

Bird features  
like the duck bill



Reptile features like  
venom & eggs



Mammal features  
like fur & milk



OUR UNIQUE PLATYPUS

# Melbourne Water and the Community working together to protect platypus

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Did you know that platypus live in many waterways throughout Melbourne? They are found in the Yarra, Maribyrnong, Werribee, Dandenong and Westernport catchments, but some of these populations are quite small and vulnerable to localised extinction. Melbourne Water and community groups work to protect platypus habitat and survey platypus at key sites throughout Melbourne every year, but we also need your help to conserve these populations.



## Melbourne Water platypus survey locations

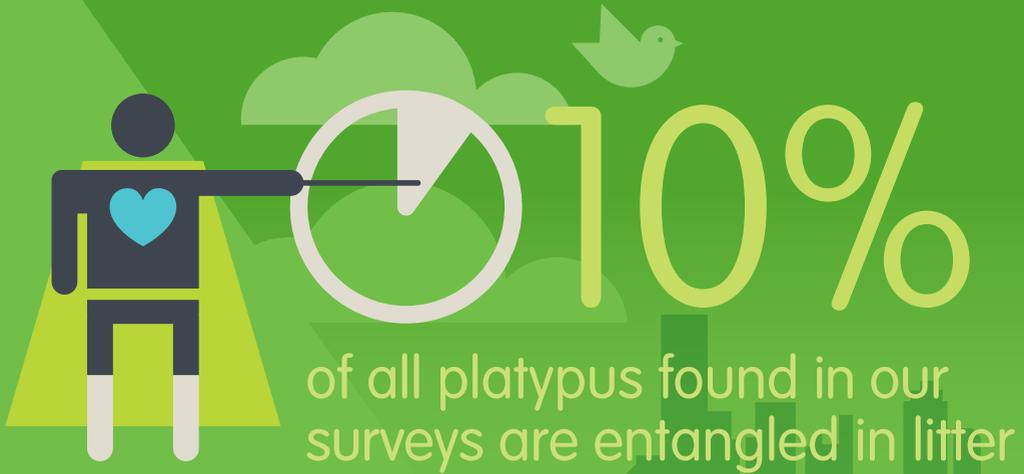


### Help us to fill in the gaps

Platypus are mysterious creatures that we still do not know much about. Platypus are most active at night, but you may also be lucky to see one during the day. Dusk and dawn are generally the best times to spot a platypus.

If you see a platypus we would love to know! Please go to [platypusSPOT.org](https://platypusSPOT.org) or the [platypusSPOT app](#) to report your sighting and add to our knowledge of platypus in Melbourne, so that we can continue to protect this iconic species.

# Become a superhero for the



Use social media to raise awareness of local platypus issues and share how you're caring for our platypus in Melbourne **#protectplatypus**.

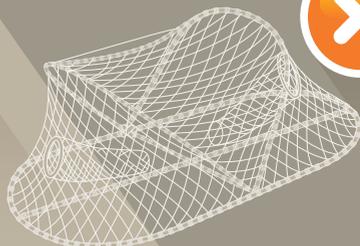


You can protect platypus from entanglement by snipping all circular items before disposal and picking up litter such as hair ties or rubber bands.

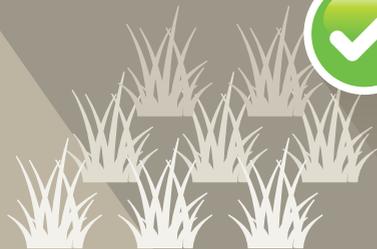
# protection of all platypus!



Walking your dog is a great way to spot a platypus and share this sighting on the **platypusSPOT** app. Keep dogs on a leash around waterways, to prevent them from disturbing or attacking platypus.



Practise responsible fishing by correctly disposing of fishing line. Never catch yabbies with 'Opera House' nets, as platypus can become trapped in these.



Be part of a community planting day to help create a thriving home for platypus, who love native vegetation along their waterways.

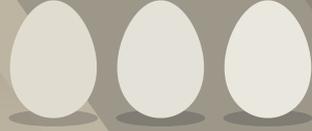


Join a local community group that cares for platypus, or start your own! Contact Melbourne Water on **131 722** or [waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au) to organise free training and support.

# Platypus profile



Platypus mostly feed on freshwater invertebrates like insect larvae, worms and yabbies. They swim with their eyes and ears closed, locating food using electroreceptors in their bill.



Females lay between one and three eggs in spring. There is no official name for a baby platypus, but they are often referred to as puggles or platypups.



Male platypus have spurs that contain extremely painful venom. Do not handle platypus, if you see an injured animal please call Wildlife Victoria on 1300 094 535.



Platypus around Melbourne generally forage over several kilometres each day, travelling up to a maximum of 11 kilometres.



## The effect stormwater & litter has on our waterways

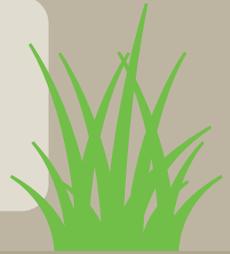
Did you know that rain running off the road goes into the stormwater drain and straight to the nearest waterway? Any litter or pollution on the ground gets washed directly into platypus habitat. Clean streets lead to clean streams!

# For more information on platypus, please visit:



[www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)  
[www.platypusSPOT.org](http://www.platypusSPOT.org)  
[www.platypus.asn.au](http://www.platypus.asn.au)

Healthy Waterways Waterwatch engages with the community to protect our environment. To connect with your local community group, please contact [waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au) or call Melbourne Water on 131 722.



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