



FOWSP is a group of people with an interest in the conservation of bushland in Warrandyte and surrounding areas of north east Melbourne.

We employ a manager and a nursery worker to run a small not-for-profit indigenous nursery which grows bee-attracting plants. You can find more about us at fowsp.org.au.

Our plant nursery is open Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm year round and the first Saturday of the month from 9am to 1pm, April to November in conjunction with the Warrandyte Market (except on Total Fire Ban days).

For plant orders, email nursery@fowsp.org.au

PHONE 0408 317 327



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Friends of Warrandyte State Park Inc

ABN 94 170 156 655

For enquiries email info@fowsp.org.au

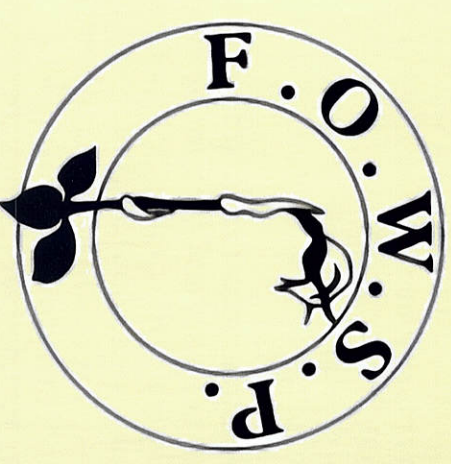
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Blue banded bee
Amegilla sp

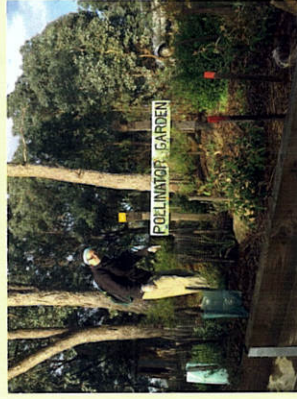
WARRANDYTE NATIVE BEES



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Why are native bees important?

Native bees serve a vital and unique purpose in Australia. They pollinate Australia's unique flora and are an important part of the bush. The natural habitat of bees is being destroyed through clearing of land for housing and intensive farming, bushfires, toxic sprays, chemicals and climate change. We can reverse some of the changes by providing a bee-friendly environment.



How to attract native bees to your garden

Although some native bees are attracted to many exotic flowers, some native bees prefer or require specific indigenous plants. FOWSP grows many indigenous species which are great bee attractants. Come and see FOWSP's pollinator garden shown above. Staff and volunteers can advise you on what to plant to encourage native bees to come to your garden.

Where do native bees live in Warrandyte?

Most native bees are solitary bees which lay their eggs in burrows in the ground or in hollows in timber. Native bees don't fly very far (up to 350 metres). So, if you wish to have them in your garden, plant attractive flowering plants. Warrandyte fortunately retains plots of native bushland with natural nesting sites for native bees. If you would like to be able to watch them at their nests, the easiest and most reliable way to make bee homes is to drill deep holes into hardwood which will attract resin bees and some masked bees.

How many species of native bees are there?

There are at least 1,700 species of "true blue" Australian native bees plus hundreds more not yet named. These native bees can be black, yellow, red or metallic green or have blue polka dots. They can be fat or furry, sleek or shiny. Photos in this pamphlet show four types of native bees you are likely to see in Warrandyte. If you have sharp eyes, you will soon learn to see many more.

Blue banded bee aka BBB (front cover)

These bees, from the genus *Amegilla*, are 11mm long (same length as a small honey bee), but a bit fatter. There are yellow markings on its face, brownish hair on its thorax and white to blue stripes on its abdomen. It has a very loud buzz.



Masked bees (above)

The Hylaeinae subfamily are slender, small black bees, less than 10mm long, with bright yellow to white markings. These bees could be mistaken for wasps. They are also frequent users of holes in hardwood blocks. The males of masked and other bees may also be seen clustered in groups at night.



Chequered cuckoo bee (above)

Beautiful black bees with blue spots are likely to be found wherever the BBB is found, as these are true cuckoos and lay their eggs on the food the BBB provides for its young before the nest is sealed.

Leafcutter bee (below)

These bees line their nest cells with circles cut from soft leaves. Similar to resin bees, they are likely to nest in holes in trees made by beetles. They also live in holes drilled into hardwood posts.



What is buzz pollination?

Plants such as solanum (including tomatoes) and dianella store their pollen in small packets which require buzz pollination before this process can occur. A bee must use special muscle vibration to release the pollen. Many native bees are excellent buzz pollinators, but honey bees are not.