



South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter carer Michele Phillips.

Wildlife shelter overwhelmed

WITH more possum babies than she can manage, South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter carer Michele Phillips is crying out for help.

Ms Phillips has been inundated with wildlife, mostly possums and birds, earlier than usual this year.

“Because of the weather everything’s right out of whack, the animals see the trees flowering so they breed,” she said.

“And then the weather snaps cold, and the other trees the possums eat haven’t got their spring shoots yet, so the possums

come down to the ground for whatever they can, and get attacked by cats or dogs.”

In the last three weeks of July, Ms Phillips retrieved a record 30 baby possums, nine baby lorikeets and two baby plovers. She now has 57 animals in her care.

Ms Phillips is asking for donations of money or time to continue the shelter’s work. Volunteers will be trained to rescue and transport animals, and in some cases help raise them.

There will be a volunteer information session on August 24. Details: [0411 600 591](tel:0411600591).