

ORGAN PIPES NATIONAL PARK

SUGAR GLIDER MONITORING

August 2014
(conducted 8th September)

It was beautiful and sunny for our August Glider day! Asha, Terry and I were joined by Rowan, a regular volunteer always ready to lend a hand.

This month we had 3 new nesting boxes to place up, kindly donated to us by Yvonne Cowling at the AGM.

These 3 boxes are a different design to the ones we have in the park. There are 3 compartments inside, with an entry hole at the bottom. Yvonne has recommended that we give this design a try.

The idea is that the gliders enter from an opening at the bottom of the box and move from the first compartment into the other two. Having the boxes horizontal rather than vertical in length is meant to be more optimal.



A new design!

Before we began placing up the boxes, Terry and Rowan collected water samples for Waterwatch, whilst Asha and I re-marked GPS locations of boxes along Main Flat.

After a quick cuppa, we were soon across the creek onto Black Wattle Flat. These new boxes will be continuing on from the existing boxes, following the creek line. We arrived at box 10, which was in desperate need of repairs as it was hanging off the tree.



Box 10, secured firmly to the tree once again!

We left one box here to be put up later in the day between boxes 8 and 10, it saved us carrying it around!

The majority of the habitat over this side of the creek is absolutely amazing and finding suitable trees for our boxes was a challengeeverywhere looked great!

BW11 was the first of Yvonne's boxes to be placed up. We tried a new method of attaching this box to the tree. In the past we have used chain, which sometimes is too big and bulky to wrap around the tree....instead this time we tried the wire that we use for clotheslines. This stuff is pretty tough and secured the box to the tree with ease. So, we will see how it lasts.



BW11 in its new home!



A nice big tool box and safety harness for our days work!



Testing how well the pole camera works with the new box design.... it works great!

Moving along, we had an extra box that was taken from Red Gum Flat, repaired by Terry and in need of a new tree to call home. So, our next box to go up was an older design used around the rest of the park.



Rowan placing up BW12



Kara 'hard at work' recording our days activities!

Before deciding where to place the next box, we walked a few metres along the creek just enjoying our surroundings



The beautiful Jackson's Creek

After deciding on a tree the 2nd of the new boxes was placed up. Walking back to put up the final box Terry received a call from work and had to begin heading off, so we decided to not put up the last box and save it for next time. We crossed back across the creek, had a quick cuppa, packed the ute and headed back up to the top.

We had a wonderful day exploring areas of the park we haven't seen yet and we managed to still place up 3 boxes as well as fix box 10. Thanks to Rowan for all his help putting up the boxes!



Gearing up to cross back across the creek



A great way to finish off the day

We cannot wait to check these boxes next month! It might be months before we see any evidence of sugar gliders in these boxes, but we would love to see them being used right away!

~ Kara, Asha and Terry~

