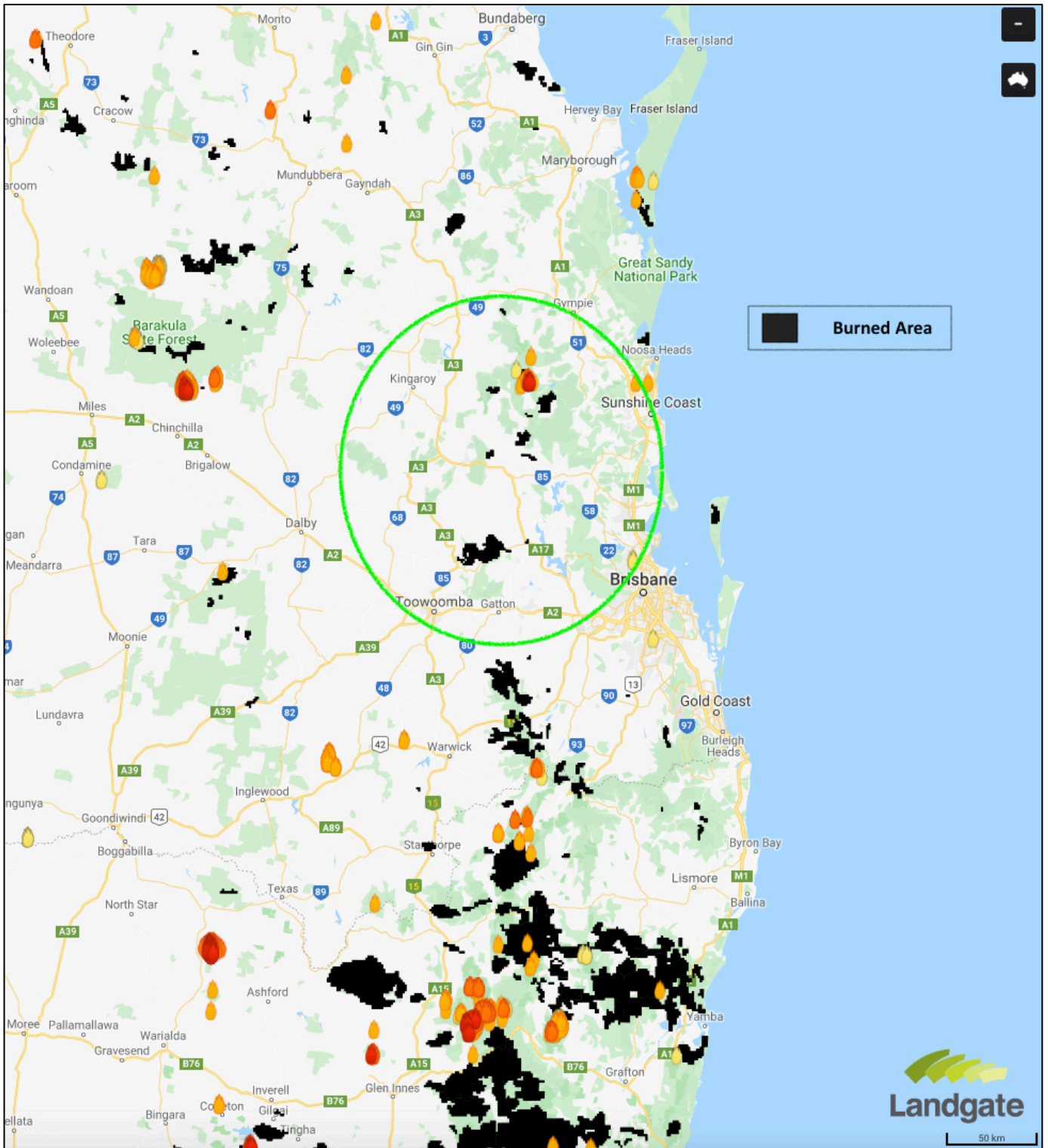


Hollow Using Species List & Nest Box Designs

For the Toowoomba to Sunshine Coast Bushfire Zone



Purpose of this booklet

Large areas of native forest have been burnt by bushfires during the 2019-20 bushfire season, from farm to coast across the Great Dividing Range. And the fires are burning still as I write this today on the 4th of January 2020. Millions of native animals have perished – from insects, lizards, birds, frogs, to mammals. For these huge ‘armageddon’ bushfire impacted regions to be recolonised, nearby populations of native wildlife will need to survive and thrive.

There are over 300 native species in Australia using tree hollows for shelter and breeding, of which 114 species are birds, and 83 of these species are mammals. There will have been a significant loss of old hollow-bearing trees throughout the burnt zones. It is expected that some birds may have escaped the flames, but will be unable to breed in future years if they require tree hollows for nesting. Surviving nocturnal arboreal mammals will similarly struggle to find tree hollows to shelter in during the day.

This booklet series has been compiled from existing online resources to enable volunteer nest box makers to quickly learn how to make nest boxes, for the species that occur within their region.

I have collated the information in this booklet from the following organisations and resources:

Birdlife Australia: https://birdlife.org.au/images/uploads/education_sheets/INFO-Nestbox-technical.pdf

Birds in Backyards:
<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Nest-Box-Plans>

Greater Sydney Local Land Services:
<https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/Wildlife-Nest-Boxes-LLS.pdf>

East Gippsland & Maffra and Districts Landcare Networks:
<https://egln.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Nest-box-booklet.pdf>

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland:
https://wildlife.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/nestbox_instructions.pdf

Compiled by Alice McGlashan

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nestboxtales/>

Website: www.nestboxtales.com

Sharing stories and knowledge about nest boxes for Australian native animals to encourage everyone to improve habitat for wildlife.

Toowoomba to Sunshine Coast Bushfire Zone

For the bird list go to the next page

Mammals	Entrance diameter	Nest box height
Brown Antechinus	30mm	2-4m
Buff-footed Antechinus	30mm	2-4m
Subtropical Antechinus	30mm	2-4m
Yellow-footed Antechinus	30mm	2-4m
Feathertail Glider	30mm	2m
Greater Glider (V)	90mm	6-10m
Sugar Glider	50mm	4-8m
Squirrel Glider	50mm	4-8m
Yellow-bellied Glider	80mm	6-8m
Microbats	30mm hole, 20mm slot	3-5m
Brush-tailed Phascagale	50mm	3-6m
Common Phascagale	50mm	3-6m
Brushtail Possum	90-150mm	4-8m
Ringtail Possum	60-80mm	4-8m
Northern Quoll (E)		
Spotted-tailed Quoll (E)		

Toowoomba to Sunshine Coast Bushfire Zone Contd.

Birds	Entrance diameter	Nest box height
Barn Owl	150mm	4-6m
Masked Owl	150mm	4-6m
Sooty Owl	150mm	4-6m
Southern Boobook	150mm	4-6m
Powerful Owl		10m +
Australian Owlet Nightjar	65mm	3-6m
Pink-eared Duck	150mm	Near water 1-3m
Green Pygmy-goose	150mm	Near water 1-3m
Australian Shelduck	150mm	Near water 1-3m
Australian Shoveler	150mm	Near water 1-3m
Chestnut Teal	80-120mm	Near water 1-3m
Grey Teal	80-120mm	Near water 1-3m
Pacific Black Duck	120mm	Near water 1-3m
Wood Duck	120mm	5-6m
Azure Kingfisher	75mm	3-6m
Forest Kingfisher	75mm	3-6m
Little Kingfisher	50mm	3-6m
Red-backed Kingfisher	50mm	3-6m
Sacred Kingfisher	75mm	3-6m
Blue-winged Kookaburra	180mm arch	5-10m
Laughing Kookaburra	180mm arch	5-10m
Budgerigar		
Cockatiel		
Glossy Black Cockatoo	200mm	8-10m
Major Mitchell's Cockatoo	100mm	5-7m
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	200mm	8-10m
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	150mm	5m +
Little Corella	100mm	5-7m
Galah	100mm	5-7m
Little Lorikeet	25-30mm	
Musk Lorikeet	25-30mm	
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	55mm	3-5m
Rainbow Lorikeet	60mm	5m
Pale-headed Rosella	65mm	2-4m
Crimson Rosella	80-100mm	5-6m
King Parrot	Protruding entrance 100-120mm	6m +
Red-rumped Parrot	25-120mm	5m
Turquoise Parrot	80mm	0-3m
Grey Shrike-thrush	100mm	3-6m
Spotted Pardalote, Striated Pardalote	30mm tube	5m
Buff-rumped Thornbill		
Brown Treecreeper	50-70mm	3-5m
Red-browed Treecreeper	50-70mm	3-5m
White-throated Treecreeper	50-70mm	3-5m
Dollarbird	70mm	6-10m
Tree Martin	30mm	2m +

Nest Box How-To Information

Tools and materials

- Marine plywood or **untreated** timber, preferably certified sustainably harvested wood products if purchasing.
- Hole saw or jig saw for making entrance holes
- Hand saw or power saw to cut the panels
- Screwdriver or power drill (best to use screws, not nails)
- Ruler/tape measure
- Pencil for marking out design
- Sandpaper to smooth rough edges
- Wood screws
- Stainless steel piano hinges, button head screws
- Wood shavings or wood chip (untreated) for bedding, to emulate a decaying hollow.
- Paint: undercoat paint and 2 x coats of a pale coloured exterior paint to improve the durability of the nest box. Pale colour suggested to prevent overheating of nest box occupants. Avoid dark colours. I use a pale grey Flooded Gum colour by Dulux.
- (optional) Biscuit joiners to increase width of standard 100-150 x 25mm boards.

