



Michelle Phillips with an injured rosella she is rehabilitating at her shelter.

N25WG200

Costly to run shelter

Wildlife | Tim Michell

OAKLEIGH South wildlife carer Michelle Phillips knows the harsh realities of running a self-funded shelter all too well.

A week after a *Leader* investigation revealed Wildlife Victoria spent more on bookkeeping than caring for animals, Ms Phillips shared the harsh realities of being a carer.

Having poured nearly all her money into the Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter, built at the back of her home, she faces each day without assistance from wildlife authorities.

"I'm spending at least \$250 to \$300 a week to care for the animals," Ms Phillips said.

"That depends largely on how many ani-

mals I've got in though, sometimes it's less and sometimes it's a lot more.

"I've eaten into my savings and the couple of small grants I've been given."

The *Leader* revealed that Wildlife Victoria spends just \$6000 on wildlife shelters each month, while more than \$10,000 is spent on bookkeeping, banking and accounting.

Since then, Wildlife Victoria reshuffled its board, appointing Rob Gell as president.

Mr Gell said the struggles of Victorian wildlife would be prioritised. "We need to bring the plight of Victoria's iconic wildlife to the forefront of everyone's thinking ensuring that the community's needs and wildlife welfare issues are met equally," he said.