

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK SUGAR GLIDER MONITORING

September 2013

It was another beautiful day to undertake work at the Organ Pipes. This month's working bee aimed to place up some newly repaired boxes, remove some old ones and also begin to change the orientation of existing boxes before summer.

Rowan and Ibrihim joined Asha, Terry and I and we set out firstly to place up some newly repaired boxes. MF6 last month was finally vacant, so it was taken down and repaired, something we have wanted to do for over a year now. It was placed back on the original tree, but we changed the orientation so that it was facing in a south easterly direction.



MF6 has finally been repaired

We also placed up a new box, MF2 along Main Flat as we begin to create a link between there and Red Gum Flat.



MF2 in it's new position

Whilst on Main Flat, we managed to take down about 8 boxes and change their positions on the tree. We are trying to re-position all of our boxes to face south east, as this will ensure the boxes don't receive too much sun during the summer months.



Box 7 re-positioned

Sugar Gliders are quite sensitive to temperature changes, so hopefully by doing this we will eliminate mortality in the population due to temperature.



Rowan and Terry preparing to remove Box 3

When we came to one of our last boxes along Main Flat, SG6, we were unable to take it down as it had Sugar Gliders inside. This nest box has never had gliders inside since it was put up by Robert Bender over 18 months ago. What made it even more of a special find was that inside were 2 juveniles.



SG6 with a family of gliders inside

We then moved over to Red Gum Flat, only one box could be moved, RG12. Once this had been done, we drove across the creek to Black Wattle Flat.

Terry had designed a new 'super' box, which has been designed to accommodate both the new inspection camera and the idea that it can be hung by chain around larger trees with ease. Some of these new box designs are experimental, as there is limited literature; finding out which boxes are most preferred by gliders and are safe for us to install and monitor is our goal.



BW1, the super box

Terry had to leave for work so Asha, Rowan, Ibrihim and I continued along Black Wattle Flat, placing up Box 8, which was taken from Main Flat last month and repaired. We decided that Main Flat didn't need this box, so have made it available to gliders across the creek.

Whilst we were over there, we checked on the Black Wattles we had planted the month before. Some tree frames had fallen over, but the majority of the trees were growing nicely. We managed to fix them enough so that they were still providing protection for the plants.



Box 8 in it's new home along Black Wattle Flat



Asha, Rowan, Ibrihim and Kara

It was quite a successful day. We managed to change about 10 boxes, placing up 2 new boxes and 2 repaired boxes and also we found a family of gliders and their young in SG6!

Thank you to Ibrihim and Rowan for their help.

~ Kara, Asha and Terry~



