



SQUIRREL GLIDER LAMP PROJECT 2015-2018:

Burrumbuttock landholder's continue their commitment to a landscape with Squirrel Gliders



**Glider Friendly
Property**







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Prepared by Lou Bull and students from Burrumbuttock Public School

The Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) project is a partnership between Murray Local Land Services, Petaurus Education Group, Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, West Hume Landcare and Greater Hume Shire with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Catchment Action NSW.



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Squirrel Gliders

The Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) is a significant local native animal that lives in the area around Burrumbuttock. Squirrel Gliders have been recorded in eastern Australia over a relatively wide area but in low and concerning numbers. Sugar Gliders, a close relative, have not been, or are not found locally and occur in the higher rainfall areas to the east of Burrumbuttock.

Squirrel Gliders have long bushy tails, which are as wide as their body at the base. The fur is usually a brown-grey colour with a dark stripe from the forehead and down the back. The bushy tail has a distinctive dark tip. The underside of the body varies from pale grey to creamy yellow. They grow to about 20cm in length, plus a 27cm fluffy black tipped tail. One of the distinguishing factors on the males is the presence of a scent gland on the top of their head. This is located in the middle of the dark strip that runs from the nose to the back of the lower middle back.

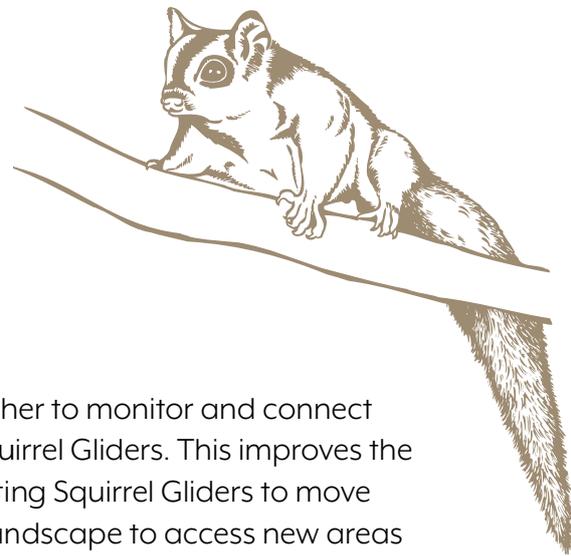
Squirrel Gliders have a flying membrane that extends from their fifth front toe, to the back of their feet on both sides. When they glide, their tail allows them to steer in the direction they want to go. They can glide up to one hundred metres, though distances of thirty metres are more typical.

TOP RIGHT: Squirrel Glider (Simon Dallinger)

BELOW RIGHT: Yellow Box is a favourite food tree of Squirrel Gliders.



Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan



The listing of Squirrel Gliders as Vulnerable under the New South Wales (NSW) *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* recognises the need for us to find ways to increase their numbers so they continue to survive and thrive locally. The Squirrel Glider Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) has been the method adopted by the Office of Environment and Heritage in consultation with the local Burrumbuttock community to achieve this outcome.

In 2014 an initial trapping and release program was conducted which estimated a population size of around 500 existed within a 10km radius of Burrumbuttock. Ecologists consider the population needs to double to be able to survive and thrive into the future. With this information a method for working towards increasing numbers was created.

The LAMP approach relies on landholders, community groups and government agencies

working together to monitor and connect habitat for Squirrel Gliders. This improves the ability for existing Squirrel Gliders to move through the landscape to access new areas for feeding, breeding and using tree hollows previously inaccessible. This process also increases the opportunities for young Squirrel Gliders to move out and live in their own home range.

To create new habitat and make important connections between patches of good remnant vegetation such as roadsides, travelling stock reserves and old un-made roads, the revegetation works completed from 2015-18 include:

- planting over 20,000 new plants
- planting individual trees in Stock Proof Tree Guards (SPTG) to reduce the gaps between trees to less than 20m and
- direct seeding.



A newly planted corridor which will link the distant paddock trees to a roadside that is known to have Squirrel Gliders.

Ashley and Ken Lindner

ASHLEY AND KEN LINDNER ARE MIXED FARMERS, WHICH MEANS THEY GROW CROPS AND RAISE LIVESTOCK.

Why do you think Squirrel Gliders are important?

Squirrel Gliders are important because they are native to Australia. They are a part of the food chain and have a role to play in nature. In a few years' time, as the gliders move freely through the newly planted corridors, they may have an impact on the grubs and bugs which damage Canola and other crops, as bugs and grubs are an important source of protein.

How do you feel about helping Squirrel Gliders?

I feel very happy that I am helping conserve a native animal. I don't want them to become extinct. I didn't know a lot about Squirrel

Gliders before joining the project, but now I know you need old trees and I also know how far they can glide and what they like to eat.

How does the LAMP project help Squirrel Gliders?

The LAMP project tries to link up the habitat for Squirrel Gliders and to make long strips of trees to create safer areas. On our property we are planting trees to create corridors of trees.

"I know you need old trees."





Students from Burrumbuttock Public School interviewing Ashley and Ken about their project



||||| One of the areas where tree corridors are being planted on the Lindner's property.



A SQUIRRELY FACT

How far can a Squirrel Glider glide?

Typically 30-50 metres but they can glide up to 100 metres.
To see footage of a gliding Squirrel Glider, go to:

www.wirraminna.org.au/petaurus/squirrel-glider-lamp/

Rob Weidner

ROB WEIDNER IS A BEEF CATTLE FARMER.

Do you think paddock trees are important?

Paddock trees are important to Squirrel Gliders so that they have shelter and food. I really like trees and have some paddock trees on my property.

“Paddock trees are important.”

