



the Bee Book

A Project

Building community connections

Unlocking community capacity

Celebrating a life

Creating a legacy

By Jenni McLeod



neighbourhood
honey
south arm
tasmania



beautiful girls

The beginning...



The Bee Book started when I asked Fred House to start writing about his life as a beekeeper.

Fred was 99 years old and had been a beekeeper for 92 of those years, learning from his father about these beautiful and important pollinators.

For 68 years Fred lived in Goodwood in the northern suburbs of Hobart.

We connected over our love of bees and we met weekly for a cup of coffee and a chat.

I learnt so much from Fred.

He made his own hives and frames in his wonky shed in the backyard. We would stand in Fred's apiary on warm afternoons watching bees buzz lazily in and out of hives, casting their enchantments over both of us.

My life with the Honey Bee

No. Bee
Date

I am 99 years young & for 92 year I have played around with Bees
At 8 years old my father & I moved
a hive 1 metre & put a new hive
on the old stand, when I looked down
at my legs, I had one yellow sock
& one black. Them days we only had
short trousers & knee high socks
when my mother took my socks off



It was on one of these days I asked Fred to start writing about his life with bees. At first he thought I was joking, but before long he understood I was serious.

After a few months Fred presented me with his handwritten book 'My life with the Honeybee'.

2 days later Fred sadly passed away, just a few months short of his 100th birthday.



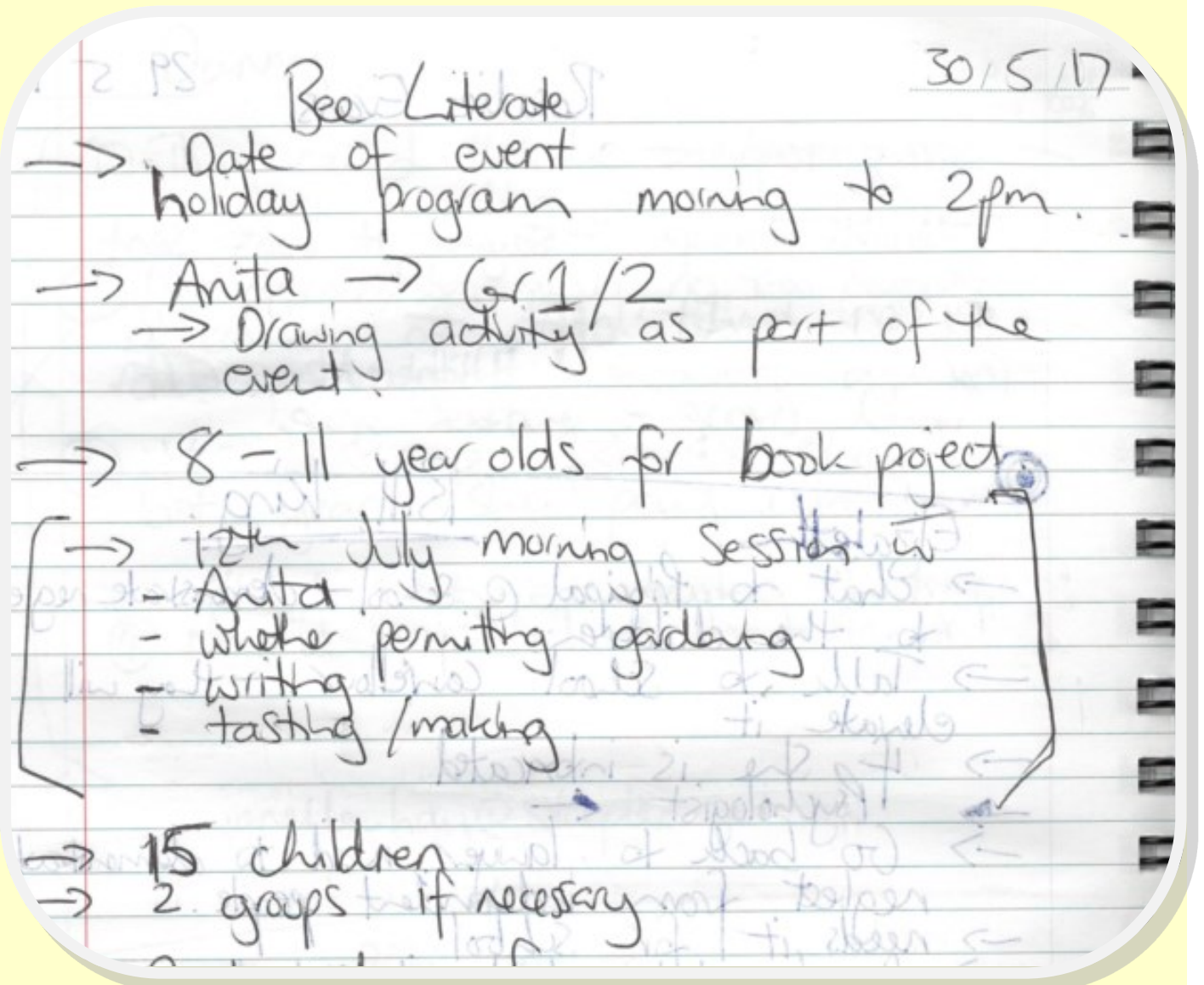
This could have been the end of the project, but it really marked the beginning.

