

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

SUGAR GLIDER MONITORING

AUTUMN 2019

(conducted 18 April)

About ten people came along to our autumn monitoring day. We usually seem to get lucky with the weather, and it was once again a beautiful day.

We were keen for our volunteers to get to see some Sugar Gliders, so we headed down and started checking the boxes on Main Flat with the pole camera. We got this one relatively recently and it has the bonus of better pictures and the ability to link wirelessly to our tablet, showing a live feed of whatever (or whoever) is in the nest box.

Sadly, not long into our checking our snazzy new pole camera ran into some technical issues! So we were back to the old faithful pole camera, which works just fine, but gives lower resolution photos. It did the job, though, and we were able to go on with the monitoring. Just goes to show it never hurts to have a back-up plan!



At least 3 gliders in MF4 on Main Flat

For a while there it felt like we weren't seeing many gliders in boxes, although we did find quite a few fresh glider nests. Things kicked off in the end though, and we found a total of 28 gliders throughout the day, which is towards the high end of our autumn average.



Lots of gliders in RG11 – at least 6!

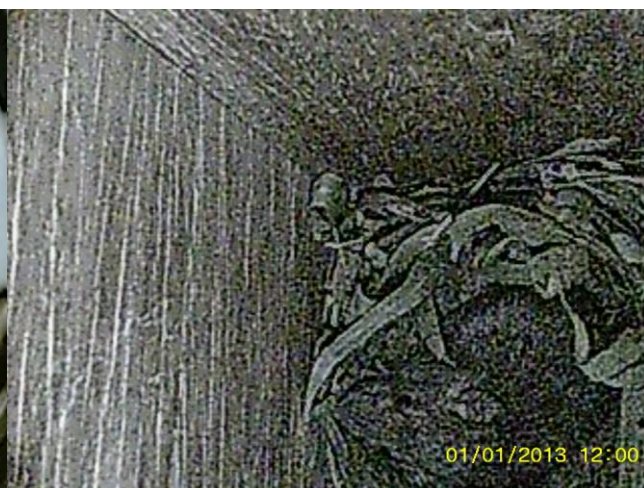


Beautiful big eye on the glider in RG5

We also had some of our usual intruders enjoying the Sugar Glider boxes, including possums and even a rat.



Ring-tailed possum in T1 – named for being near the Toilet block!



Black Rat in BW12 on Black Wattle Flat

We're checking a lot more boxes in one day than we used to, with 45 glider boxes now installed throughout the park! Our team of volunteers worked hard and enjoyed a few cuppa breaks throughout the day courtesy of Terry and FOOPs.



The gang checking boxes on Black Wattle Flat

Thanks to everyone who came along and volunteered for the day, including Harry who took the great group photo below.



Don't forget to follow the 'Friends of Organ Pipes – FOOPS' Facebook page for more photos, updates, and to be notified when we have our next glider check:

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofOrganPipes/>

~ Kara, Asha, and Terry



Sugar Glider Monitoring – Organ Pipes National Park

Date: 18 April 2019/

Main Flat: Left side of track

Box	Gliders	Comments	Action Required
2	-	Nest material	-
MF6	2+	Nest	-
3	2+	Nest	-
SG1	-	Old Nest	-
SG2	-	Nest material	-
6	-	Empty nest	-
SG3	2+	Nest	On dead tree
MF5	-	Old nest	-
SG5	-	Empty nest	On dead tree
SG4	-	Empty nest	-
MF4	3+	Nest	-
MF2	-	Possum sp.	-
L1	-	Nest material	-

Main Flat: Right side of track

Box	Gliders	Comments	Action Required
T1	-	Ringtail possum	-
MF1	1	Nest	Latch
SG6	-	Empty nest	-
MF3	-	Empty nest	-
7	2+	Nest	-
4	-	-	Missing
MF9	-	Empty nest	-

Black Wattle Flat:

Box	Gliders	Comments	Action Required
BW1	-	Nest material	Number and latch
BW2	1	Nest material	-
8	1+	Nest	-
BW9	1+	Nest	-
10	2+	Nest (formerly box 5)	-
BW11	2+	Nest	Adjust design
BW12	1	Rat	Move?
BW13	n/a	Did not check	Adjust design

Red Gum Flat:

Box	Gliders	Comment	Action Required
RG5	1	Nest	-
12	-	Some ants	Prop open
RG6	-	Nest material, some ants	-
RG7	-	Old nest	-
11	-	Empty possum nest	Metal plate
RG8	-	Empty	Metal plate
RG9	-	Brush-tailed possum	Repair
RG10	-	Nest material	-
RG11	6	Nest	Rethink mounts
RG12	1	Nest Material	-

Box	Possum	Comments	Action Required
P1	1	Brush-tailed possum	Bees removed

P2	2	Brush-tailed possum	Chain starting to break box
P3	1	Brush-tailed possum	-



Keilor land/Costa's block:

Box	Gliders	Comment	Action Required
K1	-	Bees	Remove bees
K2	-	Brush-tailed possum	-
K3	-	Nest material	-
K4	-	Old nest material	-
CB1	-	Bees	Remove bees



TOTAL GLIDERS = 28

TOTAL BOXES CHECKED = 44

Contact us at: sugarglidersopnp@yahoo.com.au