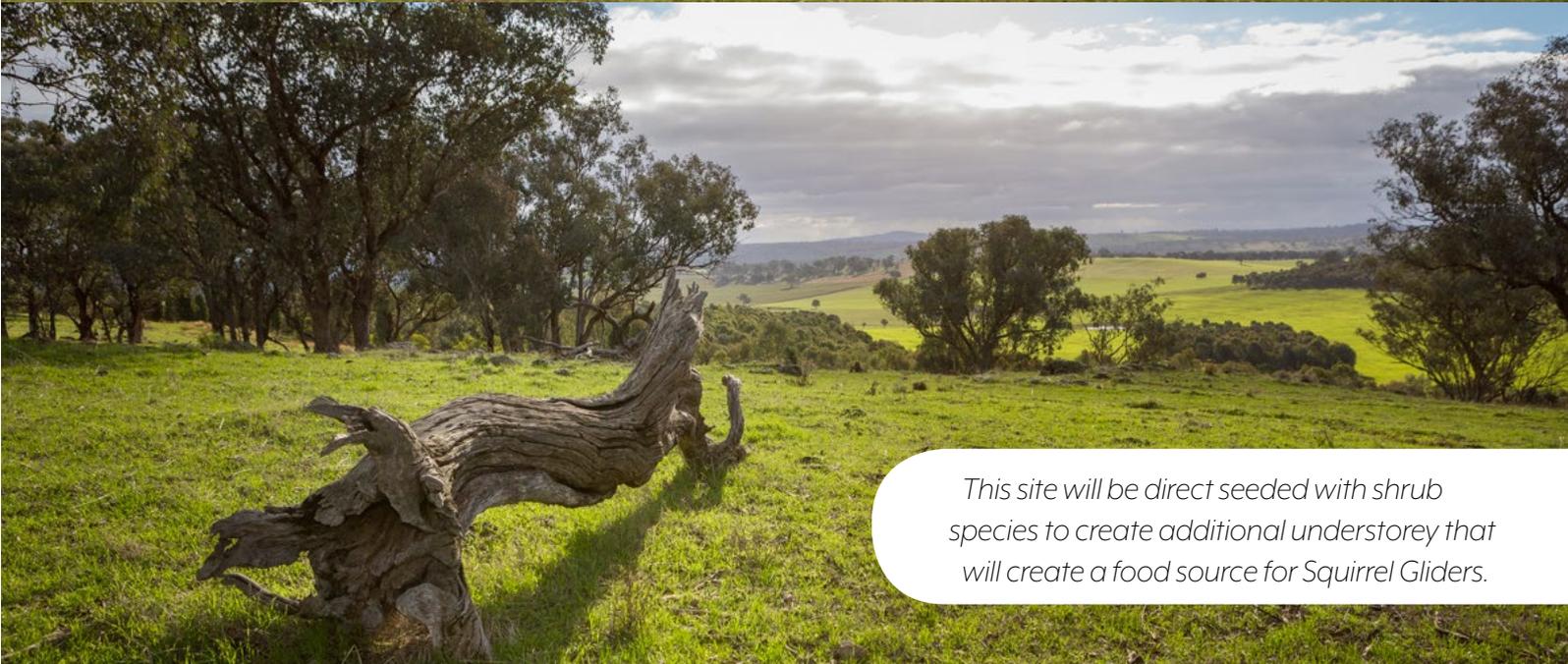
Why are you involved in the LAMP project?

It was so easy to be a part of the project – the contractors did the work and I got free, quality fencing. It is also a good feeling helping native animals by planting tree corridors.

Do you do anything else to help Squirrel Gliders?

Squirrel Gliders are active at night. I chain my dog up overnight so it can't eat them.





This site will be direct seeded with shrub species to create additional understorey that will create a food source for Squirrel Gliders.



Credit: Kelly Coleman

A SQUIRRELY FACT

What do Squirrel Gliders eat?

Wattle gum (left), eucalypt sap, bugs, nectar, pollen, honey dew and manna, a white sweet substance that oozes from plants that have been attacked by insects.

Sue Saunders

SUE SAUNDERS HAS A SMALL PROPERTY WITH SOME CATTLE.

How do you feel about helping Squirrel Gliders?

It makes me feel good because we are making homes for a native animal that is threatened.

What are you doing on your property to help Squirrel Gliders?

We are connecting habitat by planting trees in corridors and that gives protection to Squirrel Gliders. Once the trees have grown, the Squirrel Gliders can travel between habitats without going on the ground. This will help keep them safe from predators.

We also have some trees planted that are protected by tree guards. These will become future paddock trees for Squirrel Gliders moving between habitats.

What do you like about the LAMP project?

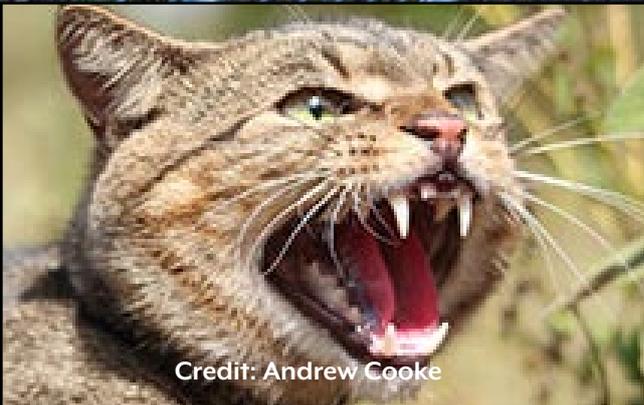
It is a very easy program for a landholder to be involved in and it helps Squirrel Gliders. It has been good to learn more information about Squirrel Gliders too.

“We are connecting habitat by planting trees in corridors.”





This site is ready for planting, it has been ripped and sprayed to reduce competition with surrounding grasses to give the tubestock the best chance of survival.



Credit: Andrew Cooke

A SQUIRRELY FACT

What are the Squirrel Glider's predators?

Introduced predators are foxes, cats (feral and domestic) and dogs. Native predators include owls and goannas.

Richard and Janny Molesworth

RICHARD AND JANNY MOLESWORTH FARM SHEEP AND GROW CROPS.

Have you seen a Squirrel Glider?

Not yet but scientists have found one in the trees along our driveway.

What do you like about the LAMP project?

The project is good because everyone is working together. We like helping animals and it's nice to know Squirrel Gliders are around.

We didn't know much about Squirrel Gliders before this project but know lots more now. We have encouraged other people to get involved because the project is beneficial to Squirrel Gliders and the landholders.

“We have encouraged other people to get involved.”





Credit: Scott Fagg

A SQUIRRELY FACT

Other than predators, what are some of the threats to Squirrel Gliders?

Barbed wire fencing that Squirrel Gliders can get caught on, being run over by cars and trucks and lack of suitable habitat, including the loss of hollow-bearing trees.

Keiran and Louise Keenan

KEIRAN AND LOUISE KEENAN FARM CATTLE AND GOATS.

Why do you think helping Squirrel Gliders is important?

If you have habitat suitable for Squirrel Gliders you will be helping a whole range of other animals as well.

What do you do on your property to help Squirrel Gliders?

We have planted trees and made nesting boxes for them to live in.

What did you like most about the LAMP project?

The project is easy and no cost to the landholder. The organisations involved did the work and it's saving native animals. I'm happy about helping Squirrel Gliders and have a sense of pride. I can already see changes in the landscape even at this stage. I recommend other landholders get involved in this project as it will improve your farm by creating a wind break and it looks great.



"If you have habitat suitable for Squirrel Gliders, you will be helping a whole range of other animals as well."



Credit: Peter Merritt

A SQUIRRELY FACT

Why are hollow-bearing trees important?

Squirrel Gliders need hollow bearing trees to nest in. Old hollow bearing trees usually flower more and are more likely to have rotting wood and peeling bark where insects (Squirrel Glider food) can be found.

Sue Holdsworth

SUE HOLDSWORTH HAS A STUD HEREFORD FARM.

Why do you think it is important to help Squirrel Gliders?

It is important to help Squirrel Gliders because there are not a lot left so we want to increase the population. Otherwise they will die out, like so many other animals.

“We want to increase the population, otherwise they will die out.”

What does the LAMP project do to help Squirrel Gliders?

The LAMP project provides funding to fence off areas, plant trees and connect trees planted in the past. It was easy for me to be involved in the project as I didn't have to do anything except provide the land. I was happy to help and wanted to fence off my dam anyway. I'm sure with all this help Squirrel Gliders will now multiply.