As devastating as Fred's loss was I was determined that his life and his story would not be forgotten.

What about a book written by children? Imagining how the book could come together was exciting-I already knew everyone I needed to know to make it real, so I started by approaching Rachael French, Coordinator at the Goodwood Community Centre and pitched the idea to her.

Rachael connected with it straight away and with Fred's family's permission, we proceeded.

We set about planning the who, the how, the when and created the Bee Literate Tasmania partnership.



Bee Literate Tasmania

Beautiful Girls.

Initiator of the Bee Book project, beekeeper, community minded connector, project coordinator.

Goodwood Community Centre.

Community engager, collaborator and auspicing body for this project.

The Story Island Project.

Literacy promoters, story tellers, story collectors, place based responders, authentic idea generators.

Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers.

Beekeeper, bee educator, inspirer, local, national and international project connector.

This partnership was made possible as we recognised what each could bring to the project.



Workshop #1 Fred's 100th birthday

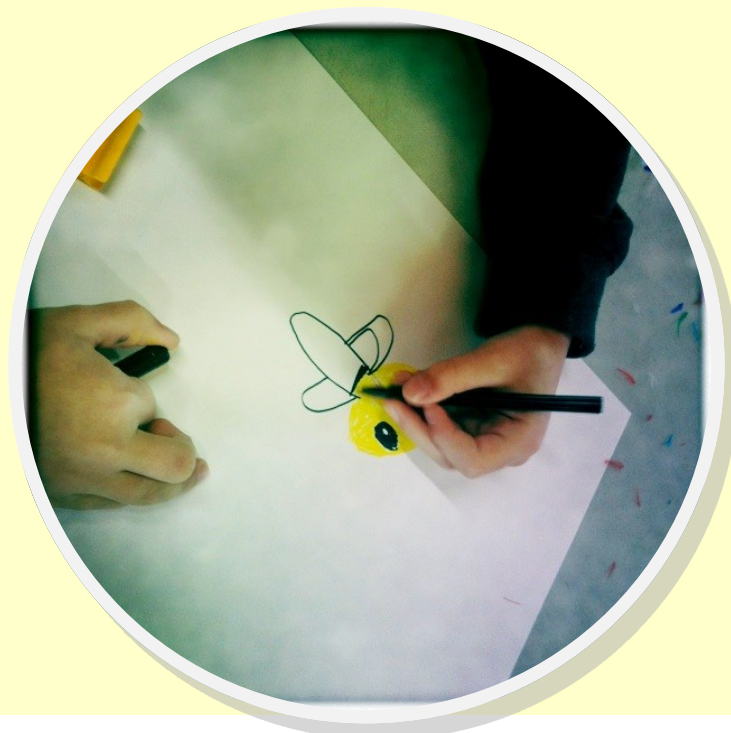
Building success into the project started from the beginning by identifying key milestones and dates to:

- a) Celebrate Fred;
- b) Create opportunities for participants;
- c) Connect community to the project;
- d) Connect the project to other events;
- e) Build momentum to inspire people everywhere.

The first milestone was workshop #1 held on what would have been Fred's 100th birthday.

This workshop brought together the partnership where bee education, artistic creation, collaboration and cooking happened prior to a community afternoon tea. The afternoon tea included participants their families, the broader Goodwood community, Fred's family and anyone who knew or was connected to Fred.

Rachael also published Fred's book for the event and was responsible for the graphic design work promoting the project.



One day on the farm I was playing around in the old shed and noticed a few bees flying around. I was cleaning out the shed and right over in a corner was an old bee hive. When I inspected it there were about forty or fifty bees and a Queen. That night I went out and had a look when the field bees were all in. There wouldn't be more than one hundred bees. At the end of the honey season that swarm was the biggest swarm I have ever had. There must have been eighty thousand to one hundred thousand bees and I had eight supers in it.

Them days I used to make my own Queen's. My father had bought a Queen rearing cut-fed and when he stopped using it I took over. I would raise fifty to sixty Queen's in a batch. The gear in it was like an operating theatre in a hospital. Years later my niece wanted to have bees so I started her off. After two years I didn't know her and my nephew were having trouble and I took the operating box down and showed how I raised Queen's. She wanted to study the instruments so I left it with her. Three weeks later I went down and found out she had sold the bees, left my nephew. I have not seen my operating base since. It was nearly one hundred years old and still workable. It was my intention to give it to the Beekeepers Association. They would never have seen anything like it. It's been my experience that the more you open up a hive, providing you don't knock them around, they become quite often become domesticated.



My Life with The Honey Bees

'I am ninety nine years young and for ninety two years I have played around with bees. At eight years old my father and I moved a hive one metre and put a new hive on the old stand. When I looked down at my legs I had one yellow sock and one black. Them days we only had short trousers and knee high socks. When my mother took my socks off we counted seventy two stings in one leg. There must have been twice that many in my sock. I had no effects from that, not like my brother. He got stung on his finger or toes, his eyes would swell up and he couldn't see.

Of course you still get the wild ones. But treat them gently and they are easier to handle. I had a couple of strangers hives that have not been touched for up to five or six years and when I opened them up thousands flew out and almost carried me down the paddock. One swarm like that took me three days (two hours day) before I could control it, I had to half drown it to handle it. I won in the finish. For many years now I only start people off if they want a bee swarm.

