

Re-greening The Riverina Highlands Nest Box Project

Re-greening the Riverina Highlands is a 1 year project which aims to protect & enhance the natural assets of the Snowy Valleys Shire. This nest box program forms part of the project by improving habitat for native animals to use in areas where there are insufficient hollows.

Why Use Nest Boxes?

Many native species depend on tree hollows for shelter, refuge & breeding. Tree hollows suitable for a range of animals can take more than 100 years to form. Unfortunately by this time many trees are cut down due to being seen as unsafe or a good source of firewood.

Nest boxes or 'artificial hollows' can be used as a means of compensating for this loss of natural habitat, & protecting our native birds & mammals while natural hollows & habitat are established through Landcare type activities.

How Can I Get Involved?



With funding from the Snowy Valleys Shire, Landcare members can receive up to 3 nest boxes to be placed in former Landcare plantings or areas of existing native vegetation. As limited funds are available please contact the Riverina Highlands Landcare

Network to avoid disappointment (contact details below). Additional nest boxes can be ordered for \$40ea.

Installing Nest Boxes

When installing nest boxes consider the following:

- Select a position in the tree where the box will have some protection from wind, rain & direct sun.
- Place the entrance of the box to the east to avoid the afternoon hot sun.
- Install the nest box around 2 – 5 m from the ground, to make it safe from predators but low enough for you to safely inspect and maintain.
- Use a ladder to secure the nest box, & make sure someone is with you to support the ladder & provide assistance.
- Ensure that the ground below the nest box is clear of any obstacles for the secure placement of your ladder for installation & monitoring purposes.
- Attach the box to the tree using galvanised coach screws, through the strap braces provided. Boxes are to be placed as vertical as possible.

Monitoring

Monitoring is important to record the usage of your nest boxes by native wildlife.

- Wait at least 3 months between inspections.
- Ideally, aim to inspect each nest box twice a year. Check the box for chewing or scratch marks, which may indicate usage.
- A brief visual inspection should not harm a resident animal.

Photos courtesy of Mason Crane, ANU

