

OAKLEIGH SOUTH



## Plea to let these little flockers stay grounded

OAKLEIGH South wildlife rescuer Michele Phillips is warning locals they could be doing more harm than good if they pick up baby magpies.

Ms Phillips, who rescues animals from Kingston, Glen Eira and Bayside, said mother magpies often took their babies on to the ground to teach them to forage for food.

However, people feared the birds were injured and took them away.

"It's doing more harm than good," she said.

"Unless they are obviously injured or in distress, the best thing you can do is leave them alone."

Ms Phillips has 55 animals in her care, including 19 baby possums.

She is looking for volunteers she can train as carers.

Details: 0411 600 591.

**Wildlife rescuer Michele Phillips is urging people not to pick up baby magpies. The babies' parents take them to the ground to learn to look for food.**

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN N14MS713