



Wildlife carer Michele Phillips has been inundated with lorikeets and possums.

Picture: MARK WILSON N37WG201

Big wet plays havoc with 'wrong time' wildlife

OUR wettest summer in 17 years has taken its toll on the city's fauna, with unseasonable birthing patterns putting wildlife rescuers into overdrive.

South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter's Michele Phillips said cold temperatures and high rainfalls

usually associated with spring had confused many animals, including possums and lorikeets, into breeding too early.

"Trees that don't usually flower until spring are blooming because of the strange weather but unfortunately there is not

enough nutrition around for them to grow," Ms Phillips said.

The wildlife rescuer was juggling more than 16 baby lorikeets and 18 baby possums last week, many of them found fallen from trees because of their weak state.

"These babies have been born

at the wrong time of year and they just can't survive," she said.

Ms Phillips called for volunteers to help her pick up or care for injured animals, make possum boxes or give a donation to her not-for-profit shelter.

Details: 0411 600 591.