

Sugar Glider Box Check

January 26th 2012

By Terry Lane

A fine sunny day for the first checking by the Glider team.

I met up with Kara Humphrey and Asha Bannon at the VC and we headed down to pick up the ladder.

Not knowing the exact locations of some forty boxes that have been put up over the years meant that we will have to do a bit of searching, assess their condition and if needed remove and repair. We will also take GPS recording to build up a map of locations.

We crossed the low creek at the pump shed ford and soon found BW6 (Black Wattle) with old nest material inside.



After showing the girls Millbrook ruin we went downstream looking for more boxes but could not find any so we put up the newly repaired box 10 with carpet attached to the lid to deter bees



Crossing back to Main flat we started checking. Some boxes are in need of immediate repair. Others like this one Box 2 was hanging on by one bolt but still very firm and as it contained a Glider we decided to leave it for a little longer.



There were three boxes that we checked that had Ringtail Possums inside.



Lidless box 5 permanent resident (old



sleepy)

Wide awake box 8



MF7 had one Glider



Asha checks new box SG2 to find little

pieces of bark inside and a few



leaves

someone's investigating

Box 6 had old nest material and was in very poor shape so we took it down for me to take home and repair. It will go back to the same position on the same



tree.

Box 6



MF4 had three Gliders



New box SG6 full of bees

The pest strip that Robert Bender put in has had no effect. Three other boxes also had bees, these were MF5, box4 and box7 so this is a real problem, I will contact an apiarist to see if they can remove them.

Time was getting on and Asha had to meet the train to get back to Castlemaine so we closed one of the bat boxes but did not have time to find and check Bat box 7 that Robert has consistently found three gliders inhabiting. Assuming they were still there would mean finding eight in total.

Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) Organ Pipes National Park

Date -26 January 2012

Box	GLIDER S	COMMENTS
SG1		Ants
SG2		Little pieces of material (bark)
SG3		Empty
SG4		Little pieces of material (bark)
SG5		Empty
SG6		Bees
2	1	
4		Bees

5		Ringtail
6		Removed for repairs
7		Bees
8		Ringtail
10		New Box
MF4	3	
MF5		Bees
MF6		Small Ringtail
MF7	1	
MF9		Nest Material
Bat Box7		Not checked
BW6		Nest Material

Next month's check we shall start earlier and put up another two boxes.

Once we get used to the layout of the boxes the checking will become much quicker.

Great that there is now a monitoring program underway again and I'm sure as time goes on more students will come along on the day.



Next Glider Box check

25th February 12 noon