
Wildlife Box Monitoring Report

Town of Walkerville - 2025



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Three Ringtail Possums in a small parrot box (#023), located in Frome Res., Vale Park. All photos contained within this report were taken from Walkerville wildlife boxes, during the 2025 calendar year, unless otherwise stated.



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SUMMARY

The Town of Walkerville (ToW) engaged fauNature to monitor and maintain 60 wildlife boxes (WBs), across six reserves, with the final one (#051-Figure 1) added in 2025. These resources support hollow-dependent fauna and were painted by local Walkerville school children.

The WBs are installed in six parks along the River Torrens including Hamilton Res., Willow Bend, Frome Res. (East & West), off Fuller St and Howie Res.

Uptake by wildlife continued to be strong in 2025, with over 80% of WBs showing signs of use. Thirty-two (57%) of WB designed for common fauna were In Use on the day of surveying, with a further 13 boxes (24%) exhibiting evidence of use over the preceding twelve months.* These figures reflect a substantial increase in utilisation compared with the 2024 season. It highlights the wildlife box network as an increasingly important resource for local hollow-dependent species.



Figure 1: Large Parrot box (#051) at Hamilton Res., showing students artwork.

** Counts and percentages for In Use and Used in the Last 12 Months are out of 54 and excludes bat boxes.*

Four Brushtail Possums were recorded in four WBs on the day of the survey, while Ringtail Possums were found in 11 WBs, with 15 individuals counted collectively. Rainbow Lorikeets again represented the primary avian occupants, with pairs or breeding activity recorded across 14 boxes. Galah were utilising two WBs during the survey and three chicks were recorded. Adelaide Rosellas were recorded once, with three eggs observed. No microbats were recorded, which remains consistent with expectations for early-stage bat box establishment.

Across the previous 12 months, numerous WBs showed evidence of possum, lorikeet or galah activity, including nest material, chewing and other signs of investigation or use. A single deceased Ringtail Possum was discovered, together with an unhatched/abandoned Galah egg.

The overall condition of the boxes was good, with 56 WBs assessed as sound, while four showed heavy chewing. None required removal. No bee activity was recorded during the 2025 survey.

Inter-annual trends show continued growth, an expanding Ringtail population, a steady lorikeet presence and continued low levels of other species. These patterns indicate increasing familiarity with the artificial hollows and reinforce the ecological value of the program.

PROJECT BACKGROUND



Figure 2: Medium box (#016) at Willow Bend Res., Vale Park demonstrating the artwork.

In 2022, ToW installed an initial series of 29 wildlife boxes along the River Torrens Linear Park as part of a project designed both to enhance local biodiversity and to celebrate the contributions of Walkerville school children, whose artwork adorns the boxes. The initiative formed part of the South Australian Living Artist Festival and has continued to evolve, with additional boxes installed in 2024 (30) and 2025 (1) to expand hollow habitat availability across multiple reserves (Figure 2).

The wildlife boxes provide supplementary hollows in an urban landscape where natural cavities are limited. fauNature advised on optimal placement of the boxes, taking into account native fauna requirements, arboreal structure, public activity and broader environmental considerations.

The program aims to support hollow-dependent wildlife while increasing community awareness of local biodiversity and the importance of artificial hollows in urban conservation efforts, as well as enhancing the amenity value of the river corridor.

LOCATION & IDENTIFICATION

Sixty WBs were installed and surveyed across Hamilton Reserve, Willow Bend, Frome Reserve (East and West), the Fullers Street corridor and Howie Reserve. Each WB has been assigned a unique three-digit identification number (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Example of a WB number (2022).



Figure 4: Medium parrot box (#034) at Frome Res. West, with the three digit code.

For each WB, details recorded include box type, tree species, mounting height, entrance orientation and GPS coordinates. These details are provided for integration into ToW's asset register to enable long-term monitoring and management.

The identification number is attached to either the bottom or front of each box (Figure 4). The identification system has remained consistent since the project's inception in 2022, allowing direct comparison of occupancy patterns over time.

The GPS coordinates are recorded for each asset (e.g. -34.8715364S|138.5351266E) to ensure council staff or contractors can locate the WBs, as necessary (see Appendices).

