

Wildlife rescue provides a little sanctuary in the city

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THERE's a lot of grunt work behind running the South Oakleigh Wildlife Centre, but Michele Phillips said the animals were worth the effort.

"I don't think people realise how much wildlife is in the metropolitan area," Ms Phillips said.

"I take in more than 2000 animals a year.

"Every day I go out and pick about two carloads of branches for the possums."

Her current wards include baby lorikeets, frogmouths, bats and a particularly cuddly baby ringtail possum.

She said most of the animals rescued at this time of year were suffering from heat stress.

"It's important to put out water for wildlife in hot weather," Ms Phillips said.

"Check the pouch if you see an injured animal on the side of the road, as a lot of them have babies."

Injured or orphaned animals were raised by the Centre until they were healthy enough to be released into the wild.

Even with 25 years' experience, Ms Phillips said it was tough to let them go.



This baby ring tail possum was handed in to South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter. *Source: News Limited*