

## Glider boxes and bat boxes

On 28 March, Tery led the glider box team, Kara and Asha, and a new recruit, also from Deakin Uni, Sarah Johns, in a further effort to restore the glider boxes and monitor their usage. Several boxes were taken down to have honeycomb removed or just to be repaired.



Poison spray was used to kill bees occupying three glider boxes in the hope of making them available to the gliders again.



Terry has been repairing several boxes which were re-attached to their trees, timber repaired and boxes repainted. There were big ant colonies in a couple of boxes, which had lids propped

open to encourage the ants to move out, which they instantly began to do, gathering up their eggs and young and swarming onto the tree trunks



Sarah is an eager ladder-climber and went up to inspect all the boxes, getting her first sight of gliders in the process



Kara had a well-designed record sheet to note details of what was in each box and what maintenance was needed or was being done



The lidless box 8 still had its Ringtail inside, as always very anxious when a huge human head



appeared over its rim, but experienced nothing worse than a photograph flash.



Glidens were found in several boxes, including two of the new ones I installed late last year, and one I put up a week ago already has fresh nesting material in it



Altogether 15 gliders were counted, so the population is strongly recovering from its low point before the drought broke – the two wet years and good food supply are apparently supporting successful breeding.



Bat box 7 had a pair of gliders in it at the last glider box check. This time it had an abandoned pile of dry eucalypt leaves. So, just as happened in 2001 when Katrina and Craig restored the glider boxes, they no longer need to use the bat boxes as a poor substitute for proper glider boxes with a side entrance and have stopped using them. Bat boxes are now more available for bats.



Sarah had contacted me wanting to do a study of a project plan and I suggested that the recently developed glider box monitoring might be a good one for her to study.

It is really good to see the glider boxes now being properly managed and monitored, the gliders being supported to maintaining a growing population and the bat boxes being liberated from the gliders desperate for somewhere to nest.

Robert  
29 March 2012