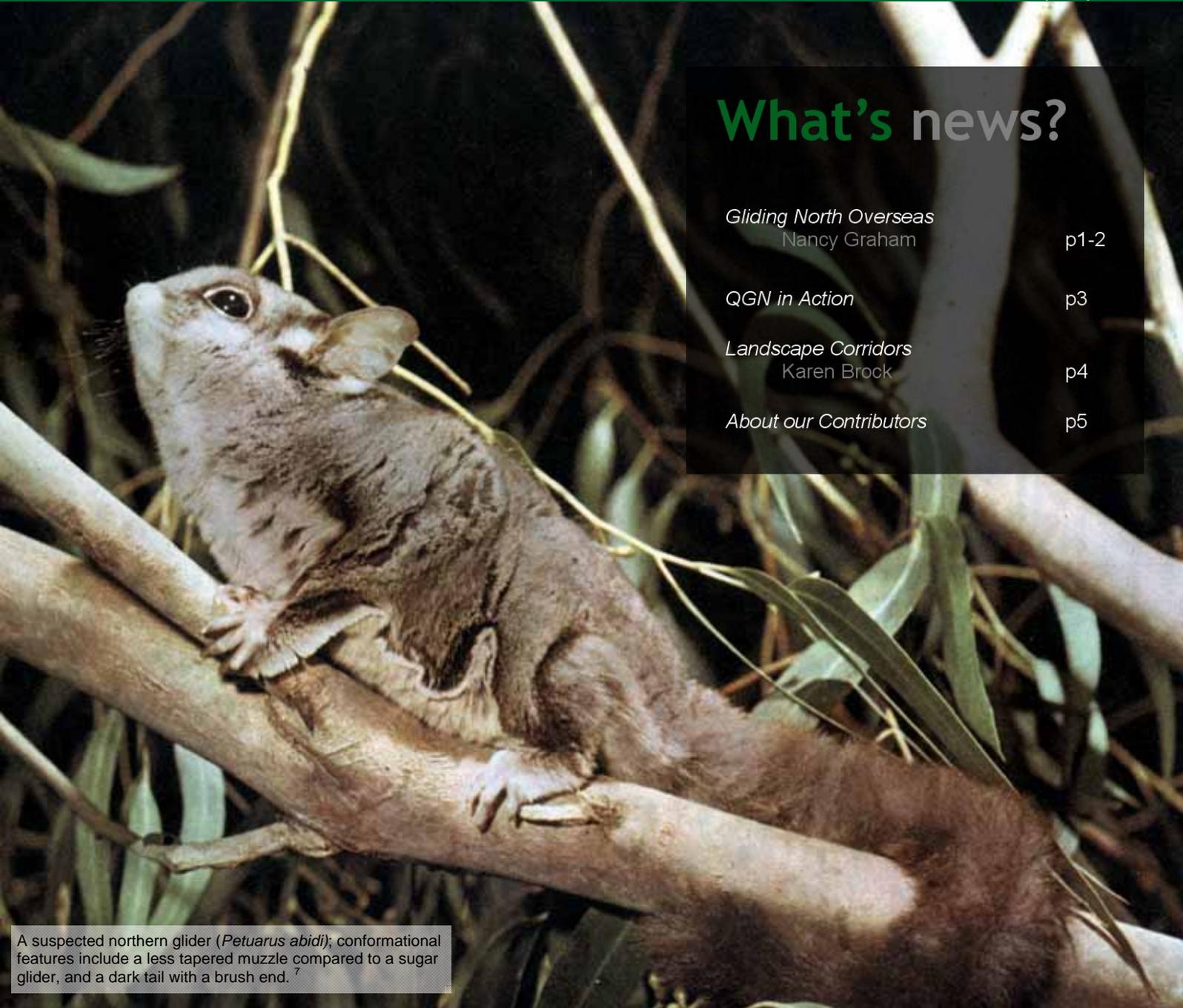


What's news?

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A suspected northern glider (*Petuarus abidi*); conformational features include a less tapered muzzle compared to a sugar glider, and a dark tail with a brush end.⁷

Gliding north overseas

In 1972 Abid Beg Mizra, leader of an expedition to the Papua New Guinean Toracelli Mountains sponsored by the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, collected a male and female glider. These gliders were similar to the sugar gliders which also inhabit the region, but much larger. Alan Zeigler subsequently confirmed it as a new species of glider in 1981¹.

He named it the northern glider (*Petuarus abidi*). Its scientific name comes from pteron - the latin root meaning 'winged one'.