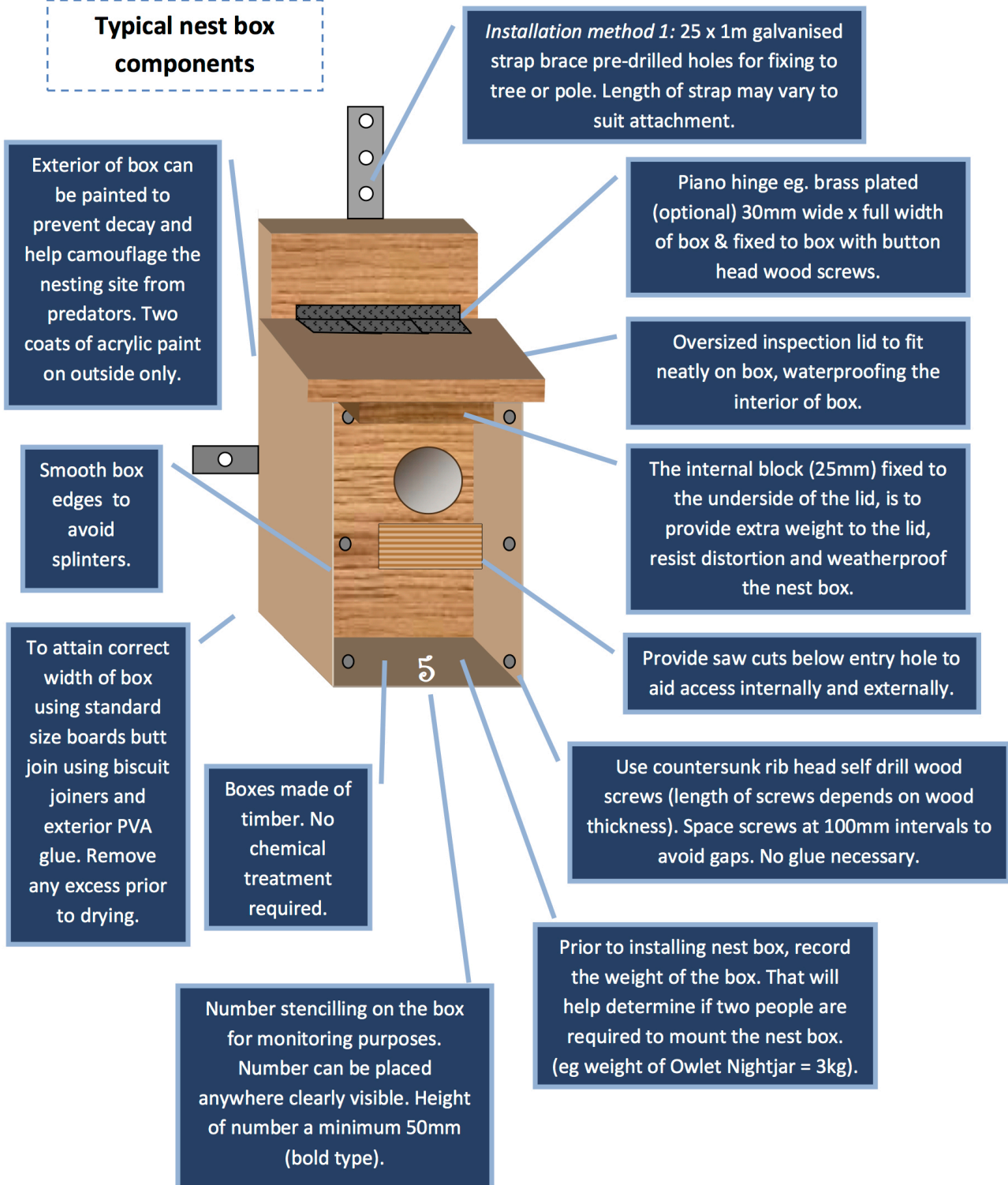
Installing Nest Boxes

- Place the nest box away from human disturbance, busy roads, driveways and out of reach of non-native predators such as cats, dogs and foxes.
- Install in a location that is protected from direct sunlight during hot summer afternoons (east to south-east side of tree).
- The installation height sweet spot is 4.5-6m. Most species will use nest boxes at this height, and a tall ladder will enable easy installation and access for monitoring and maintenance.
- Installation within the cover of leafy branches is preferred by many species, but some species do prefer open aspects for easy access.
- Bats: open flight path access required.
- Tall ladder, ladder holder and person installing the nest box.

Monitoring and Maintaining Nest Boxes

- Monitoring is important to enable removal of feral pest species, such as European bees, Indian Mynas and Starlings.
- Annually or Bi-annually checking on nest boxes enables issues to be fixed, and repairs to be made so that animals can continue to use the nest box.

Typical nest box components



Nest box designs

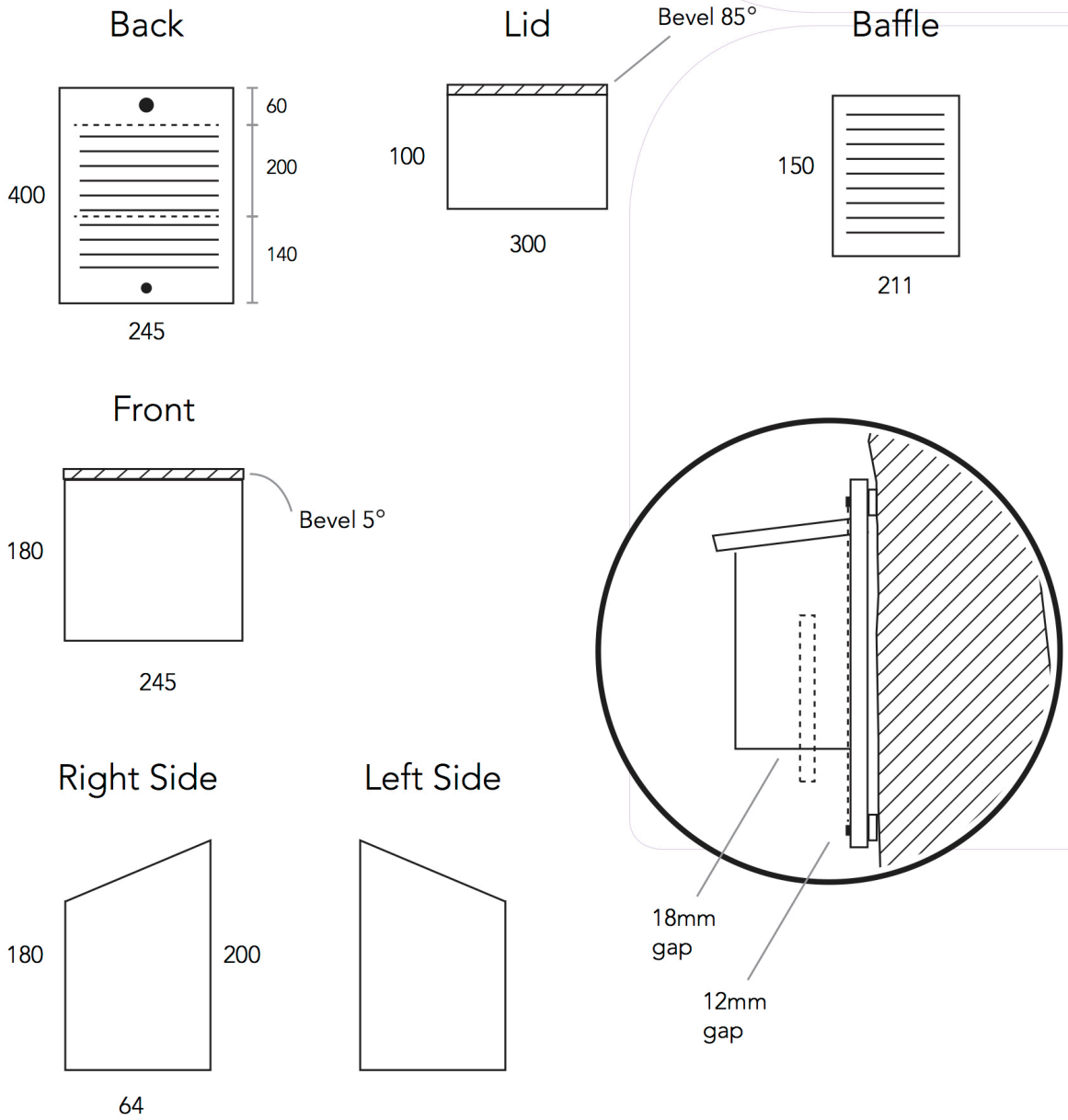
The following nest box designs were found for species that occur within your bushfire-affected region:

- **Feathertail/Antechninus/Pygmy Possum**
- **Sugar Glider**
- **Brushtail Possum**
- **Ringtail Possum**
- **Owlet Nightjar**
- **Boobook Owl**
- **Pacific Black Duck**
- **Grey Teal/Chestnut Teal**
- **Kookaburra**
- **Rainbow Lorikeet**
- **Red-rumped Parrot / Little Lorikeet / Musk Lorikeet**
- **Red-rumped Parrot**
- **Turquoise Parrot**
- **Crimson Rosella**
- **Pale-headed Rosella**
- **Grey Shrike-Thrush**
- **Pardalote**
- **Treecreeper**

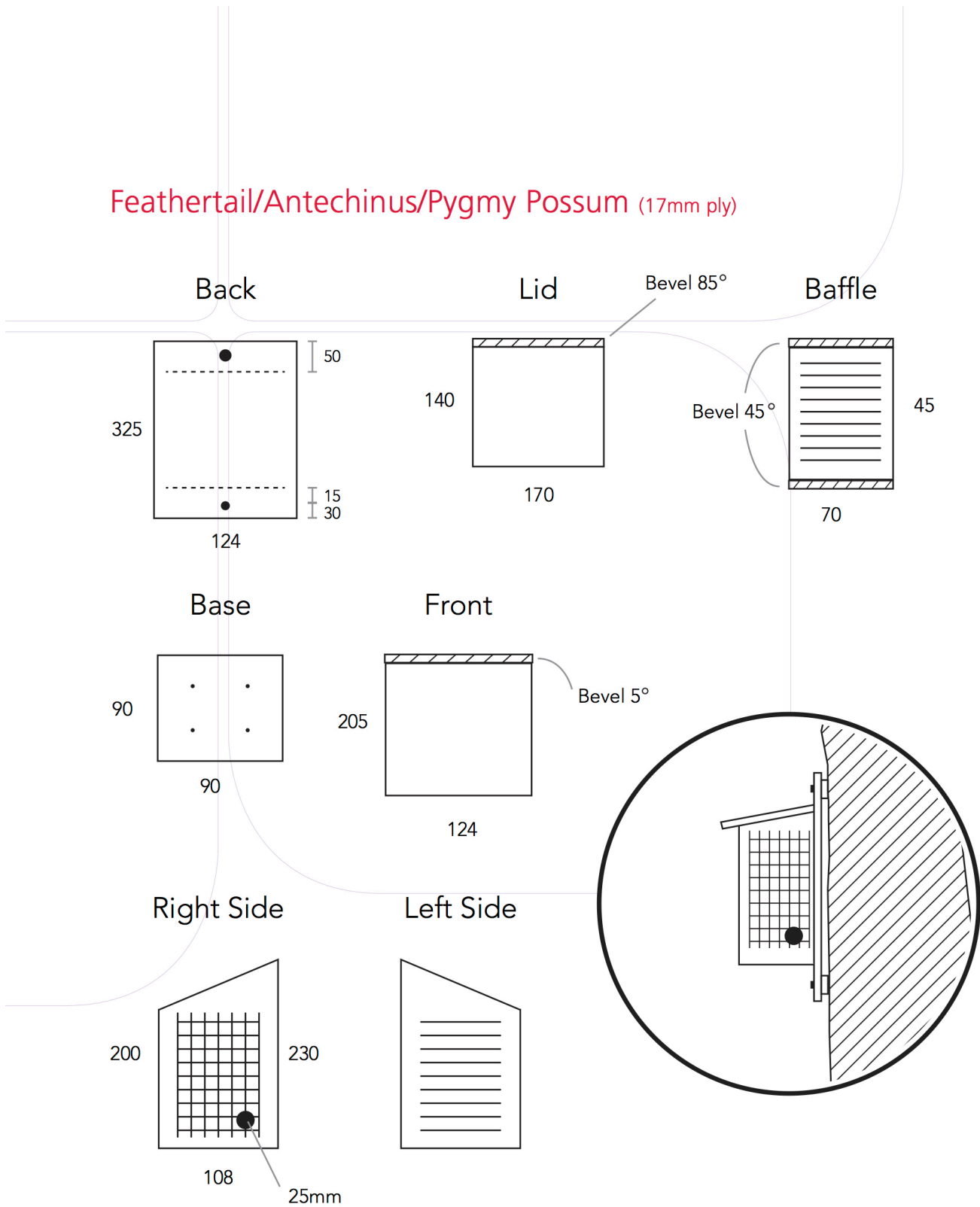
There are also nest box dimensions for other species (not all within your area) provided by Birdlife Australia – added after the nest box designs.

