

Native Bee Homes/Bug Hotels

Combined sustainability community project between Rotary Club of Caulfield, Brentmoor Community Men's Shed and 15 local schools

The Rotary Club of Caulfield displayed 150 native bee homes/bug hotels at the Honey Festival on 5 July 2014 at Koornang Uniting Church, Murrumbeena.

Bentmoor Community Men's Shed kindly put these kits together for the schools to be able to make the bug hotels. Each school registered for this project received kits to make 15 native bee homes/bug hotels.



Bentmoor Community Men's Shed Kits consisted of:

- The wood for 15 boxes already pre-cut and sanded
- Holes pre drilled in the wooden sides so the students only have to bang in four small nails to hold the box together, then slide in the pre-cut backing piece.
- A form guide to help the students line up the wood easily when nailing
- A bag of small nails
- Most of the 'filling' for the home eg large and small bamboo, pieces of rubber and wood. All of these have been pre-cut to size

Students were encouraged to decorate the outside of the homes with waterproof paints/pens to make them colourful

Students had to forage for a small amount of additional filling and padding for the boxes from their school gardens and art room.

Schools had to make sure the filling is packed tight and nothing falls out. Some padding was supplied to help wedge in the filling. We wanted the insects to feel secure!

For further information about native bees and their homes see the following pages.

Happy making, thanks for caring about the environment ☺

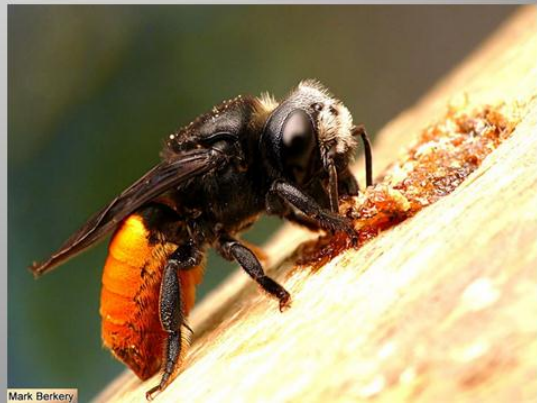
Sally Stewart - Sustainability Education Officer Glen Eira City Council

Native Bee Homes/Bug Hotels!



Your bee homes have been designed on these boxes however the students are welcome to change the design to suit their ideas.

Don't forget to decorate the outside!



(Ken Walker, Melbourne Museum)

Here is a Resin bee using such a bee home wooden hole. You can see the tree resin the bee has used to line the wooden hole.



(Ken Walker, Melbourne Museum)

Here is a Leaf cutter bee using a wooden bee home hole. See it carrying in a piece of leaf it has cut to build its nest.



(Ken Walker, Melbourne Museum)

Here is another Leaf cutter bee sealing up the nest she has made in a wooden bee home.



(Ken Walker, Melbourne Museum)

And finally, here are some *Hylaeus* Colletid bees using bamboo in which to build nest cells.

Australian Native Bees in Melbourne

By Aussie Bee

Australian native bees are active pollinators, do not sting and their main role is the collection and transfer of pollen, which is vital for flowers and vegetables in our gardens. What makes them even more attractive is many native bees are stingless!

Dr Ken Walker from Melbourne Museum stated only 5 of the almost 2,000 native Australian species of native bees build "beehives". However many native Australian bees will happily use a "bee home" and several types live in Victoria.

Most of Australia's native bees are solitary and do not make "beehives". About half make nests in the ground (no good for bee homes) and the other half make nests above ground and love to use pre-existing holes in wood (ie. bee homes) in which to provision and make a single cell nest.

Australian Native Bees State-by-State Location Table							
	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	NT	Tas
Ten Major Groups of Australian Native Bees							
1. Stingless Bees	✓	✓			✓	✓	
2. Yellow & Black Carpenter Bees	✓	✓			✓	✓	
3. Green Carpenter Bees	✓	✓		✓			
4. Reed Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Blue Banded Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6. Teddy Bear Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7. Leafcutter Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Resin Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Homalictus Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Masked Bees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Information from <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/beesinyourarea.html>

Ten Favourite Flowers Loved by Australian Native Bees	
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Abelia
<i>Buddleja *</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Callistemon</i>	Bottlebrush
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	Gum Blossom
<i>Grevillea</i>	Spider Flower
<i>Lavandula</i>	Lavender
<i>Leptospermum</i>	Tea Tree
<i>Melaleuca</i>	Honey Myrtle
<i>Westringia</i>	Rosemary
Many Varieties	Daisies

Information from <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/flowerslovedbybees.html>