gippsland Highway in Cranbourne last week will savour every gum leaf it eats.

Firefighters Adrian Devonish and Jason Hall were called out to rescue the creature from a

tree it climbed after being struck by a car on the highway near Cameron St on Thursday.

"It's pretty rare to be called out to rescue a koala," Mr Devonish said.

"We needed to use a hydraulic platform to extricate the koala because it was about seven metres up in the tree."

A crew from Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education was first on the scene, but was unable to reach the animal.

Michelle Thomas from AWARE said she suspected the koala sat dazed on the side of the road for hours before someone called them.

"It's pretty concussed at the moment," Ms Thomas said.

The koala will be assessed, treated and eventually released back into the wild.

AWARE will hold a workshop in the Cranbourne Library meeting room on November 10 from 1-4pm for anyone interesting in being a carer or rescuer.