

Flying-foxes in Victoria – 2017 update

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Acknowledgements

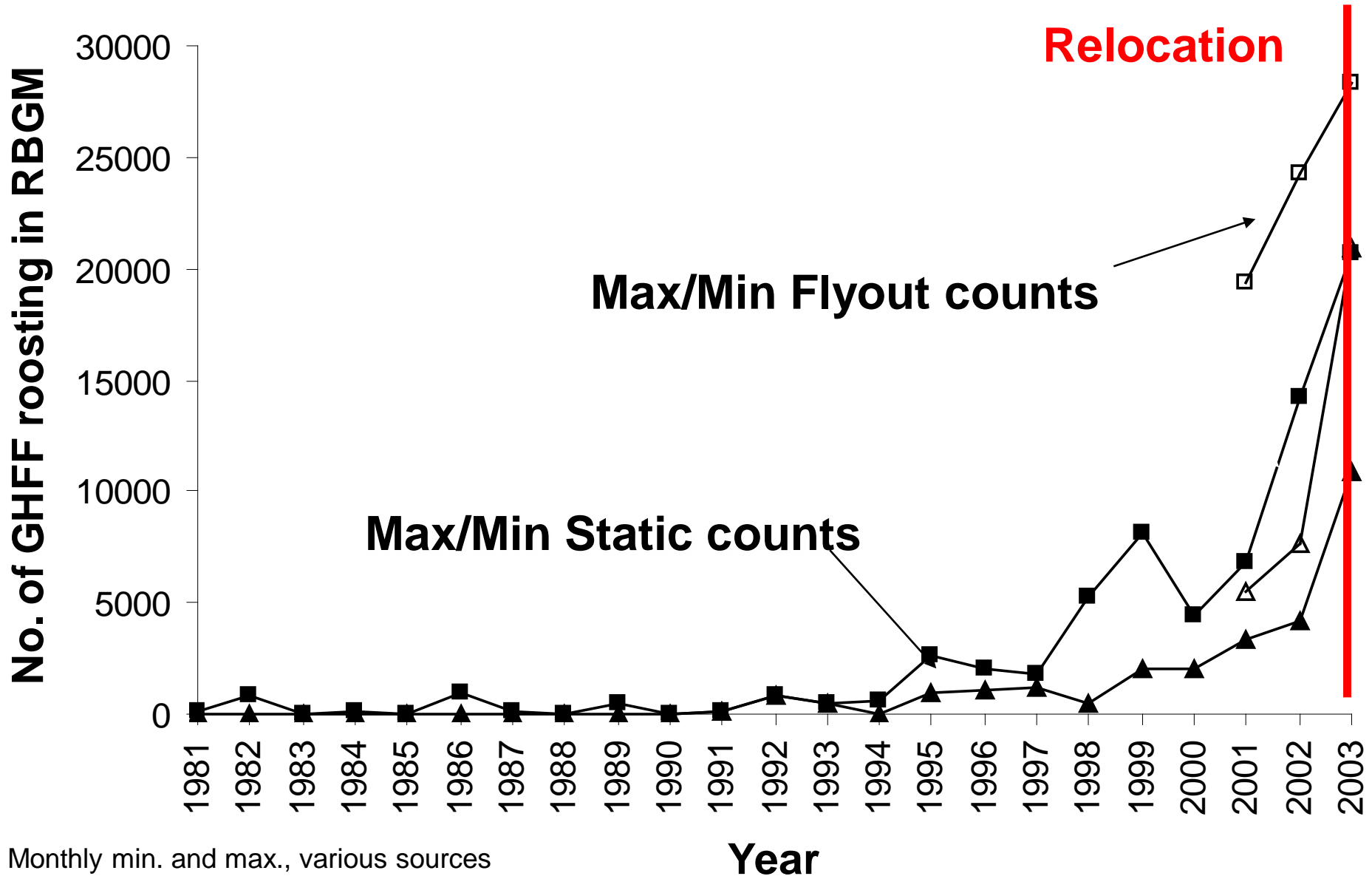
- Stephen Brend, Parks Vic
- Tony Mitchel, Ryan Incoll, Viv Amenta, Karly Learmonth, Alan Webster etc (Dewlp)
- Grant Baverstock – Geelong City Council
- Greg McKenzie, Shepparton Council
- Thousands of volunteer counters, doing 10s of thousands of volunteer-hours

The pre-history of GHFF



- Camps in far-east Gippsland for many decades
- First record near Melbourne was 1884 from Queenscliff
- Occasional records per decade until 1970s
- First record of roosting at Botanic Gardens in 1952, and again in 1981
- 1000 roosted in Autumn 1986, with 10-15 over-wintering