MONITORING & MAINTENANCE

Monitoring and maintenance activities for the wildlife boxes followed established procedures consistent with previous years. Inspections were undertaken in two key periods: servicing occurred during late summer and autumn, while the principal fauna survey was carried out in spring between early October and mid November 2025. This schedule ensures that servicing is conducted when avian nesting activity is typically at its lowest, while the spring survey captures the peak period for breeding and provides a reliable assessment of wildlife utilisation.

Each WB was examined initially from the ground, followed by close inspection at height both externally and then internally. Evidence of use, including nesting material state, chewing, feathers, fur, droppings and other indicators, was recorded. The overall condition of the boxes was documented, with attention given to structural integrity (Figure 5), fixing mechanisms and the condition of the entrance.

During servicing, old nesting material and debris were removed as required, and fresh bedding added to appropriate box types. Fixings were adjusted to allow for tree growth and to ensure the boxes remained secure and safe for both wildlife and the public. Where fauna were present, inspections were carried out carefully to minimise disturbance, and internal cleaning was deferred if necessary.



Figure 5: Medium parrot box (#008) at Hamilton Res., entrance chewed by Galahs.

Photographs were taken throughout the process to document occupancy, breeding activity, box wear and any maintenance needs. As in previous years, bee activity remained a consideration. Although no hives were discovered in 2025. Boxes containing bees typically require subsequent removal of wax and residue, with reinstallation scheduled during the cooler months.

This approach to monitoring and maintenance reflects the ongoing commitment to ensuring safe, functional artificial hollows and enables usage patterns to be accurately compared across years.

ARTIFICIAL HOLLOW USAGE

Sixty wildlife boxes were surveyed in spring 2025 across the six locations - along the Walkerville - Angle Vale river corridor (Table 1).

The numbers of WBs in place along the corridor in spring 2025, include:

- 12 brushtail possum Boxes (BPB; Figure 6)
- 24 medium parrot boxes (MPB)
- 13 small parrot boxes (SPB)
- 6 bat boxes (BtB)
- 3 large parrot boxes (LPB)
- 1 boobook box (BbB)
- 1 kookaburra box (KbB)



Figure 6: Possum box (#005) at Hamilton Res., containing a Brushtail Possum.

This distribution maintains a balanced provision of hollows suited to a broad range of native wildlife.

Table 1: Details of WBs installed along the Vale Park river corridor.

Location	Number
Hamilton Reserve	13
Willow Bend	9
Frome Reserve (East)	13
Frome Reserve (West)	7
Off Fuller St	12
Howie Reserve	6

Of the 54 boxes intended for hollow-dependent birds and mammals (excluding six Bat Boxes), 31 (57%) were In Use on the day of the survey. A additional 13 boxes (21%) showed signs of use in the preceding year. Combined, 44 boxes (81%) demonstrated active or recent occupation.



Figure 7: Large Parrot box (#050), off Fuller Rd, with one Ringtail Possum sharing a box with an ant colony.

Sixteen boxes showed few (chewing/disturbed bedding) to no signs of usage across the past twelve months. This included a mix of BtBs and a range of standard boxes, primarily from the 2024 installation.

** Counts and percentages for In Use and Used in the Last 12 Months are out of 54 and excludes bat boxes. The reason for the exclusion is BtB are typically slow to be up-taken, and it can be some years for these boxes to be occupied.*

Fauna Recorded During Survey

Four Brushtail Possums were recorded in four separate boxes (#005-Figure 6, #009, #010 and #022), consistent with a steady though modest presence across the reserves. Ringtail Possums showed a notable increase, with fifteen individuals recorded across 11 boxes (#013, #019, #023, #029, #033, #034, #049, #050-Figure 7, #053 and #054). This represents the strongest Ringtail presence observed across the program to date and suggests additional artificial hollows are supporting an increasing numbers for this species.

Rainbow Lorikeets were again the most common avian occupants, with pairs or



Figure 8: Small Parrot box (#028), at Willow Bend, with a pair of Rainbow Lorikeet chicks.

active nesting activity recorded across fourteen boxes (#011, #018, #020, #021, #027, #028-Figure 8, #038, #041, #042, #043, #047, #048, #059 and #060). Nine eggs and 13 chicks were observed collectively, although some clutches had finished breeding by the time of surveying was undertaken.

