



Valley Bees

Focusing on the diversity of pollinators

The commitment of Valley Bees is to nurture and maintain the population of all bees in the local environment. To achieve this, a network is necessary to support the individuals and groups who want bees in their area : honeybees, native social stingless bees, and native solitary bees.

This commits us to be aware of management strategies to support the bees, and to create an environment conducive to their on-going sustainability.



• **Honeybees**



• **Native Social Stingless Bees**



• **Native Solitary Bees**

Valley Bees

.....recognises the diversity of pollinators needed for the web of life to be sustained.

A dominant percentage of plants that provide food and habitat in a healthy environment depend on a very wide variety of pollinators, including bats, birds, insects and wind.

It is essential that we provide habitat and other environmental requirements to ensure that sufficient numbers of these pollinators are present in a healthy system. The system of food production developed by humans has necessitated the provision of large numbers of pollinators in concentrated areas of broad acreage.

Valley Bees has a commitment to this philosophy by focusing on the nurturing of the Australian native bee populations in balance with the management of the honeybee.

There are over 1500 bees native to Australia. The better-known are the stingless social bees but there are also many solitary native bees contributing to the health of our environment, including the blue banded, carpenter, reed, resin and green metallic. These need more attention. The honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) was introduced from 1824 to provide honey and pollination. These have become endemic through feral swarms moving into the environment.

Some of the threats to the sustainable maintenance of bees are the damage caused by introduced pests and diseases and the reduction of habitat, resource loss and introduced flora.

There needs to be a balance between all bees in the environment, as all are needed to pollinate the extensive diversity in native flora, and native and introduced food plants. Valley Bees is a community-centred group which supports and coordinates the protection and management of bees to benefit the environment and horticultural industries in all their diverse rolls. There is a particular emphasis on the people who wish to maintain bees as part of their environment.

The Vision Statement of Valley Bees is :

- **to preserve and provide further habitat for all bees.**
This is achieved by providing suitable nesting habitat - both natural and managed.
- **to protect all bees from pests, diseases and environmental deprivation.**
- **to provide services for pollination.**
- **to harvest excess stores for human consumption.**

Valley Bees ...

- includes people specialising **in native bees, in honeybees, and in both!**
- meets regularly, and holds field days and outdoor demonstrations throughout the year.
- invites speakers to share their knowledge, expertise and passion.
- will prepare lists of plants and trees in our local area to attract pollinators to our gardens.
- supports those who want to manage small numbers of bees on their properties.
- embraces a collective wisdom of enthusiasts and members of the community alike.
- expresses the specific areas of the value of all bees in regards to the health of our environment.
- advises on issues and topics that will make a difference!
- recognises the value of mutual support gained from the membership of a group of people with common interests. By participating in the activities of these groups, members benefit in their own lives, and contribute to their community.

We recommend you visit the following websites, for information and inspiration :

- Aussie Bee - www.aussiebee.com.au - www.zeta.org.au/~anbrc
- Kin Kin Native Bees (Chris Fuller) - www.nativebees.com.au ● www.sugarbag.net
- QBA (Q'ld Beekeeper Assoc) - www.qbabees.org.au ● www.mrccc.org.au
- www.buzzaboutbees.net ● www.amazingbees.com.au ● www.honeybee.com.au
- Bob The Beeman (Robert Luttrell) - www.bobthebeeman.com.au

Our website - www.valleybees.net.au - is not up and running yet, but will be by the end of October...or November. Oh and yes, that **will** be in 2011...

Valley Bees : glenbo@live.com.au or Athol Craig on 5482 3637

ValleyBees...for the experienced, and the wanna-bees!

