



Media release

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Beware of swooping magpies



The City of Albany Reserves Team is reminding residents to take care during the magpie breeding season.

During breeding season, magpies will often swoop and attack people to protect their young from perceived threats.

Works and Services Executive Director Matthew Thomson advised the community to take care around parks, tree-lined streets, footpaths and other areas where magpies might breed.

“The Reserves Team can install temporary warning signs in magpie ‘hotspots’ to warn others of the threat of swooping magpies,” Mr Thomson said. “To report a magpie hotspot, please contact the City of Albany Reserves Team on 9841 9224.”

Breeding season begins with magpies collecting nest material and establishing territorial boundaries. Magpies will sing to each other at night to determine their territories. Once nests are built, females will lay between three and five eggs which hatch within three weeks. The swooping season lasts about six weeks during Spring.

Magpies have sharp beaks and claws which can cause serious damage. Some tips to keep in mind during swooping season include:

- Stay alert for possible nesting sites and change your walk / ride route if needed
- Avoid making eye contact with the magpie
- If you are swooped while riding your bike, try getting off and walking
- Don't provoke the magpie by trying to hit it or flapping your arms (it will think you are attacking it and is more likely to swoop)
- Wear a wide brimmed hat to protect your head and eyes

END