Galah activity was limited, with three chicks recorded in a single WB (#058-Figure 9) in Howie Res., with a pair actively investigating a second WB at Willow Bend.

Three Adelaide Rosella eggs were present in a SPB (#031-Figure 10) at Frome Res, Vale Park. No microbats were recorded in the Bat Boxes, which remains consistent

with the extended establishment period typically required before bat occupancy is detected.

Several boxes exhibited signs of previous use or investigation. Ringtail activity was evident in boxes #016, #024 and #032, with nesting material, fur and/or faeces indicating earlier occupation. Rainbow Lorikeets had used boxes #030 and #040, while Galah activity was present in boxes #017, #026 and #039. Brushtail activity was noted in box #015, and signs of unidentified possums were found in boxes #004 and #006.



Figure 9: Large parrot box (#058), at Howie Res. with three Galah chicks.

A single failed Ringtail nest was discovered in box #035, containing one deceased juvenile. A Galah egg was found unhatched in box #008.

No bee hives were found in 2025. This represents continued improvement compared with earlier years. Given the good condition of the majority of boxes and the fading influence of earlier sealant treatments, bee attraction appears to be stabilising at a low level consistent with regional averages.

Condition of Wildlife Boxes

Fifty-six of the 60 WBs were assessed as being in good condition. Four boxes showed heavy chewing, likely from parrots, but remained serviceable and did not require removal. No boxes were identified as unsafe or in need of immediate repair. Overall, box condition in 2025 was favourable and consistent with expectations for boxes of their age.



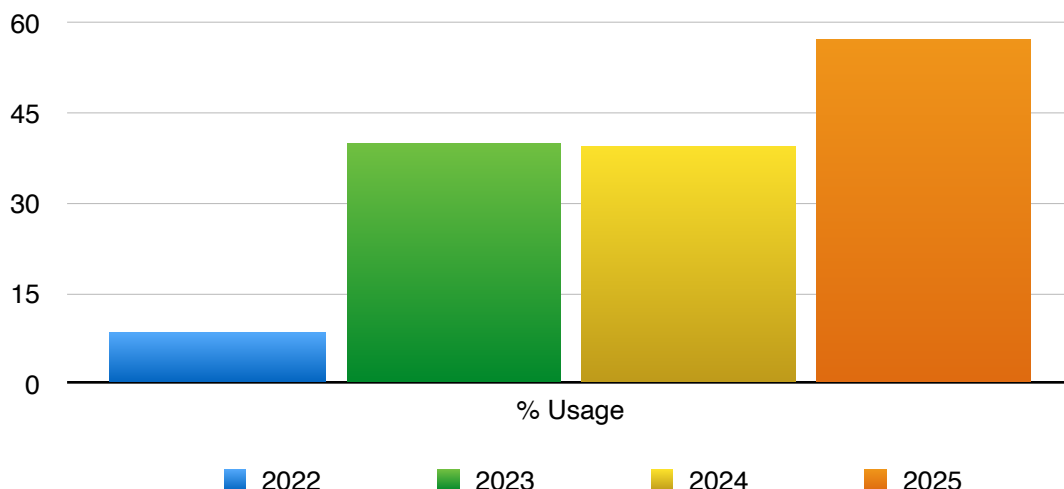
Figure 10: Small parrot box (#031) at FromeRes. (West), with three Adelaide Rosella eggs.

Inter-Annual Trends

Over the first four years of monitoring, occupancy patterns show a clear maturation of the wildlife box network (Table 2). Uptake increased significantly between 2022 and 2023 as local fauna became more familiar with the new hollows and the reflectance of the treatment faded. Strong occupancy continued in 2024 though it did not increase relatively, in percentage terms,

compared to 2023 given the install of 30 new boxes. Occupancy has again extended in 2025.

Table 2: Percentage of Box Usage over Years



Ringtail Possums now appear more commonly and across a wider area than in earlier years, suggesting the WBs supports their presence along the river corridor. Rainbow Lorikeets have remained the most regular avian occupants and continue to represent the primary users of both Small and Medium Parrot Boxes.