Other than that all I do is in July onwards put plenty of supers on and lay back..... let the bees do the work and twice a year I rob them of their hard work.'

Collection of Fred's Story

On request from amateur bee keeper, Jenni McLeod. Our dear friend Fred House wrote down the story of the 'bee' along with some personal anecdotes from his 92 years of bee keeping.

Fred's notes are captured here in the hope we can share his passion with the community.

'Life of a Honeybee'



THE LIFE OF THE HONEY BEE

From the egg to the hatch of the bee

The bees that were hatched the day before, are called Nurse bees. They clean up the nearly hatched bee and feed it for 12 hours then move on to be the house maid. That is, make sure there's no foreign matter etc in the hive. After about three to four days she moves on to making bees wax in the frames. At the end of seven to ten days she guards the hive, flying around outside the entrance to stop any intruders from entering the hive. By then she is about three weeks old. From there she fly's out into the field and collects pollen. That's the red and yellows you see on their legs, commonly known as Bee Bread. This serves as their food for winter or a bad year for honey. Then she goes out and collects the nectar to make the honey. This she can do for about three to four weeks and then dies. She does not die of natural causes, she works herself to death. When she first fly's around outside her wings are full and glossy. When she dies they are dull and only half the original size and very jagged. The term 'make a bee line for home'

originally started from the bee. She leaves the hive and goes straight to where the nectar is, fills up and then goes directly back to the hive. Remarkable thing is, she

might head north and she might move around getting nectar and finishes up to the west or east and from there she still makes a bee line for home. They must have some sort of radar for them to know which direction to go home, like a ship's compass. On her last trip out, she fills up with nectar but only gets half way home before she can't go any further and falls on the ground.

If you watch she's still walking towards her hive but never makes it and therefore dies. So the life of a bee is seven to eight weeks on average. After the nectar stops the bees stay in the hive and lives through the winter, because they are not wearing their wings out. When they start again in August (sometimes earlier) they

don't live more than about three weeks. In the meantime the Queen starts laying next summers' eggs.



1st year Queen lays up to 500 eggs per day
2nd year old up to 1000 years
3rd year old 1000 – 1200 and then start to drop back

It is advisable to replace the



Queen after three years. You can kill her or the bees know when they want a new Queen and they dispose of her or just ignore her and she eventually dies. Finally,

on the life of a bee, you don't worry about the state of the hive or frames as long as there's room for honey. They are the unpaid workers and all you need to do is take the honey as the supers fill up. You are out to make money so let the bees do the work.

In 1880 Professor Wunthrop and his friend decided to learn what they could about the honey bee and after seventy years they couldn't fully explain their workings, they had to surmise. They did this or that. What they found out wasn't far from how they lived and what they did. I remember the professor dying in 1955.

see where she will be living for the rest of her life. Then in the next day or so she goes on her maiden flight. She only travels up to four metres before she mates. After she mates the Drone drops dead.

In my ninety-nine years, ninety-two with bees, I've seen a lot of Queens take off on their maiden flight but only once have I seen the complete union. Two or three days after she mates, she starts being an egg laying machine.

Laying eggs

First year up to five hundred eggs per day
Second day up to a thousand eggs per day
Third year up to fifteen hundred eggs per day

Then she drops back pretty fast. It is advisable to re-Queen after three years. If you don't kill the Queen the bees know it and they replace her. Sometimes they throw her out of the hive, if not they ignore her and she dies.

HATCHING

From eggs to hatching, the honey bee and drone is sixteen days, the Queen is eighteen days. After the Queen hatches, the bees clean her up and feed her. After two to three days she fly's around outside the hive to



Meet the Bee Book authors

Elissa Clark

Harry McLoughlin

Amala Webb

Elliot Vagg

Ellie Kearnes

Saben Walsh

Jove Mckenna

Charli Grimwood

Eva Noel

Riley Grimwood

Erika Asker

Attila Toth

Audrey Long

Ryan Joseph



Photographer: Jenni McLeod

Workshop #2 Bee Friendly Garden

Our second workshop built on from the first session to deepen the children's awareness of friends and enemies of bees.

This included establishing a bee friendly garden.

Goodwood Bee Friendly Garden Bed



Make the bed bright and fun



Load the pots with bee favourites

Honeybees collect pollen and nectar from flowers and blossoms. Did you know bees prefer blue, purple and yellow blossoms!!