Happy making!

Microbat (17mm ply)

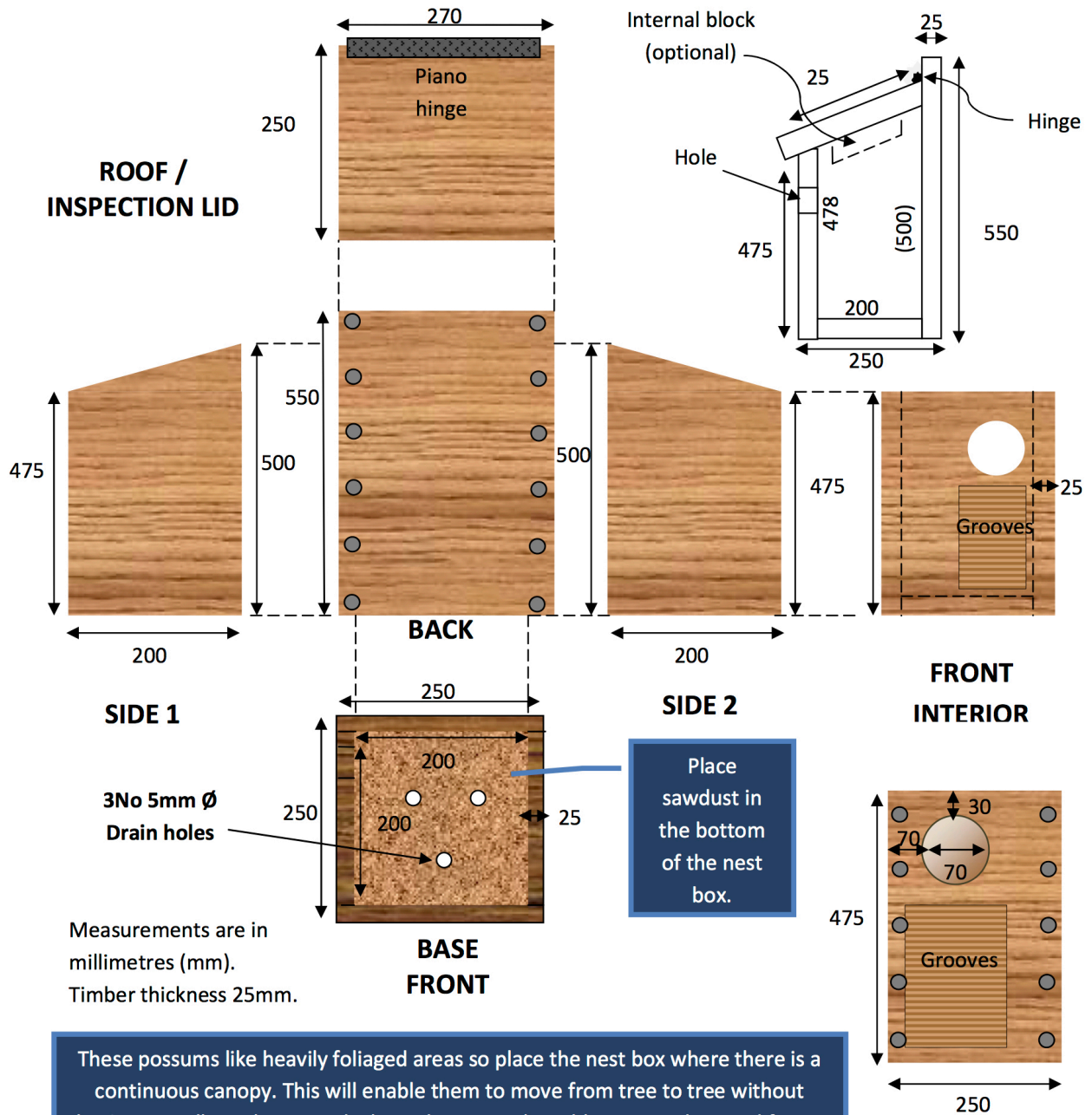


Feathertail/Antechinus/Pygmy Possum (17mm ply)



COMMON RINGTAIL POSSUM NEST BOX

Mammal
Nest Box



Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.

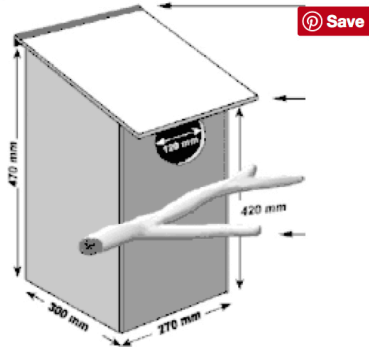
These possums like heavily foliated areas so place the nest box where there is a continuous canopy. This will enable them to move from tree to tree without having to walk on the ground where they are vulnerable to cats, dogs and foxes. You can also tie ropes to nearby trees as a means to keep predators at bay. Don't be alarmed to find possums nesting in other nest boxes; they will inhabit almost any box provided the hollow is big enough. If this occurs be sure to check the box for evidence of previous inhabitants as they may return to their nest. This nest box should be placed 3 metres above ground.

Nest Boxes for the Gippsland Region

By: East Gippsland & Maffra and district Landcare Network

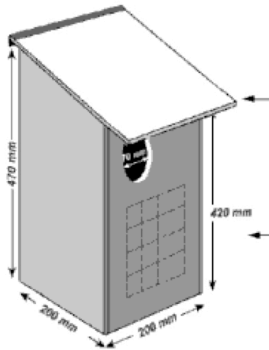


POSSUM NEST BOXES



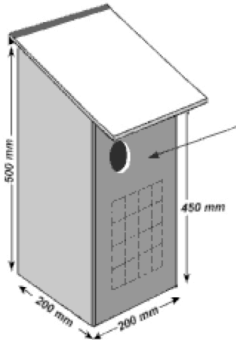
The Brushtail Possum Box

The top edge of the roof should be weather sealed with a folded strip of sheet metal, aluminium angle or a rubber flap. To stop rain getting in the lid should overhang by around 120mm. The entry hole should be located directly under the eaves and be between 110mm to 120mm wide.



Ringtail Possum Box

Is basically the same design as the Brushtail possum box. It is slightly narrower and the entrance hole is 70mm to 80mm wide.



Sugar Glider Box

Although the Sugar Glider is one of the smaller possums, its nest box is quite large. However the entry hole (which would probably be a little higher up than this diagram illustrates) is only 50 mm wide.

Possums in your garden - not in your roof!

You can buy our ready-made boxes, but here are some basic instructions for those who prefer to make their own. There are boxes for various types of possums. This design suits brushtails, ringtails and sugar gliders. For others we recommend the 'Nest Box Book' published by the Gould League of Victoria.

What you need

Use a building materials that are hardy and provide a level of insulation from the heat and cold.

Timber: You can use any timber you like, except chipboard (which disintegrates rapidly outdoors) or treated pine (which is toxic if gnawed on by the possum).

12mm plywood or untreated pine is excellent. These are reasonably hardy, and not too expensive (ask your local timber yard or cover sheets or seconds). The wood needs to be at least 10mm to provide insulation.

Fastenings: Use screws and glue to hold the construction together. They will last much longer and hold greater weight than nails.

Something to seal the top edge of the box: Sheet metal, piece of aluminum, a rubber flap or piece of old inner tube will work.

- Drill
- Saw
- Wire or chain and a piece of old hose pipe to cover it
- Heavy gauge flat head nails for fastening
- Flexible metal strip

Optional extras

- Small, sturdy branch
- Sealant and/or UV resistant paint: Choose a colour like dark brown or green that blends in with the surrounding bush.
- Nesting materials: A few handfuls of dead leaves can provide comfort and insulation.

How to build your possum nest box

Box top

While it is not essential, it is best if you can arrange the top so it can be opened for inspection, but latched closed for protection. Fasten the back of the lid to the back with an old inner tube, which provides 'hinge' and a weatherproof seal.

To stop rain getting in, the top should overhang by 110-120mm. The entry hole should be located directly under it.

Box bottom

The bottom of the box should fit inside the four sides and be screwed in from the side. This gives greater strength than if flush with the walls and screwed in from the bottom. Drill at least four x 5mm to 7mm holes near the corners for drainage.

Baffle

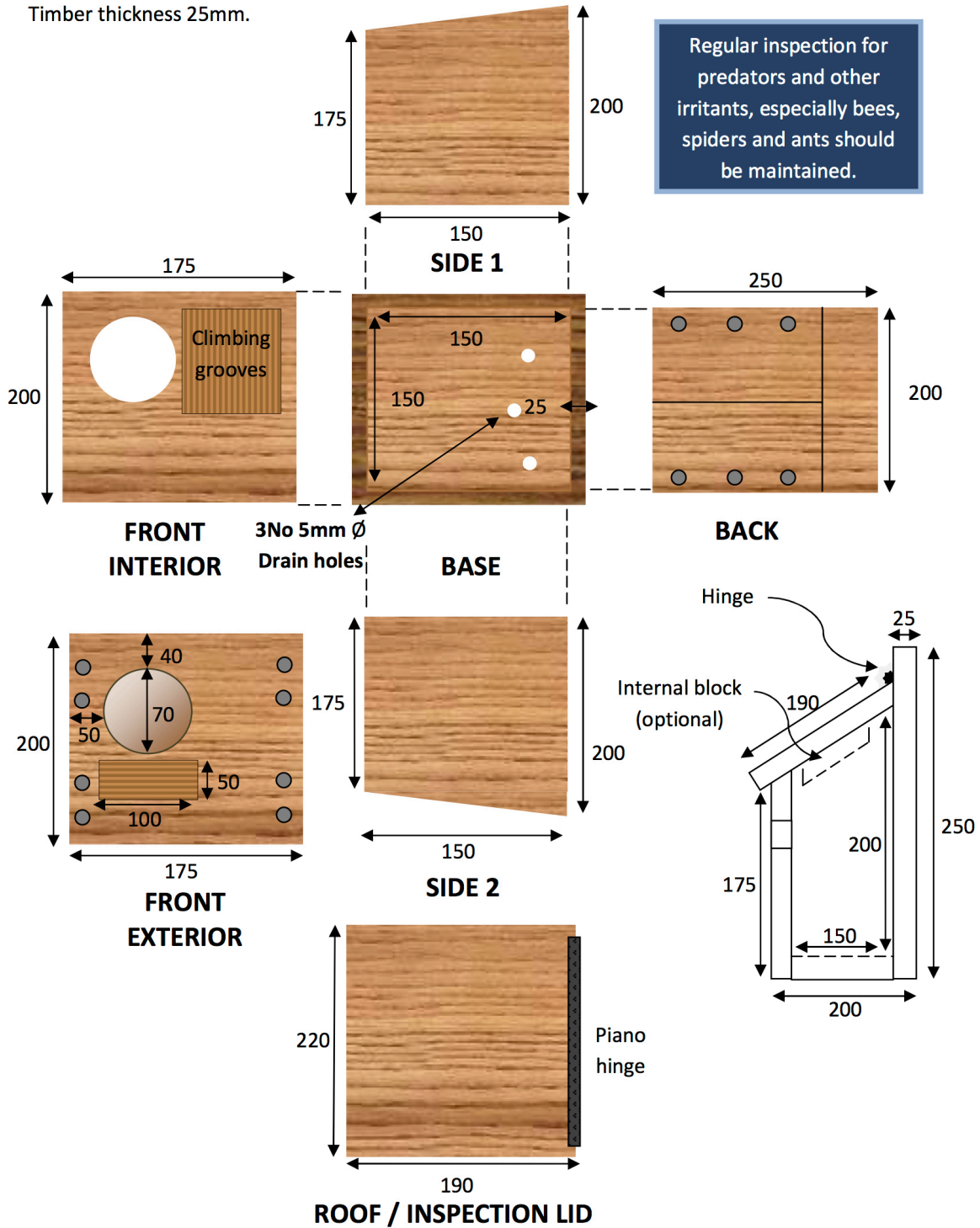
The baffle is a screen that hides the entrance hole from view. It stops direct sunlight entering the box and reduces the effect of wind and rain. The baffle also stops Mynas and Starlings from occupying the box, as they will only choose hollows where they can fly directly into the hole.

