



Wildlife carer Michele Phillips with a one-year-old galah with a bad beak that she will continue to look after.

Picture: MARK STEWART N20WG707

Doing a lot for wildlife

MONASH'S answer to Dr Dolittle is seeking fellow animal-lovers to care for needy wildlife.

Michele Phillips, who has run the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter for eight years, said spring always saw an increase in the number of injured or orphaned baby animals.

Ms Phillips takes in wildlife from the RSPCA, wildlife emergency lines and veterinary clinics across Melbourne.

The dedicated carer said she had 25 possums and birds – including lorikeets, magpies and galahs – that needed new homes until they could be released back to the wild.

“I have official release sites for the animals

but need people who are willing to learn how to feed and care for them,” she said. “All the healthy animals get released after they are rehabilitated.”

Ms Phillips said she was also looking for keen knitters to make possum bags and residents with woodworking skills to construct possum boxes. She said she could supply the materials for the boxes as they were donated by hardware stores.

She is also seeking donations of native trees and plants that can be used in projects she runs at local schools.

For details, phone Michele on 0411 600 591 or for help for injured wildlife, phone 5964 9280.