

# PLATYPUS PROTECTION & LITTER PREVENTION

## Report From Bannerman Rd Glenhaven

The Hills community's beautiful Dooral Dooral Creek, named by the Darug peoples, flows with clean water and is home to an abundance of native wildlife, unique and interesting Australian plants and wonderful sandstone caves. Researcher Dr Michelle Ryan from Western Sydney University recently conducted eDNA testing and confirmed the presence of platypus in the Cattai Creek Catchment!


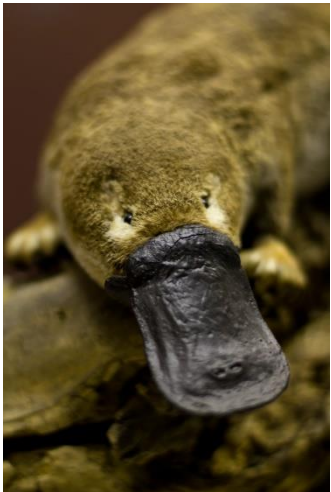
This exciting discovery of a platypus named 'Bluey' in 2023 was the first capture and release of an egg-laying mammal in the area in 25 years. Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) along with echidnas, are a special type of mammal known as monotremes, which are distinguished from all other mammals because they lay eggs.

### LITTER PREVENTION CAMPAIGN NEEDED

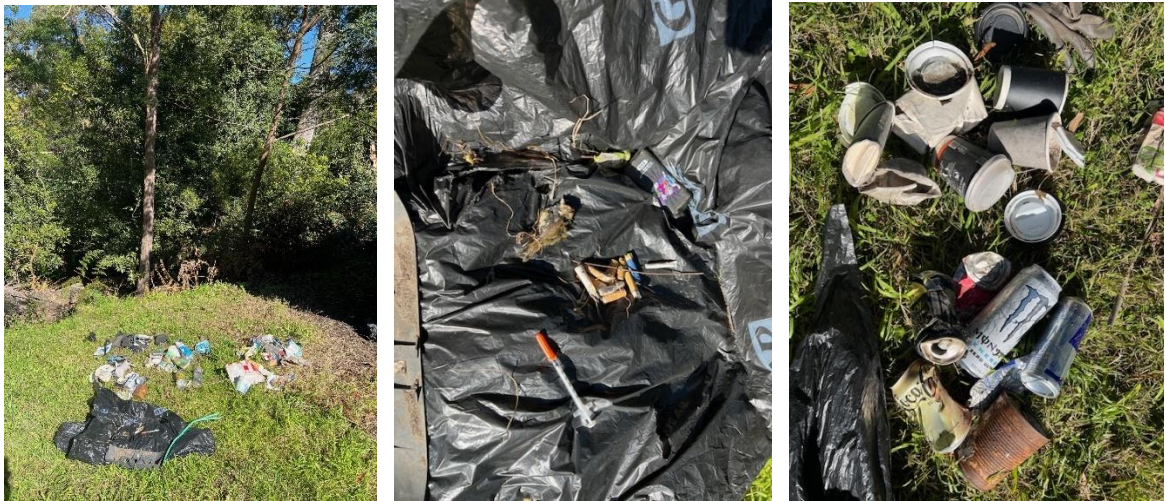
A Litter Audit conducted along 50 metres of roadside, adjacent to Dooral Dooral Creek, on the 7 August 2024 collected more than 97 pieces of litter. This is just rubbish tossed from cars travelling along Bannerman Road in a week. The litter included cigarette butts (which can attract fines of up to \$250 000 and 10 demerit points during a fire ban), a syringe, coffee cups, takeaway food, car parts and plastic. All these items can hurt our precious platypus through direct contact (poisoned, cut, infected, choked) and indirect contact (changing water chemistry, food availability and habitat structure).



*Local resident Aimee picked up a whole garbage bag of litter along Dooral Dooral Creek.*

<b>Litter Audit</b>			
1	Syringe		
11	Cigarettes		
2	Lighters & Vapes		
12	Coffee Cups		
2	Plastic Bottles		
12	Cans		
13	Car Parts		
7	KFC & McDonalds		
37	Miscellaneous Plastic		
<b>Runover Wildlife</b>			
1	Dead Bird		

Many people use Bannerman Road as a ‘rat-run’ and hoon down the windy hills travelling well above the speed limit. Speeding kills wildlife. This creek crossing is important habitat for swamp wallaby’s, goannas, lizards, owls, ducks, bush birds, snakes and echidnas which have been killed at this spot on bannerman Road. Bandicoots have become locally extinct at this creek crossing after many were found runover.



