

Free shuroos help skippy

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A TOLGA automotive business and a wildlife organisation have paired up to help protect local native animals.

The newly-formed Tablelands Wildlife Rescue and 4X4 FNQ Tolga are giving away 75 shuroos to the region's drivers, in an attempt to slash the number of kangaroos killed and orphaned on our roads.

More than 100 calls are made each year to local agencies from drivers involved in accidents with animals, or people who come across injured fauna, according to Tablelands Wildlife Rescue.

"Supporting the great charity was the main aim in getting involved with this initiative," 4X4 FNQ Tolga owner Clinton Stroud said. "I also want to help out the wildlife because obviously the automotive industry does affect animals' lifespans."

The light-weight shuroos mount to vehicles' front bumpers and produce ultrasonic, high-pitched sounds only heard by the animals.

"As you drive along the wind whistles through the device," Mr Stroud said. "It makes the kangaroos either freeze and stay where they are or run away. In most situations it's best if they freeze, of course. If the kangaroos are coming towards a road and they hear the whistle, generally they'll take off in the opposite direction."

Tablelands Wildlife Rescue volunteers rehabilitate and release



PROTECTION: Tablelands Wildlife Rescue wildlife carer Olive Needham and 4X4 FNQ Tolga owner Clinton Stroud have united to protect native animals by offering free shuroos to local drivers.

Picture: CAITLIN PEARSON

kangaroos and other animals that are injured or orphaned on the Tableland.

"It would be great if we could take some pressure off the carers as they give a lot of their time to this voluntary organisation," Tablelands Wildlife Rescue spokeswoman Jean Housley said. "They can have joeys in their care for up to nine months and it costs them a lot of money with buying formulas. We hope that

the shuroos will reduce the number of animals being hit by cars in the Tablelands and the amount of wildlife coming into our organisation."

Wildlife carer Olive Needham, of the Tablelands Wildlife Rescue, said shuroos would be ideal for people commuting through the region in four-wheel drives.

"Most people have four-wheel drives because they live in the country," she said. "And people

choose to live in the country because they love the environment.

"So animals are a part of our environment and Clinton's doing his bit to give back to the other side of four-wheel driving."

The shuroos are available from 4X4 FNQ Tolga to anyone who owns a vehicle.

Tablelands Wildlife Rescue can be contact 24 hours on 4091 7767.