



Volunteers are desperately needed to help collect and look after injured wildlife. Pictures: MARK STEWART N16WG200

## On a wing and a prayer

**Wildlife** | Michelle Carnovale

A MONASH wildlife rescuer has made a desperate call for assistance after an unprecedented start to her spring rescue season.

Oakleigh South resident Michele Phillips said she was working around the clock to look after a number of baby magpies and possums that had fallen from their nests and mothers' pouches in the past few weeks.

"I picked up 14 baby magpies, 22 baby ringtail possums and five baby brushtail possums in just four days last week," Ms



Michele Phillips feeds a possum.

said the wet and windy weather may have contributed to some of the fallen animals, but she was sure there had been so

many this spring. "I desperately need help, even just to pick up animals or help with rescues."

One of only a few suburban wildlife rescuers, Ms Phillips said she had to feed the birds and possums every three hours, which took more than an hour to complete.

A cash-strapped Ms Phillips has also asked for help with the continuing costs of caring for the injured wildlife she keeps at her Oakleigh South shelter. "I don't get any funding; it all comes out of my pocket," she said.

► **To help out or report injured wildlife, phone Ms Phillips on 0411 600 591.**