

Choosing Sites for Nest Boxes

1. Advice from Ray Thomas.

Choice of site can make a big difference to the usefulness of a nest box.

eg. It is obviously helpful if we provide shelter close to the food reserves, breeding quarters where the food is most reliable, and somewhere safe for dispersing juveniles to rest while en-route to new territories.

The following points will allow wildlife to make best use of our new nest boxes.

- Fertile soils have richer food resources, so choose an area in or near a gully if possible.
- Box must be shaded on hot summer days to prevent dehydration, so choose a tree with a dense crown.
- Extra shelter in the hottest part of the day would help, so box must be on the South East side of tree trunk.
- Shelter from cold winter winds also helps survival, so choose a tree that is not too exposed.
- Gliders are often eaten by owls, so choose a tree that shields the box a bit from view.
- Gliders and Phascogales climb best on rough bark, so choose Box trees or Stringybarks for preference.
- However Ironbarks are not very good, as the bark is too thick and brittle, so the nails don't actually get into the wood to get a good anchor on the tree.
- Unwelcome people have damaged some of our boxes, so ensure roadside boxes are not in view.
- Don't forget monitoring for ferals is important. It is a responsibility that goes with the job.

Ray Thomas,
Regent Honeyeater Project Co-ordinator

ph (03) 57 611 515
e-mail raydavidthomas@hotmail.com

2. Advice from Jim Castles re choosing sites for squirrel glider nesting boxes.

- Locate on the SE side of the tree
- If possible have another tree to the north of the tree you are putting the box in, so it shades the box.
- Avoid trees which already have hollows in them.
- Ideally place in young eucalyptus trees with trunk diameter of 300- 400 mm and with no existing hollows..
- If possible these young trees will have a connection to an area of trees with hollows.
- Put boxes in groups of 3 within 100 - 150 metres of each other.
- Position boxes 3 metres high in the trees, away from tracks and passing traffic.
- Position using a ladder and for OH & S a person should only climb until their feet are a maximum of 6 feet off the ground.
- Attach onto tree with piece of pine and 4 inch galvanized nails as per photo below.



Jim Castles
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
NETWORK COORDINATOR
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

PO Box 1752
168 Welsford St
Shepparton, 3630
Phone (03) 58201 141
Mobile 0427 053 700

jimc@gbcma.vic.gov.au

