

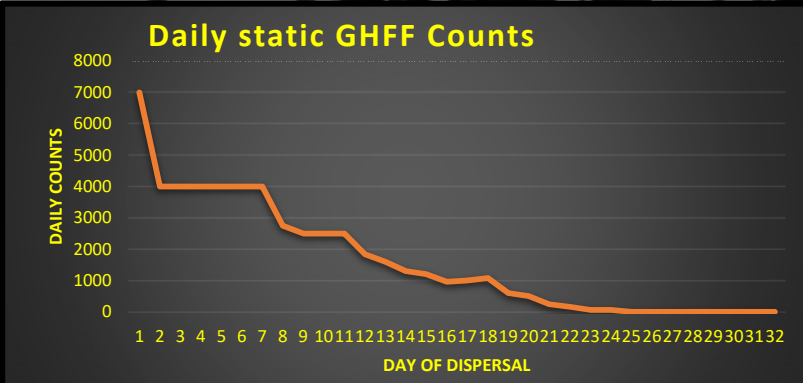
Trigger for dispersal was the proximity of the camp (red border) to residential houses and Sylvanvale Disability Facilities, Mikarie Child Care, ASPECT Autism School and Bates Drive Public School. There were concerns from parents, school staff and residents regarding faecal drop, odour, noise, potential for flying-fox interaction with children and health risks



Photo: Ian Drinnan

The aim of dispersal was to move the camp to a more appropriate (mostly unknown) location away from schools and residents.

Winter 2015 daily dispersal team consisted of up to 15 staff from SSC and EIA moving through tracks in camp vegetation (see right), producing light, smoke from small fires, air-horns, hitting drums and flat sticks together, playing harmonicas, the LRAD (smash track), loud hailers (industrial / punk, Barking Owl calls). Permanent timed sports field lighting also effective during maintenance dispersal in 2016.



Initial dispersal was a complex process, full of risks and uncertainties, we often had FFs in vegetation within 600m of the camp, including in the trees in the school grounds. Our greatest fear was creating two camps, one on either side of the schools. By the third week there were no FFs roosting during the day at Kareela (see graph to left).

Despite the impression of success of the Kareela dispersal, activities continue, staff are tired, the FFs continue to surprise us by roosting in new locations and other antics. As expected it has been a lengthy, expensive (\$275,000 to date), difficult and emotional process with continued uncertain outcomes. Dispersal must be discouraged as a measure to control urban FF camps, it's not sustainable and the impacts to flying-foxes are unknown.



Photo: Ian Drinnan