## Where we work

*PlatypusWatch* events can be held anywhere that platypus may be found.

*PlatypusWatch* is able to provide information, assistance and support to any community throughout Queensland.

# PlatypusWatch

### *Platypus conservation in action*

## *You can help*

Out of sight should not mean out of mind for our elusive native platypus. You can help put the platypus back in our sights and minds in Queensland by participating in a *PlatypusWatch* survey, protecting and improving habitat in your area and reporting platypus sightings to the *PlatypusWatch* network.

### *Visit www.wildlife.org.au*

*PlatypusWatch* is a citizen science project aimed at conserving platypus and their habitat through community projects in creeks and rivers. Sadly, sightings of this iconic animal are decreasing. Data collected through the *PlatypusWatch* program enables Wildlife Queensland to raise awareness of waterway conservation issues that impact our platypus and other native species.

**Wildlife Qld**
Preservation Society of

## Who we are

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, founded in 1962, has sustained a proud tradition of protecting Queensland's native species and ecosystems for over 50 years. Now known as Wildlife Queensland, the organisation remains at the forefront of community engagement, campaigning and research for the conservation of Queensland's native plants and animals.

## PlatypusWatch

A Wildlife Queensland program, *PlatypusWatch* aims to increase community awareness of platypus and their conservation needs through the collection of platypus population and distribution data. *PlatypusWatch* surveys are conducted by local community groups to deliver quantitative platypus population information on Queensland creeks and waterways. This information can then be used to identify where platypus conservation actions are required and ensure that these amazing animals and their habitat persist into the future.

## Why PlatypusWatch cares

Queensland accounts for almost half of the known geographic distribution of the platypus, an iconic Australian species that depends on healthy freshwater waterways to survive. Many waterways that platypus inhabit are being negatively impacted by the cumulative effects of urbanisation. Decrease in habitat suitability for platypus can be caused by:

- stream bank destabilisation and erosion due to the removal of native riparian vegetation
- increased sedimentation due to erosion
- altered water flow regimes that result in the drying out of pools and/or stagnation of water
- chemical pollution in run-off from streets, houses and primary industries that impact aquatic plants and insects
- rubbish, litter, discarded fishing line and opera house traps
- invasive aquatic weeds.

But complacency may be the biggest threat to our platypus: the extent of its distribution in Queensland is currently unknown. If we don't understand how these animals are responding to a rapidly changing environment, we run the risk of losing them from our landscape. Forever.

## What we do

### Engage Communities

*PlatypusWatch* events encourage local communities to understand the wildlife in the creeks and streams in their own 'backyard'. Community members are provided the opportunity to be directly involved in the monitoring of platypus populations and the conservation of this iconic native animal. *PlatypusWatch* works closely with local catchment groups to establish platypus observation projects in urban creeks and rivers.

### Educate

*PlatypusWatch* increases awareness of the conservation requirements of the platypus through workshops with local communities, landholders and councils. Community members come to understand platypus biology, life history and habitat requirements, and are empowered to respond to and manage threats to platypus in their area.

### Research and monitor

*PlatypusWatch* supports the collection of platypus population and habitat data, both financially and logistically. This crucial information aids the management of platypus conservation across the state. *PlatypusWatch* survey results are shared with local, state and federal governments for use in land-use planning and environmental decision making.

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