

# Ducks & Ducklings

The most common native duck species in Victoria are the Pacific Black Duck and the Australian Wood Duck.

## Pacific Black Duck



## Australian Wood Duck



## Nesting

- A mother duck will seek out a nesting site away from her home watercourse. This increases the chance of the ducklings survival by removing the nest from an area frequented by predators.
- Usually the nest is in a little nook in a yard, often not seen until the ducklings have hatched.
- Sometimes they choose to nest atop a chimney - so by ensuring that your chimney is bird-safe could save lives.
- A mother duck will usually return to the same nesting site year after year.
- Ducks will commonly choose to nest in suburban backyards, especially those with a pool. The cover and safety of a fenced in area and access to water is the perfect place for mother duck to incubate her eggs.
- Within 24hrs of hatching, a parent duck will take the ducklings for a quick swim and then walk them back to her home territory. This journey back to the home watercourse is the most important trip of the ducklings' lives. They need to make this trek themselves so they learn the way home and the parent can teach them how to be a duck along the way! Parents will show their ducklings how to hopefully avoid predators and cars, how to feed and navigate around the neighbourhood.

## Avoid intervening

- Their best chance of survival is if we don't intervene.
- Keep a safe distance as parent ducks can become extremely stressed and may abandon their ducklings.
- If relocated, a mother duck will attempt to find her way back to the lost ducklings, risking crossing roads and dangerous paths.
- If you see a family of ducks crossing the road, please observe from a distance and allow the family to cross safely without stress.

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ABN: 27 753 478 012

## **I've found a clutch of ducklings in my pool - what can I do?**

- Remove pets from your backyard as the little duck family will only be there for a few days.
- Make sure the ducks are able to get themselves out of the pool by providing makeshift ramps e.g. branches, planks of wood etc.
- If the ducklings are alone please leave the backyard and observe from a distance so parent ducks feel safe to return.
- Ensure all pumps/filters are turned off.
- Do not feed adults or babies.



If you have found parentless ducklings and the parents have not returned to their little ducklings, they will need to be hand reared by specialist carers, so give Wildlife Victoria a call and we will organise their rescue and find a foster home for them.

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