

Platy-project: Citizen scientist

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc and Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council (YACTAC) came together in the effort to spread awareness about conserving the habitats for Platypus in the Riverina

The issue

Did you know that there are only about 300,000 platypuses remaining in the wild?

And that they mostly come out during dusk and dawn?

The platypus, an elusive creature, also known as a monotreme, is facing a rapid decline in numbers, placing it at risk of extinction. The challenges posed by land clearing, dams and drought, coupled with the impacts of extreme events such as bushfires, are eroding vital platypus habitats, leaving them vulnerable and in need of urgent conservation efforts.

The solution

To address this critical situation, it is imperative to rally individuals together with a shared commitment to record and understand the habitats of the platypus. By fostering collaboration, we can contribute significantly to the preservation of this incredible species. Our collective efforts not only aim to prevent further declines in platypus numbers but also seek to fill knowledge gaps crucial for their survival. By bringing the community together for citizen science, we contribute to ongoing research efforts. Our dedicated team visited a known area and meticulously searched for all the signs of platypus, and subsequently uploaded our findings to the University of New South Wales' platypus sighting database.

The impact

In the heart of the Morundah area, a local woman generously shared her personal encounters with the elusive local platypus population. This heartwarming gathering brought together individuals who, until then, had never beheld the unique wonder of a platypus. As newcomers and enthusiasts alike converged, conversations began, delving into the captivating personalities of these remarkable creatures and the intricacies of their habitats.

Adding a touch of professionalism to this communal exchange, a distinguished scientist from Charles Sturt University joined the gathering. With expertise and passion, she generously shared her knowledge, enriching the collective understanding of the group. This harmonious blend of personal experiences and expert insights created an atmosphere where warmth and professionalism converged, fostering a shared appreciation for the enchanting world of Morundah's platypuses.



Key facts

- Habitat loss is a significant contributor to the decline of platypus.
- Scientists need citizen scientists to assist in filling knowledge gaps about the locations of platypuses.
- Knowledge sharing creates collective strength derived from diverse perspectives and experiences.

Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.