

# The LAMP Post



## Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the LAMP Post. It's been a long time between newsletters! We've been flat out working with landholders in the Stony Park area on Squirrel Glider conservation projects.



Photo: a stock-proof guard protecting seedlings

## Stony Park the first cab off the rank

Fifteen landholders have signed up to the LAMP project in the Stony Park area (affectionately known as the "Red Area" by the LAMP Steering Committee). Work for Squirrel Gliders has started on their properties. Some of the work done so far includes fencing and ripping to enclose vegetation corridors that will allow Gliders to move easily between vegetation patches. Most of these areas will be planted out in autumn.

Readers may have noticed large shiny cylinders in local landholders' paddocks. These objects are stock-proof guards designed to protect plantings of scattered tree seedlings. Gliders typically avoid coming to the ground to travel, and will usually only glide 30-50 m between trees. Consequently, it's critical to fill large gaps between vegetation patches so that Gliders can move around freely. We say "if you see a gap – fill it!"

Look out for the "Squirrel Glider Property" signs that will soon go up on the gates and fences of Squirrel Glider friendly properties.

## Steering Committee update

The Squirrel Glider LAMP Steering Committee is busily planning the next round of on-ground work for the Burrumbuttock area. Stony Park was our first trial area. Landholders may hear from Wirraminna and/or Murray LLS Project Officers over the coming months.

The Committee meets regularly, and consists of Burrumbuttock landholders, representatives from Wirraminna, West Hume Landcare, Greater Hume Shire, Murray LLS, and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

If you have any questions or comments for the Committee about Squirrel Glider conservation in Burrumbuttock please free to contact us. We would also love to hear about sightings or observations of Squirrel Gliders in your area.



Photo: a Burrumbuttock Squirrel Glider

## Tasmanian Sugar Gliders

A recent episode on the popular ABC television show, Catalyst, featured a story on Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) and Swift Parrots (*Lathamus discolor*). Sugar Gliders, which are introduced to Tasmania, have been busted eating the eggs, chicks, and adults of threatened Swift Parrots.

Habitat for both Sugar Gliders and Swift Parrots in Tasmania is rapidly being reduced by intensive logging, bringing the two species (which both rely on hollows in old-growth forest) in close contact.

Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) are related to Sugar Gliders, but are native to mainland Australia and highly threatened in NSW. Squirrel Gliders are omnivorous, but mostly consume small invertebrates or pollen and sap. They are not known to prey on Swift Parrots! You can view the Catalyst episode here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4335033.htm>

## Favourite food plants

Connecting vegetation is important, but a Glider's also got to eat! Some of Squirrel Gliders' favourite foods include nectar and pollen from native flowering trees and shrubs (particularly Eucalypts and wattles). They will also consume sap from wattles, beetles and grubs, and lerp or honeydew



## Burrumbuttock Flower Show

We were delighted to be invited to hold a Squirrel Glider LAMP stall at the recent Burrumbuttock Flower and Open Garden Show. We were especially chuffed to be holding the display at such a beautiful location: Eden Park. Thank you to Ken and Lorraine for hosting us – Helen (Squirrel Glider LAMP Project Officer) had a great time and enjoyed talking to visitors!



Photo: Squirrel Gliders recently caught on camera

## Wildlife monitoring cameras

Murray LLS has several wildlife monitoring cameras for hire. If you would like to try them out, please contact Helen Waudby. Staff member Emmo recently discovered that Ringtail Possums, Brushtail Possums, and Squirrel Gliders all live on his property (see above image, which shows two Squirrel Gliders checking out a nest box)!



## Fast fact

The Latin or scientific name for Squirrel Glider is "*Petaurus norfolcensis*". *Petaurus* means "rope dancer", while "*norfolcensis*" refers to Norfolk Island, so the name effectively means "Norfolk Island rope dancer", which is a misnomer because the species never occurred on Norfolk Island.

## More information:

### Please contact:

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Murray Local Land Services

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### Or visit:

<http://www.wirraminna.org/projects/squirrel-glider/>

<http://murray.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/media-releases/2015/shining-a-light-on-burrumbuttock-squirrel-gliders>

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