



# BEES ARE IN DANGER

## CAN YOU HELP?

Without bees and other pollinators much of the world's food supply would end so it's literally a matter of life and death that these essential tiny links in our global food chain are supported.



### What can Rotarians do to support bees & other pollinators?

#### Honey Bees

live in hives with a queen, protect their territory (& sting!), but setting up a hive of your own can support the bee population, improve vegetable garden yields and produce delicious honey.

A number of Rotarians are apiarists why not invite one to speak to your club about how to get started?

Check the Rotary Districts' Speakers Banks or to find out about setting up a managed hive contact Apiarist

Peter Dyer at Backyard Honey

[www.backyardhoney.com.au](http://www.backyardhoney.com.au)

For more information about Honeybees contact the Victoria Apiarists Association (VAA) at [www.vicbeekeepers.com.au](http://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au) To find out about bees & bee friendly plants visit

[www.rooftophoney.com.au](http://www.rooftophoney.com.au) or [www.amazingbees.com.au](http://www.amazingbees.com.au)

#### Native Bees

Of the 1,500 or so types of native bees in Australia, roughly 10% are stingless & live in hives with a queen. The others are more solitary, but all are valuable pollinators and can be housed in 'bee motels' of hollow bamboo or in tree trunks.

Ask your local Men's Shed to make you a bee motel, set it near your flowering bushes in the sun, away from people & pets & welcome native bees into your vegetable gardens to help magnify your crops!

Bee populations are dwindling in alarming numbers globally due to:

- Climate change
- Pesticides and industrial agriculture
- Loss of habitat & flowering plants
- Varroa mite & diseases

Rotarians for Bees mission is to:-

- build awareness of the need to protect & support bees amongst our 1.2M members worldwide,
- encourage action to support pollinators and their role in agriculture & horticulture around the world.





# Time for ACTION!

To support bees & pollinators all Rotarians can help!

1. Join ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group) & become part of the Rotarians For Bees project!  
<https://www.esrag.org/welcome-esrag>
2. Plant bee friendly plants with lots of pollen & nectar in gardens & pots, eg: Lilacs & Lavenders, Flowering Gum, Fruit Trees & Berry Bushes, Herbs, Tea Tree (Leptospermum) Grevillia, Wattle, Hakea, Happy Wanderer & more!
3. Talk to your local council about establishing bee friendly gardens on nature strips & public land.
4. Never use pesticides outdoors & encourage farmers you know to adopt biological alternatives to chemical pesticides.
5. Establish a bee hive (for honey bees) or bee motel (for native bees) at home.
6. Support research into disease & varroa resistant bees through not-for-profit organisations like the Wheen Foundation  
[www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au](http://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au)
7. Invite an apiarist to speak at your Club & spread the word!
8. If you see a bee swarm, call an apiarist or Bee Club to have it safely removed & rehoused.

Interested in joining Rotarians for Bees? Contact John McCaskill (Rotary Canterbury) [john@jmcresources.com.au](mailto:john@jmcresources.com.au) or Faye Kirkwood (Rotary Caulfield) [ianfaye@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ianfaye@bigpond.net.au)

Useful references include:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/bees>

<https://prod-media.coolaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/06191751/Bees-Under-Threat-Factsheet-2.pdf>

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/goodliving/posts/2017/09/bees>



**Rotarians  
for BEES**

A project of  ESRAG 