The baffle is simply a piece of wood, the same width as the front of the possum nest box, with 'arms' to fix it to the box or lid. The baffle can be made of any thickness, as its main purpose is to provide screening

OWLET NIGHTJAR NEST BOX

Bird
Nest Box

Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.



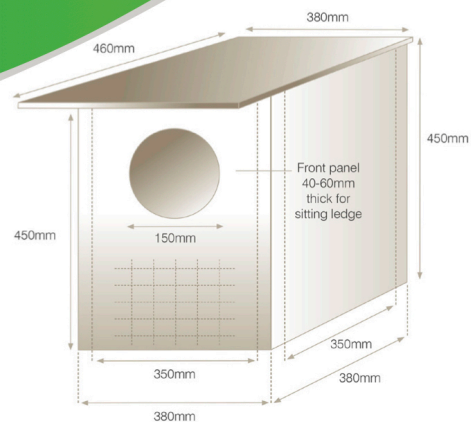
Nest box for the Southern Boobook

The Southern Boobook is the smallest and most common owl in Australia at just 30 cm long. It's plumage is dark chocolate-brown above and rufous-brown below, heavily streaked and spotted with white. The facial disc is chocolate brown and the eyes are large and yellowish. The breeding season runs from September to February. The female alone incubates the eggs but both sexes and sometimes a second female helper will feed the young. Usually two to three eggs are laid and the nestling period is 42 days.



Habitat Information

Southern Boobooks can be found in many habitats from dense forest to open desert. In urban areas, they are seen in parks, gardens, remnant bushland and street trees. However, it is important to remember that installing a nest box will be most successful if you provide habitat in your own garden that is suitable for the bird. Southern Boobooks feed mostly on insects and small mammals. To provide good habitat for Southern Boobooks, try planting things that will provide cover and food for insects and small animals, such as some native grasses, flowering natives and thorny native bushes. Have some good perching locations around such as fence posts and tree limbs too that the boobooks will use when looking for prey. Mice and other rodents can of course be a problem around our houses however try to avoid poisoning them so they do not make boobooks and other birds of prey ill. Instead, think about using mouse-traps in and around your house.

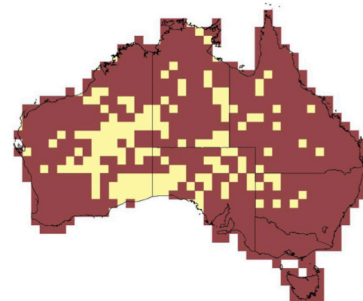


Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 380mm x 460mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 350mm x 450mm
- Front: rectangle 380mm x 450mm (adjust for 40-60mm thick timber)
- Back: rectangle 380mm x 450mm
- Base: square 350mm x 350mm

Special Notes

Make the front panel between 40mm and 60mm thick to provide a sitting ledge. Although the breeding season occurs between September and February, Southern Boobooks will use nest boxes throughout the year as day roost sites. Therefore it is important to continue to maintain the nest box throughout the year even when you may not have seen the occupants recently but unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.

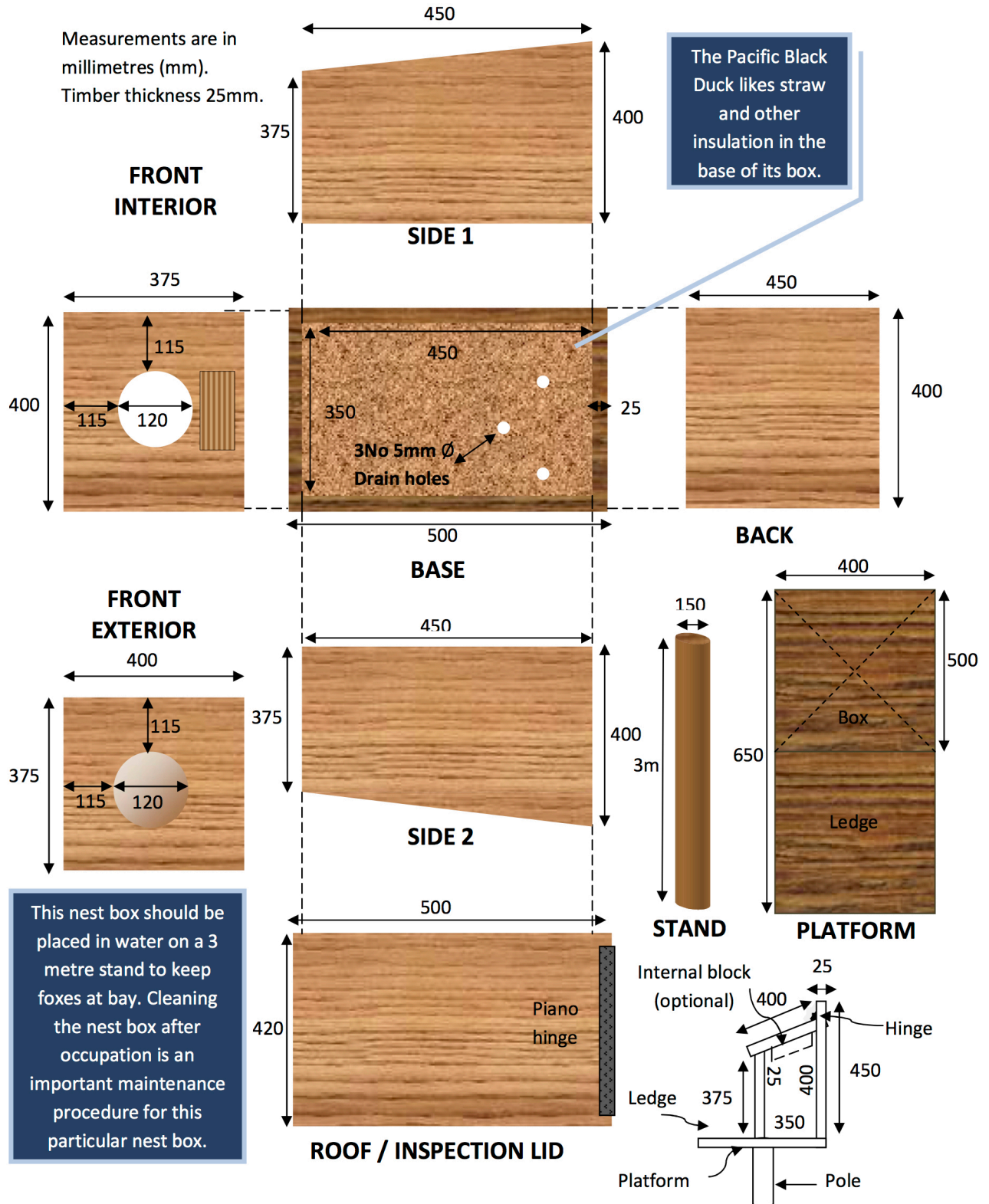


Distribution of the Southern Boobook



PACIFIC BLACK DUCK NEST BOX

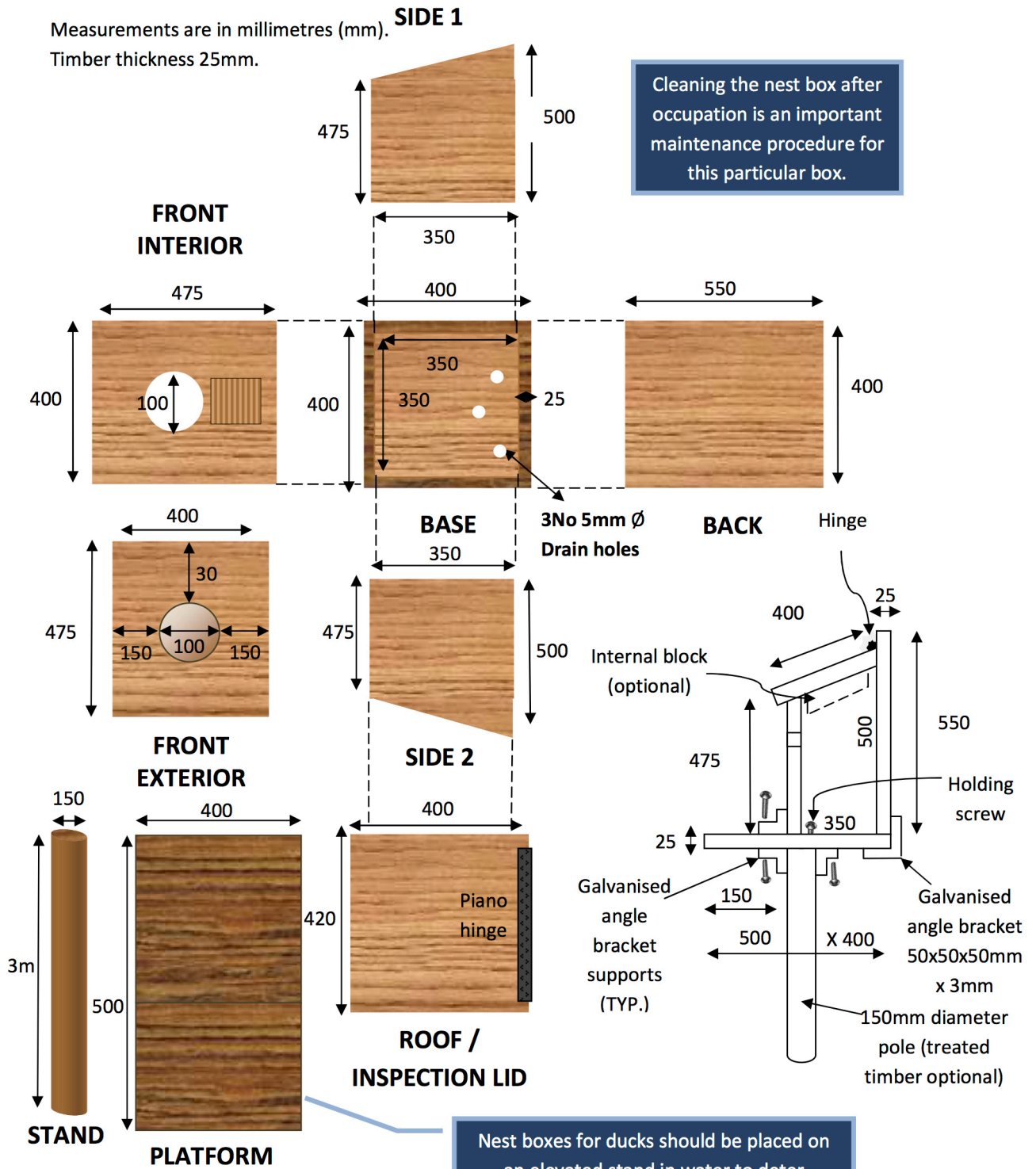
Bird
Nest Box



TEAL NEST BOX

Bird
Nest Box

Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.



