

Management Activities

The VPP is often called upon to provide advice on how to best manage or relocate a raptor nest site. Whilst we have had considerable success in designing and installing nest boxes for cliff faces and then having Peregrines move into them from several hundred metres away. The VPP is often called in when Peregrines are found nesting in heavy industrial locations. Often these require some direct intervention to secure a more permanent nesting site.

Case Study - Site #M2

In late October 2004 the VPP was contacted by staff of Pilkington Glass at their Dandenong factory seeking advice on how best to manage a pair of breeding Peregrine Falcons. Peregrines historically (from ~1996-2003) had been attempting to nest on a disused external steel stairway landing 20m above ground on site. Each time eggs were laid they would fail to hatch due to cold from the metal surface and pooling water collecting on the metal landing. Early in 2004 a door to a disused lift engine room fell off and the Peregrines moved into this roof top room and for the first time successfully raised three chicks.



28 day old nestlings (Male is on the left).



Female returning to the nest October 2006.

As the lift engine room had been decommissioned and was due for demolition Pilkington sought an alternative nesting opportunity for the Peregrines. Based on a design provided by the VPP ABB staff built a most suitable wooden box which was installed in the wall of disused factory 60m away but still on Pilkington's land. The Peregrines moved into this box late in the 2005 breeding season and failed to lay eggs. It was discovered the male was in fact a new male for the site who had been banded as a nestling in another nest box in a quarry 12 km away, two years earlier. In 2006 with both adults returning to the nest box three eggs were laid of which two hatched producing a male and a female.

The delay in uptake of the nest box is probably due to the loss of the male form 2004 and the female taking additional time to find a new mate. Peregrine Falcons are a rare species after all! Staff at Pilkington Glass, Dandenong have adopted this species as an on-site mascot and take an active interest in the monitoring and management of the nest site, keeping disturbances to a minimum especially during the breeding season.



28 day old nestlings (Male is on the left).

