



iNSiGHT Ornithology

Wildlife Photography ~ Research ~ Environmental Education

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The Re-Cyc-Ology Project

A nest-box building workshop.

A great diversity of Australian wildlife relies on hollow cavities in native trees (known as **tree-hollows**) to meet their nesting or roosting requirements. Such hollows take hundreds of years to form naturally, but sadly, due to the massive land-clearing since European settlement in Australia, a huge number have been lost. This plight has had a severe impact on native wildlife, particularly charismatic species like Black Cockatoos. Further environmental impacts, especially the ever-growing amount of human waste entering **landfill**, are leading to a decline in many native species, and affecting human health.



To help address these issues, and to educate and inspire the broader community (particularly school children) about the importance of wildlife conservation and waste management, iNSiGHT Ornithology established “The Re-Cyc-Ology Project” in 2012. This project aims to showcase in a positive light the actions small groups can take to be involved in practical, sustainable solutions to environmental problems.

Specifically, this involves the delivery of a hands-on workshop that:

- Provides information on species of Australian wildlife that use tree-hollows, the importance of preserving old trees containing them, and how **nest-boxes** can be used as a substitute when natural hollows are not available.
25 minute presentation.
- Emphasises the need to reduce waste entering landfill by re-using and recycling materials other than common household waste products (cans, bottles, newspaper).
25 minute presentation.
- Engages people with the environment in an ‘outdoor classroom’ workshop through the construction of nest-boxes made from re-used and recycled materials.
- Installs nest-boxes in local trees (e.g. on school grounds, bush reserves, etc.) and implements a monitoring program so participants can observe/record the species of wildlife using the boxes after installation. Interested parties can post updates and read information recorded by previous participants on the project’s website www.re-cyc-ology.com.au.
- Demonstrates solutions to environmental issues can be engaging, educational and fun, and promotes further ideas for sustainability projects that effect positive change and improve environmental and human health.

So, **how many people can take part?** There is no limit to the group size for the opening presentations – in the past this has involved a whole school (e.g. assembly). However, typically six (6) nest-boxes are made in a full 1-day workshop, and with 2-5 people per group, this means a maximum of **30 participants** (e.g. one school class) for the practical construction component. Nest-boxes are prepared in kit-form prior to the workshop and assembled by participants during it. An assessment of each school/community group's location will be made beforehand, to ascertain which native wildlife species occur in the area, and thus what size/design nest-boxes are suitable.

iNSiGHT Ornithology offers a fully qualified and insured tree-climbing service (using Rope Access techniques) and the use of appropriate safety gear to climb trees is demonstrated during nest-box installation. Ideally this is undertaken with the workshop participants present, but if necessary it can be completed after the workshop conclusion, particularly at schools when students normally go home at 3 pm.

This project was originally designed as an incursion package for schools but has grown and adapted since its inception to suit a variety of other groups, including environmental organisations, 'Friends' groups, men's sheds and local councils. Please visit the project's website www.re-cyc-ology.com.au to view photos of the workshop in progress and the nest box designs. For further enquiries and bookings, please email to aquila84@iinet.net.au.

Example of 1-day Workshop

8:00 am	iNSiGHT Ornithology arrives to set up presentation, workshop, etc.
9:00 – 10:00	Presentations - Simon Cherriman's background & career path. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wildlife habitat, tree-hollows & nest-boxes (<i>25 minutes</i>)- Waste & landfill: reduce, re-use & recycle (<i>25 minutes</i>)- Questions time (<i>10 minutes</i>).
10:00 – 10 :20	Create groups: 2-5 people per group, 1 group per nest-box.
10:20 – 10:50	Recess / Morning Tea
10:50 – 12:20 pm	Nest-box construction. Includes occasional stops to discuss design.
12:20 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 3:00	Finish off & paint nest-boxes. Guided walk to choose suitable sites for boxes while paint dries. Discussion of habitat trees. Nest-box installation and discussion/development of monitoring plan.
3:00 – Finish	iNSiGHT Ornithology hangs any remaining boxes (if necessary).

What participants need to bring

Enclosed shoes & protective clothing. Ear-muffs or ear-plugs. Painting clothes/art shirt.

Preparation (for schools, desirable for others)

If teachers would like to prepare before the day, students could research:

1. Which species of Australian animals use tree-hollows, what are these used for (e.g. nesting, shelter, sleeping), and where these species live in Australia (e.g. Western Australia, eastern States, etc.). Are there any currently Endangered species requiring tree-hollows?
2. Which household objects are the 'normal' recyclables? What else is recycled at home? At school? Are re-used or recycled materials used for any construction projects?

Post-workshop activities (for schools)

1. Monitor boxes and identify and record which wildlife species inspect or use the nest-boxes. Information can be recorded in a notebook placed in the school administration, on a computer or other device (e.g. iPad), or via a post to the Re-Cyc-Ology Project website (see above).
2. Draw pictures and/or write stories about the workshop demonstrating what it meant to take part.
3. Write a thank you letter to the project sponsors (McMahon and/or Delta Corporation for providing the timber, and Mundaring Hardware for the tools).
4. Consider developing other projects involving reused and recycled materials.

Prices / Example Quote

Preparation and delivery of "Re-Cyc-ology Project" nest-box workshop.

RATES

Workshop Preparation:

1 person, \$130 per hour for 3 hours 390.00

Workshop Delivery:

2 people, \$600 per person per day for 1 day 1200.00

CONSUMABLES

Travel Expenses:

85c per km* for 100 km *from Mundaring to site, return 85.00

TOTAL **\$1675.00**

NOTE: Insight Ornithology is not registered for GST.