General utilisation has continued to increase, as has the ongoing value of the program as a contributor to urban biodiversity.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the last 12 months, the WBs program has been very successful. Over 80% of usable WBs, installed for common inhabitants, showed evidence of use. Almost 60% of available WBs were In Use on the day of surveying, which is excellent for the fourth season of service.

It is recommended that annual servicing and monitoring continue, with inspections undertaken in late summer or early autumn and surveys conducted in spring. This approach ensures public safety, promotes box longevity and provides accurate insights into fauna usage. Reporting to continue annually.

Where bee hives are identified, coordinated removal and subsequent clean-out needs to occur. Chewed boxes will continue to be monitored, but require no immediate intervention unless structural compromise develops.

The approach taken by the Town of Walkerville with the Wildlife Box Project, has positively impacted local hollow dependant fauna (Figure 11) and raised environmental awareness. The addition of WBs supply much-needed habitat for various hollow dependant species, along the river corridor.

The majority of the boxes are in good condition.

Given the ongoing uptake across all reserves, ToW may consider incremental expansion of the program into additional areas where green space is available and natural hollows remain scarce.



Figure 11: Possum box (#009) at Hamilton Res., containing a Brushtail Possum.

APPENDIX A: LOCATIONS

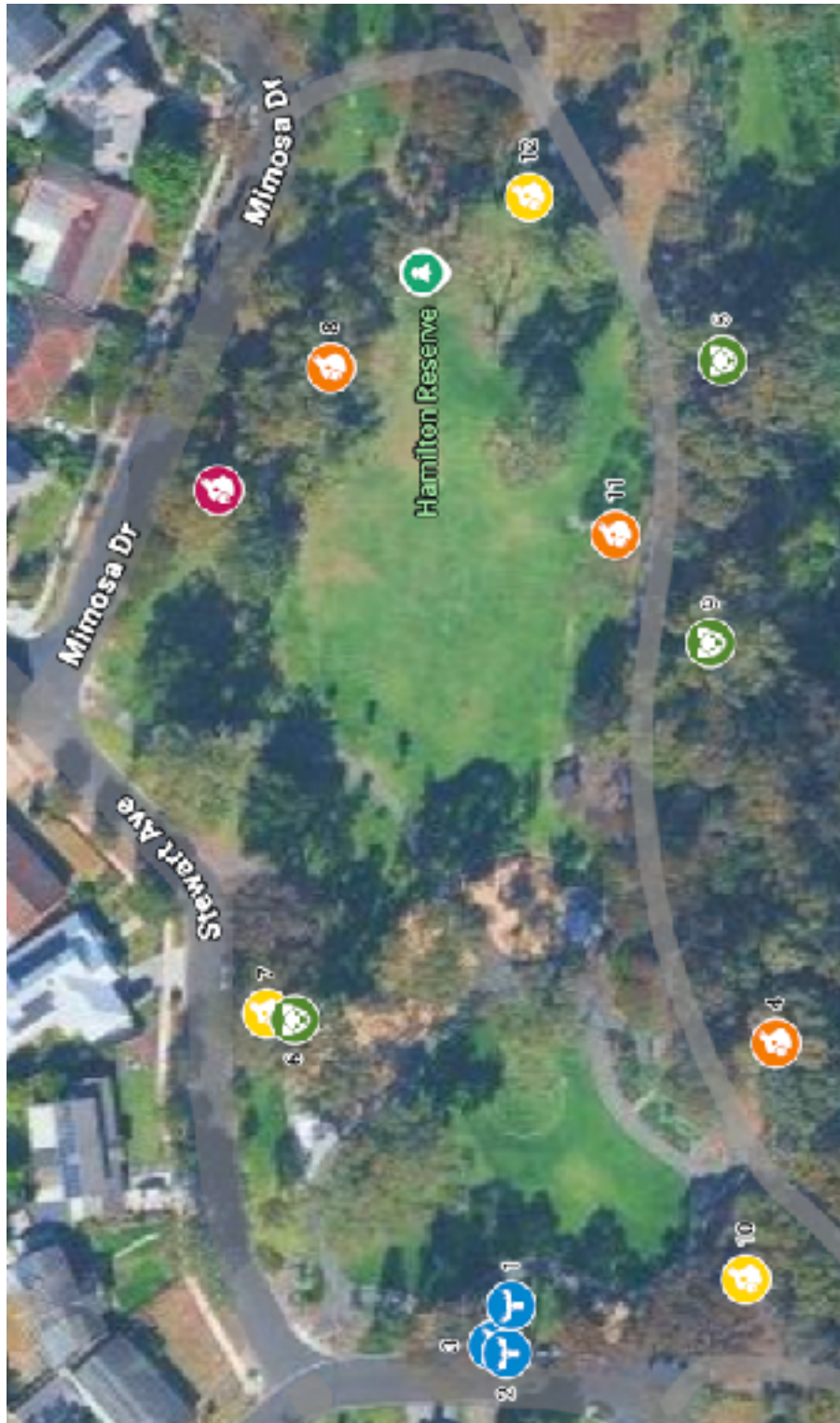
Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations and associated details.