Nest boxes for ducks should be placed on an elevated stand in water to deter predators such as foxes.

Nest box for the Blue-winged Kookaburra

The Blue-winged Kookaburra has a distinctive pale eye and the head is off-white with brown streaks. The shoulders are sky blue and it has a uniform blue rump. The back is mid-brown. Males have a dark blue tail whereas female's tails are barred red-brown or blackish. The call of the Blue-winged Kookaburra is coarser and ends more abruptly than the call of the Laughing Kookaburra. Blue-winged Kookaburras typically lay three eggs, with both sexes sharing in the incubation and subsequent feeding. They form quite large family groups, with older siblings helping to raise young. The incubation period is 26 days and fledging occurs after 36 days.

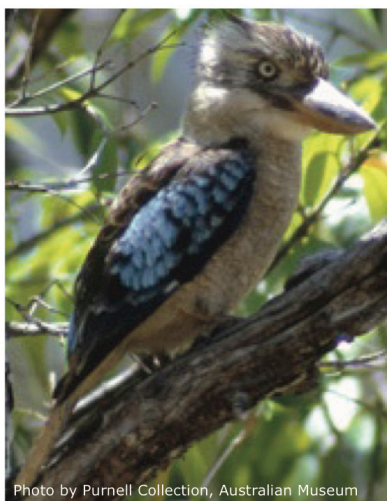
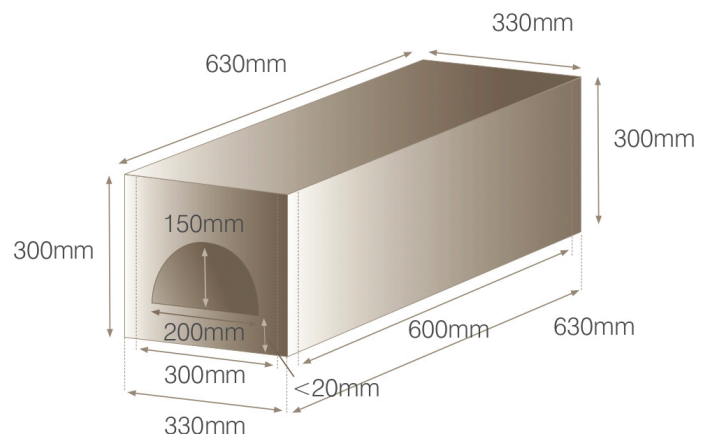


Photo by Purnell Collection, Australian Museum

Habitat Information

Blue-winged Kookaburras are found in tropical and subtropical open woodlands, paperbark swamps, around watercourses, clearings, cane fields and farmlands of northern Australia. They have suffered from loss of habitat resulting from land clearing, and are often killed on roads. In order to increase the chances of your nest box succeeding, it is a good idea to provide appropriate habitat for them in your garden. Blue-winged Kookaburras eat a wide range of invertebrates and vertebrates (like lizards and frogs). They require somewhere to perch where they can view the ground and then swoop down to grab their prey. Retaining trees in your garden will help them, as will providing plenty of native grasses, ground cover like fallen branches and shrubs which will help to attract some of their prey species.



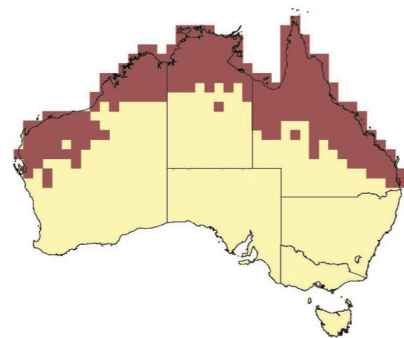
Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 330mm x 630mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 300mm x 600mm
- Front and Back: 2 x rectangles 330mm x 300mm
- Base: 300mm x 600mm

Special Notes

Young kookaburras defecate over the edge of the nest entrance, so the opening should be less than 20mm from the nest box base.

Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.



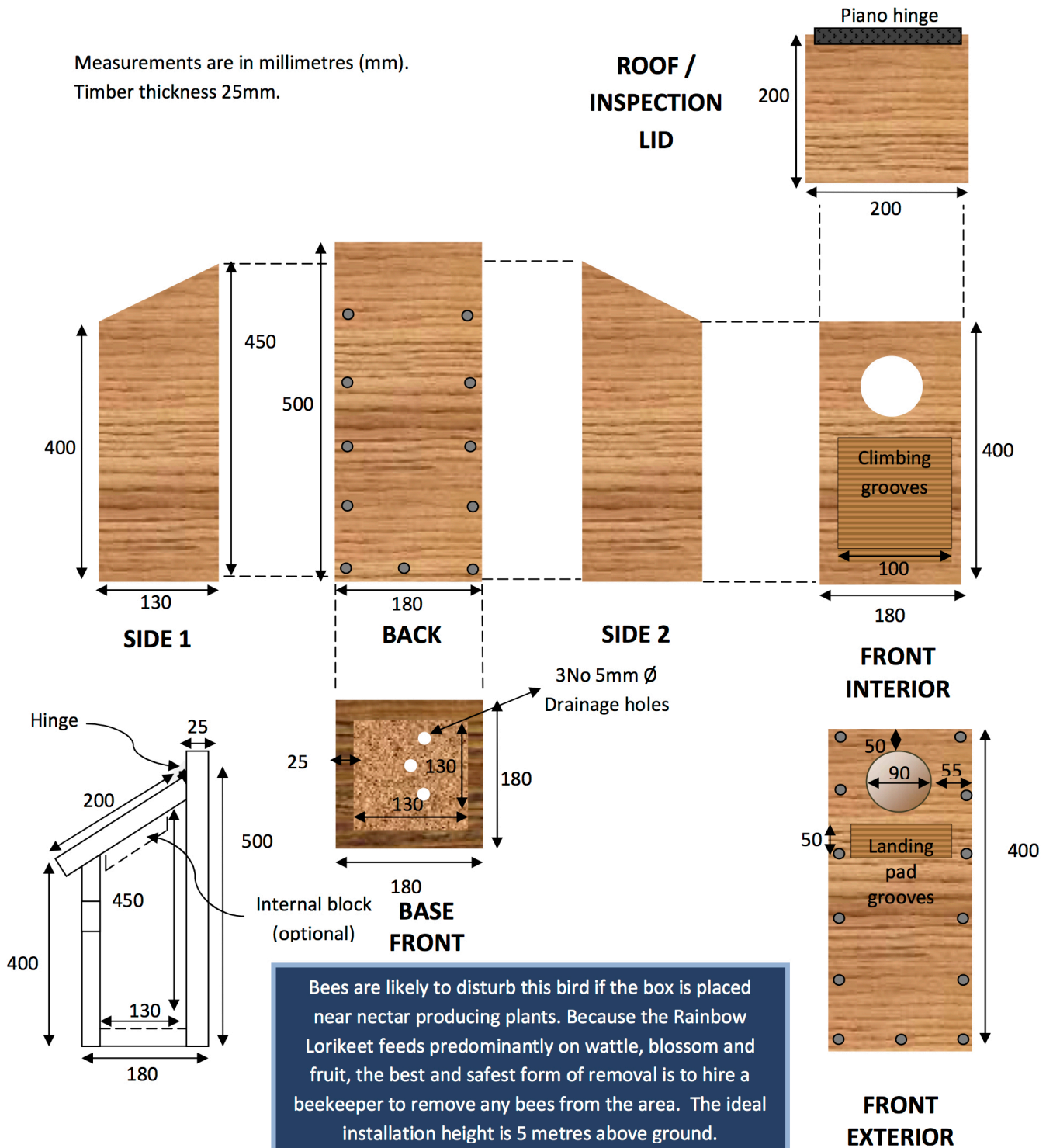
Distribution of the Blue-winged Kookaburra



