



Patrick - Native bee hotel

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

I wanted native bees to be around the house more, so I'd see them more. I researched about their nesting habits, what plants they like – they like most native flowering shrubs, also all bees like lavender. I got some pallets and cut them in half and stuck them on top of each other so that it would be smaller so I could fit more stuff in so it wouldn't be hollow in the middle.

I made habitat for different types of bees – the Blue-Banded Bees like the clay, the Resin Bees and Carpenter Bees like the wood with the holes in it and then they seal it with the resin; I made bundles of sticks for Leaf-Cutter Bees, they go and nest in there, and Leaf-Carrying Wasps also go into holes in wood and stuff it with grass. Dad helped me make it all – he cut it up, drilled the holes, and helped me get the clay. I also created hand-out sheets.

Have you done any promotion?

We're going to make some smaller bee hotels at school, we didn't get to do that this year so maybe next year the Young Environmental Leaders Program (YELP) students can do it.

Your biggest success?

Building it.

Next steps?

We have a YELP garden and we're planting stuff in there but not much is growing there or flowering, so if they do more with that, they can put a bee hotel there. And they'll be able to grow tomatoes better there, or in the chook yard, because the Blue-Banded Bees buzz pollinate – so they go inside the flower and buzz around and they get heaps and heaps of pollen and it makes the tomatoes grow really, really well. I might do a talk about it at school.

Your advice to other students?

Start smaller, because I made my bee hotel quite big and I couldn't fill it up. So I'll do some more research and fill it up.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Patrick's words and opinions.