

Sugar Glider Monitoring Report May 2012

Terry, Asha and I meet up at the park at 11am along with two new Volunteers, Jill Johnson from Deakin University and Hien Lai. As we were unable to meet up in May we conducted the check on the 1st of June.

As we have 2 ladders we were able to split up into teams and check Main Flat first, much more efficiently. Asha, Jill and Terry started off at box 2 on the right hand side of the track, whilst Hien and I checked the left hand side.



Terry, Kara and Jill manoeuvring the ladder

Last month we began to notice that the glider's nests were becoming much denser and covered over. This month the nests were almost completely closed over, making it quite hard to see if there were gliders in there.

SG1 and SG2 both showed covered over nests and both had at least one glider in them

Box 3 also covered over and home to at least 1 glider that we could see

The 5 of us spent about an hour or so checking the boxes along Main Flat. Out of the 5 boxes located on the left hand side of the track, 3 of them still are filled with bees. As a team we have decided for the time being to focus on other boxes needing attention and repairs rather than move the bees on. Hopefully in the future we will find a solution.

Once again Box 8 was home to the mother and her 2 young Ringtails. But by far the best discovery of the day was in MF4. Our resident family had two new members!! Although hard to see in a photo, we were delighted to see 2 juvenile Sugar gliders amongst the adults in the nest box (they were quite small). A great sign for the Sugar glider population of the Organ Pipes!

Glider in MF4 along with a possible 2 juveniles



Mother and young ringtail possums



Hien, checking boxes along Main Flat

After checking Main Flat, we ventured across to Red Gum flat to check the 5 boxes there. We did not check across the creek this month as we have decided to check those boxes every 2 months until we see some gliders.

RG8 was once again filled with a family of gliders, who look quite healthy and happy in their box.



***Family in RG8
A cute surprise in lidless RG9***



More checking along Red Gum Flat (Asha, Jill and Hien)



And more..... Asha checking the newly named RG10

As we had a bit of time before we had to head home, the 5 of us ventured across tessellated pavement to see what boxes were over that side of the park. We found about 7 boxes in total, with only 1 being in a good condition. The rest were falling off of the trees, bottoms rotted out and so on. In the future we hope to revegetate the area beyond tessellated pavement and replace the boxes to encourage glider activity over that side of the park.

Overall, a great day with lovely weather. One more glider than last month, but coming into winter I guess we can expect some to go into hiding!!

~ Kara ~



Kara, Jill and Asha being led by Terry to Rubble Flat beyond Tessellated pavement to search for some more boxes



One of the many damaged old boxes along Rubble Flat

Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*)
Organ Pipes National Park
Date – 1st June 2012

Box	Glider s	Comments	Action Required
2		Replaced	
MF7		To be replaced	New Box
MF6		Nest material	Lid needs repair
3	2		none
5			none
SG1	1		none
SG2	1		none

6		Fresh nest material	none
SG3		Ants	Propped open
8		3 ringtails	
MF5			none
SG5		Fresh nest material	none
SG4		Nest material	none
MF4	4	* possible young	Lid needs re-hinging
SG6		Bees	Spray
MF3			none
7		Bees, lid knocked off	replace
4		Bees	Needs to be sprayed
MF9			none
BW 6		N/A	
BW 2		N/A	
BW 5		N/A	
10		N/A	
11		Nest material	none
RG6			Needs replacing
RG8	5	Lid damaged	None at present
RG9		1 Brushtail	
RG1 0		Old nest material	

Gliders Total: 13

No. Of Boxes checked: 23

Next month's check;

27th June



