



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

September 14, 2018

An Iconic Little Australian



Just a few years after Australia's first colony was established, settlers became aware of a small, semi-aquatic animal inhabiting creeks and billabongs. Amazingly, this creature had the body and size of a mole or water rat but the bill of a duck. Specimens were sent to England for study and classification by taxonomists.

At that time "nature-faking" was rife, with taxidermists in Asia highly skilful in stitching together various animal parts and selling the resulting curios to seafarers who of course

brought them back to England. Consequently platypus specimens sent from Australia were initially treated with deep suspicion but eventually the creature was named *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*, meaning 'having a bird's bill' and 'like a duck'.

On **September 14**, Noosa Parks Association member and keen amateur naturalist **Kon Hepers** will enthral the audience at Friday Environment Forum with his **insights into the life of that shy little creature, the platypus**. Learn about the anatomy, reproduction, habitat and distribution of this Australian icon at the Environment Centre with the forum **commencing at 10.30am**.

Coffee and a chat will be on offer from 10am and to join the Interpretive Birding group meet Valda in the car park at 8.30am.



Platypus are still sometimes found by keen observers in streams of South East Queensland.