

DIAMOND CREEK



Libby Fisher meets two-year-old koala Merri at Healesville Sanctuary. Picture: JAY TOWN

Young wildlife warrior hailed for rescue work

Tireless animal lover leaving a mark with donations and rescue kits

Jaylri Smiles

A YOUNG girl who has helped save precious native animals is among a group of selfless Victorians honoured in this year's Pride of Australia awards.

Libby Fisher, aged just 12, has spent countless hours helping rescue organisations care for injured and orphaned wildlife including koalas — her favourite.

The big-hearted Diamond Creek youngster has donated close to \$5000 to conservation societies including Wildlife Victoria, the Australian Koala Foundation and Aus-

tralia Zoo. She has also made more than 3000 towels and rescue pouches which are used to help nurse animals back to health.

Libby has been named as one of seven Victorian Pride of Australia medallists.

The News Corp initiative celebrates the contributions and achievements of everyday Australians.

Libby said she was called to action after learning about the dwindling numbers of koalas.

"I raise money by going to markets and selling animal rescue kits for cars to the public and then I donate this

money to a charity," Libby said.

The tireless animal lover, who has hosted nature conservation talks with more than 1500 kids, has also recruited a small sewing army of 30 people to help make the rescue kits.

Money raised through selling them goes towards helping wildlife workers cover vet bills and other out-of-pocket costs including petrol, animal food and groceries.

Libby, now in year 7 at Montmorency Secondary College, plans to this year raise \$6000 to help Cooper's Animal Refuge and Wildlife

Victoria assist even more animals.

She has also begun a basic animal rescue training course with Wildlife Rescuers.

"I just want people to know that no voice too little and no hands are too small to save our wildlife," she said.

Mum Rebecca Fisher told News Corp: "The whole family is really impressed because she works so hard and we try our hardest to help her."

"She has worked with the community in our local area and really left a mark on it," Ms Fisher said.