Planting ideas:-

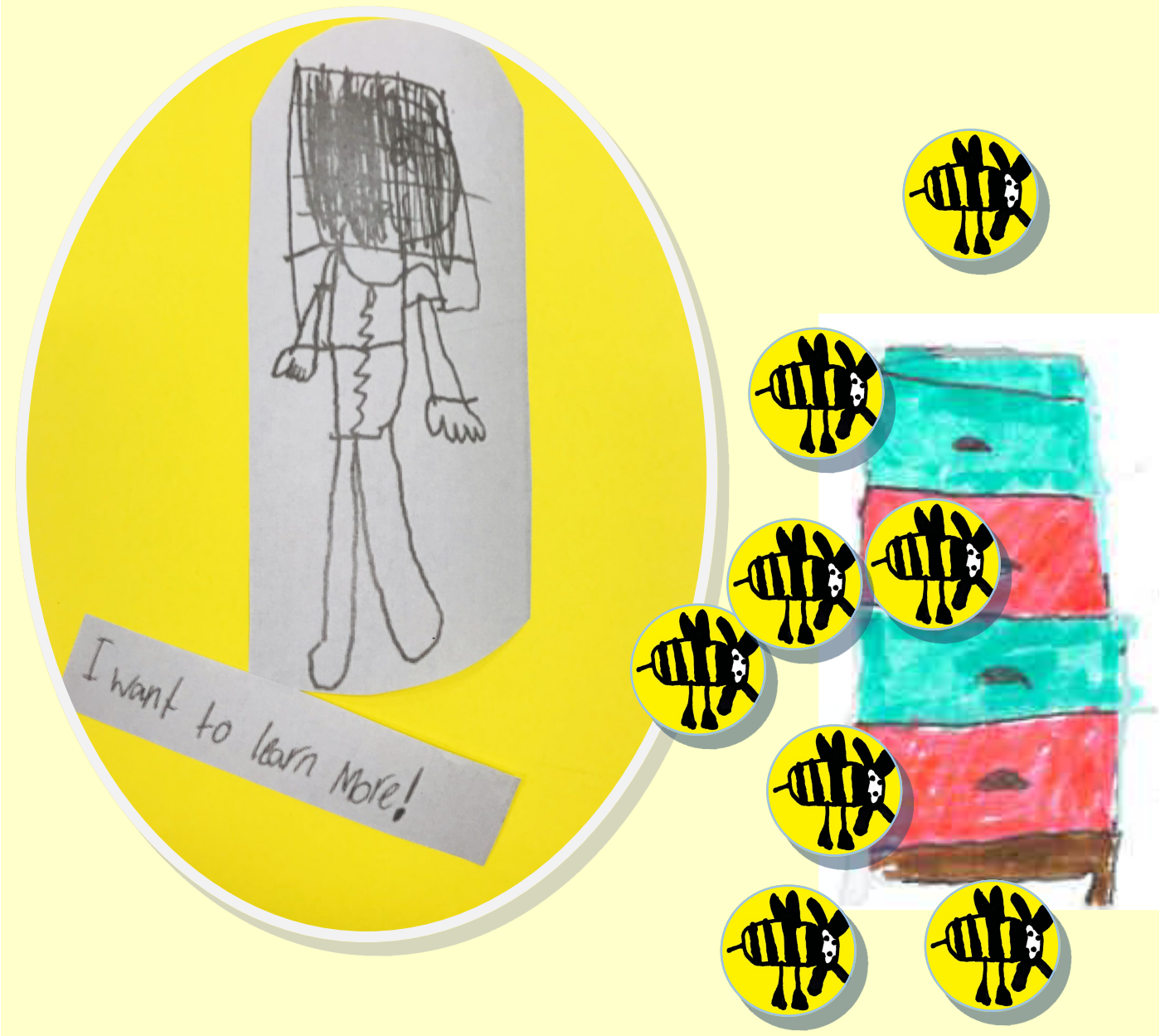
www.amazingbees.com.au/bee-friendly-backyard.html

bee literate—tasmania

Workshop #3 Editorial session

An editorial team was formed from the group of authors to ratify content and layout for the proposed book. For this session we arranged for Victoria Ryle, who established international publishing house 'Kids' own publishing' to meet with the authors to harness her expertise and prepare the book for publishing.

The book was put together in a large format with photocopied artwork and writing from the workshops for the authors to stick onto a mocked up book.



Publishing

Now that we had the bones of the book, it was integral to the partnership that as a Tasmanian project, all publishing and printing of the book was place based in Tasmania.

We met with Lucinda Sharp from 40 South Publishing who instantly connected with the project and was keen to proceed with us. We also selected Hobart based Monotone as our printers. We needed \$7,000 to publish the book.



Fundraising

As a community driven project, we went first to the community to start fundraising. The Honey and Bee Market in South Arm Kickstarted our efforts with a \$200.00 donation.

This inspired us to continue 'cross pollinating' community support by driving our fundraising efforts from the grassroots. This unlocked a wave of capacity contained within the community.

Fundraising



Community quickly jumped on board by fundraising, including Goodwood resident Steven 'the Can Man' Ward, who had the idea of collecting cans to help with our efforts.

Steven successfully raised over \$400 towards publishing the book. Sadly, Steve passed away in 2019. Through his efforts this book was made possible and we remember him with love. Steve was a neighbour and close friend to Fred.



R.I.P Steve Ward



We launched a Go-fund-me page and coupled this with a media release. We mapped out all interested stakeholders and wrote directly to them, asking them to donate or promote our project.

Through this process we gained support from individuals donating as well as co-sponsors who we defined as anyone donating more than \$250.00. Co-sponsors were advertised in the book.

We wanted to make the buy in achievable for everyone. We also applied for grants and we were successful in obtaining \$3,500 from the Glenorchy Community Fund.



HIVE OF ACTIVITY: Some of the children who worked on *The Bee Book*, Rosie, 4, left, Amala, 10, Ryan, 9, Harry, 7, Darcy, 8, Elliot, 8, with project co-ordinator Jenni McLeod, and Rahni, 5, and Saben, 8.

