

Wildlife group seeks support

Animals | Michelle Carnovale

A MONASH wildlife rescuer has called on the city's carers and registered shelter owners to join the Victorian Wildlife Rehabilitation Council.

The council, established almost five years ago, aims to provide a united voice for carers in lobbying for grants and better conditions for shelters, animals and volunteers.

South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter carer Michele Phillips said the council was looking for carers to join its ranks and strengthen the council to a similar level of those in other states.

"Each state has its own council and we're hoping for ours to get more support," Ms Phillips said.

"Basically, it's to support carers because we don't get any funding to help shelters and our operations."

Ms Phillips, one of the council's metropolitan representatives for the south-



Michele Phillips has cared for hundreds of native animals in need of rehabilitation.

Picture: MARK STEWART N20WG707

east, said she hoped the council would "give wildlife a voice" and provide a better, more organised system for rescuers in times of crisis.

"When we had the (Black Saturday) bushfires, there was no organisation there and a lot of people didn't have equipment and were

having to pay for a lot out of their own pocket," she said. "Hopefully we will be able to set ourselves up with supplies in case of an emergency."

► **Monash wildlife carers can register by contacting Ms Phillips on 0411 600 591 or go to victorianwildlife.council.org for details.**