

# Platypuses

The **Platypus** - what a wonderful creature.

Platypuses and echidnas are the only mammals that lay eggs.

The Platypus lays her eggs (usually two) in a burrow on the edge of a stream.



female Platypus (*Australian Platypus Conservancy*)

The babies, known as nestlings, remain in the burrow for 2-3 months.

An echidna lays one egg and puts it in her pouch. The baby echidna (called a puggle) stays in her pouch for about three months, and in a burrow for up to a year before leaving.



Short-beaked Echidna



juvenile Platypus (*Pete Walsh*)

Platypuses have been seen in many of the streams and rivers of the Blue Mountains.

The best time of day to see a Platypus is at dawn and dusk, but they may be hard to make out.



female Platypus (*Ken Mival*)

Each hind foot of a male Platypus has a poisonous spur.

Charles Darwin saw his first Platypus in the Coxs River near Lithgow.



Platypus in Blue Lake at Jenolan Caves (*Sue Nicol*)

***When on bushwalks near streams, keep an eye open for ripples on the water. You never know your luck. It's all part of looking, listening and enjoying nature.***



Have you seen a Platypus?

Have you seen an echidna?

Have you seen any Platypus documentaries?