Picture: SAM ROSEWARNE

Bee book project creating a buzz

SHAUN McMANUS

A PROJECT which aims to remember a Tasmanian beekeeping stalwart and inspire the next generation of beekeepers is making a buzz in Hobart.

The Goodwood Community Centre has teamed up with the Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers and Story Island Project to create *The Bee Book* — a fact book about bees, by children

for children. Along with passing on knowledge about beekeeping to the next generation, the book was written in memory of former Goodwood resident Fred House.

Beekeeper Jenni McLeod, who co-ordinated the project, met Mr House through her work. “Fred was in his 90s, and he had been a beekeeper for 93 years,” Ms McLeod said.

“When he found out I was a beekeeper, he started visiting

me quite regularly, and we made quite a good friendship.

“He had a lot to do with here — he used to provide cheap honey to the Goodwood Community Centre.

“All Fred wanted to do was to turn 100, and about six months shy of his 100th birthday [in 2016] he passed away.”

After he died, Ms McLeod pitched the idea of writing a book to the Goodwood Community Centre, and a

group of about 15 children worked on it between July last year and last month.

Participant Harry McLoughlin, 7, said it was “very cool” to be part of the program. “My favourite animal is a bee because they make one of my favourite foods — honey,” he said.

The project has started a GoFundMe page, with the aim of raising \$7000 to have the book published.

Promotion

Promotion and fundraising work hand in hand. Go-fund-me could see the potential contained in this project and put us in touch with their marketing team, boosting our media profile by organising radio, newsprint and MSM interviews.

We also started a ‘Bee Literate Tasmania’ facebook page at the same time, as we realised we needed a shared platform to promote, timeline and retain a collective memory of what we were doing.

Community Build

In addition to Steven's fundraising, we deliberately built in opportunities for community to get on board with fundraising and promotion. This was integral to the project's success and key to making this project replicable.

We talked about the project to everyone.

We asked a local musician to compose music for the Honey song on the last page of the book.

We made flyers that were letterboxed in Goodwood.

We made badges.

Most importantly, community got creative.





Workshop #4 Visiting the apiary

After learning so much about bees, writing and drawing about bees...it was finally time to visit the Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers to experience and observe bees in a hive!

Project partner and Junior Beekeeper coordinator, Anita, invited the authors to the apiary and it was an incredible experience.

We worked with local Labor MPs and organised for the Labor Bus to take us to the site, inviting the authors families to join us and have a picnic and spend a day with the bees.



Workshop #5 Meeting the Publisher

"Is there going to be more than one book?"

"Yes, Elli there are going to be 750 books!"

Meeting Lucinda from 40 South Publishing provided the authors with an understanding of how the Bee Book was put together, based on the editorial session the authors had participated in.

The authors also obtained a sneak preview of the finished cover and were especially pleased to learn they could buy copies of the book and their school library would also have a copy.

Pop-up opportunities

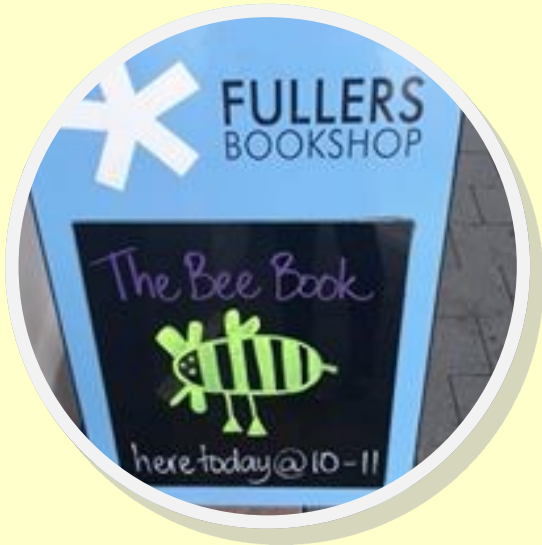
By this stage the project had gained it's own momentum and a series of 'pop up' opportunities were made available to the authors.

These included hosting a stall at the National Early Years conference, speaking at the 'Kids for Kids' Conference and hosting a table at a 'Plugged In' forum.

The authors were able to meet educators, community leaders and other children to explain the project, its purpose and what they had learned. They also handed out invitations for the book launch.



Book Launch Planning



We approached a local independent bookseller, Fullers bookshop, who were very excited to be part of the launch.

As the day drew nearer, the excitement kept building.



We contacted Simon Mulvany from 'Save the Bees Australia' and Ben Moore from 'Ben's Bees' and asked if they would like to officially launch the book and they said yes and flew in from Melbourne for the event.

