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Press Materials: [pbs.org/pressroom](https://pbs.org/pressroom) or [thirteen.org/pressroom](https://thirteen.org/pressroom)

## **Journey to the Platypus' Secret World in *The Platypus Guardian*, Wednesday, October 18 at 8/7c on PBS**

*Witness one man's mission to save the local platypus species in Tasmania*

When photographer Pete Walsh stumbles across a bizarre creature in an Australian urban waterway, he does not know his life is about to change forever. Witness the incredible bond between man and platypus in ***Nature: The Platypus Guardian***, premiering Wednesday, October 18 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), [pbs.org/nature](https://pbs.org/nature), [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#).

Pete Walsh is a Tasmanian obsessed with one of nature's least understood creatures, the platypus. An egg-laying, duck-billed, venom-spined, furry-coated underwater mammal, the platypus' natural environment is in danger from urban development in the capital city of Hobart. With the help of experts, Pete embarks on a mission to rally his community and save the species before it is too late.

During this endeavor, Pete befriends one particular female platypus he names "Zoom." She lets him into her secretive world, and Pete learns more about the life of this enigmatic species, capturing unique footage of their behavior. Zoom's behavior sheds light on platypus survival techniques and offers insight into how the species might be protected.

"The bond between Pete and Zoom is a microcosm of a universal story celebrating the relationship we can all have with wildlife, even hidden right under our noses," said Fred Kaufman, executive producer for ***Nature***. "As Pete beautifully puts it: 'You can't keep taking

from nature.' His journey is an inspiration for anyone looking to bring their community together and protect the world around them.”

Since 1982, **Nature** has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. Consistently among the most-watched primetime series on PBS, **Nature** continues to innovate through original digital programming, such as the award-winning podcast **Going Wild with Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant** and digital series **Untold Earth** and **Crash Course: Botany**. **Nature**'s website, [pbs.org/nature](https://pbs.org/nature), features full episodes, short films, digital series, behind-the-scenes content, news articles, educational resources and more.

**Nature** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various [FAST channel platforms](#) and on [PBS Passport](#).

**Nature** is a production of The WNET Group. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer. Bill Murphy is Series Producer. Janet Hess is Series Editor. Danielle Broza is Digital Content & Strategy Lead. **Nature: The Platypus Guardian** is a production of WildBear Entertainment, The WNET Group and Tetrapod Films in association with Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The documentary is co-directed by Nick Hayward and Chadden Hunter. Nick Hayward and Fraser Johnston are producers. For WildBear Entertainment, Chadden Hunter, Alan Erson and Bettina Dalton are executive producers.

**Nature: The Platypus Guardian** was produced with the support and the assistance of Screen Australia and Screen Tasmania/Screen Innovation Fund. Additional support was provided by Sarah and Sandra Lyu in memory of Seung and Dorothy Lyu and the Bradley L. Goldberg Family Foundation. Series funding for **Nature** is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

**Websites:**

[pbs.org/nature](https://pbs.org/nature); [facebook.com/PBSNature](https://facebook.com/PBSNature); [twitter.com/PBSNature](https://twitter.com/PBSNature); [instagram.com/pbsnature](https://instagram.com/pbsnature); [youtube.com/naturepbs](https://youtube.com/naturepbs), [tiktok.com/@pbsnature](https://tiktok.com/@pbsnature), #NaturePBS

### **About The WNET Group**

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news programs ***MetroFocus*** and ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

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