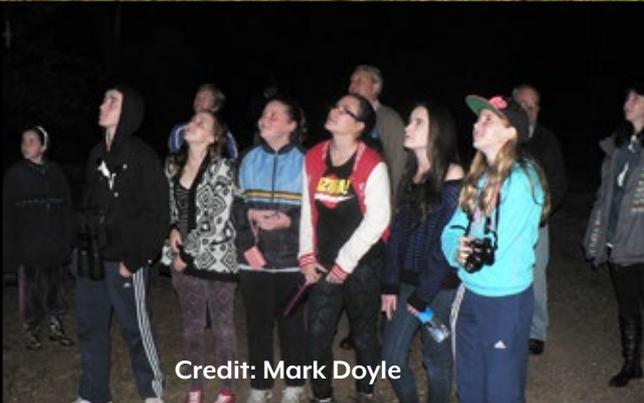




A SQUIRRELY FACT

How can you spot a Squirrel Glider?

A good way to spot a Squirrel Glider is by 'stag-watching'. This is where you sit quietly under a hollow-bearing tree or a stag (a standing dead tree) just before dusk and wait for Squirrel Gliders to emerge.



Credit: Mark Doyle

Ron Healey

RON HEALEY FARMS HORSES CALLED WALERS. THIS BREED OF HORSE WERE USED IN THE LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE IN WORLD WAR ONE.

Do you have paddock trees on your property?

I have about half a dozen paddock trees on my property. I haven't found any Squirrel Gliders yet but lots of birds use them.

What do you do on your property to help Squirrel Gliders?

On my property we have planted trees and fenced them off to protect them from the horses. They will provide habitat so Squirrel Gliders can safely spread out. I feel great

about helping Squirrel Gliders, I would do it for any native animal.

What would you tell another landholder thinking about being involved in the LAMP project?

I strongly encourage other landholders to be involved. It improves the aesthetics and quality of land and increases property value.

“I feel great about helping Squirrel Gliders.”





Connecting old trees with new ones so that Squirrel Gliders can move throughout the landscape.



A SQUIRRELY FACT

What can we do to help Squirrel Gliders?

Plant trees, remove barbed wire, control pet cats and dogs especially at night time (keep inside or tie up), keep paddock trees and reduce fox and feral cat numbers.

Dianne and Matthew I'Anson

DIANNE, MATTHEW AND SON DARCY, RUN A MIXED FARMING ENTERPRISE OF 60% CROPPING AND 40% LIVESTOCK – SHEEP.

How aware of Squirrel Gliders were you prior to the Squirrel Glider LAMP project?

We have been involved with them since our children attended Burrumbuttock Public School in year 2000 onward. They have done projects on them over the years.

Have you seen Squirrel Gliders locally?

We have found an injured Squirrel Glider caught on a barbed wire fence and released it. I have also seen a dead one near our house. My family and I have visited Fe Coleman's property (neighbour and LAMP Steering Committee member) to see Squirrel Gliders feeding at night.

How has the Squirrel Glider LAMP Project most influenced you?

It has put the welfare of Squirrel Gliders to the front of my mind rather than taking their presence for granted.

What helped motivate you to be part of the LAMP project?

It was easy to get involved in, it helps Squirrel Gliders and hopefully has a low negative impact by the loss of use of land involved for farming.



“It has put the welfare of Squirrel Gliders to the front of my mind rather than taking their presence for granted.”



PHOTO: The black line shows an area that has been planted to connect two remnant patches.

Brian Schilg and Sue Rose

BRIAN AND SUE FARM SHEEP AND GROW CROPS.

What have you particularly liked about the Squirrel Glider LAMP project?

Quality of the work done (the attention to detail), the on-ground works being done for us and involvement with the neighbours.

How has the Squirrel Glider LAMP project most influenced you?

We hope the next generation in 50 years will think of us. I always wanted to see this happen.

How do you think the works you have done on your property will help local Squirrel Glider populations?

Connecting genetics of different families of gliders.

Have you seen Squirrel Gliders locally?

Our son Stephen recently saw one on our property “Freeling” and I have seen them after visits to watch Fe Coleman’s Squirrel Glider population feeding on chilly nights. Many years ago I found one drowned in a tank.

What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part of this project?

Squirrel Gliders need connecting plantings using large trees in them for their movement in flight.

