

Platypus & Rakali citizen science monitoring program

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



- The 2022 reporting season was impacted by heavy rains and large flood events, compounding the 2021 flood events. This had a negative impact on sightings.
- Sightings decreased substantially compared to 2021, with rakali sightings dropping 80% and platypus sightings dropping almost 25%.
- We still collected fantastic data and photos from our citizen scientists, and had 16 new reporters!

Image credits:

Top left (Platypus) -
Brian Holley

Top middle (Rakali) -
Neil Evans

Top right (Platypus) -
Brian Holley



Total sightings:

34 Platypus

14 Rakali

Rakali - Laura Phippen (below)

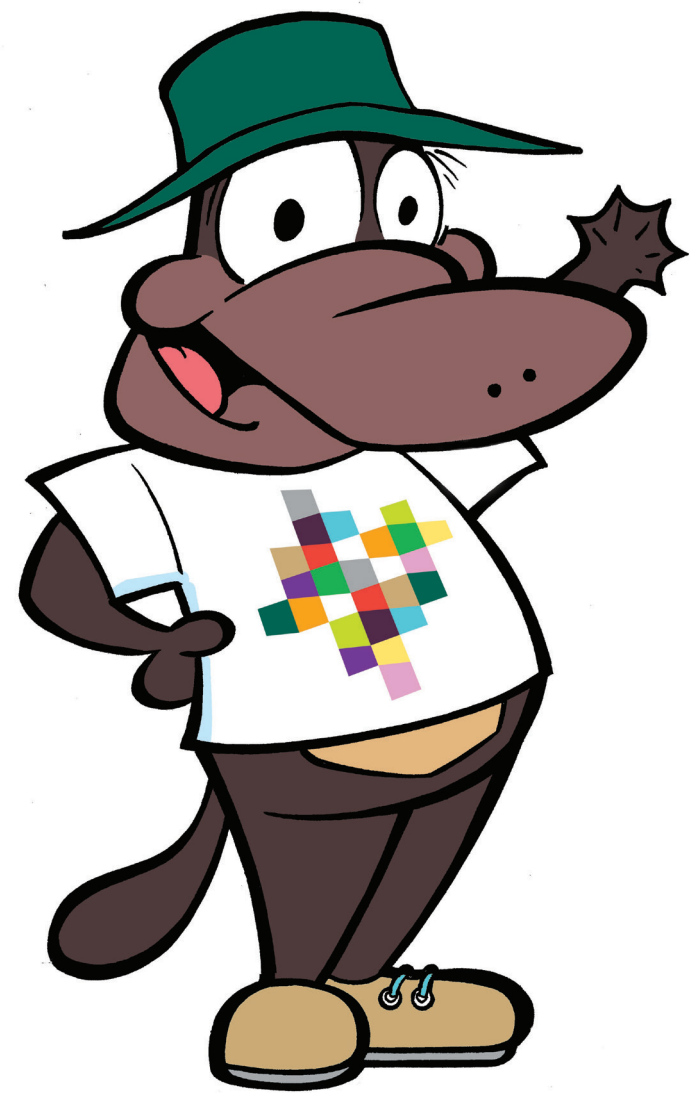
Platypus - Simone Letherby (below)

