

About Us

“Essentially, we are lifting the profile of solitary native bees and social native stingless bees in the community and to attending to wild native bees rescues ”.

The native stingless bee is such a small and unassuming insect and no-one could really be blamed for not knowing or caring about it. But hey, these great little insects are quiet achievers and the greatest little “Aussie pollinators”. That is why Clarence Native Bees Landcare has made it their mission to educate the community on the value and benefits of native stingless bees in our environment and why we should take more care in that environment to protect them.

One of our native bee members said he was out in the bush one day hanging around a tree, when suddenly, what he thought, was a swarm of mosquitoes, came flying out of nowhere started buzzing around his head. So, waving his arms madly trying to swat them - he regaled the story to us and said, “if he had any Aerogard he would have used it!”. It wasn't until months later that he learned that on that occasion he had met a swarm of native stingless bees and not mosquitoes.

These are just some of the interesting stories you hear from people in the Clarence Native Bees Landcare group and, just like swarms of bees, our group is buzzing along quite nicely with a great bunch of people attending the Clarence Native Bee meetings. These are lively, full of discussion and everyone gets to talk about different aspects of bees, bee keeping and science. Anyone is welcome at our meetings to learn about native bees.

The Groups main objective is “To formulate actions to lift the profile and value of native bees in the community; attend to rescue of wild native bee hives during storm activity, tree lopping, or general rescue; and to educate the wider community on the value of native bees for biodiversity and to provide workshops on bee hive construction, hive extraction and native bee hive rescues.”

The following Care Fact Sheets have been developed as a Community Education Kit for the Clarence Catchment, and are designed as an educational starting point for the community to learn about native bees, which include both the social bees and the solitary bees. This literature is designed to target the key areas of identifying, understanding and protecting a natural resource that has high biodiversity value for agriculture. We have aimed to include the basic but important facts. For any information you have missed, we have steered you in other directions - please look on the back of this Fact Sheet at “Further Resources”. Happy bee reading and if you have finished reading these fact sheets and no longer need them, PLEASE RECYCLE and share with a friend who does!

CLARENCE NATIVE BEES LANDCARE

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Further Resources

While there are many resources available on native stingless bees we have endeavoured to include the resources that most Clarence Native Bee Members read first and these will serve you well in our need for obtaining the facts and finding out more about Australian Native Bees.

Books		Websites	
Australian Beekeeping Manual	ISBN 978921966880	Australian Native Bees Research Centre	www.aussiebees.com.au
Australian Stingless Bees (John Klumpp)	ISBN 9780975713815	Bee Aware	www.beeaware.org.au
Australian Native Bees for Schools (Steve McGinnity)	ISBN 9780646595252	Bob Lutterell the Bee Man	www.bobthebeeman.com.au
Anne Dollin – Bee Booklets –via website (see below)		Clarence Native Bees Landcare	www.clarencenativebees.org.au
DPI Ag guide : A Practical Handbook, Australian Native Bees	ISBN 9781742569657	Russell & Janine Zabel	www.zabel.com.au
Michael Gleeson – Miniatures - Identifying Insects in your home garden	ISBN 9781486301379 or (Pdf) ISBN 9781486301386	Steves Bees	www.tanbc.com.au
The Australian Native Bee Book (Tim Heard)	ISBN 9780646939971	Sugarbag	www.sugarbag.net
The Bee Friendly Garden (Doug Purdie)	ISBN 9780646939971	Valley Bees	www.mrccc.org.au