Gliding north overseas

continued...

The IUCN lists the northern glider as critically endangered. It occupies just 100 square kilometres in the mountains of the north-western Papua New Guinean coast. Forests in Papua New Guinea contain similar eucalypt species to Australia, however *P. abidi* is under threat from human encroachment, deforestation, and hunting³. The land tenure system of Papua New Guinea makes purchase of land for conservation, or the establishment of protected areas difficult. About 26% of the region is designated protected area, but the majority of the protected area that covers this region is part of Indonesia.

The survival of the area has been largely due to its inaccessibility and remoteness. Conservation has not fared well in Papua New Guinea. The value of the land to the landholders as primary forest has been under-represented, possibly for the sake of, and certainly to the benefit of, logging companies⁴. Fortunately the Toracelli mountains are too steep for traditional logging activities⁵. However pressure on other logging regions (such as fires) can alter logging practices⁵.

Just seven individual northern gliders were trapped (unknown number hunted) from 1988 to 2008³.

P. Abidi has been sighted in rural gardens and secondary forest². These northern gliders are grey and tan, with a lighter underside, with a dark dorsal stripe, and are larger (weighing between 228 -332 grams) than sugar gliders (60 -150 grams)² which occur in the same area.

Northern gliders are known to feed on figs - and in captivity they are happy to eat bananas, guavas and lilly-pilly fruit².

There has been no detailed, systematic study of these gliders to date, consequently little is known of their ecology². Anecdotally they live in families, in hollows enlarged by chewing². In captivity they have been heard growling and shrieking².



The IUCN concludes that 'A community conservation area is being established in the range of this species. Further studies into the distribution, natural history, and conservation measures for it are needed.'⁴

Article written by Nancy Graham

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QGN in action

Flinders Karawatha Corridor

QGN continues its work on glider population conservation within the Flinders Karawatha Corridor. QGN's role includes monitoring existing nest boxes as well as linking fragmented glider populations through additional nest box installation.

Throughout February and March, we painted 60 nest boxes for installation enhancing and linking glider habitat. A very big thank you is owed to [Austral Plywoods](#), the [Woodturners Society of Queensland](#) and [Mitre 10 Yamanto](#) for making our nest box installation possible!

The nest box installation will be happening in May - [email](#) us if you want to be involved.

Throughout May, we'll also be taking 8 teams of 3-5 members to monitor over 120 existing nest boxes within the Corridor. This helps assess the success of the previously installed artificial hollows, as well as tracking population dynamics over time.

The next phase of this project involves weed clearing mid-year and feed tree planting in conjunction with Logan Water Alliance in September.

QGN on Facebook

We now have over 500 likes on facebook! [Visit our page](#) for updates on our monitoring results, glider discussions or cute glider images!



Care Net Update

QGN collects data on threats to gliders leading to their admission into vets, wildlife hospitals and care, in order to provide a better understanding over time of the dangers to gliders in Brisbane.

Data collected over the past two years suggests that the greatest single cause for admissions was gliders being orphaned - but without sufficient data about the mother; however, the leading cause of injury to the gliders was entanglement in barbed wire or a fence - an issue humans can assist in reducing through alternative fencing options. Closely following entanglement was domestic cat attack. This is another injury that we can reduce by more closely managing pets – and keeping cats in at night.

Through raising awareness of alternatives to barbed wire, and about responsible pet ownership, we can help reduce the number of gliders these threats impact on.

A very encouraging element to this data is the number of gliders that were rehabilitated (over 60%) and though combined percentages of euthanasia and unassisted death totalled approximately 37%, the rehabilitation rates demonstrate the positive impact of our wildlife hospitals, carers and vets.

We hope you can become involved in some of our events over the next busy few months, even if only online!

- Karen Brock

Image: taken on a QGN spotlight evening, courtesy Shari English

Landscape corridors

Research by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Environmental Decisions has found corridors on a local level to have a measurable conservation benefit. This means that conservation efforts by not-for-profits such as Wildlife Queensland can be a valuable contribution to mitigating the biodiversity decline.

In the case of the endangered mahogany glider's plight, efforts by our Tully Branch offer the potential to slow or even reverse the decreasing population trend.

Following Cyclone Yasi's massive destruction of pine plantations in Cardwell, members of the Tully Branch took the opportunity to approach the local forestry company, Hancock Queensland (HQ) Plantations, about establishing landscape corridors for the mahogany glider. These are corridors of glider habitat within areas designated for replanted pines.