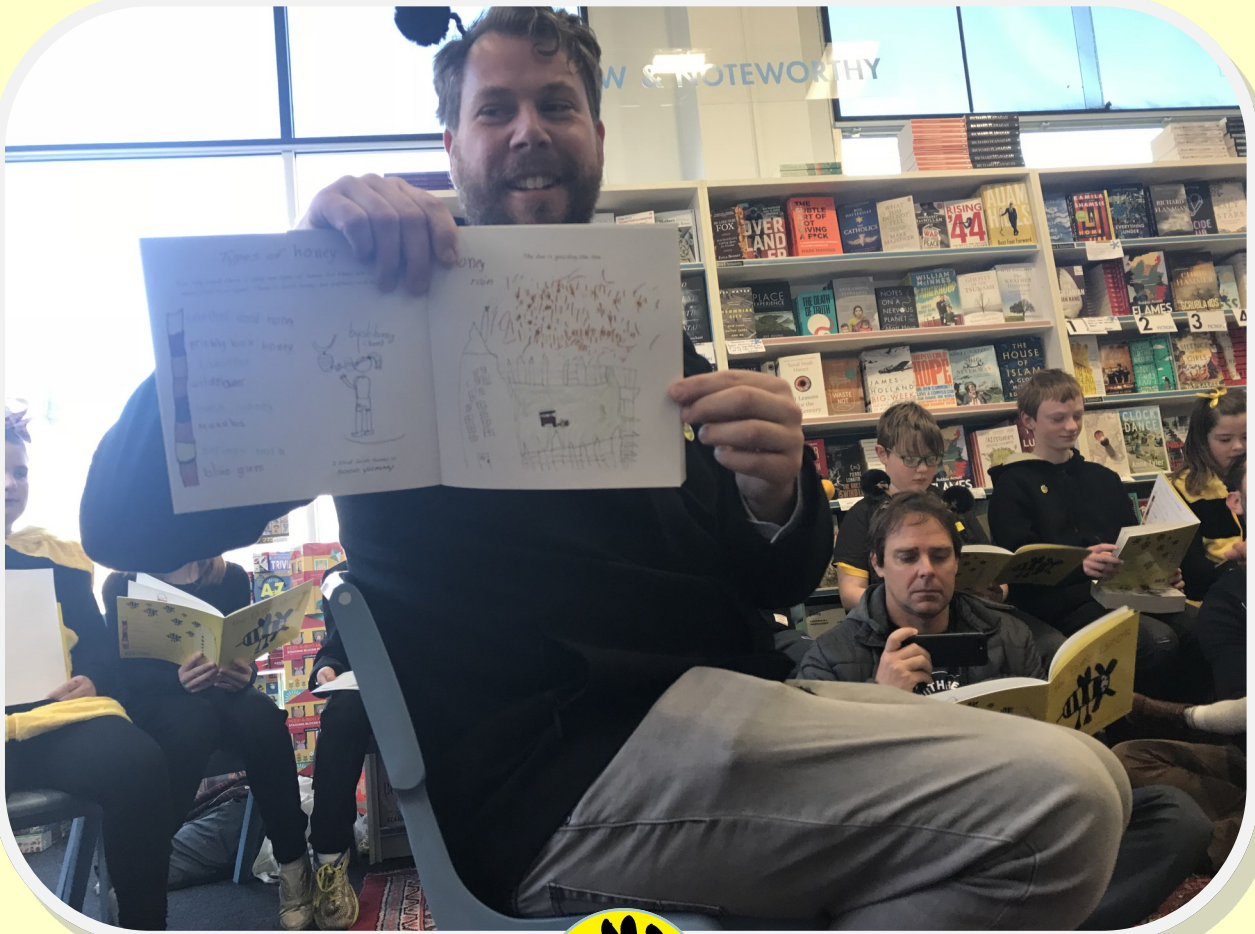


We sent invitations to Fred's family, Fred's networks, all of the stakeholders we had mapped out, our co-sponsors, the Glenorchy Community Fund, everyone who donated through the Go-fund-me page and anyone who may have an interest in bees.



Book Launch





Bees in the Pub

In addition to connecting this event to Wattle Day, we contacted the Australian Republican Movement who were hosting a Wattle Day BBQ and we initiated 'Bees in the Pub' (now an ongoing event) to the back of their BBQ. Over 100 people attended to listen to Simon and Ben talk about their commitment to bees.



Bee Book Pollination

Once the book was published its potential was released for the whole community and the response was overwhelming.

The song on the last page of the book was performed at the launch, recorded and sent live to Vienna.



The State library bought 11 copies for regional libraries, Scott Bacon MP bought copies for all of the public school libraries in his electorate and 40 South Publishing distributed copies to retailers throughout the state.

Then the book went national...and international...