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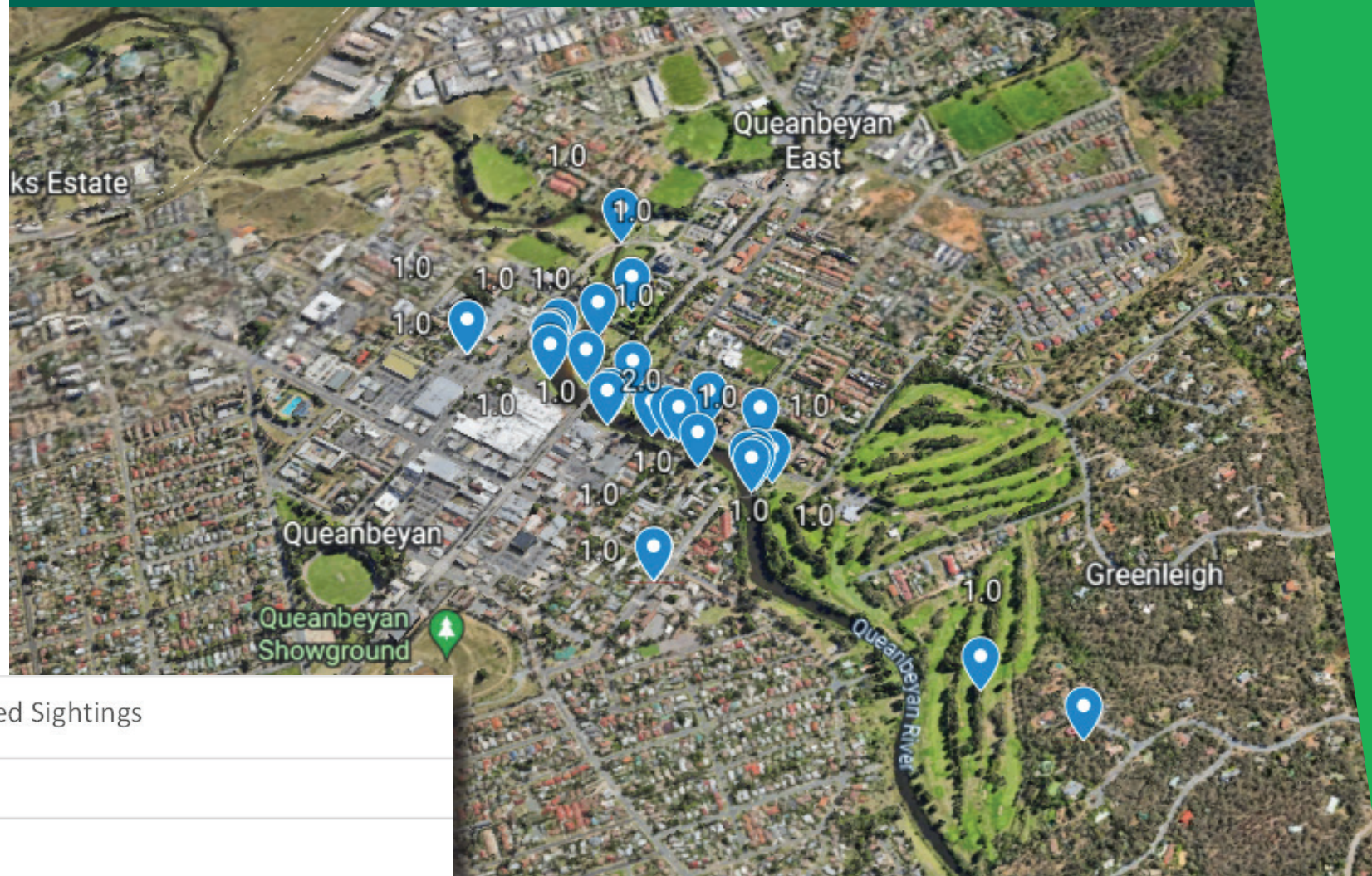


Platypus - Brian Holley (above)
- Simone Letherby (below)





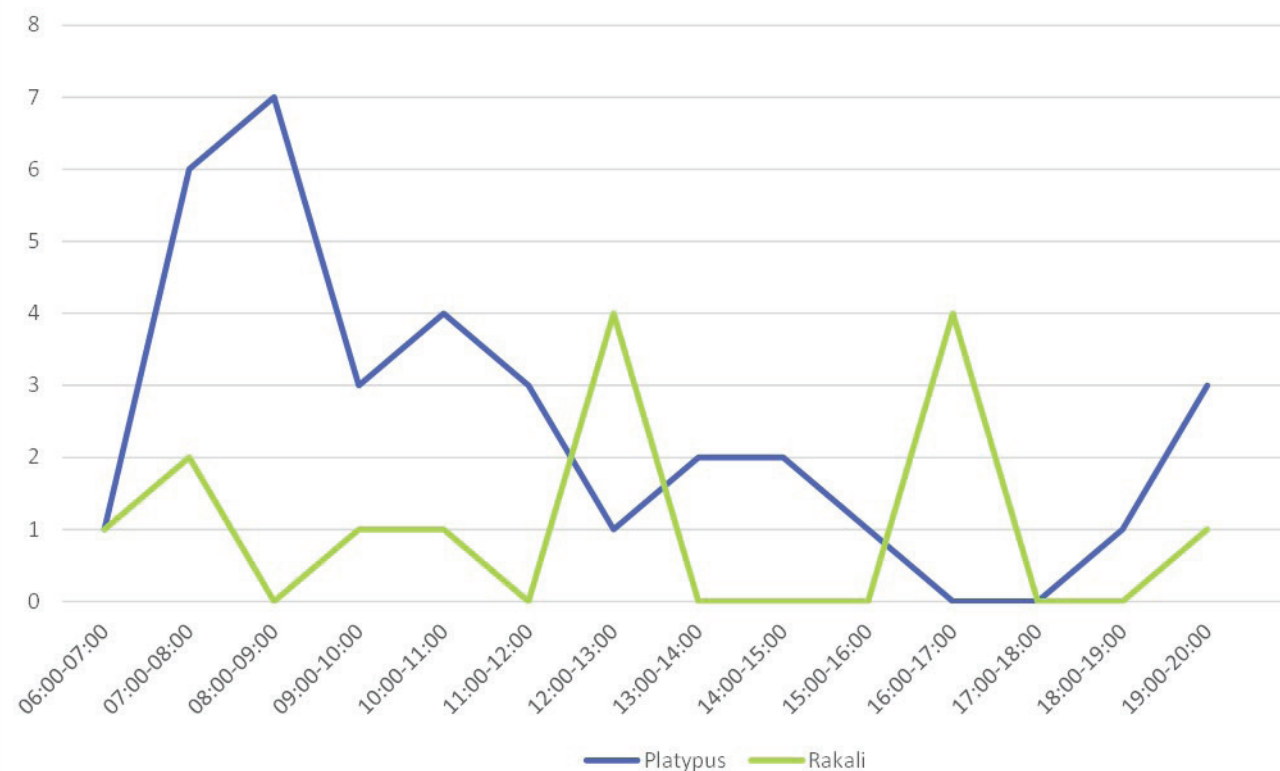
The geographic spread of sightings was almost exclusively limited to a section of the Queanbeyan River popular with the public. A Rakali was also spotted inside the HQJOC base!