Image: Stoney on the right, Pan on the left - Pan was rehabilitated after entanglement on barbed wire and re-released after her full recovery. Photo courtesy Daryl Dickson

A Memorandum of Understanding is currently being finalised between our Wildlife Queensland Tully Branch and HQ Plantations – a great example of what can be achieved with cooperation and consultation.

As mahogany gliders have not been recorded travelling through pine forest, isolated sub-populations of the glider are likely to die out unless they can be linked back to the main population. The landscape corridors being established by our Tully Branch, with the engagement of local schools and the cooperation of HQ Plantations, will provide paths of gene flow between the severely fragmented habitat patches.

Article written by Karen Brock,

Thanks to Suzie Smith from our Tully Branch for her time and information

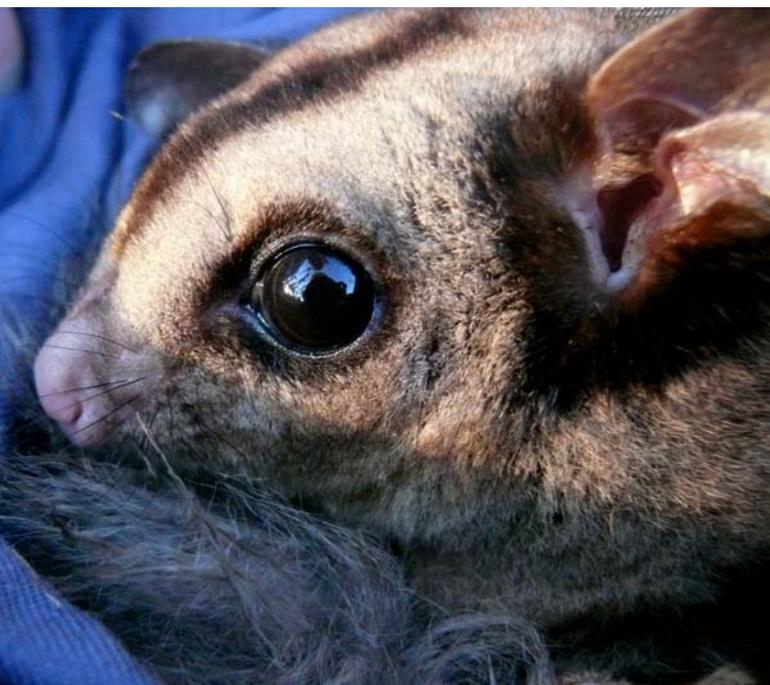


Image: mahogany female monitored post-Yasi found to have 2 pouch young. Photo courtesy Daryl Dickson

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (*Wildlife Queensland* or WPSQ) has many programs and projects—the Queensland Glider Network (QGN) is one of them.

We are a community conservation organisation with a diverse membership drawn together by a common interest in wildlife.

Wildlife Queensland has been working to protect Australia's precious and vanishing natural environment since 1962.

If you would like to become a wildlife protector, a subscriber or a volunteer, please contact us:

wpsq@wildlife.org.au
ph 07 3221 0194

www.wildlife.org.au



Whether you are a conservationist, researcher, carer, or simply interested in gliders, you will find QGN has something to offer you, and in turn, you may have information to share with all of us.

Email us your glider news to glider@wildlife.org.au

To join QGN (it's free) - download the membership form from www.wildlife.org.au/qgn/join

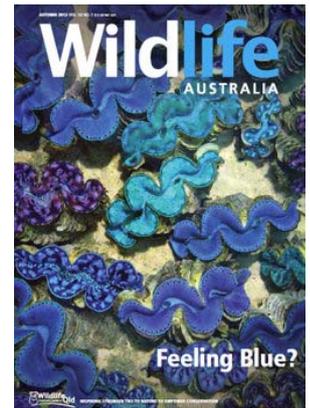
QGN News is only available electronically.

Any opinions by contributors made in this newsletters are accepted in good faith and not necessarily those of the publishers

Do you have a story to share about spotting a glider?

Send it to *Glider Tales* along with a picture if you have one and we may publish it on our website. See

www.wildlife.org.au/projects/gliders/tales



www.wildlife-australia.org

About our contributors



Nancy Graham is currently a volunteer with Wildlife Queensland. She has an honours degree in Social Science (health). She is interested in glider and frog conservation.

Karen Brock is a Senior Projects Office for Wildlife Queensland. She holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in Ecology and Zoology with a background in fieldwork and research in Australian Ecology, as well as Interpretation and Education Programs.

