

# Moorabbin Kingston Leader

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# Swan death outrage

Suzana Talevski

WILDLIFE rangers and rescuers have expressed disgust at the way a swan was attacked at Karkarook Park in Heatherton last week and left to die.

The bird had to be euthanased after suffering a deep gash to the throat.

Parks Victoria ranger Des Lucas said an investigation had been launched involving the police, RSPCA and Parks Victoria.

Mr Lucas said a pitbull or similar dog was suspected to be responsible for the attack.

He appealed to the public to report the dog's owner.

"We've had several reports that there's a man who takes his dog



The surviving swan and one of the cygnets that have been removed from a Heatherton park after a dog attack left another swan badly injured (below).  
Picture: IAN COOK, N47MS11



**It's a despicable act, and the man who is responsible obviously had no regard for our native wildlife**

Animal rescuer PAUL HACKETT

here and lets it loose on the wildlife," Mr Lucas said. "We will strive for the person to be dealt with; it's very important this is stopped right away.

"If this continues, wildlife in this area will diminish."

A rescue worker with Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education, Paul Hackett, said the attack was the worst he had seen.

"It's a despicable act, and the man who is responsible obviously had no regard for our native wildlife," Mr Hackett said.

The savaged swan was one of a pair that lived at Karkarook and had successfully bred for several years. The pair had three cygnets - two of which had suddenly disappeared last week.

"Witnesses have said the man

walks his dog at Karkarook Park on a regular basis," Mr Hackett said. "He apparently walks the dog to the water, revs it up then lets it off the leash.

"It is as though he is training the dog to kill wildlife for pig hunting or similar activities."

The dog was described as a pitbull-type breed.

The surviving swan, a female, and

the remaining cygnet have been removed from the lake for their protection. They are being cared for by Jill Donath at the Warrarwee Wildlife Shelter in Langwarrin.

"Ideally we would like to put them back, but it's not safe," Ms Donath said.

Anyone with information about the attack is asked to phone Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

