

The platy-project toolkit | How to spot and record a sighting of a platypus in the wild

Platy Spotting 101 - Guide for group leaders (marshals)

1) Ask attendees to use the QR code to access the platy-project map.

- *If they have trouble or do not want to do this themselves, tell them you'll record their sighting for them.*
- *Be prepared to note the site location, details of sighting and their name (unless they wish to be anonymous)*

2) Lead them to the site - keeping safety in mind.

- *Let them know that they can move to another site anytime they like, as long as there are no more than 10 people at that site already.*

Script / talking points:

Being still and quiet will greatly improve your chances of seeing a platypus, including when walking to the site.

- There's no mistaking a platypus up close — but their duck-bill, webbed feet and fur coat are harder to make out from a distance.
- Keep an eye out for ripples in the water — Look for well-formed 'bulls-eye' ripples or a narrow v-shaped wake in the water.
- Look for features that distinguish a platypus from rakali, or native water-rat. Rakali have a long tail with a white tip, while a platypus has a short, flat, rounded tail.
- A platypus on the move will tend to travel along the surface of the water, diving for about a minute and then resurfacing in the same spot. A rakali will dive and swim below the water, resurfacing further away.

See what other wildlife you can observe while you wait for a platypus to come along.

How to record your findings

Record what you see on the [platy-map](#)

It's important to record what you see so you can share this information with platypus researchers and scientists.

- **Aim to get a photo or a video.** A photo captured on a phone, even at a distance, is great. Please remember to turn off your camera flash or phone light.
- **Make notes of things you notice, including:**
 - The movements of the platypus: if you saw ripples, what shape were they? Did the animal duck and dive or float on the surface? These can help distinguish the sighting from a rakali or other animal.
 - The vegetation along the waterway. What was the vegetation like along the water? Was it sparse or thick, were there trees and shrubs? Was there any litter? What was the water flow like?

Capture the location

If your phone has location settings in the camera app (most do by default) this will be captured automatically. Otherwise you can use a phone or GPS to take down location. At a pinch you can estimate it after.

Upload your findings to the [platy-project](#) via the QR Code on the poster or by typing in: acf.to/platymap

- Attach a photo if you got one
- Include notes about the habitat (what was the tree cover like? Were there many shrubs? Was there much litter in the water or on the banks?)

Share your story

If you were lucky enough to see a platypus and get a photo you can upload your photos to social media using the hashtag **#PlatyProject**

We'd love to hear about your platypus encounters! If you've seen one send an email to platypus@acf.org.au

Follow this link to receive updates about the platy-project and resources for how you can get involved 🙌



Viewing Site



👉 Go straight to the platy map

<https://acf.to/platymap>

Enjoy platy-spotting!

**Don't forget to sign the petition to
protect our precious platypus**