Location - Street/Park	Box #	Box Type	Tree Type	Box Height	Entrance	Latitude	Longitude
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	1	BtB	Eucalypt	4	E	-34.88861	138.630041
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	2	BtB	Eucalypt	5	W	-34.888569	138.629928
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	3	BtB	Eucalypt	5	W	-34.888596	138.629914
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	4	MPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.888892	138.630059
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	5	BPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.88889	138.631592
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	6	BPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.888286	138.63045
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	7	SPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.888101	138.630568
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	8	MPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.888211	138.630802
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	9	BPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.888864	138.631179
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	10	SPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.888537	138.629946
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	11	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.88817	138.630554
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	12	SPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.888157	138.632013
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	13	SPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.890014	138.629148
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	14	MPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.889981	138.628888
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	15	BPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.889981	138.628888
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	16	MPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.890399	138.627906
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	17	BPB	Eucalypt	7	SE	-34.889784	138.628503
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	18	MPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.889867	138.628373
Frome Res., VALE PARK	19	SPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.890786	138.627505
Frome Res., VALE PARK	20	MPB	Eucalypt	4	SE	-34.891539	138.627424
Frome Res., VALE PARK	21	MPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.891888	138.627241
Frome Res., VALE PARK	22	MPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.892284	138.627073
Frome Res., VALE PARK	23	SPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.892399	138.626932
Frome Res., VALE PARK	24	BPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.895947	138.628299
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	25	BtB	Eucalypt	5	NW	-34.889763	138.62875
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	26	MPB	Eucalypt	6	SE	-34.890189	138.628599
Frome Res., VALE PARK	27	BPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.890897	138.627844
Willow Bend, VALE PARK	28	SPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.890831	138.627565
Frome Res., VALE PARK	29	MPB	Eucalypt	6	S	-34.89084	138.627821
Frome Res., VALE PARK	30	MPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.891323	138.627016
Frome Res., VALE PARK	31	SPB	Eucalypt	4	E	-34.892021	138.626846
Frome Res., VALE PARK	32	BPB	Eucalypt	4	E	-34.892388	138.626685
Frome Res., VALE PARK	33	BPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.892706	138.626672
Frome Res., VALE PARK	34	MPB	Eucalypt	6	E	-34.892869	138.626684

Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	35	MPB	Eucalypt	4	E	-34.893104	138.626715
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	36	BtB	Eucalypt	4	SW	-34.893373	138.626655
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	37	BtB	Eucalypt	4	W	-34.893385	138.626646
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	38	SPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.893525	138.626439
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	39	BPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.89366	138.625865
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	40	SPB	Eucalypt	4	SE	-34.893502	138.626046
Frome Res. II, VALE PARK	41	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.893447	138.625234
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	42	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894585	138.621263
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	43	BbB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894519	138.621141
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	44	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894726	138.621032
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	45	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894786	138.620899
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	46	BPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894874	138.620824
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	47	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894944	138.62065
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	48	KbB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.895118	138.620321
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	49	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.894906	138.620176
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	50	LPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.8951	138.62014
Hamilton Res., VALE PARK	51	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.88818	138.63136
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	52	MPB	Eucalypt	5	SE	-34.895366	138.619891
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	53	SPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.89529	138.619532
Fuller St., WALKERVILLE	54	MPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.895363	138.61935
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	55	MPB	Palm	5	SE	-34.895451	138.61891
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	56	SPB	Palm	5	SE	-34.895486	138.618267
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	57	BPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.895468	138.618647
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	58	LPB	Eucalypt	5	E	-34.89532	138.618727
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	59	MPB	Eucalypt	4	SE	-34.895357	138.618459
Howie Res., WALKERVILLE	60	SPB	Eucalypt	4	SE	-34.895376	138.618079

