

## MONT ALBERT NORTH

# Signs erected as wetland duck eggs go missing

WETLANDS in Mont Albert North and Blackburn South are being monitored after reports of duck eggs being stolen.

The eggs were taken from wetland areas along the Koonung Creek Trail and Wurundjeri Walk, prompting Whitehorse Council to erect signs and monitor the sites.

Whitehorse acting general manager of infrastructure David Logan said a council contractor reported the re-

moval of the eggs from Koonung Creek on September 8.

It is an offence to tamper with the nests or eggs of native wildlife, and all native birds are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

Mr Logan said the council then alerted the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

"Signs were temporarily installed as a deterrent and to obtain any further information from park users," Mr

Logan said. "Sites have been monitored since the reported incidents."

Mr Logan said it was not known why people may want to steal duck eggs.

"The removal of duck eggs is not a common problem in Whitehorse," he said.

Mr Logan said typically the native black duck, wood duck, chestnut teal duck and hard-head duck nested and fed in Whitehorse's wetlands and waterways.

Meanwhile, wildlife services warned people to avoid touching baby birds during spring.

Wildlife Victoria chief executive Karen Masson said the organisation's emergency response line was flooded with calls in spring.

Ms Masson urged people not to intervene if they saw ducks with their young.

South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter carer Michele Phillips said people often made the

mistake of picking up baby birds that appeared to have fallen on the ground.

"Their parents actually put them on the ground to learn to forage," Ms Phillips said.

Ms Phillips said if people came across ducklings in immediate danger, the best thing to do was to walk alongside them to a safe place, such as a park.

In an emergency, phone Wildlife Victoria on [1300 094 535](tel:1300094535).



A sign posted along the Koonung Creek Trail.