

Collaborations

NSWLP-011-027

Platypus priorities in creek systems

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



Responsible fishing habits and suitable habitat are essential for Platypus survival.

The issue

The Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council Inc (YACTAC) carried out an eDNA survey of the Yanco Creek system which it published in 2021. Many of the landholders in the area were unaware of the number of platypus in the major creeks in the area (Yanco, Colombo and Billabong). So, it was decided to have a public meeting to release the results of the findings to both the landholders and interested public to gauge the interest in this iconic species. Also, to engage with Platypus specialists who understood the best management practices of platypus populations.



The solution

YACTAC joined forces with Murrumbidgee Landcare to discuss and organise the meeting at Morundah. Three specialists in platypus habitat were engaged to participate. Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy gave insight on key findings from YACTAC's platypus report. Dr Joanne Connolly, Charles Sturt University, spoke about the platypus locally and what can be done to improve habitat. Kathie Le Busque, ANU Sustainable Farms spoke about enhancing farm dams for best environmental and agricultural outcomes. A field walk was arranged to see firsthand the characteristics of suitable Platypus habitat and to learn useful methods of Platypus spotting.



The impact

Forty-Three participants enjoyed the workshop allowing for plenty of questions to help understand the local population and habitat requirements of Platypus. The farm we visited for 'Platypus Spotting' practices holistic farming methods which complement the needs of the Platypus. Good quality creek water was found to be present as tested by Kathie using the macroinvertebrate identification chart system. Native grasses and low stocking rates reduce sediment into the creek system maintaining water quality. Trees, shrubs and grasses lined the banks providing messy roots and fallen logs which help protect the Platypus and provide a food source suitable for an animal with no teeth.

Key facts

- Responsible fishing habits and suitable habitat are essential for Platypus survival.
- Australian Platypus Monitoring Network (APMN) could be used locally to monitoring Platypus.

Project Partners



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