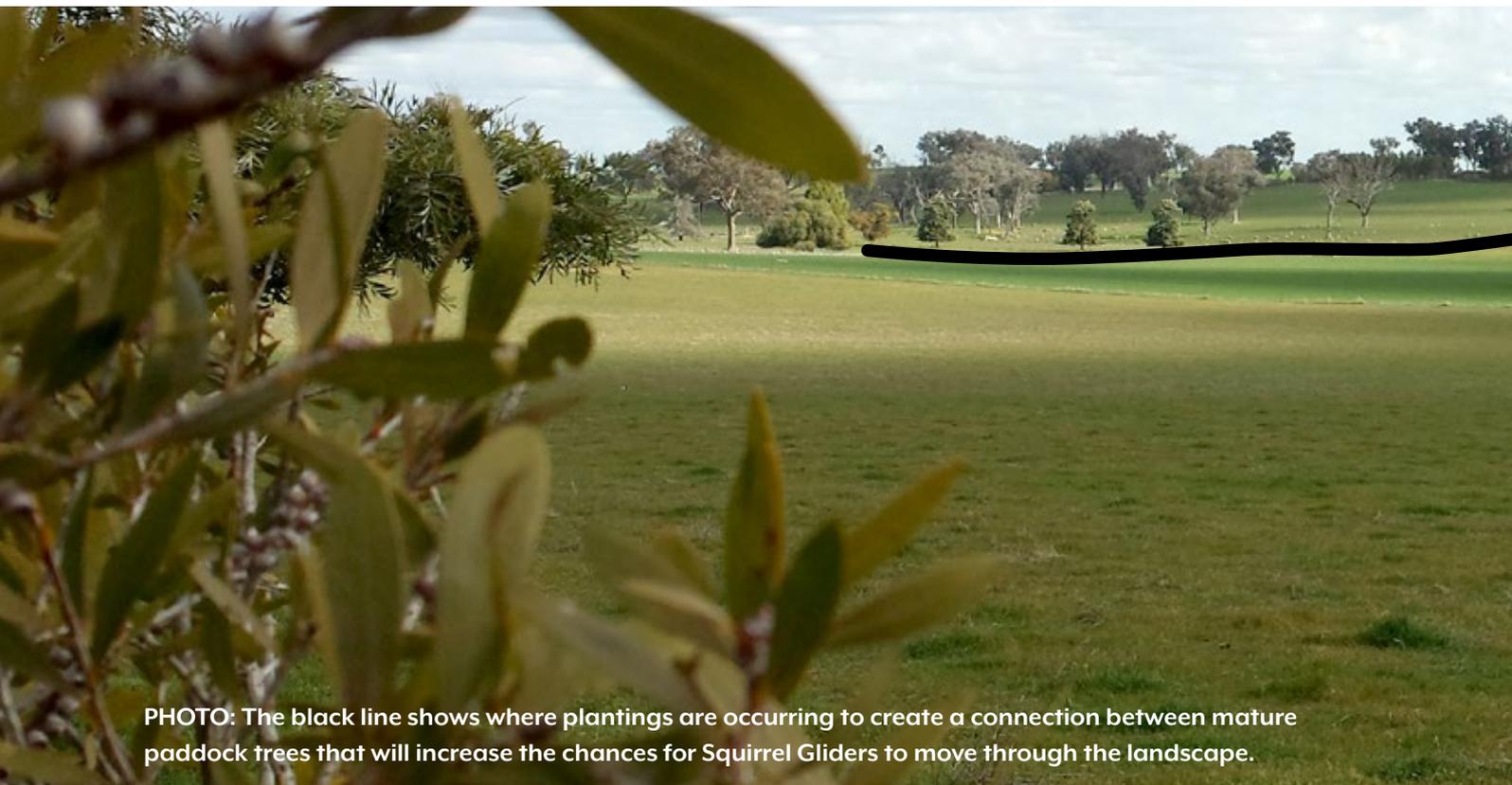


PHOTO: The black line shows where plantings are occurring to create a connection between mature paddock trees that will increase the chances for Squirrel Gliders to move through the landscape.



*On-ground works will
“connect genetics of
different families of gliders.”*



Tim and Jessica Scott

TIM AND JESSICA RUN ANGUS BEEF CATTLE.

Prior to this LAMP project how aware of Squirrel Gliders were you?

We heard about Squirrel Gliders when we were contacted about this project but we had also learnt about them through our children's school, Trinity in Thurgoona.

What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part for the LAMP Project?

We learnt that the distance between trees is critical so that Squirrel Gliders avoid hitting the ground when gliding.

What have you particularly liked about the Squirrel Glider LAMP project?

The contractors were easy to work with and having a coordinator helped the process run smoothly

“We learnt that the distance between trees is critical so that Squirrel Gliders avoid hitting the ground when gliding.”





ABOVE LEFT: Young tubestock waiting to be planted into the new corridors on the Scott's property.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Stock Proof tree guard will protect individually planted trees. They are used to reduce gaps to less than 20m between large remnant paddock trees - acting as 'stepping stones' in the landscape.

BELOW: Scott's young cattle are very curious about the new gate system.



Jim and Angie Marshall

JIM AND ANGIE MARSHALL, SON SAM AND WIFE BINDI, ALONG WITH NEXT GENERATION EMMA AND ARCHIE, RUN A MIXED SHEEP AND WHEAT FARM.

Jim has been aware of Squirrel Gliders in the local area for about 40 years. Being part of the LAMP project increased this awareness and provided the opportunity to provide habitat and connections.

Jim loves birds, and being part of the LAMP project is the opportunity to ensure he has nature around him.

Since the project finished, Sam and Bindi have taken on the farm. The future of farming and Squirrel Gliders looks bright.



“Being part of the project ensures nature is around.”



FAR LEFT: Three generations of Marshalls.

LEFT: This very mature Box tree has finally developed hollows. To us they may look a bit shabby – to a Squirrel Glider this is top end shabby chic!

BELOW: Creating 'stepping stones' to patches of maturing trees has been a big focus of the Squirrel Glider LAMP project. It can take Yellow Box trees over 100 plus years before they form any hollows. Creating links to trees like these can increase available food and habitat quite quickly.



Martin and Lyn Smith

MARTIN AND LYN HAVE A MIXED FARM OF CROPPING, SHEEP AND FORESTRY.

Martin and Lyn have previously done a lot of revegetation work on their property and have already seen an increase in bird species. The Squirrel Glider LAMP Project was able to link these maturing plantations and create future habitat. This property is close to where a Squirrel Glider was recorded on the roadside. Any revegetation work done nearby will help when young Squirrel Gliders need to leave their home and find new areas to live and feed.

How has the Squirrel Glider LAMP project most influenced you?

We feel like we are putting a small part back into the environment and demonstrating that agriculture and environment can work well together (not mutually exclusive).

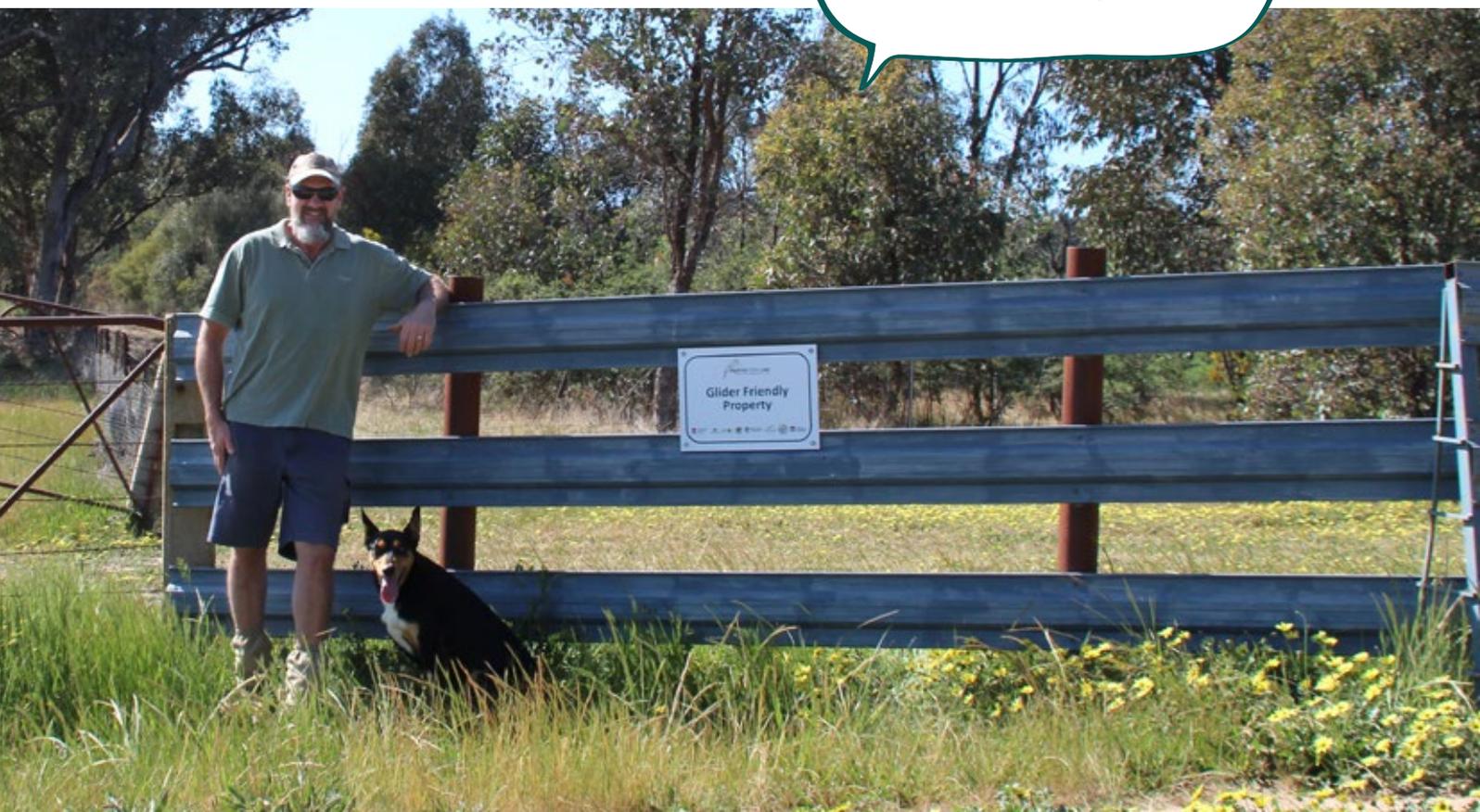
What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part of this project?

