

Did you see us today?



At the North Head Sanctuary Foundation, we run a citizen-survey of our increasingly common and tame echidnas. If you have seen an echidna today, please mark where you saw it on the map on the last page. Send your photo to us at twswombat@optusnet.com.au. Smart-phone photographs are even better— you can send your photo right now!

You can also give us your e-mail contact details if you like and we will keep you in the loop about our progress. Our computers have a file of photographs of echidnas people have seen on North Head. Some are on the inside of the tear-off back page - can you recognise yours?



North Head
Sanctuary
Foundation



About our Echidnas

Echidnas are mostly Australian animals; one species lives in Papua New Guinea. They are unusual little animals, related to the platypus. Both echidnas and platypuses are *monotremes* and are a side branch in the evolution of reptiles, birds and mammals including marsupials. The ancestors of all were called *Cynodonts*. The word Echidna comes from the name of a creature in Greek Mythology- *Ἐχιδνα*, who was half-snake, half-woman.



Water Dragon
(Reptile)



Echidna
(Monotreme)



Long-nosed Bandicoot
(Marsupial)

- They have fur (the spines are modified fur).
- They lay eggs!
- They have a pouch for their young.
- They suckle their young.
- They are poor at regulating their body temperature.
- They eat ants and termites and prefer big fat ones.
- The Latin name is *Tachyglossus aculeatus* meaning “rapid tongue, and prickly” .
- They are very timid.

We don't know how many Echidnas we have at North Head, where they live or how widely they range in search of food or a mate. Studies on Kangaroo Island and on the mainland have shown that they will travel several kilometres in a night to satisfy these needs. You can help us find out. You can find some videos of our echidnas on our computers and on YouTube. Our computers also have lists, maps and photographs of our Echidnas.

Photo tip

The best ID photos are those that show the echidna side on, as below, so that we can see the colour pattern of its spines and the length of its beak. Be patient with your echidna– if you move slowly and patiently, it may even come up to you and pose for its portrait. If you use a smart-phone, you may be able to set it to incorporate the GPS coordinates of your photo.



MyEchidna

Date I saw my Echidna _____

Time I saw my Echidna _____

My observations on this echidna:

Tear off this page and leave it in
Bandicoot Heaven, or post it to
NHSF P.O.Box 896 **Balgowlah**
2093

I took a photo! _____

Send your photo to twswombat@optusnet.com.au

My name and email contact: _____

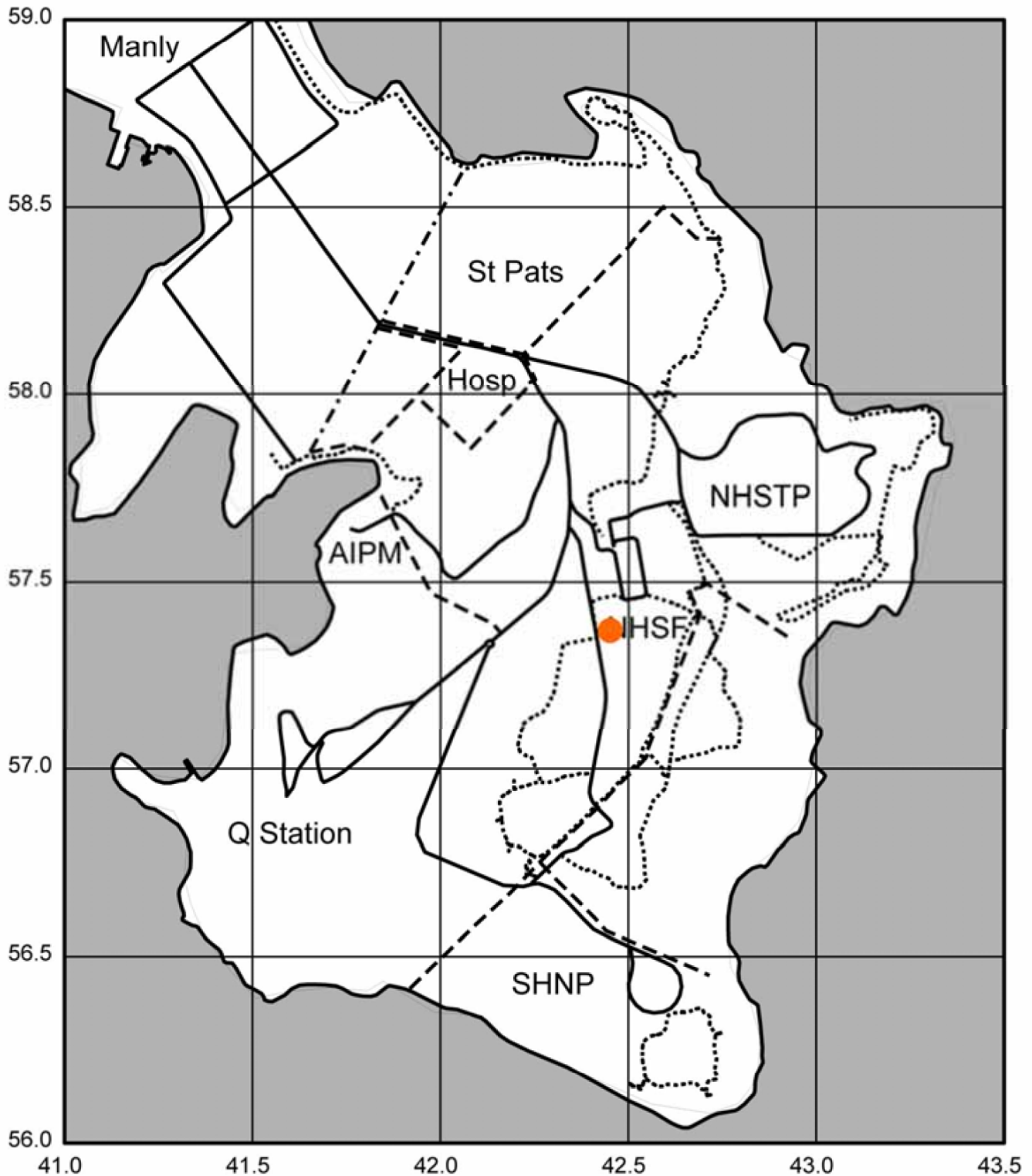
You can also report your echidna to *Project Noah* via their phone app
(<http://www.projectnoah.org/mobile>)

Some of our echidnas– can you spot yours?



Where I saw my Echidna

Echidnas have been seen all over North Head. If you can remember where you saw your Echidna, please mark the spot on the map below. *Bandicoot Heaven* is shown by the red spot.



- Road
- - - Wall
- Walking track
- . - . Boundary