



May 24 2026 Microbat update - Box check and early Echometer Touch 2 sweep

We needed to check boxes for May and replace batteries and SD card in our Songmeter minibat 2 loan from Faunatech.

Set to trip record bat calls for 30 mins before sunset and 30 mins after sunrise.

19th April – 5th May

17 nights produced 1,319 files – to be analysed asap

Sunday May 24th – 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Conditions : moon 56% (waning half moon) setting 12:06 am rising 1.28 pm)

Cloudy skies Temp: 3:30 - 17 degrees C /15 degrees warm night chance of showers

Wind calm, still southerly 7km. Humidity 99%.

Ricki/Bim/Rhonnie/Jen/Pete/Robert S/Lyn/myself – warm welcome to newcomer Gerry from Fly by Night bat rescue !

Monitoring post-poned from previous week due to rain and cold weather.

Checking the bat boxes initially with a red torch to reduce disturbance we quickly found single Goulds Wattled Bats in 16 – small bat been in residence for a while! 45 had 2, box 5 had 1

Best find of the **day a group of large and small GW bats approximately 5/6** in box 8 which hasn't been occupied for a couple of months. It grew dark quickly so we were unable to complete all boxes.

(The video is better! If you'd like me to text it to you)



Checked these on the following Tuesday – additional pair of bats in 47 at the far end of the lake near the Westgate Bridge. Total approx. 11 GW bats



Approx. 5:50pm it began to get dark so Touch 2 echometers were set up. A very quiet evening we did not receive any calls but we left just after 6pm which was probably too early. We will try the lake next time. Static metre results will show trends.

The static Faunatech minibat 2 has 1,319 new files for me to process from mid April to early May. I'll report back soon I hope – still going through Kaleidoscope analysis one by one ! already found some interesting social calls.

Kaleidoscope Pro will speed things up and then we can upload to I-Naturalist.

Robert Schiller has finally had success and acceptance from TERN and has been able to upload the findings to their database. Thank you Robert!

We are now expanding this project !!!!

So far we have only investigated a small corner of the Northern perimeter of the park adjacent to the proposed data centre and based on these results it will be interesting to survey nearer the lake and other areas of the park.

Where are the bats coming from and what are they doing whilst here - Feeding/socialising/roosting/breeding/seasonal migration?

Can we protect our bats and nocturnal birds and animals from the Data Centre Construction phase on Todd Road and minimise lighting spill at completion?

I would like to propose we ensure everyone involved is adhering and adopting this National light pollution guideline so it can be incorporated before construction starts in Jan 2027.



[National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife - DCCEEW](#)

[Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Threatened List](#) – we have a number of nocturnal animals on the threatened species list including Bent wing bats

Interesting bat friendly lighting article here

[Bat-friendly lighting in Gladsaxe, Denmark | AFRY](#)



The red light has both functional value and symbolic value, making passers-by aware that this is a special natural area which the municipality wishes to protect and preserve.

We now have many other questions which has taken us in a significant new project direction :

- How many bat species are visiting at what time of year and time of night ?
- Are they migrating at certain times of the year?
- Which areas of the park are microbats more prevalent?
- Time of visit directly after sunset and before sunrise could indicate closeness to a home roost.
- Are they roosting in nearby buildings or structures, bridges?
- Are they in Torpor in cold periods or still feeding (coastal area, no frost)



This research will formulate a baseline of the microbat species and annual habits in our area over an extended period.

Are Bent Wing bats visiting over winter? Do we have myotis fishing bats or other species visiting over the lake?

Is food source sustainable, do we need additional planting for prey?

Can we tempt them to roost in other structures other than those we have now?

Can we encourage roosting of other bats in other bat box designs?

This will help inform local policy and conservation strategies for microbats.

Learn how important urban parks with standing water bodies are to different microbat species in Melbourne.

Results will be useful to our ongoing planting plan to accommodate pollinating insects (bat food)

Data collection of microbat activity to formulate a base line to protect and enhance Microbat habitat.

Our results can be shared on our website, social media accounts and with Melbourne City Council ecologists, local schools and other Landcare and Citizen Science groups.

And of course with the Australasian Bat Society.

Interesting info from Gerry via Erika from Microbats of Melbourne. Same wing 2 months apart shows healing ability and resilience of microbats – was released back to the wild. They just need care and time :)

<https://www.flybynight.org.au/flying-fox-and-microbat-rescue-training.html>



Next bat survey June 21st 3:30 winter solstice! Rug up peeps text me on 0457 093 792

[Bat Nights | Australasian Bat Society Bat Nights](#)