How vulnerable they are to predators and habitat loss. They don't mix well with barbed wire.

How do you think the works you have done on your property will help local Squirrel Glider populations?

Over time, they will provide valuable corridors and breeding grounds to increase Squirrel Glider numbers and genetic diversity.

“Agriculture and environment can work well together.”



TOP: Martin stands near one of the newly fenced and planted corridors that will link remnant trees in the road reserve to paddock trees and another roadside with historic plantings.

BELOW: Roadside remnants have often been the refuge for Squirrel Gliders in the Burrumbuttock area. Planting to reduce the distance Squirrel Gliders need to glide will reduce risks of predator attack from the ground.



Ian and Isobel Scott

IAN, ISOBEL AND SON BRAD RUN A MIXED FARMING ENTERPRISE OF CROPPING AND STOCK.

Ian and Isobel have been tree planting for over 20 years and were involved in some of the early West Hume Landcare revegetation work aimed at helping Squirrel Gliders. Being involved in the LAMP project helped Ian and Isobel complete areas already planned to be done.

Squirrel Gliders haven't been spotted by Ian and Isobel personally on their property. A neighbour has mentioned seeing one when spotlighting. This highlights how elusive these nocturnal creatures are. Even ecologists looking to find them have difficulty. The Scott's property has incredible existing habitat of mature trees in old designated roads and on the old Burrumbuttock Golf course.

"Squirrel Gliders are elusive nocturnal creatures."



Ross and Jill Jacob

ROSS AND JILL RUN A MIXED FARM OF CROPPING AND CATTLE.

Ross and Jill have been undertaking revegetation works on their property for many years. The Squirrel Glider LAMP project on their property focused on extending a particularly good roadside where Squirrel Gliders had been surveyed during the initial Melbourne University survey in 2014. Their site will create habitat and new food resources to support a family group of Squirrel Gliders.

“This site will create habitat and new food resources to support a family group of Squirrel Gliders.”

PHOTO: Ross and son, Sam, in the newly fenced area.



Ron and Jenny Bailey

RON, JENNY, DAUGHTER IN LAW AND GRANDCHILDREN RUN A CROPPING AND STOCK ENTERPRISE.

How aware were you of Squirrel Glider's in the Burrumbuttock area prior to being contacted for the project?

We were aware of Squirrel Gliders around Thurgoona due to Scott Melgaard's work with school children at Trinity School (including our own grandchildren). We weren't aware they also occurred in the Burrumbuttock area.

What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part of this project?

We have learnt where in the environment they live, how they fit into the local landscape and how elusive they are.

What have you liked about the LAMP project?

All the contractors were easy to work with. The advice around how a fire that occurred during the project would influence the future of the site for local birds and animals was reassuring and the project focused on being able to keep the farming enterprise functional but still protect and enhance for the farm's natural environment.

What might you do differently on your farm now knowing what you do about Squirrel Gliders?

The farming will not change but understanding the value of corridors and how they work will influence future revegetation projects.



"The project focused on being able to keep the farming enterprise functional but still protect and enhance for the farm's natural environment."

This site has been fenced and deep ripped ready for planting to connect maturing revegetation with established remnants. This planting will provide Squirrel Gliders with new habitat and food resources within 10 years.

The white board shows how photo points are established to track the project's progress over time, and remember the dates and locations of the project.



Judy and Roger Frankenburg

JUDY AND ROGER FARM MIXED LIVESTOCK OF CATTLE AND SHEEP.

How aware were you of Squirrel Glider's in the Burrumbuttock area prior to being contacted for the project?

We have known about Squirrel Gliders locally when 20 years ago an animal in the care of WIRES was release back where it was originally found in the local area. Since then West Hume Landcare Group had done revegetation works for Squirrel Gliders. Historically I had known of them in the Rushworth area as my uncle had found one. I have also been involved in work outside of the local area surveying for Squirrel Gliders. I had found a carcass of what I had assumed was a Sugar Glider 35-40 years ago on the property but now understand it was actually a Squirrel Glider.

What have you learnt by being part of the LAMP Project?

The project has given me a much clearer picture of where they potentially are in the landscape. It has also made me look at the landscape from a Squirrel Glider perspective which has made me aware that roadside vegetation has few hollows and really old trees.

What elements of the LAMP Project motivated you to agree to be involved?

It was easy to get involved and the vision of linking the landscape, the people and the on-ground works at a landscape scale was very effective at spreading the word of what was hoped to be achieved.

What have you particularly liked about the LAMP Project?

The project has drawn in people who haven't necessarily been involved in projects before and having the landscape scale approach has helped this.



"It has made me look at the landscape from a Squirrel Glider perspective."



This new corridor will connect historic revegetation work on the farm to the Yellow Box dominated remnant at the Moorawartha cemetery where a Squirrel Glider was found during the 2014 survey. The lines show where tubestock will be planted in 2018. This will provide multiple outcomes in that there will now be a connection between remnant patches which will provide new food and habitat.



Judy was part of the Furphy family, famous for their water carts. Her family connection back to where she grew up at Rushworth, Victoria, was her introduction to Squirrel Gliders. Judy's uncle had found a Squirrel Glider and had it formally identified.

Rod and Ang Frohling

ROD AND ANG HAVE A MIXED FARM ENTERPRISE INCLUDING CROPPING, CATTLE AND SEED STOCK (TERMINAL AND MATERNAL) SHEEP.

Have you seen Squirrel Glider's locally?

In the past 10 years we have seen a couple caught on the fence line. One was alive which we could release again.

What other benefits do you think you will see from the works undertaken?

Survival of Squirrel Gliders so they don't become extinct.

What part of the LAMP project motivated you to become part of program?

When we looked at the landscape perspective of the property we realised how few trees there really were. There were multiple benefits to planting more trees and there was flexibility where the work could go to fit in with the farming operation.

“When we looked at the aerial perspective of the property we realised how few trees there really were.”



When you look across the landscape, it gives an illusion that there are many trees that are connected. When you look from an aerial perspective it is clear how disconnected and sparse the tree cover is in the landscape.



Paul Heinjus

PAUL'S FARM IS PART OF A CROPPING ENTERPRISE WITH LARGE AREAS FENCED OFF AND COVENANTED FOR PROTECTION.

Have you seen Squirrel Gliders locally?

I saw them probably about 20 years ago but not on this farm. It was on the other farm further west. I wasn't really aware that they were here.

What have you learnt by being part of the LAMP Project?

I have learnt that given the right conditions Squirrel Gliders can do quite well in this landscape.

What elements of the LAMP Project motivated you to be involved?