Fred's CMHC



East Devonport, Tasmania



Macleay Island, Queensland



Slovakia



Canada

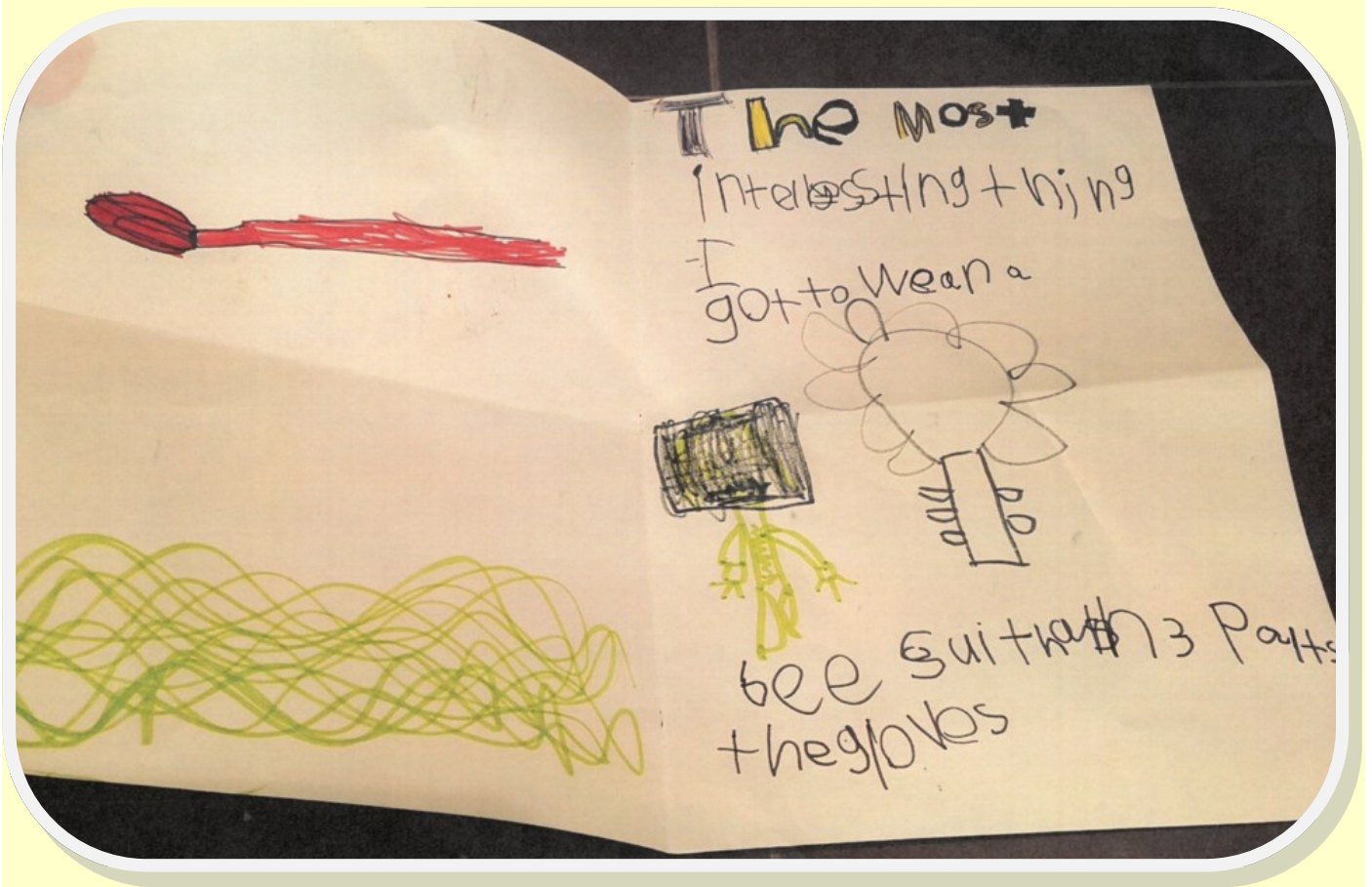


Poland

Sold out Reprint Sold out

Within 6 months, the first print run sold out.

So we did another print run, and that quickly sold out! Children everywhere have been inspired by the book, creating their own artwork and replications of the book's content.



It was always the intent that funds raised from book sales would drive Stage 2 of this project so that communities motivated by the book, would have an opportunity to act.

This project is based in participatory decision making with children, so we brought the authors back together again to ask them how they would like to disburse funds raised from book sales - approximately \$7000.

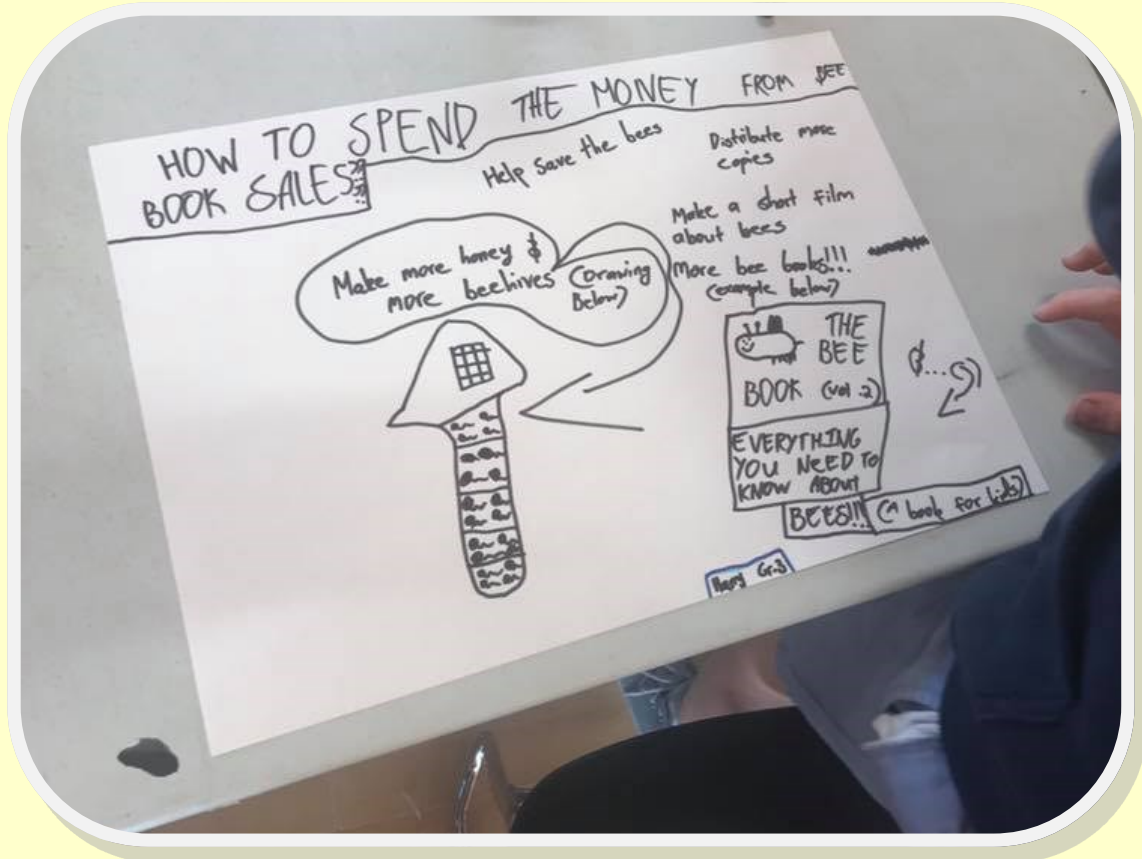
The book is now in its 3rd print run.



