NATIVE BEE HOTEL

NOW ACCEPTING GUESTS

Australia boasts around 2,000 native bee species. Unlike honeybees, most of these are solitary and don't live in hives. Each female builds her own tiny nest in a small cavity, stocking it with food for her future offspring. While many nest underground, about a third prefer holes in trees or plant stems. Bee hotels like this one offer additional accommodation when naturally occurring sites are in short supply.

WHO'S CHECKING IN?

Look for leafcutter and resin bees (*Megachile* species), Masked Bees (*Hylaeus*, *Amphylaeus* and *Meroglossa* species), Reed Bees (*Exoneura* species)—plus native solitary wasps (welcome guests!).

The female lays eggs inside her chosen nest, packing in nectar and pollen as a lunch box for her developing larvae. She then seals the entrance with resin, chewed leaves, or a cellophane-like secretion—depending on the species—leaving the eggs to hatch and develop. Development takes around 60 days, but many young bees wait until spring to emerge.

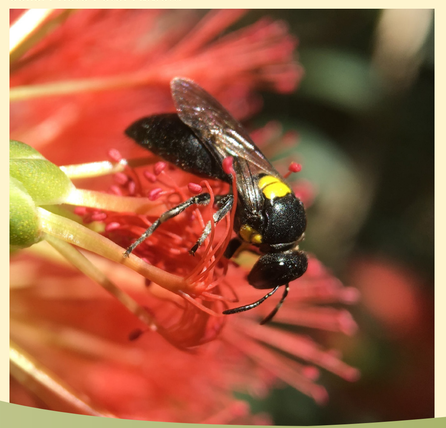
Watch closely, you might spot residents coming and going, carrying tiny loads of leafy material or pollen!

Bee hotels are a great way to encourage native bees to nest in your garden and pollinate your plants, while contributing to native bee conservation.

A Resin Bee *(Megachile oblonga)*. The females collect and mix resin and dried leaves to seal their nests. Photo Don Taylor.

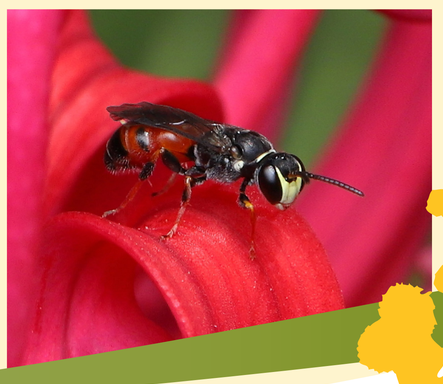
Gold Tipped Leafcutter Bee *(Megachile maculariformis)*, a large sized bee that cuts and collects disc segments to line their nests. Photo Don Taylor

Dark-headed Dimorphic-Masked Bee *(Amphylaeus obscuriceps)*. This solitary bee belongs to the plasterer bee family which plaster the walls of their nest cells. Photo Peter Abbott.



Reed Bee *(Exoneura species)*. The female of these small bees nest in hollow reeds or plant stems, and have a distinctive wedge–shaped orange or red abdomen. Photo Julie Armstrong.

Littler's Masked Bee *(Hylaeus littleri)*, known as Masked Bees due to their facial markings. Photo Tim Leach.



ACT FOR BEES + OTHER pollinators

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ACT GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ACT ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS PROGRAM.