

MCCG ANNUAL PLATYPUS SURVEY RESULTS 13.09.2020

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Left: Platypus immediately below Gold Creek Reservoir (6.9.20). Photo: Cheryl T.

Right: Platypus in Boyd Park (13.9.20). Photo: Sandra M.



Gold Creek: In this year's snapshot platypus survey, Gold Creek again stood out as the platypus 'hotspot' (Fig. 1). The photo above was taken one week prior to the survey, and on the survey morning, a further five platypus were seen further downstream.

Upper Moggill Creek: A platypus was seen in a substantial pool in Upper Brookfield. This is good news because they have not been observed there in several years. A possible two platypus were also seen at Mumford Bridge, further downstream.

Mid-Lower Moggill Creek: The Kenmore High School area, a previous stronghold, was negative for sightings this year, but platypus reappeared in the Tuckett St Park area after several years, which is good news. Two platypus were also observed in a large pool in the Huntington Estate (Boyd Park) and this is reassuring because they have never failed to appear in this riparian strip on survey mornings, despite being in an urban area of high recreational use. No platypus were seen in the lowest portion of Moggill Creek before entering the Brisbane River near Moggill Road (Kilkivan Ave and Manyung St) and this has previously been a reliable creek section for sightings.

Summary:

Approximately 55 volunteer observers participated. There were 11 definite sightings, and in addition, several 'possible' observations. The number of platypus seen is similar to the last couple of years, but lower than some previous surveys over the past 15 years of annual surveys. This may be due more to a lack of rain, with platypus less mobile and remaining in pools, than to a declining population. We also may miss some animals because they simply do not appear on the survey morning!

Key Points:

- Platypus were present in a patchy distribution in the Moggill Creek Catchment.
- Gold Creek and its platypus benefit from a controlled release of water from the Gold Creek Reservoir.
- Upper Moggill Creek relies solely on rainfall, and is also subject to water extraction via pumping, and loss of riparian vegetation for other land uses.

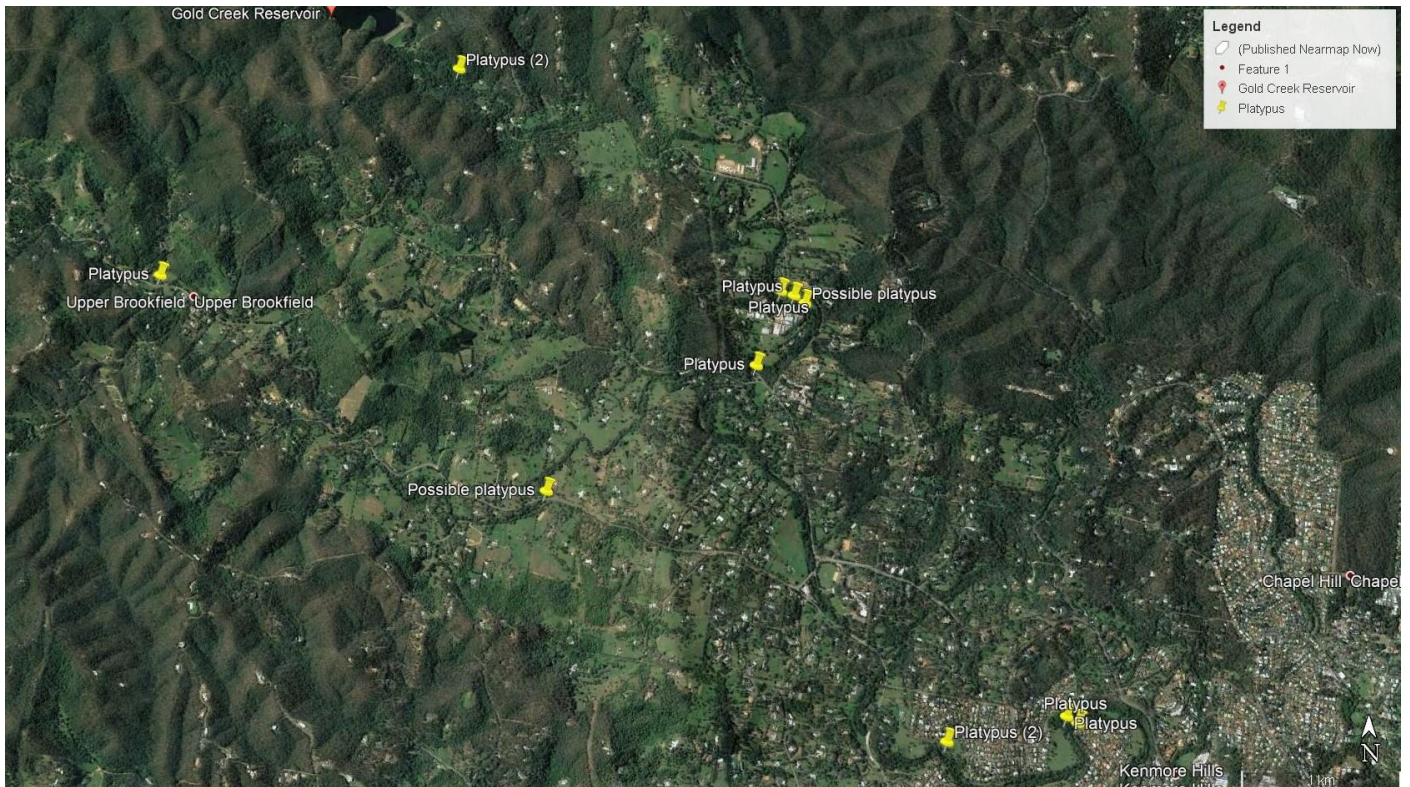


Figure 1 Google Map image of MCCG Platypus survey results for 13th September 2020

Locations are approximate.