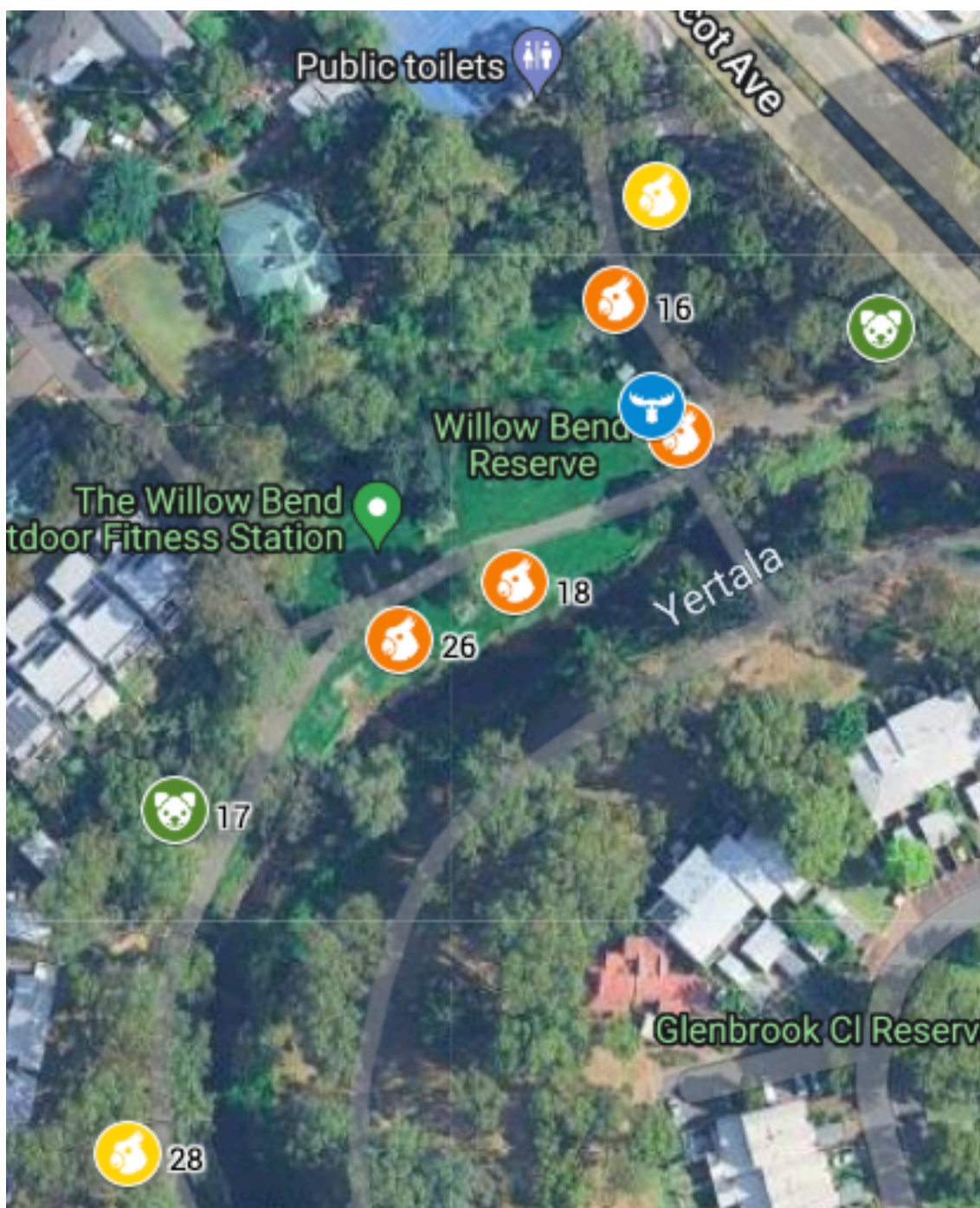
APPENDIX B: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - Hamilton Reserve.



