

 **FRANKSTON**
INDEPENDENT Incorporating **weekender**

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Ugly tum for mother swan after dog attack

A MOTHER swan attacked by dogs is being cared for in a bath at Langwarrin and needs donations of leafy greens to feed her family.

The black swan, her mate and four cygnets are being kept together as a family unit by Jill Donath, a registered wildlife rehabilitation carer.

Ms Donath needs lettuce, spinach, bok choy, wild bird and canary seed for the family of vegetarians.

They also receive handpicked grass from her property.

Ms Donath has appealed to vegetable growers, gardeners or fruit and vegetable shops for leafy greens for the family.

The mother swan has been to the vet three times already for attention to the wound on her chest inflicted when mauled by dogs at an Elwood park. She is being kept in the bath as a sterile environment.



The mother swan being cared for by Jill Donath at Langwarrin needs leafy greens for her family. Picture: Daryl Gordon.

The mother swan is due to have corrective surgery in 10 days, when the flesh wound has repaired.

Australia has the only entirely black swans in the world. They mate for life, so Ms Donath said it was important for the group to be kept together. When the mother swan has recovered, the family will be returned to a lake at Elwood. Ms Donath said dog owners should keep dogs on leads around wetlands and lakes, especially at this time of the year when birds are nesting.

If you can provide vegetables for the swans at Langwarrin, call wildlife protection group AWARE on 0412 433 727.

TODAY

Play group



A new play group has started at Carrum Downs for children with disabilities — page 5

All fired up



New life enters the engine that put paid to Houdini's bid to set a