

# 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.

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## 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.



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