We first began creating these areas of trees and protecting existing vegetation because we had off shear sheep that needed shelter – which we didn't have a lot of. It balances a property to have good tree cover and provide protection for not only stock but the native animals and birds as well.



“It balances a property to have good tree cover and provide protection for not only stock but the native animals and birds as well.”

2003

These photos show the changes in time after a site is revegetated and fenced-off from grazing. Revisiting original photos helps us see these changes.



2004



2018



Wal Mitsch

WAL HAS A MIX OF CROPPING AND LIVESTOCK,

Have you seen Squirrel Gliders locally?

When we came here over 15 years ago there were two dead trees near the house that we found Squirrel Gliders in. We have also found them in water tanks and troughs over the years. We knew they were breeding here but about 6 years ago but they seemed to have disappeared. We discovered that we had Barking Owls breeding here as well – we were hearing what we thought was a dog barking. We found an adult owl and young. Over a couple of years the Squirrel Gliders seemed to have disappeared. We learnt that Barking Owls ate Squirrel Gliders and are one of their natural predators.

What elements of the LAMP Project motivated you to become involved?

The sites suggested for revegetating didn't have any impact on the farming and would be good for stock shelter as well.

What have you particularly liked about the LAMP project?

The friendliness of the all the people who have worked on it.

“We learnt that Barking Owls ate Squirrel Gliders and are one of their natural predators.”





The lines show where tubestock will be planted in 2018.

Marion and Andrew Vile

ANDREW AND MARION RUN A PRIME LAMB ENTERPRISE.

Prior to being contact by the Squirrel Glider LAMP project how aware of Squirrel Gliders were you?

Historic knowledge due to involvement with Burrumbuttock School, Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and to visits to Fe Coleman's Squirrel Glider population on chilly nights.

What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part of the project?

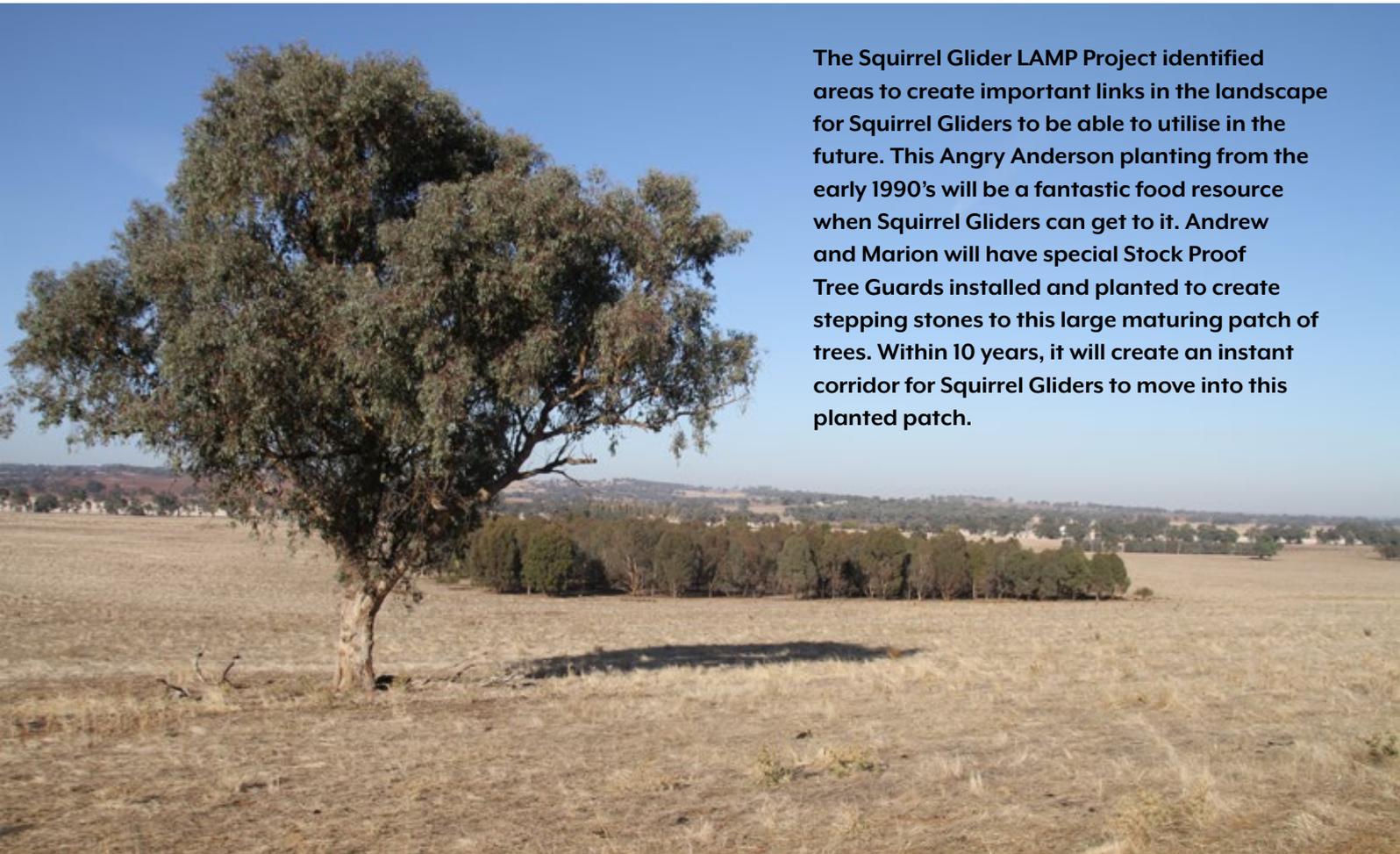
We learnt that preserving habitat and extending tree corridors may help Squirrel Glider population overcome the effects of predators such as foxes, dogs and cats.

What have you particularly liked about the Squirrel Glider Project?