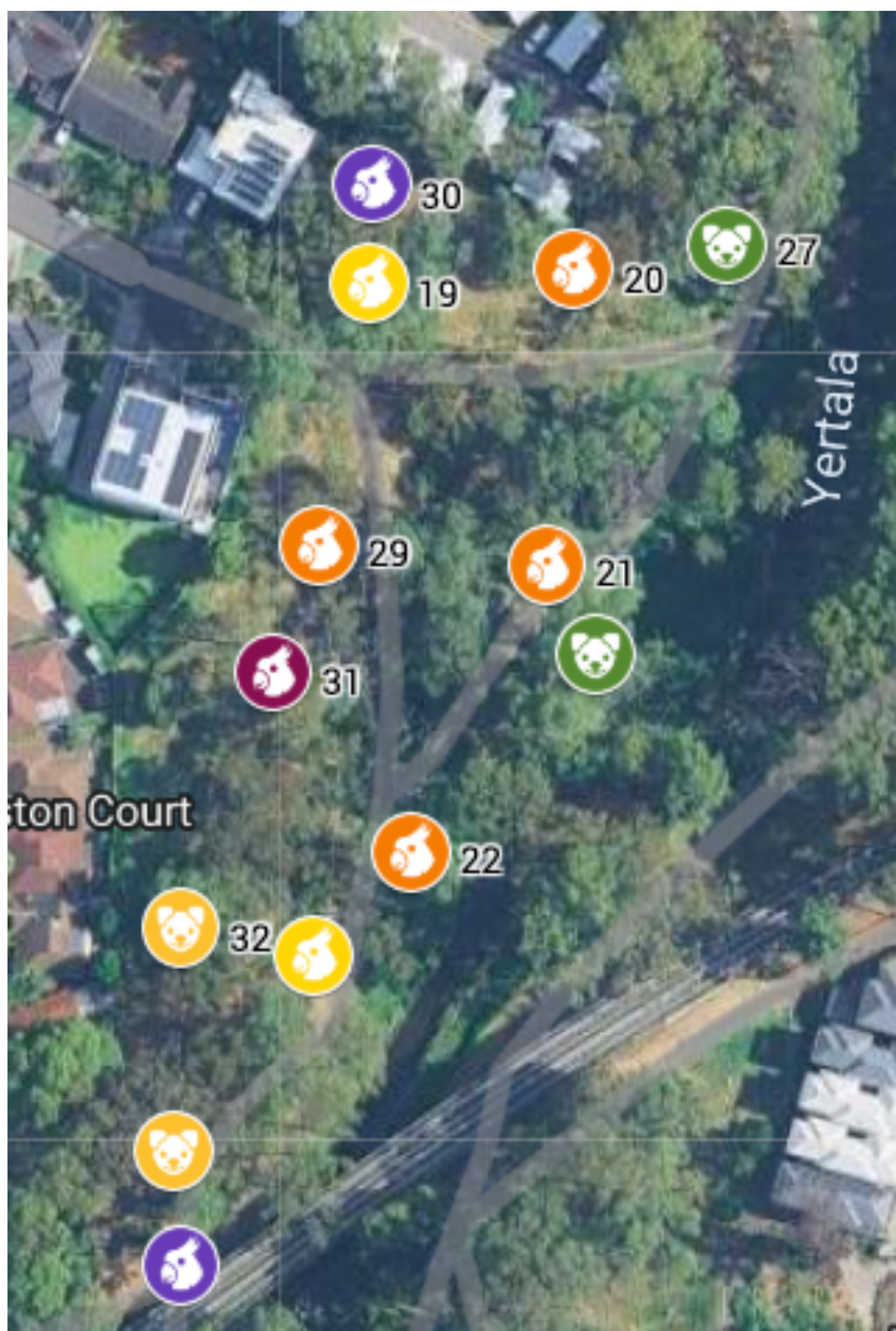
APPENDIX C: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - Willow Bend Reserve.



