

# Look out for wildlife

**Birds | Michelle Carnovale**

SPRING is the season of new birth in the animal world and Monash residents have been warned to watch out for vulnerable baby wildlife on their travels.

Wildlife rescuer Michele Phillips urged motorists and pedestrians to keep a lookout for all furry and feathered creatures after she was inundated with injured magpies, possums and ducklings.

The Oakleigh South resident said ducks were particularly at risk this

time of year, as mothers took their newborns in search of water to teach them to swim.

Just last week she attended three incidents, including one on Huntingdale Rd, where the mother duck and ducklings had all been run over as they tried to cross busy roads.

"It's devastating," Ms Phillips said.

She said baby magpies had also been handed in for her care after walkers found them fallen from their nest.

"A lot of people are picking up birds and bringing them in but that's how the babies learn, by foraging on the ground," she said.

"The mother will come down and feed them. Most of the time they will be fine, so people don't need to pick them up."

Ms Phillips also encouraged cat owners to keep their pets indoors after many of the injured birds brought in had been victims of cat attacks.

► **Phone 0411 600 591 to help or report an injured animal.**



Michele Phillips treats an injured bird.

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