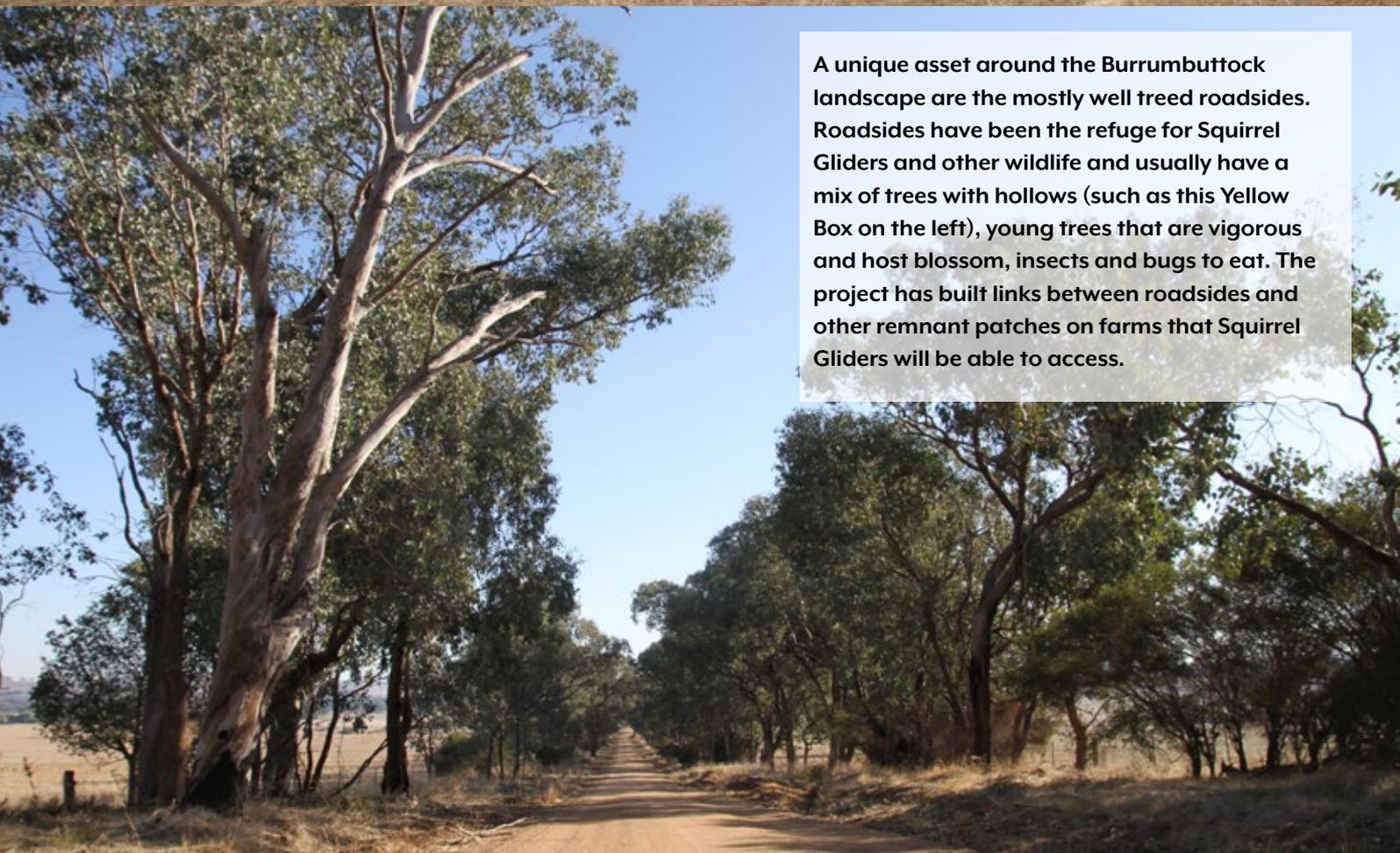
The whole process has been collaborative and we learnt that we had native ground covers that were in the paddock that we didn't realise were there. Setting aside private land for the environment to help Squirrel Glider population increase was handled very professionally by all staff concerned.

"We learnt that preserving habitat and extending tree corridors may help Squirrel Gliders."





The Squirrel Glider LAMP Project identified areas to create important links in the landscape for Squirrel Gliders to be able to utilise in the future. This Angry Anderson planting from the early 1990's will be a fantastic food resource when Squirrel Gliders can get to it. Andrew and Marion will have special Stock Proof Tree Guards installed and planted to create stepping stones to this large maturing patch of trees. Within 10 years, it will create an instant corridor for Squirrel Gliders to move into this planted patch.



A unique asset around the Burrumbuttock landscape are the mostly well treed roadsides. Roadsides have been the refuge for Squirrel Gliders and other wildlife and usually have a mix of trees with hollows (such as this Yellow Box on the left), young trees that are vigorous and host blossom, insects and bugs to eat. The project has built links between roadsides and other remnant patches on farms that Squirrel Gliders will be able to access.

John Zeibarth

JOHN RUNS A CROPPING ENTERPRISE WHICH HE CHEERFULLY DESCRIBES AS BEING “HOPEFUL”.

What have you learnt about Squirrel Gliders by being part of the LAMP project?

I knew the kids had learnt about Squirrel Gliders at school but not locally prior to the project. I have learnt how hard they are to find. We do have lots of other possums including ringtails around the house.

What other benefits do you think will occur as a result of the works being undertaken?

The revegetation will be of benefit to other natives as well as the future of Squirrel Gliders.

What have you particularly liked about the Squirrel Glider LAMP project?

The project was easy to get involved with. There was no cost to us and it is nice to do something for the future of Squirrel Gliders.

“I knew the kids had learnt about Squirrel Gliders at school.”





If you are driving around Burrumbuttock, you may come across this sign on a fence which indicates the landholder is involved in the project and is committed to Squirrel Glider conservation on their property. Over time, the maturing vegetation will reveal significant changes in the landscape.

Justin and Lisa Burns

JUSTIN AND LISA RUN A MOSTLY CROPPING ENTERPRISE.

The Burns' family have previously been involved in Landcare plantings on other properties in the local area.

Justin and Lisa became the custodians of a significant remnant patch of mainly Yellow Box trees when they purchased this local property early in the project. The Squirrel Glider LAMP project was able to create corridors connecting this patch with nearby roadsides and other good remnants.

These “islands” of remnant vegetation have been a major focus of the Squirrel Glider LAMP Project. By planting corridors through these open areas to link patches we can quickly increase the habitat for Squirrel Gliders.

The support from families, including the Burns, is important to the long-term success of the LAMP Project so that future generations value the importance of connections in the landscape to secure the Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider population.



FAR LEFT: Lisa and Lucy Burns

LEFT: A young Yellow Box tree only 6 months old and growing strongly.

BELOW RIGHT: Maturing “young” trees in the distance will be perfect for new habitat and feeding areas.



Others involved in the project

The on-ground works component of the project was completed by local and surrounding contractors that understood the importance of the project and what we wanted to achieve.

Local Craig Eastick ensured sites were deep ripped and ready for planting. He also planted and installed 260 trees into the individual stock proof tree guards.

Jim Hayes expertly constructed more than 20km of new fencing and takes the award for creating the most elaborate gate system.

Ron Dickenburg and his planting team from Australian Native Farm Forestry planted around 19,000 tubestock in 19 days.

All contractors were instrumental in getting the on-ground works completed. Successful revegetation requires at least 6 months of forward planning including ordering plants, fencing off revegetation sites, preparing the ground by deep ripping, planting the tubestock and watering them in to ensure they have the best chance of survival. The Squirrel Glider LAMP project relied on a team effort to ensure that over 20,000 plus plants went in just before the winter rain began, the fencing installed before paddocks were needed by landholders and the ground was prepared so plants had the best start possible.

We commend the hard work and co-operation of the contractors and landholders to ensure that works were completed on time and to a high standard.



Others involved in the project

We would like to acknowledge the following landholders that have also been involved in the project and are helping Squirrel Gliders:

- Christine and Joseph Nesbitt
- Christopher and Jocelyn Beale
- David and Janice Hanckel
- Derek and Deborah Kotzur
- Denise Horn
- Reinhard and Tania Schwarz
- Gordon Mosinski
- Terry Smith
- Trevor Hamdorf.

“We enjoy being able to contribute to the provision of suitable corridors for Squirrel Gliders to safely move through the area.”