The multiple flood events in 2022 decreased sightings substantially, particularly of Rakali. Sightings increased in frequency towards the end of the year, hopefully indicating a local population recovery.

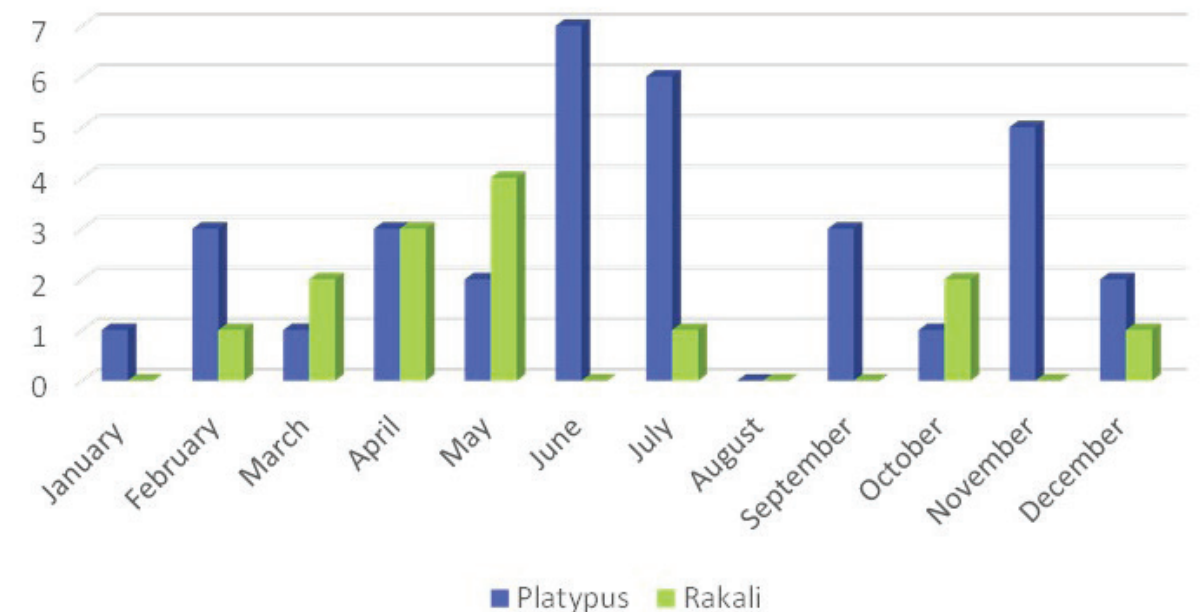
Wet conditions make it hard to get to most rivers, which could be why the sightings were limited to areas with easy access.

Time of Reported Sightings



Sightings are still common throughout the day, and are not limited to dawn or dusk.

Platypus and Rakali Sightings by Month



Email your sightings to platypus@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Online reporting available at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/platypus