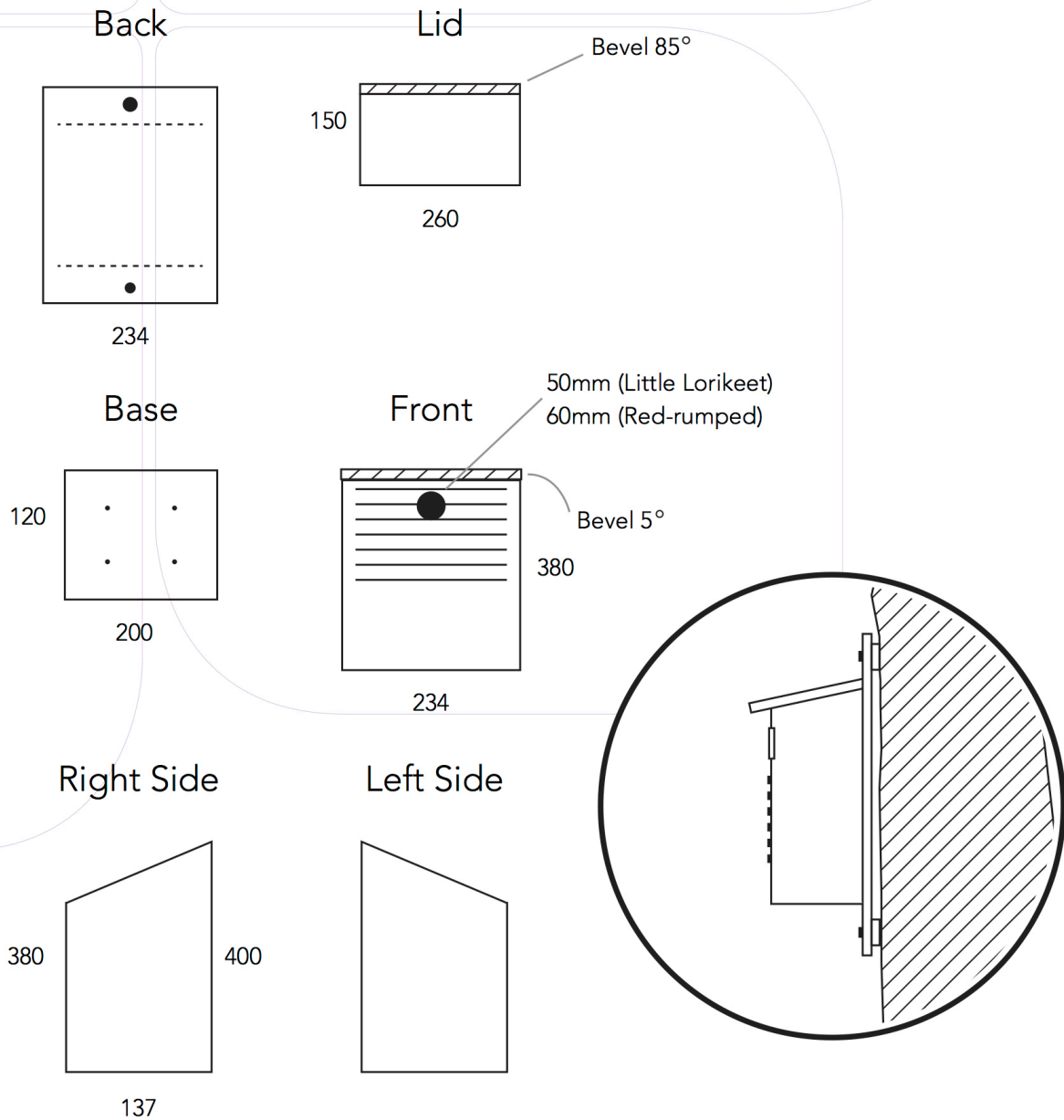
RAINBOW LORIKEET NEST BOX

Bird
Nest Box

Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.



Red-rumped Parrot/Little Lorikeet (17mm ply)



Nest box for the Red-rumped Parrot

Red-rumped Parrots are small (26cm), slender parrots. The adult male is bright green with a blue green head, a red rump and yellow shoulders and belly. The adult female is a duller olive-green with a green rump and faint yellow or light green scales on the belly. Red-rumped Parrots mate for life and breed from August to January, producing 4-5 white eggs that are incubated for 20 days, with chicks fledging at 4-5 weeks.

Male red-rumped parrot



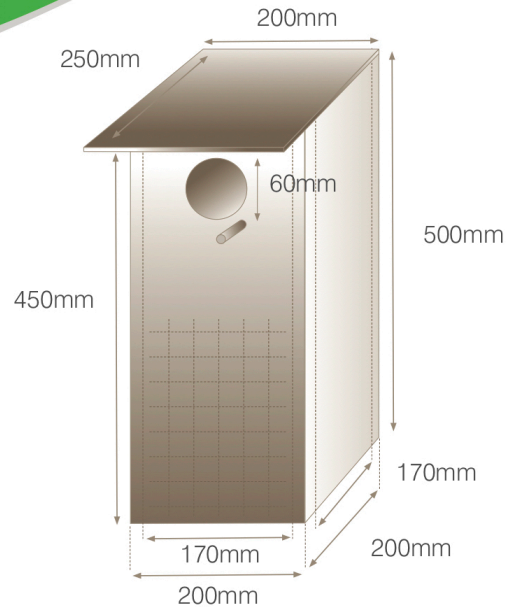
Photos by K Vang & W Dabrowka



Female red-rumped parrot

Habitat Information

Red-rumped Parrots can be found in open grasslands or lightly timbered plains, as well as along watercourses and in mallee farmlands with access to water. Large grassy parks, golf courses and similar habitats in urban areas are also a favourite. However, it is important to remember that installing a nest box will be most successful if you provide habitat in your own garden that is suitable for the bird. Red-rumped Parrots prefer to feed on seeds and leaves of grasses, as well as seeds, fruits and flowers in trees. To provide good habitat for Red-rumped Parrots, try planting some native grasses.

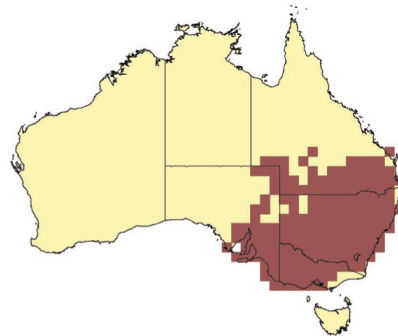


Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 200mm x 250mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 170mm x 500mm (note: both pieces have to be cut to form a sloping edge for the roof)
- Front: rectangle 200mm x 450mm
- Back: rectangle 200mm x 500mm
- Base: square 170mm x 170mm

Special Notes

More than one nest box can be installed if you wish as more than one pair may nest in different boxes in one tree. Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.



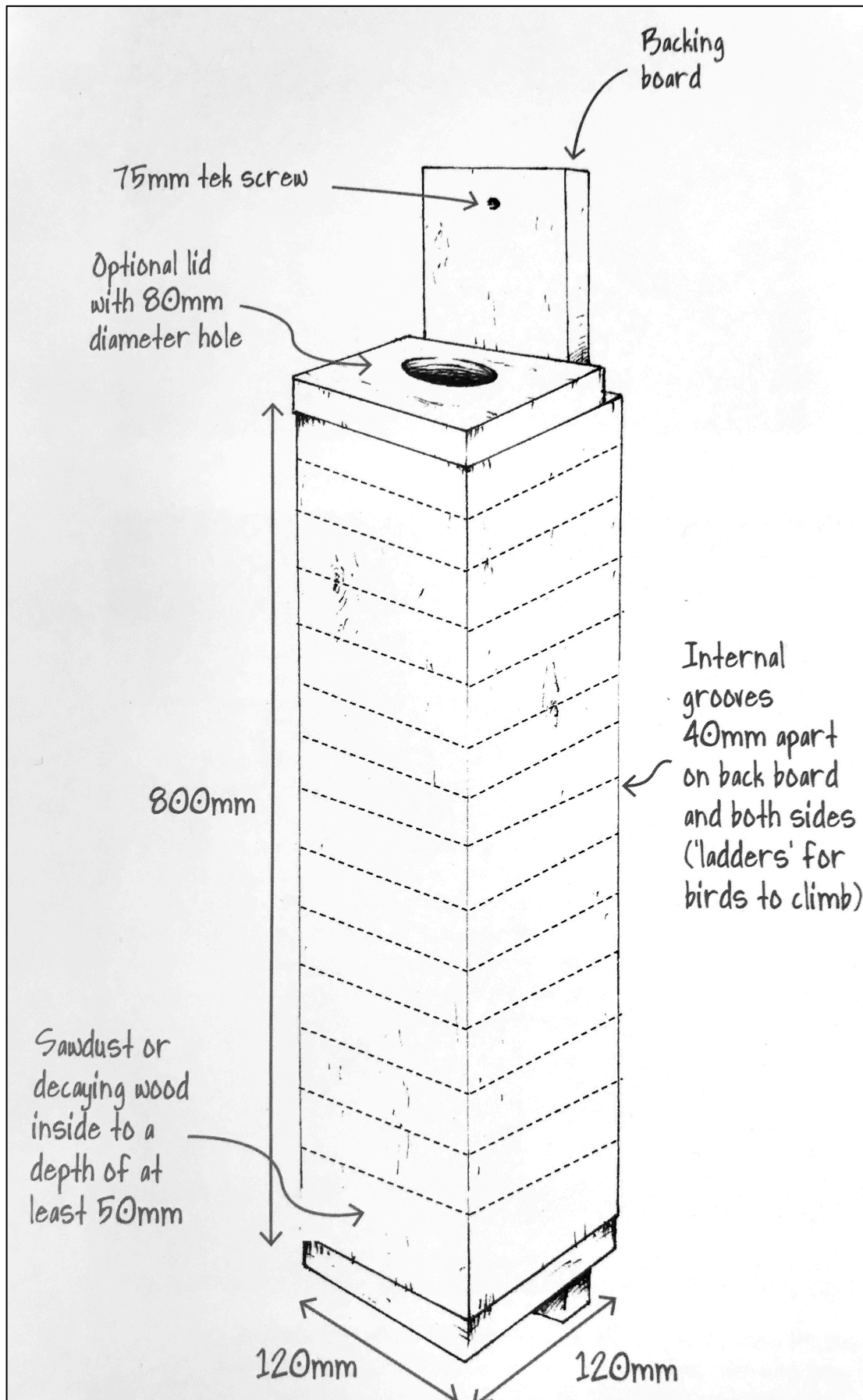
Distribution of the Red-rumped Parrot



Turquoise Parrot nest box design

From 'Turquoise Country, Communities caring for the threatened Turquoise Parrot'.

By the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority



especially spring canopy trees in 1 and logs should on dead trees as support hollows any prospective trees, strapping should be avoid through a back a good idea to in an appropriate log at the requ either with tek method of holl predation from it would be mo metal posts.

When selectin preferable to t

- Known nest Red Gum at timbered fa of a forest e within 100m
- Lower slop already stu avoid placi where a po
- Sites with suitable fo (gently slo
- Sites close

Monitoring

It is importa they are ins spring, to c any unwanted containing Use a torch If you are fo Parrots occ on the bac observe bu visit their n finished br

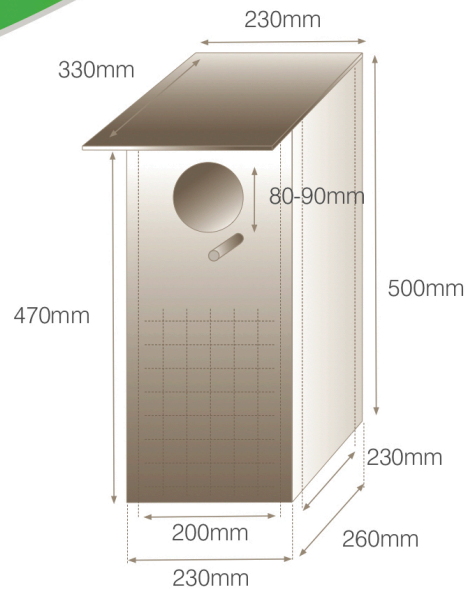
Nest box for the Crimson Rosella

There are several colour forms of the Crimson Rosella. The form it is named for has mostly crimson plumage and bright blue cheeks. Crimson birds occur in northern Queensland, in southern Queensland to south-eastern South Australia and on Kangaroo Island. Orange birds are restricted to the Flinders Ranges in South Australia, while yellow ones are found along the Murray, Murrumbidgee and neighbouring rivers. Females incubate the eggs, and both sexes care for the young. Breeding season is from September to January. 4 to 8 eggs are laid and incubated for 20 days. Chicks fledge at 25 days but remain dependent on the parents for a further 35 days.



Habitat Information

Throughout its range, the Crimson Rosella is commonly associated with tall eucalypt and wetter forests and they are also found in parks and gardens. It is important to remember that installing a nest box will be most successful if you provide habitat in your own garden that is suitable for the bird. Natural foods of Crimson Rosellas include seeds of eucalypts, grasses and shrubs, as well as insects and nectar from native shrubs. To attract them to your garden and nest box, try planting some native grasses and shrubs and retain any eucalypt trees you have.