- CHRISTINE AND JOSEPH NESBITT

“We are involved in the project to ensure Squirrel Gliders are around for our grandkids and theirs to see.”

- CHRISTOPHER AND JOCELYN BEALE

“We are happy to be helping create a sustainable population of Squirrel Gliders and provide a home for them.”

- REINHARD AND TANIA SCHWARZ

“It is important to help Squirrel Gliders as they are part of our native animal population and if we lose them we will lose something unique to Australia and the world at large.”

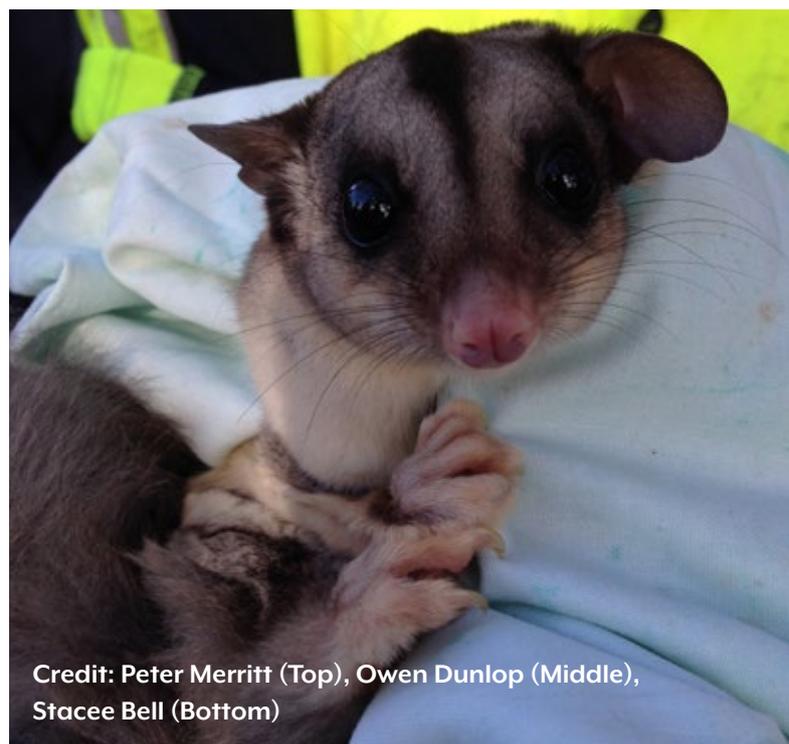
- GORDON MOSINSKI



“The LAMP project helps improve habitat at less cost to the landholder, both in money and time. The fencing was excellent, enhancing the protection of habitat.”



- TERRY SMITH

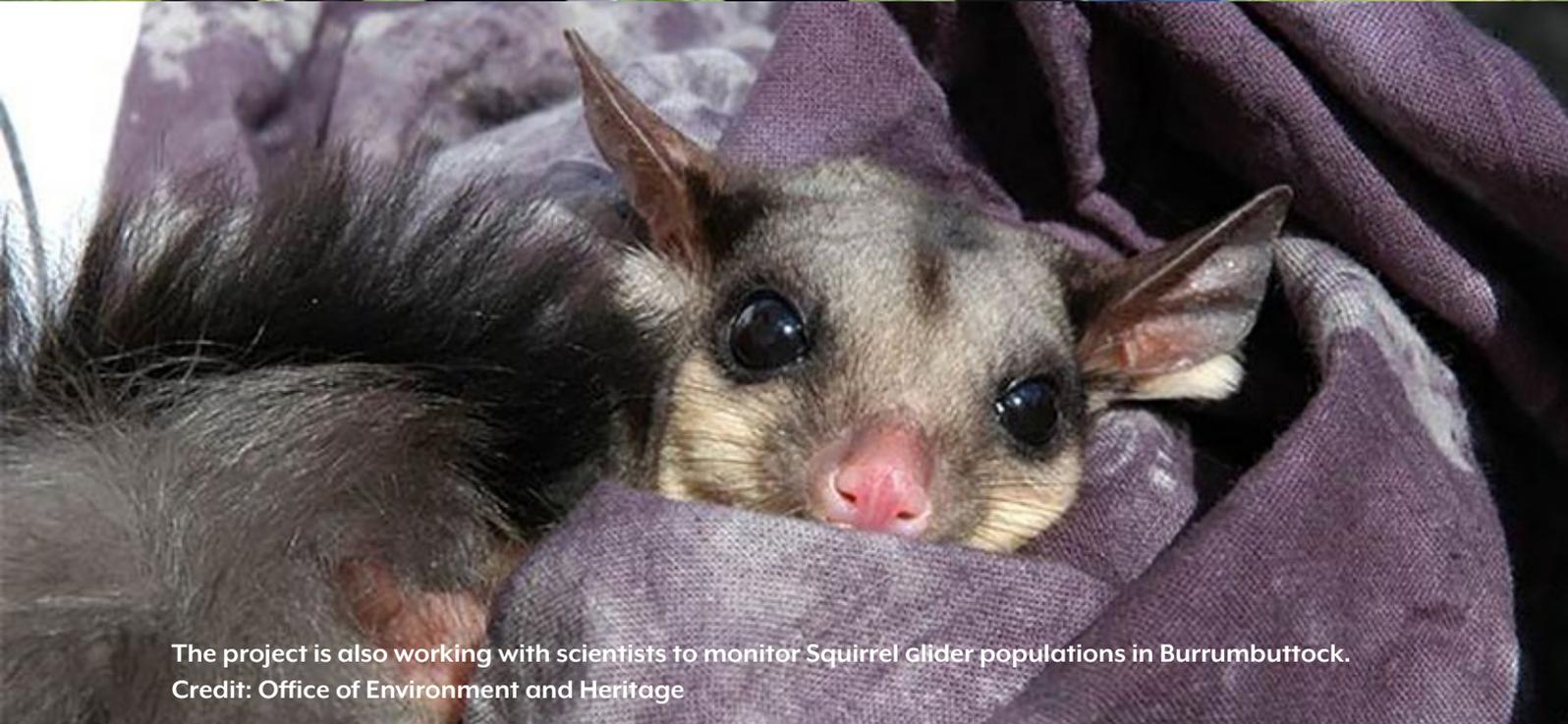


Credit: Peter Merritt (Top), Owen Dunlop (Middle), Stacey Bell (Bottom)



The Squirrel Glider LAMP project is made possible by the hard working Steering Committee: (L-R) Judy Frankenburg, Sue Rose, Owen Dunlop, Helen Waudby, Fe Colman and Lou Bull (Project Officer).

(Absent: Tracy Michael and Annette Schilg)



The project is also working with scientists to monitor Squirrel glider populations in Burrumbuttock.
Credit: Office of Environment and Heritage

In 2016, students from Burrumbuttock Public School interviewed seven landholders involved in the Squirrel Glider LAMP project as part of the Creative Catchment Kids program. These interviews are on pages 4-17.

*Thanks to the landholders for letting us interview you.
You are doing a great job helping Squirrel Gliders.*

FROM DARCY, ETHAN AND HAILEY





