



Giving our native bees a helping hand

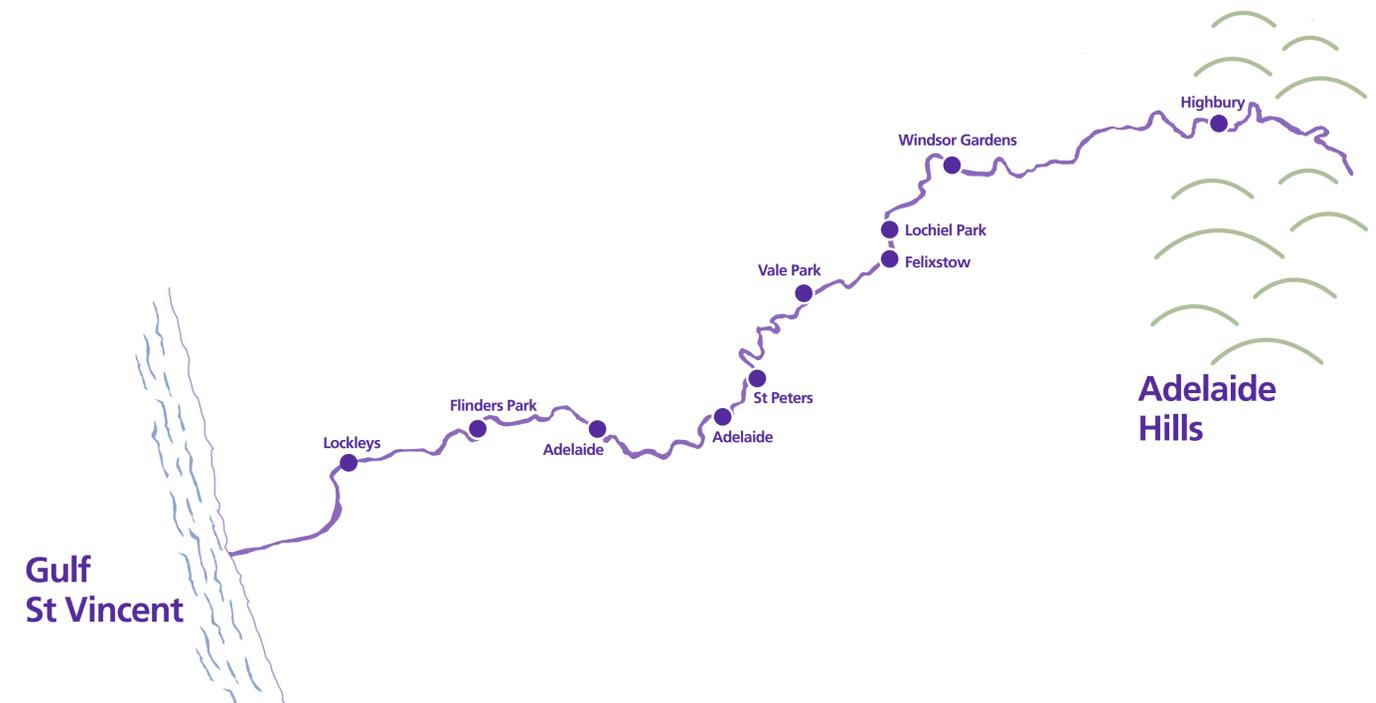
This native bee BnB has been built by community volunteers as part of the River Torrens Recovery Project, which has been improving water quality and biodiversity along the River Torrens since 2014. Native bee BnBs and native food plants can now be found at a number of locations along the River Torrens to provide our bees with more places to live and forage. **To find out more about this project search online for 'native bee River Torrens'**

Use this guide to find out what types of bees have been nesting in this BnB

Closure type	Native bee type	Closure type	Native bee type
 Leaf pieces 4 - 7 mm	 Leafcutter bees <i>Megachile</i> species	 Resin with chewed plant material 6 - 8 mm	 Golden browed resin bee <i>Megachile aurifrons</i>
 Bee 'cellophane', a type of silk 3 - 5 mm	 Masked bees <i>Hylaeus</i> species	 A curtain of 'cellophane' strands 6 - 8 mm	 Wasp mimic bee <i>Hyleoides concinna</i>
 Resin or sap from trees, sometimes adorned with stones or twigs 3 - 6 mm	 Several resin bees <i>Megachile</i> species	 Mud wasps use clay to close their nests and provision their offspring with small invertebrates (e.g. caterpillars, spiders or crickets)	 Chrysidid 'gold' wasp – a beautiful bee parasite

Photography credits: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 Katja Hogendoorn; 4, 6, 8 and 12 Marc Newman; 10 Kristi Ellingsen.

Native bee BnB locations



Native bee facts

- Native bees are not aggressive.
- Nearly all of Australia's approximately 2000 native bee species are solitary bees.
- It is estimated that 300 species live around Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges.
- Species differ in colour, shape and body length (1.8 mm - 25 mm).
- Native bees are excellent pollinators of fruit trees and vegetables and are a great asset in the home garden.
- Some of our native plants can only be pollinated by native bees.



Blue-banded bees use clay, not wood, to nest in. Photos: Jeremy Gramp

How do native bees make their nests?

Nests of solitary bees contain a number of rooms, or brood cells. The female provisions each brood cell with pollen and nectar and then adds a single egg. After all the brood cells in a nest have been provisioned, the female closes off the nest entrance to protect it from intruders, such as ants and parasitic wasps. Different species of bees use different materials and ways to close their nest. Over time, the egg hatches, the larva eats the food and then moults into a pupa. The pupa then develops and emerges as an adult the next year. The adults mate and the cycle starts again.



Cross section of a bamboo stalk being used as a nest

Project partners