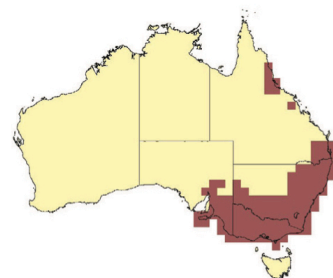


Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 230mm x 330mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 230mm x 500mm (note: both pieces have to be cut to form a sloping edge for the roof)
- Front: rectangle 230mm x 470mm
- Back: rectangle 230mm x 500mm
- Base: rectangle 200mm x 230mm

Special Notes

Add a couple of handfuls of shredded bark (untreated) or wood shavings (not fine saw dust) at the bottom of the nest box. Ensure that you observe the box from a distance or through a window, as Crimson Rosellas may desert the nest if they feel they are being watched. Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.



Distribution of the Crimson Rosella



Nest box for the Pale-headed Rosella

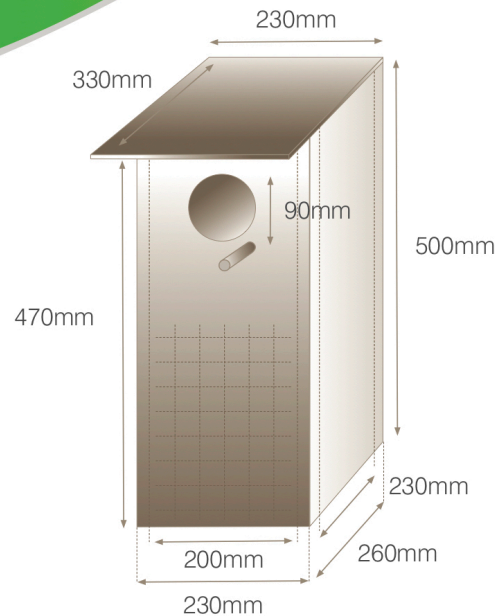
The Pale-headed Rosella is a medium-sized, broad-tailed parrot, with a pale head and all white, or blue and white cheek patches. The underbelly is mainly blue, with red under the tail. The back is yellow with dark flecks. The female is slightly duller, with an off-white underwing stripe. The female incubates, and a few days after hatching the male helps with feeding the young. Breeding season is from September to January, or other times depending on rainfall. 4 to 8 eggs are laid, and are incubated for 19 days. Fledging occurs after 35 days.



Photo by N. Lazarus

Habitat Information

Pale-headed Rosellas are found in savannah woodlands, lightly timbered woodlands with a grassy understorey, tree-lined watercourses and agricultural lands. However, it is important to remember that installing a nest box will be most successful if you provide habitat in your own garden that is suitable for the bird. Plant native grasses and also shrubs that produce nectar and attract insects to provide food for these rosellas. Retain any tall trees you have.

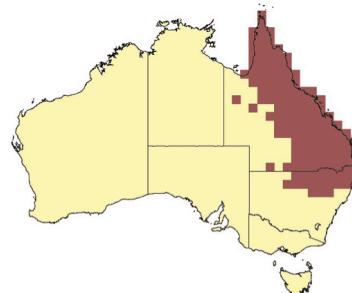


Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 230mm x 330mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 230mm x 500mm (note: both pieces have to be cut to form a sloping edge for the roof)
- Front: rectangle 230mm x 470mm
- Back: rectangle 230mm x 500mm
- Base: rectangle 200mm x 230mm

Special Notes

Add a couple of handfuls of shredded bark (untreated) or wood shavings (not fine saw dust) at the bottom of the nest box. Ensure that you observe the box from a distance or through a window, as Pale-headed Rosellas may desert the nest if they feel they are being watched. Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.



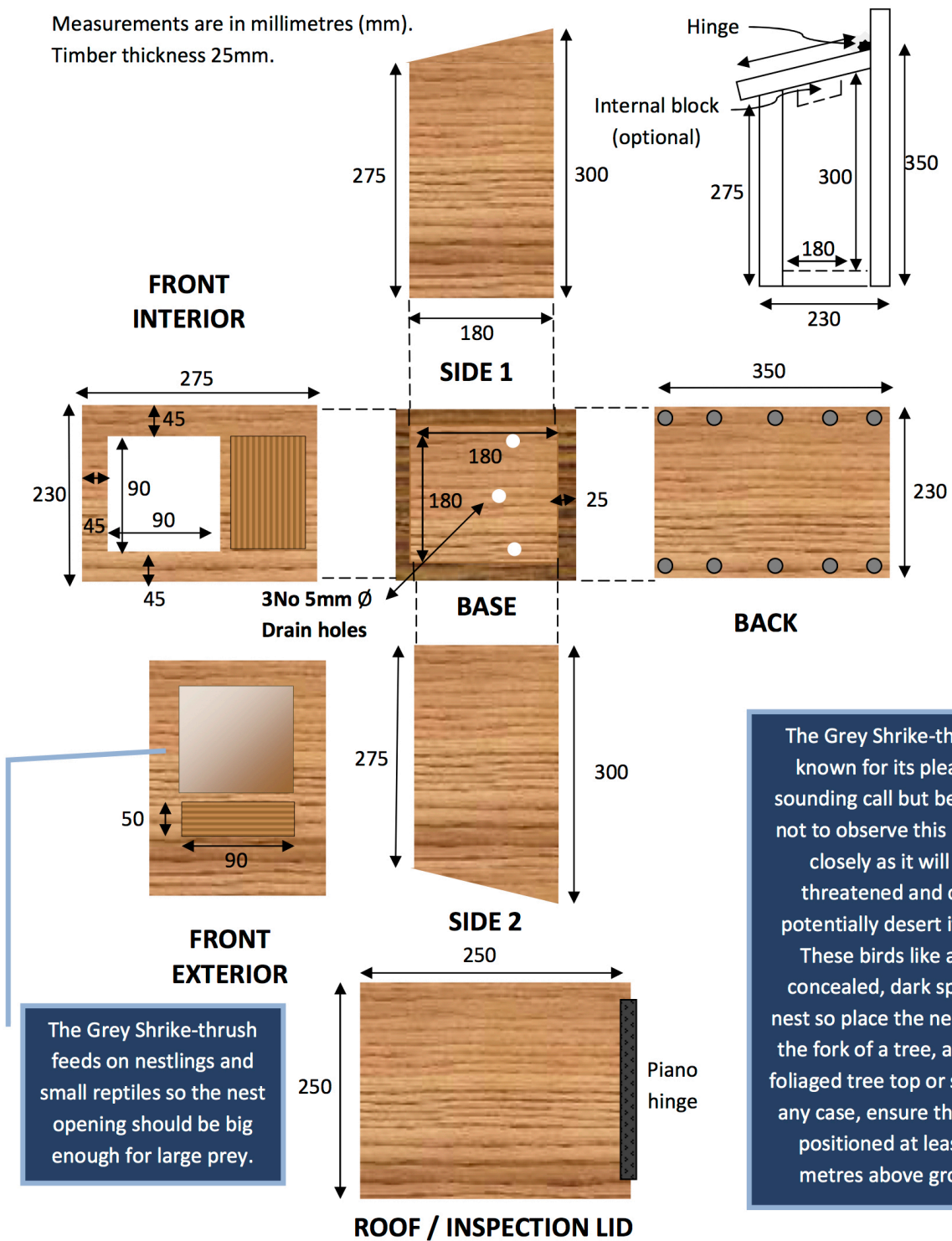
Distribution of the Pale-headed Rosella



GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH NEST BOX

Bird
Nest Box

Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.



The Grey Shrike-thrush feeds on nestlings and small reptiles so the nest opening should be big enough for large prey.

The Grey Shrike-thrush is known for its pleasant-sounding call but be careful not to observe this bird too closely as it will feel threatened and could potentially desert its nest. These birds like a well concealed, dark space to nest so place the nest box in the fork of a tree, a heavily foliated tree top or shrub. In any case, ensure the box is positioned at least 2-5 metres above ground.

Nest box for the Striated Pardalote

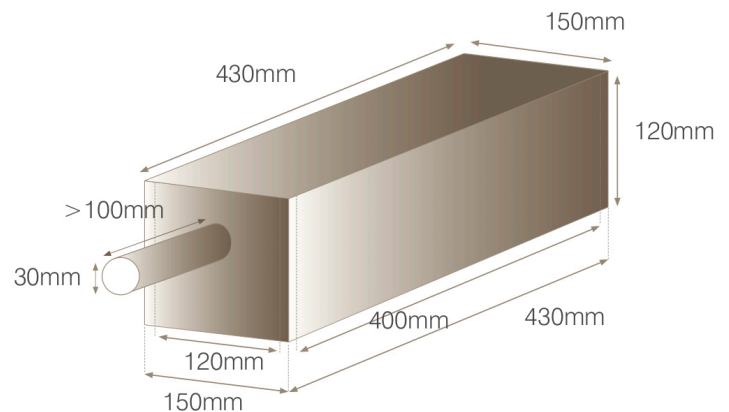
The Striated Pardalote is a very small bird (8-10cm) weighing only 11g. It has a white brow with a yellow spot in front of the eye, olive-grey back and a white stripe in the wing. There is variation in the width of the stripe, the coloured spot at the front end of the stripe, and whether or not the black crown has fine white stripes across the range. The breeding season occurs from June to January, when they form pairs or small groups of up to six birds. Both sexes incubate and care for the young, and other members of groups may also help with feeding. 3 – 5 eggs are laid.



Photo by Andrew Silciles

Habitat Information

Striated Pardalotes are found in almost any habitat with trees or shrubs, but prefer eucalypt forests and woodlands. They forage on the foliage of trees for insects, particularly psyllids, but can occasionally be found close to the ground feeding in low shrubs. Pardalotes like to be high in the canopy, therefore if you have tall trees in your garden it is best to take good care of them to provide good habitat for pardalotes. Try planting some native insect-attracting shrubs to provide food for them.

