

# ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

## SUGAR GLIDER MONITORING

**November 2013**  
**(conducted 9<sup>th</sup> December)**

It was wet and rainy and the creek was high on our tree planting day. We had quite a few Black Wattles which were outgrowing their tubes, so we made planting them the priority.



***Black Wattles ready to be planted***

In the morning we headed down to Red Gum Flat, where we were planning to plant Black Wattles as a food source for Sugar gliders.



***View of Red Gum Flat from the track***

There we met up with Martha Ragg from Brimbank Council to talk about our plans for further Sugar glider monitoring at Organ Pipes NP and for investigating the presence of Sugar gliders in Sydenham Park.

Terry, Kara and I then moved on to planting the Black Wattles and putting up their tree frames which we had made previously. We have now planted Black Wattles on both sides of the track all along Red Gum Flat. We also noticed many which had self-sown, which we will place tree frames around in the future to protect them from the Kangaroos! Unfortunately, due to the extremely hot weather we've had recently, quite a few of the plants have suffered.



***Asha and Kara pegging down a tree frame***





***Terry planting a Black Wattle***



***Terry collecting water sample***



***Terry pegging down a tree frame***

After planting the trees we collected some water from the creek near the pump shed so that Terry could analyse it for Waterwatch.

Near the creek we could hear lots and lots of cicadas. We saw quite a few of their discarded shells, and even a couple of live ones! The one in the picture was unfortunately dead, but the picture gives a good idea of the extreme difference in size between the adult cicada and its shell. It is amazing that they ever fit inside there!

We then headed up to the FOOPs shed where we tested the water samples and had a cuppa to finish off the day.

Thank you to Martha for meeting up with us, it was a successful day overall.



***Cicada shell and dead adult cicada***