APPENDIX D: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - Frome Reserve (East).



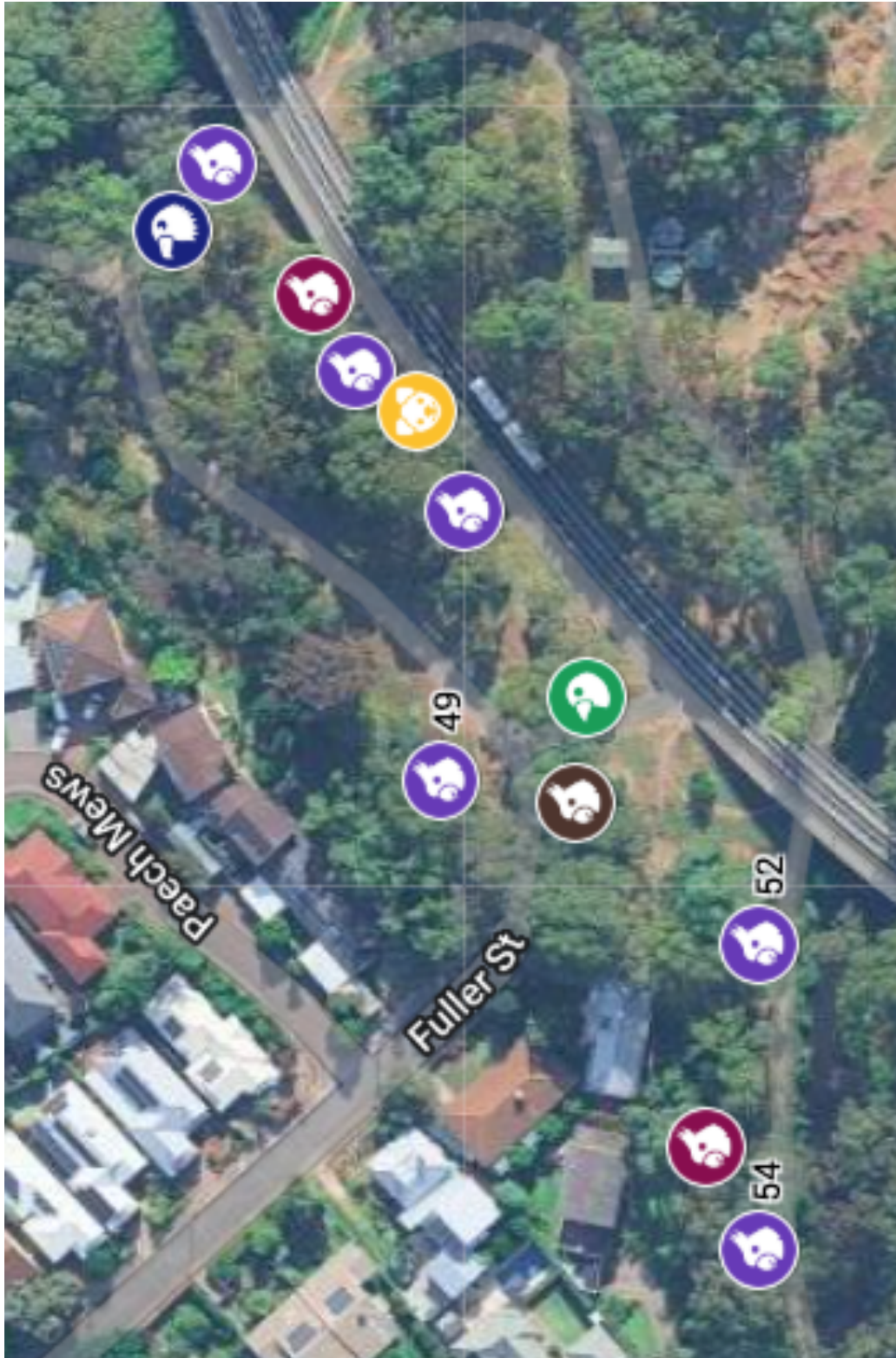
APPENDIX E: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - Frome Reserve (West).



APPENDIX F: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - off Fuller St.



APPENDIX G: MAPS

Town of Walkerville Wildlife Box locations - Howie Reserve.

