

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

SUGAR GLIDER MONITORING

May 2013

(Conducted 24th May)

On Friday 24th May, Terry, Asha and I met at the park at 10am. We filled up Terry's ute with a roll of wire, tools and other gear and headed down to Red Gum Flat.



Kara, Terry & Asha

Asha's sister Abi had kindly made us two nest boxes which we decided were to go up along Red Gum Flat. The new RG6 and RG7 were placed up on the right side of the track along Jackson's creek.

Terry had attached a chain to RG6 instead of the usual piece of wood so that it could just be slung around a fork in the tree. This appeared to be an effective method of installing boxes as it minimised the time it would usually take us to install a box. With the addition of the safety harness, placing up the box using no tools (drills & screws) was an easy task and was undertaken safely. We will look at making all the new boxes this way, they are much easier to install and takes only about 10 minutes.

Other research that we have heard about has showed that boxes facing south east is best for sugar gliders. This minimises the amount of sun the box receives, especially in the warmer months. It is no secret that sugar gliders are extremely sensitive to temperature fluctuations within their boxes, which is why we may have experienced a number of deaths this past year. We are going to trial these two boxes facing in this direction, as well as changing the position of a number of other boxes along Main Flat.



Terry placing up RG6 & 7 using the harness.

After placing up these two boxes we headed back to the pump shed where we set up to make some tree frames. For our July glider working bee, we will be planting a number of Black wattles across Jackson's creek on Black wattle flat. To be prepared, Terry, Asha and I spent a few hours making up some 'super' tree frames ready for when the new plants are planted.



We made total of 21 frames and have stored them at the park ready.

~ Kara, Asha and Terry~



