

# ORPHANED OLIVER CAUGHT ON THE HOP

TALISA ELEY

NINE-month-old joey Oliver is taking his road to recovery one hop at a time after being hit by a car near Hervey Bay last year.

The eastern grey kangaroo weighed just 300g when he was orphaned in September, at just eight weeks old.

Wilvos carer Jo Waters is nursing him back to health at her Tamara home near Gympie, where she looks after a number of young joeys.

A leg damaged in the accident has held Oliver back a little, but Mrs Waters said he was still active and didn't let it get in the way.

"I'm keeping him a bit longer than I normally would because of his leg injury," he said. "He's a little slower than the others but he's doing really well with it.

"He's been in care with me for so long, he just goes with the flow. He's very relaxed."

Soon Oliver will go on to another rehabilitation centre designed for larger kangaroos, before eventually being released back into the wild around Childers or Murgon when he's ready.

For Mrs Waters, looking after joeys is all in a day's work, with five currently in her care, including two new arrivals this weekend alone.

Finding dedicated people willing to look after the youngest rescue animals is a challenge, and Mrs Waters manages four incubators to keep the joeys stable when they first arrive.

"Not many people do what I do, nobody else wants to, but I love doing the tiny ones, when their eyes are still closed and their ears are back," she said. "It's good seeing them grow."

Different species of kangaroos and wallabies from all over regional Queensland regularly arrive at Mrs Waters' home. They are often brought in by concerned tourists who have found them.



HOO-ROO: Joey Oliver is recovering thanks to his Wilvos carer. Picture: Lachie Millard