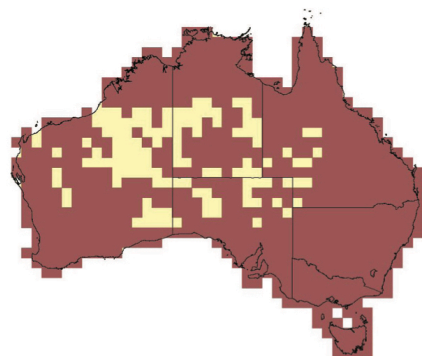


Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)

- Top: rectangle 150 x 430mm
- Sides and Base: 2 x rectangles 120mm x 400mm
- Front and Back: 2 x rectangles 150mm x 120mm
- Extra: 1 tube plastic piping approx. 30mm diameter x 100mm length

Special Notes

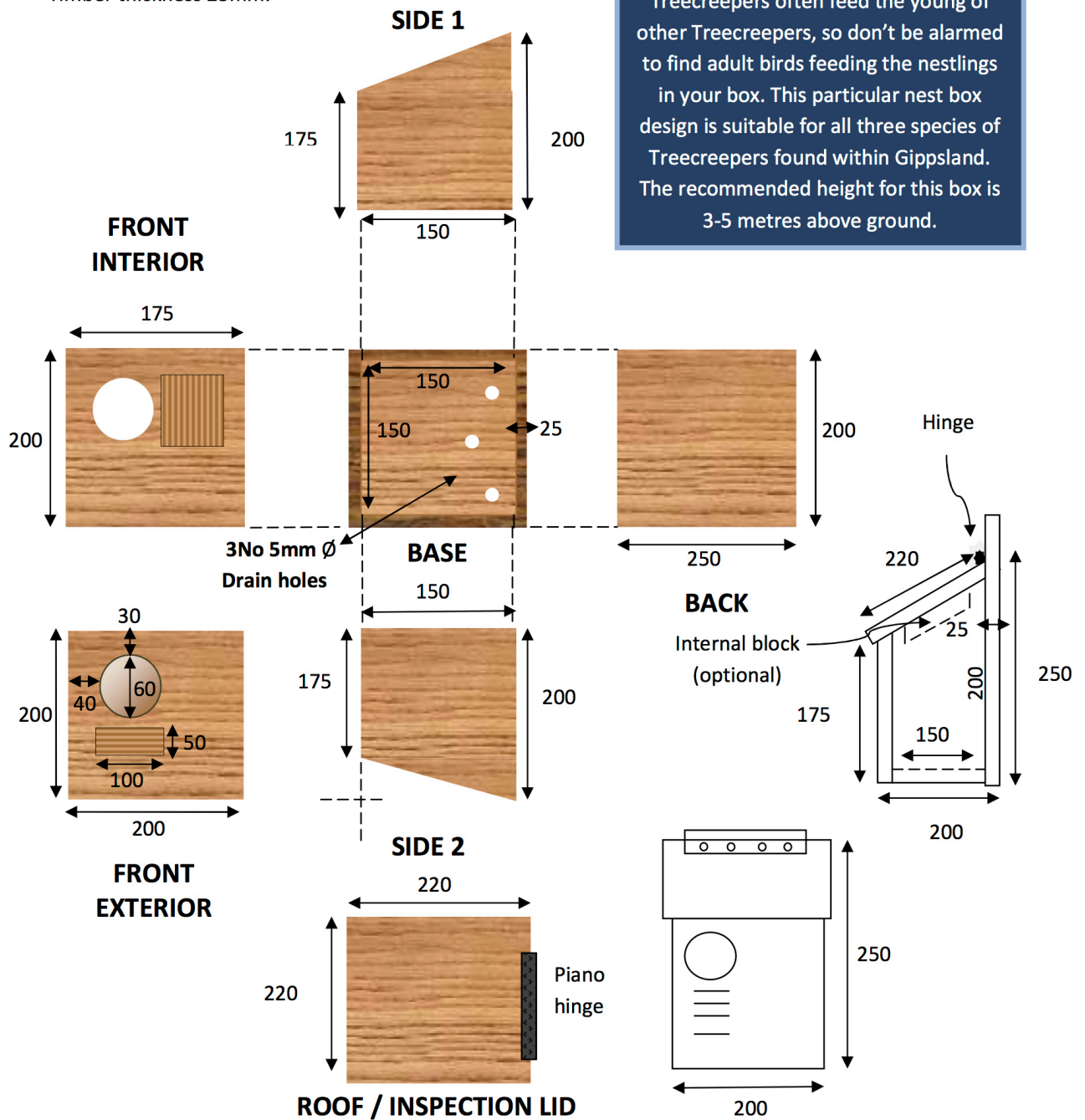
Striated Pardalotes require a tunnel-shaped entrance which can be fashioned from PVC piping. Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.



Distribution of the Striated Pardalote

Measurements are in millimetres (mm).
Timber thickness 25mm.

Treecreepers often feed the young of other Treecreepers, so don't be alarmed to find adult birds feeding the nestlings in your box. This particular nest box design is suitable for all three species of Treecreepers found within Gippsland. The recommended height for this box is 3-5 metres above ground.



Nest Boxes – Technical Information



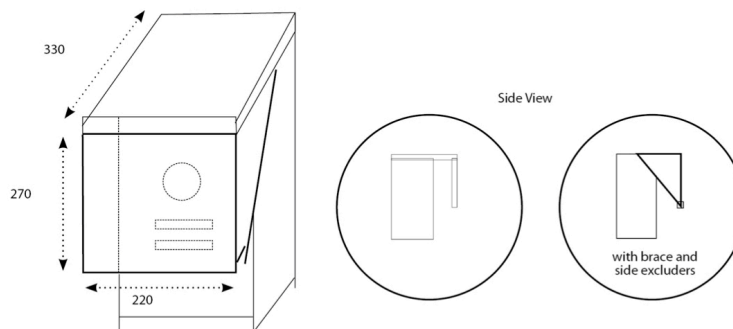
Purple-crowned Lorikeet © BirdLife Australia

Nest boxes are an important aspect to wildlife conservation in any areas where natural nesting hollows are not available. This information sheet provides a little extra technical assistance for anyone who wants to go the next step, and make or install a nest box. For a general introduction to the importance of nest boxes, please read BirdLife Australia Information Sheet entitled 'Nest Boxes for Native Birds'.

The Anti-Myna Baffle

The Anti-Myna Baffle is a simple device which shields the entrance hole to the nest box, and prevents Common Mynas from entering (they always fly directly to the entrance of the nest hollow), while allowing access to rosellas and other parrots, which usually climb up to the entrance of their nesting hollow, and so are able to climb between the baffle and the nest box. It is important to provide a 'ladder' for the parrot to climb up the entrance — chisel or saw a few horizontal grooves into the front of the nest box, or attach a small piece of wire mesh that they can climb up, but do not attach a stick, which may allow Mynas to land there.

The distance that the baffle is placed in front of the nest box should be the same as the diameter of the entrance hole.



A Few More Useful Tips for Nest Boxes

- Add a few wood shavings to the bottom of your nest box; some parrots will not nest there without them.
- In vertical (or steeply sloping) nest boxes, it is a good idea to install a 'ladder' for birds to climb out of the nest, especially if the inner surface of the nest box is relatively smooth. A few horizontal grooves, either sawn or chiselled into the wood will act as 'steps', as will a strip of wire mesh.

- Drill a few drainage holes in the floor of the nest box.

Recommended Dimensions for Nest Boxes

The different requirements of our wildlife necessitate that nest boxes are specially designed to incorporate essential features that mimic the characteristics of their natural nesting hollows. Here are the vital statistics for nest boxes designed to be used by certain species.

SPECIES	INTERNAL DIAM (mm)	DEPTH/LENGTH (mm)	ENTRANCE DIAM (mm)	VERTICAL/HORIZ.	HEIGHT (m)
Black-Cockatoo, Glossy	300	870-1000	160 x 200	v	
Boobook, Southern			150	h	
Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested			150	v	
Corella, Little			150		
Corella, Long-billed			150		
Duck, Australian Wood	200	500	120	v	
Duck, Pacific Black	450 x 300		120	h	
Galah	200	650	120-150	v	6
Kestrel, Nankeen	400	750	100	v	5
Kingfisher, Sacred	130	600-900	75	h	5-10
Kookaburra, Laughing	300-400 x 150-200	500-600	open, >130	h	5-10
Lorikeet sp.	120	600	60	h	5
Lorikeet, Little			25-30		
Lorikeet, Musk			25-30		
Lorikeet, Purple-crowned			25-30		
Owl, Eastern Barn	400	750	open, >150	h	5
Owlet-nightjar, Australian	100-150	300-400	30-120	v	5
Pardalote sp.	120	400-500	30-45	h	5
Pardalote, Striated	90-200 x 120-150	200	25-35	v/h	
Parrot, Red-rumped	100-240	400-600	25-120	v/h	5
Rosella sp.	120-200	350-800	70-120	v/h	5
Rosella, Crimson	150-200	350-800	75-100	v/h	5-6
Rosella, Eastern	135-240	350-800	60-100	v/h	5-6
Shrike-thrush, Grey	150-200 x 200-300	150-300	open, >150	h	
Swallow, Welcome	130		open	h	3
Teal, Chestnut	200-400 x 300	450-750	80-120	v	1.5
Teal, Grey	200-450 x 300	450-750	80-120	v	1.5
Treecreeper sp.	90-150	100-400	50-80	v	
Treecreeper, White-throated	75-100	300-400	50-70	v	5
Antechinus, Yellow-footed			20-25		
Bat sp.	70-100 x 150-240	200-250	15-20 (slit)	v	
Bat, Chocolate Wattled			10 (slit)		
Bat, Gould's Wattled			10 (slit)		
Bat, Lesser Long-eared			10 (slit)		
Brush-tail-Possum	210 x 240-320	380-400	90-150	v	4-8
Glider, Feather-tailed			20-25		
Glider, Squirrel			60		
Glider, Sugar	200-250	300-450	25-50	v	4-8
Phascogale, Brush-tailed			25-30		
Ringtail-Possum	250	350-400	60-90	v	4-8

Further Reading ~ for specific nest box designs, consult any of these references:

- Adams, George Martin. (1980). *Birdscaping Your Garden*. Rigby, Adelaide.
- Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. (n.d.). *Cosy Abodes for Fur and Feather*. (leaflet).
- Elliot, Rodger. (1994). *Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden*. Lothian, Melbourne.
- Grant, Peter. (2003). *Habitat Garden. Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden*. ABC Books, Sydney.
- Melbourne Zoo Education Service. (n.d.). *Nest Boxes for Native Birds and Mammals*. (leaflet).
- Morrison, Rob. (1996). *The Nestbox Project*. *Nature Australia* 25(5): 56-63.
- Pedler, Lynn. (1996). *Artificial nest hollows for black-cockatoos*. *Eclectus* 1: 13.
- Pizzey, Graham. (2000). *The Australian Bird Garden. Creating Havens for Native Birds*. Angus & Robertson, Melbourne.
- RSPCA. (n.d.). *Learn to Live with Possums*. (leaflet).
- Trainor, Russell. (1995). *Artificial nest-hollows*. *Bird Observer* 759: 5-7

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Help us create positive outcomes for birds and their habitats

Good luck and enjoy!

Included are designs that I could find, for the species that occur in your region. There are not free online designs available for all species. At the end of this booklet I've included Birdlife Australia's list of nest box dimensions for a range of species. I would recommend taking a Rosella nest box design - included, and modifying this to the dimensions for your desired target species in the Birdlife Australia's list. Any dramas, please let me know.

If a wide range of all designs are made and installed nearby and within the bushfire zones, there will be a good amount of choice for all hollow using species to select their homes and nesting locations from. That is, don't just make the big boxes, or the medium boxes, make all of them! The off-label species will also use these nest boxes.

If you discover some more useful information that would be good to include, please message me. I'll add and update for all to benefit.

Thank you so much for making a difference. Our native wildlife desperately need a helping hand to survive this current living hell. We really don't want to lose more than we already have.

Every little tiny bit of difference made, cumulatively makes a big difference if many participate. Thank you so much for your contribution.

Alice McGlashan

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nestboxtales/>