

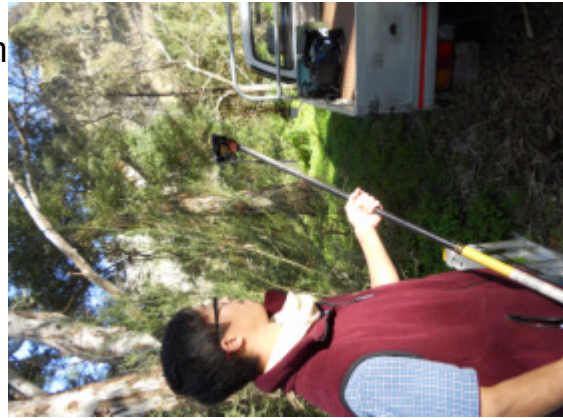
Sugar Glider Monitoring Report

June 2012

Terry, Kara, Hien and I were once again lucky with a beautiful day for our June glider box check.

As the creek was quite high we didn't cross to check our Black Wattle Flat boxes this time.

View of the creek from Red Gum Flat



Hien brought along a very clever device which he constructed himself. It is a camera attached to the top of a pole long enough to see into the glider boxes without using a ladder. This could prove to be very useful by saving time and energy for us and reducing stress for the sugar gliders. We tried it out on box 2, but we still need to find a way to secure the lid after taking a photo, so the rest of the boxes were checked as normal using the ladder.

Hien and his camera



Camera looking into a glider box



We have been noticing in the last couple of months that as the weather gets colder the sugar glider's nests have become more closed over. It will be interesting to see if they become open again during the warmer months. The only disadvantage of this is that it makes it a lot harder to count the number of gliders in a box as they can be mostly hidden by the nest material. We have been recording the minimum number of gliders that are definitely present, although we are fairly hopeful that there are more in there than we can actually see.



MF6- covered over nest



MF4- Look closely to try and spot the young snuggled up with their parents!

Our ringtail possum friends have moved on from glider box 8. This is good news as box can now be repaired for glider use without forcefully evicting the possums. We believe they are still living in the same tree, but have built themselves a drey, or nest, to live in higher up.



Ringtail possums' new home

There are still a few boxes inhabited by bees, but we may have a solution to that soon, so we'll keep you updated!

We were very happy to find that box 11 on Red Gum Flat, which has been empty for quite a while, is now home to at least two bright eyed little gliders. We suspect that they moved out of their family home across the road (RG8). This is a good sign as it shows the population is dispersing and this will hopefully lead to a rise in numbers in the future.



At least 2 gliders in Box 11

RG8 still has a few gliders inside, including a male with a hole in one of its ears. We think this may mean that it used to have a tag in its ear from the previous tagging program.



RG8- scent gland on the gliders head indicates that it is most likely a male

Terry put up two new boxes on Red Gum Flat, Box 12 and RG5, one on either side of the road.



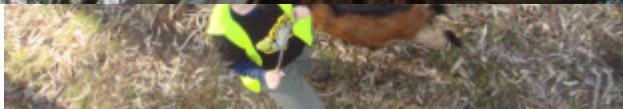
Terry and Kara putting up Box 5



Box 12

A nanny goat and her two kids who followed us for part of the day...

...and who were not afraid to come over to investigate!



Our total count of gliders was less this time than last month, but this is largely due to the fact that we are unable to see many of them and therefore cannot record them. We are very happy that the sugar gliders seem to be taking advantage of new boxes on Red Gum Flat and are enjoying learning about their habits and characteristics.

The date for our next check is yet to be confirmed, but we will let you know when it is closer to the time. Please feel free to come along as we can always use the

help and (we think) it is fun and interesting as well!

Thanks for reading!

Asha 😊

Box	Gliders	Comments	Action
2		Empty	
MF6	1		Lid
3		Nest material	
5		Empty	
SG1	1+	Covered over nest material	
SG2	1+	Covered over nest material	
6		Nest material	
SG3		Closed- no ants	
8		No ringtails	
MF5		Some nest material	
SG5		Nest material	
SG4		Nest material	
MF4	3+	Possible young	Lid
SG6		Bees	
MF3		Empty	
7		Bees	
4		Bees	
MF9		Empty	
BW6		N/A	
BW2		N/A	
BW5		N/A	
10		N/A	
11	2+	Covered over nest material	
RG8	2+	1 w/ hole in ear (lost tag?)	Lid
RG9		<u>Brushtail</u> possum	
RG10		Old nest material	
RG5		Put up	
12		Put up	

**Total
boxes
checked=26**

Total sugar gliders= 10+



