

Gardens for wildlife

Native bees

Australia has over 1,500 species of native bees that have evolved side by side with Australian plants. They are valuable pollinators of native plants and excellent pollinators for home fruit and veggie gardens. Some native bees don't sting. Those that do are solitary, non-aggressive and often too small to give an affective sting.

To encourage native bees to your garden, provide:

- Food plants (nectar and pollen)
- Eucalyptus, brachyschomes, grevilleas, tea tree and hibbertia.
- Sheltered home
- dead pithy stems, hollow stems and canes, deep narrow holes in logs or timber.

Native insects

In 2007 the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Society in conjunction with Council produced the *No Legs or Many – spineless and wild*” booklet www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/insectsandbugs

This booklet provides pictures and names for many of the common insects in the Shire and what habitat some of them are found in. If you are not sure what insects you have in your garden, check it out!

Insects can be attracted to your garden for many reasons. Many insects need leaf litter and rocks for habitat.

Photo: Eastern Spinebill by David Francis



Thank you to Natureshare website for fauna images



Photo: Grevillea Alpina by Chris Clarke



Photo: Blue banded bee by David Francis



European honeybees collect 90% of available nectar and pollen but pollinate only about 5% of our plants

Thank you to Knox City Council for their assistance in compiling this factsheet.