If you see anyone throwing litter from a car you can record the number plate and report them.

**Report Pollution to the NSW EPA**  
<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/contact/EnvironmentLine.htm>  
**Phone:** 131 555

**Penalty notices up to \$11,000 and 10 demerit points apply to an individual.**

**Report Illegal Dumping to Hills Council**  
<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Community/Your-Environment/Pollution-Monitoring/Illegal-Dumping-and-Landfill>  
**Phone:** +61 2 9843 0555  
**RID:** 131 555

**Penalty notices of up to \$250,000 can apply to an individual.**

If you would like to learn more about Platypus and help protect our environment **Platypus Month is back this August! FREE workshops happening in August include:**

**Platypus Discovery in The Hills- Taking Action on Thursday 1 August, 5.30pm–7.30pm at Annangrove Community Environment Centre:** Come and celebrate the launch of Platypus Month by hearing from citizen scientists, environmental groups, and researchers about the discovery of platypus in the Hills, what we are doing now to preserve this population and how you can get involved! FREE light supper, as well as stalls and networking opportunities. Suitable for adults and families. Cost: FREE.

**Caring for our Platypus and their Habitat on Friday 9 August, 10am-12pm at Castle Hill Library:** Learn about these amazing monotremes and their natural habitat from leading Western Sydney Senior Lecturer Dr Michelle Ryan. Discover ways in which you can help our platypus population in your backyard and our community. Suitable for adults. Cost: FREE.

**Platypus Playdate on Friday 9 August, 10am-11.30am at Annangrove Community Environment Centre:** Come and join fun activities for kids, including a short story, a game and some colouring in! Suitable for kids aged 2-10 years and families. Cost: Adults FREE, Children \$14.55

**Caring for our Platypus and the World of Waterbugs Little Eco Warriors Event on Thursday 15 August, 3.30pm-4.30pm at Castle Hill Library:** Children can enjoy an educational talk and activities about platypuses, their diet of tiny waterbugs, and how they contribute to the health of our waterways. Join us for a fun, interactive waterbug activity! Suitable for children. Cost: FREE.

**Platypus Bushcare event on Sunday 18 August 9am-12pm at Connelly Way in Kellyville:** Help Council and Bushcare volunteers remove invasive weeds along the Cattai Creek Catchment and plant native species suitable to support a platypus habitat. Hear from researcher Dr Ryan about platypus in The Hills and learn about the community water quality monitoring, Streamwatch, and waterbug program. Enjoy a FREE barbecue after all the hard work.

To find out more about Platypus month, visit Council's website, [www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au), and search 'Platypus' in the Community and Council Event Directory.

Ongoing opportunities to help the platypus:

#### **Platypus Bushcare**

Platypus Bushcare focuses on restoring potential platypus habitats along Cattai Creek, a key waterway where platypuses are known to reside. Their efforts include planting, mulching, and weeding to create a healthier habitat for the local platypus population. Platypus Bushcare is held once a month at Connelly Way, in Kellyville. No experience is necessary, but Council does encourage participants to register via Council's website ([www.thehills.nsw.gov.au](http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au)) and by searching 'Platypus Bushcare'.

#### **Platypus Landcare**

Council has teamed up with CHEN and Greater Sydney Landcare to provide assistance for Platypus Landcare. This program aims to restore properties along local waterways and other important areas where platypuses live. If you're interested in participating in Platypus Landcare, please reach out to the Council's Environmental Education Officer via email, [jstyan@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jstyan@thehills.nsw.gov.au) or by phone, (02) 9843 0533.

**Register Interest- Community Waterway Health Monitoring Program -  
Streamwatch/National Waterbug Blitz**

Council is working with Greater Sydney Landcare to develop community waterway health monitoring through Streamwatch and National Waterbug Blitz programs. Monitoring the health of our waterways is vital to ensure the health and survival of our platypus population. Please register your interest and contact Council's Environmental Education Officer via email, [jstyan@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jstyan@thehills.nsw.gov.au) or by phone, (02) 9843 0533 if you are keen to get involved.