

OAKLEIGH SOUTH

# Native animals seek help

## LACK OF CARERS GROWS CRITICAL ACROSS STATE

Tim Michell

WILDLIFE carer Michele Phillips is on a mission to recruit more volunteers to address a state wide-shortage.

Ms Phillips, who runs the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter, said registered carers were being inundated with injured and sick animals because of a lack of volunteers.

In an effort to address the shortfall, Ms Phillips is organising a training workshop for people interested in becoming full-time carers.

"It's been done before down on the peninsula and it helped them get more transporters, rescuers and a few foster carers," Ms Phillips said.

"They learn how to do rescues, how to look after the animals and can see whether they're interested in following through with it."

Ms Phillips said she had been overwhelmed in recent months.

"There's just been a ridiculous amount of animals coming in," she said.

Possums and birds are among the animals most regularly in need of care.



Michele Phillips is calling on more people to become wildlife carers.

Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER N37WG201

Ms Phillips said people wanting to become carers would be required to make a significant time commitment.

If you're interested in learning what it takes to be a wildlife carer or want to donate to the shelter, phone Michele on 0411 600 591.

### CARING FOR WILDLIFE

TO become a full-time carer, you will need to develop skills including:

- Knowing how to handle an injured animal
- Understanding what to feed an

injured or sick animal and how to hydrate it

- Helping an injured animal recuperate to full health
- How to release a recovered animal back into the wild