

Hollow

Hollow Log Homes eNewsletter, Winter 2016 edition

Number of boxes since April 1999 : 29,017

A Quarterly Newsletter concerning hollow dependent fauna and nest boxes

28th July 2016

Species Profile

Spotted-tailed Quoll

Dasyurus maculatus



Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) | Photo: Jim Evans. NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage website.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll or Tiger Quoll is the second largest carnivorous marsupial in Australia. It has been described as 'ferocious' and 'very combative' and is equipped with a sharp set of canines which it uses to kill a variety of prey. Prey includes birds, rats, and other small terrestrial and arboreal mammals like possums. It is an agile climber, although it spends most of its time on the floor of sclerophyll forests and rain forests.

Males grow up to 759mm and weigh up to 7 kg. Females are much smaller, measuring up to 450mm and weighing up to 4kg.

In the past these guys were spread throughout South-east Australia. Now, due to land clearance, over burning of bushland, the spread of cane toads and competition with introduced species

like the fox and feral cat, they can be found sparsely between Fraser Island and South-west Victoria. In Tasmania they are more abundant and can be found from sea level to the sub-alps across a range of habitats. These include wet and dry sclerophyll forests, coastal heath and scrub, even in Red Gum forests along inland rivers. In north east Queensland they can be found but are considered endangered from Mt Finnigan to South Atherton Tableland.

Spotted-tailed Quolls breed from April to July. Their gestation period is about 21 days and the average litter size is 5. Quolls are primarily a solitary animal. However while nesting, both parents will defend the nesting site together. Nesting sites are made in rock caves, hollow logs or trees. Males are known to bring food for the female while the young are dependent on her for food.

While completing surveys for the Pacific Highway upgrade in Northern NSW, a population of Spotted-tailed Quolls was discovered adjacent to a work site. Hollow Log Homes was approached by Roads and Maritime Services NSW to design a box for the Spotted-tailed Quoll.

We started the process of designing the box by speaking to experts who have researched denning/breeding behaviour and have successfully bred Spotted-tailed Quolls in captivity. We came up with two designs. One design is big enough for the Quolls to breed in and another design which is smaller to house a single denning animal.

Both boxes come with the Habisure System™ so they can be hung in trees and have a side entrance hole, making it easier to enter from the trunk. We have also incorporated two large cleats which run down past the bottom of the box for extra stability against the tree trunk.

We are very excited about this design and are looking forward to getting some results soon!

Further Reading:

- The Australian Museum, Complete Book of Australian Mammals. Cornstalk Publishing 1991
- A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia, Peter Menkhorst, Frank Night. Oxford University press 2001



This is a HLH Spotted-tailed Quoll denning box which is the smallest of the two designs. The breeding box is slightly larger.

New delivery truck!



Hollow Log Homes have brought a new delivery truck. Over the past few years the service by courier companies has deteriorated to a point where we are always relieved if the nest boxes arrive together and are undamaged. As a result, made the decision to buy a truck and do all the larger deliveries ourselves. This also saves the use of bubble wrap. The truck can carry two tonne and has an eco diesel motor. So far we have delivered to many locations throughout NSW and have even reached Victoria. This is also a great way to personally meet our customers face to face.



Meet Ian.

Ian is the Monarch of the HLH oiling division and has been working with Hollow Log Homes since 2010. He is referred to by his co-workers as His Oiliness. Ian is a retired biology teacher, president of the Conondale Range Committee, Chairman of the MRCCC and a poet who has been long involved in forest and river issues in the Upper Mary Valley region. You may find in our book "Nest boxes for wildlife, a practical guide" one of Ian's poem's titled "Where Home Is a Hollow", published in 2003. Ian is an oiling machine fueled by ginger beer and eucalyptus oil and HLH are very grateful for the thousands of boxes Ian has painted and all of his hard work for the company over the years.

Single Chamber Microbat box discontinued

Due to the success of the multi chambered microbat boxes we have made the decision to discontinue to manufacture the single chamber microbat box. Although the single chamber box was successful over the past few years, our research show that multi-chambered boxes are more attractive to a broader range of microbat species.



Cyplas Range is a huge success!

We at Hollow Log Homes are very pleased with the results since the launch of our recycled plastic boxes in September last year with the impressive take up by native species and our customers. We have now sold over 700 Cyplas boxes Australia wide. The boxes look great and blend in really well with the natural environment. They have been really useful to install in termite prone areas as well as under bridges due to the damp conditions where timber boxes would normally struggle. The biggest hurdle for HLH was to find someone that could supply us with a food grade 100% recycled plastic sourced from Australian waste. We have been very successful in that endeavor and have formed a strong partnership with a well established Australian owned and operated company.



One of many large orders of Cyplas boxes getting ready to load onto the truck.



A family of Squirrel gliders *Petaurus norfolkensis*, making a winters nest in a rear entry Cyplas glider box.