Growth of population in Melbourne



Monthly min. and max., various sources



Yarra Bend Park

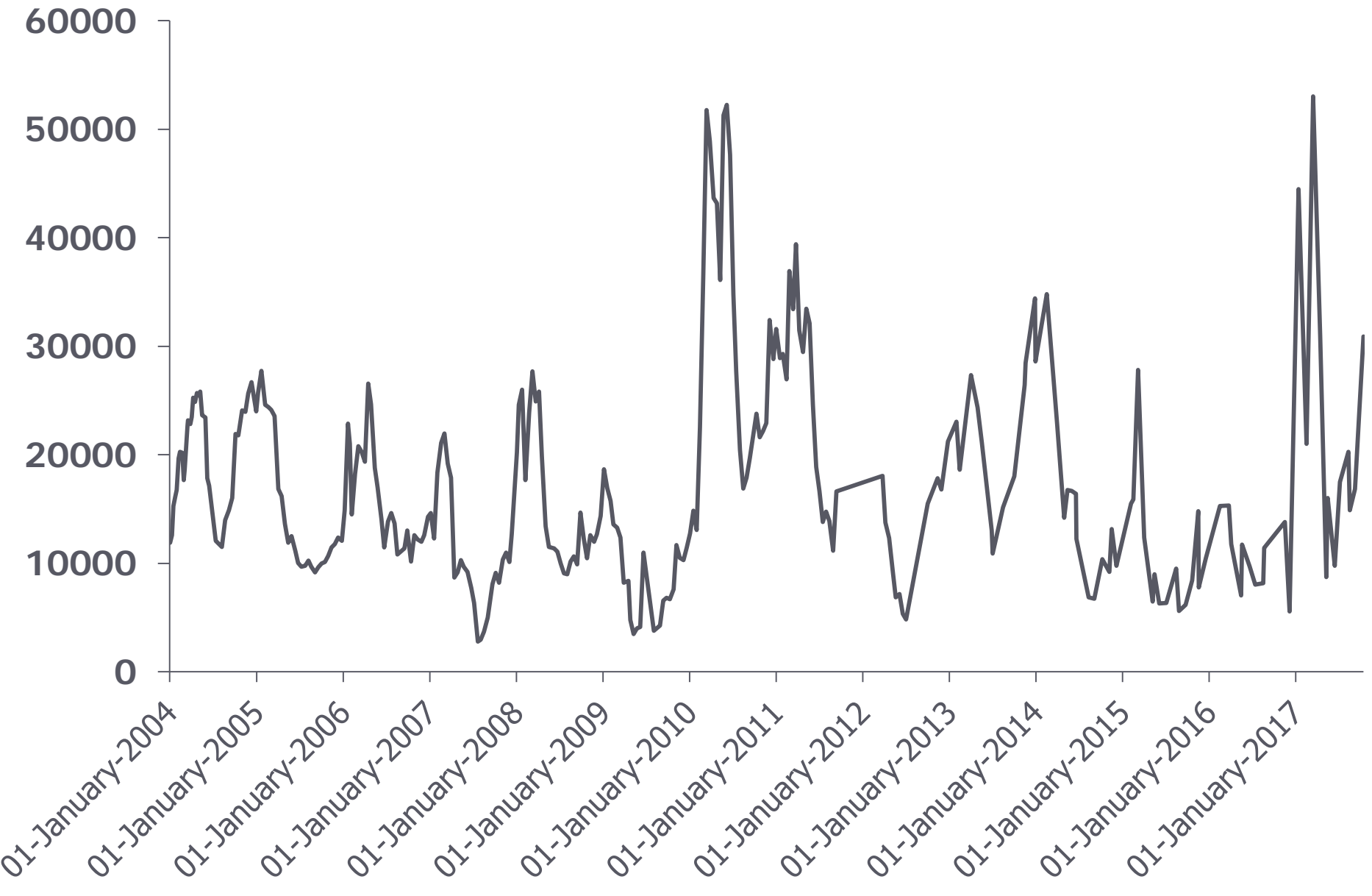
Horseshoe Bend

RBG

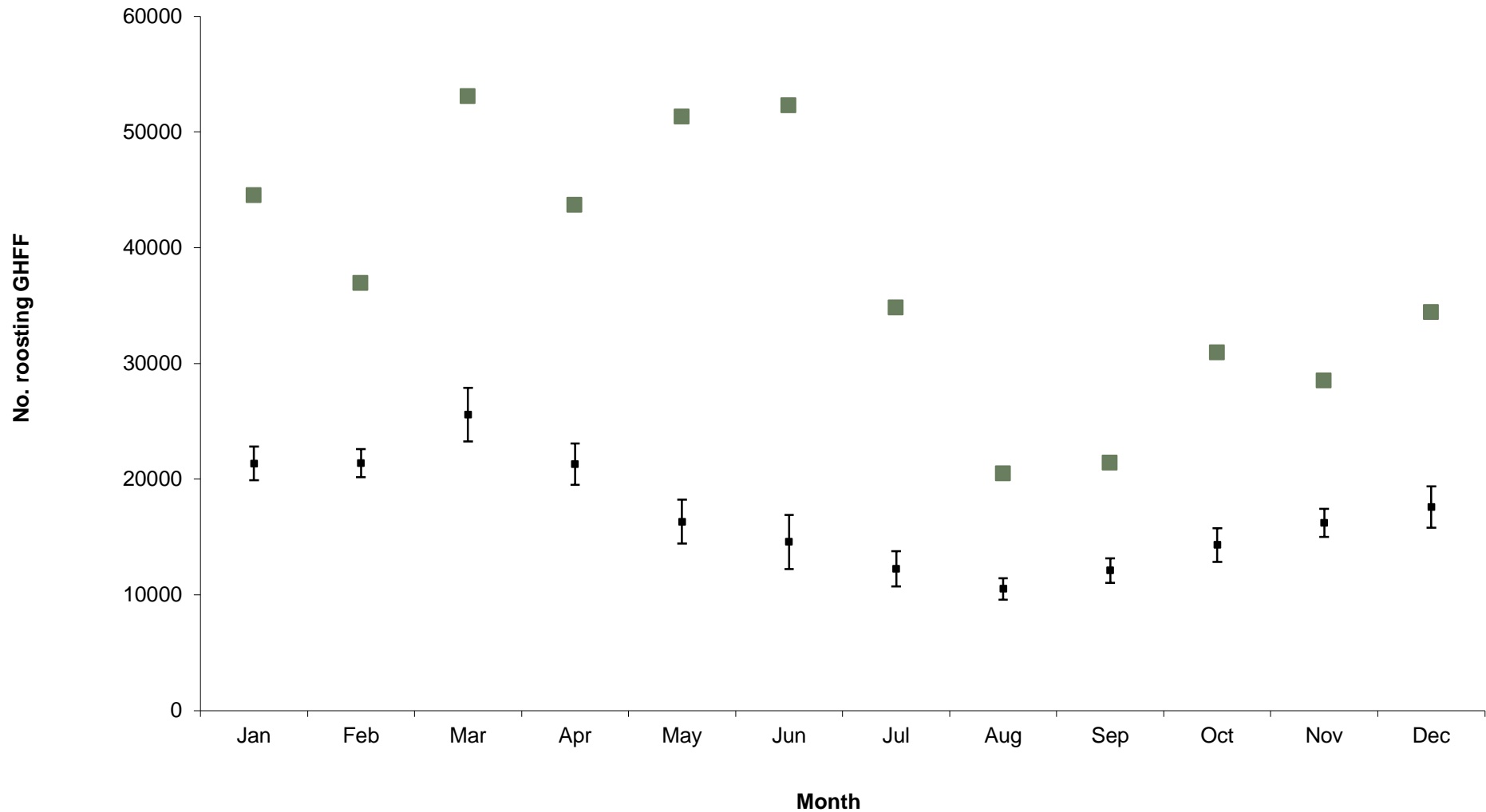
- Botanic_gardens.shp
- Fergully_loc.shp
- Buffer 1 of Fergully_loc
- 1000
- 2000
- 5000



Yarra Bend Popn size (static count data)



Yarra Bend 2004 – 2017: Mean ± 1 se and Maximum



Dynamic system!





Werribee Park

Adelaide

Tatura

Numurkah

Albury

Croajingolong NP

Cann River

Bacchus Marsh

Yarra Bend

Warburton

Doveton

HMAS Cerberus

Baimsdale

Maffra

Buchan

Kalimna

Yarra Bend

- Permanent, typically ~10k – 35k, max ~50k
- Parks Victoria now responsible
- Dedicated project Officer
- Established Friends of Bats & Bushcare
- Revegetation
- Heat stress minimisation & response

Doveton

- Similar-sized to Yarra Bend (50k max)
- Permanently occupied
- Ongoing citizen science flyout counts
- Closest residents complain
- Not really managed – Casey Council, Melbourne Water, DELWP??
- Tree dieback, likely issues soon

Geelong

- Roosting in Pines, edge of Geelong
- Similar size to Yarra Bend (~50k max)
- Geelong City Council supportive
- Very little community concern
- Major issue is senescence of mature Pine trees
- Difficult to grow new pines within an existing stand

Werribee Park

- Historic mansion from 1800s
- Beautiful gardens
- Few thousand for last few years
- Early 2017 DELWP approved a dispersal
- Currently empty

Bairnsdale

- Recent high numbers of GHFF (~30k Jan 2017)
- Tree decline major issue
- Community angst and concern
- East Gippsland Shire Council
 - Management plan – manage in-situ
 - Undertake tree removal and revegetation
 - Controlled action under EPBC

Tatura

- 10,000 arrived in late 2016
- In bushland reserve and residential property
- Shepparton Council – preparing a mgt plan to manage in-situ within middle of park
- Currently 250 GHFF

Bendigo

- High numbers 2016/2017
- Bendigo Council deliberating over a management plan
- Appear to be settling on managing in-situ

Conclusion

- No major major issues
- Bairnsdale highest conflict site (?)
- Bendigo developing management plan
- Ongoing management at other sites
 - Increasing # of camps
 - Increasing permanence of camps
 - Increasing size of colonies