Workshop #6

Creating a Grant round

We contacted the Tasmanian Community Fund to help us work through a decision making process with the authors.



The authors came up with some fantastic ideas and had a chance to vote on all of them.

A number of projects were favoured, starting with a grant round open to communities in Tasmania.

Bee Literate Tasmania

BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN GRANTS

GRANTS OPEN
Closing 31st July 2019

The Bee Book Authors

The Bee Book authors invite Tasmanian organisations who have chemical free community gardens to apply for **\$200** to develop **Bee Friendly elements** to their gardens.

For application form
Phone: 6212 2383 / Rachael 62722560
Email: info@bigpond.net.au

World Bee Day

The grant was launched on May 20-World Bee Day and one of the authors, Amala Webb, was asked to speak with ABC radio to promote the grant.

The authors were also given promotion packs, and met with their school Principals. We also revisited our map of contacts inviting them to apply and/or share the grant.



Grants

25 applications were received from across Tasmania from organisations wanting to implement bee friendly elements to their gardens. Organisations ranged from Community Houses to schools to Aged Care Facilities...the project proposals were creative, broad and exciting.

Rachael designed a selection process to help the authors select projects under the criteria outlined in the grant.

After 2 sessions, the authors selected 18 fabulous projects.



Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards

As the Bee Friendly Garden projects were being rolled out across Tasmania, the authors were successful in becoming finalists of the 2019 Community Achievement Awards. They were the only children's project to successfully make it to the finals.

All of the authors who wanted to attend the event were able to participate thanks to the generous support from local politicians and they were able to meet with a number of inspiring community initiators.



The Projects

Here is a taste of some of the successful projects...

Warrane Primary School

WARRANE PRIMARY SCHOOL



With a little help from Clarence Council, students from Grades 3-6 created a mural celebrating bees on the school garden shed. Elements of the design were taken from drawings created by the children.

The students planted a selection of bee friendly native plants on a patch of waste ground next to the school car park. They also planted more bee friendly plants such as lemon balm into their bee friendly garden and let bee friendly plants such as coriander and rocket flower to encourage bees.

Students created a bug hotel to encourage native bees and other pollinators.

Grade 5/6 students created signage explaining the importance of bees and the Grade 2 students made signs for their bee friendly garden .



Bee Literate Tasmania **BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN GRANTS**



Glenview Community Services



GLENVIEW
Community Services

Glenview's gardening team are working with residents to improve their 'St Johns' Courtyard.

Residents and guests are encouraged to enjoy the flowering plants and herb garden that is actively being used in the kitchen to flavour resident's meals.

Improvements include,

- Purchasing new bee-attracting plants.
- Building new potting benches so residents can more easily tend to their favourite plants.

Bee Literate Tasmania BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN GRANTS



Bee Literate Tasmania **BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN GRANTS**



Cygnnet Library Garden Project

Library garden volunteers are working with the community to develop a bee friendly garden in the Library grounds.



Children from the 'Rock and Rhyme' and 'Story Time' groups participated in the planting activity after reading bee stories and a bee craft activity.

Upcoming activities include,

- Pop-Up event at the local market to make 31 new plant signs
- Local woodworkers to assist in the construction and installation Of a bee hotel in the Library garden.
- An instruction brochure will be provided to workshop participants for making smaller versions as a take home resource.
- A simplified version will be conducted as a craft activity with easily obtained materials for younger children.
- A 'Bee creative and Bee inspired' activity is planned prior to the bee friendly opening of the garden. This activity will invite community members to submit songs, poems, and rhymes.



Garden Launch



Community members were invited to attend the launch of the new Bee Friendly Community Garden and plant guide in Cygnet (see next page). Kirsten Bradley and Nick Ritar authors of 'Milkwood' officially launched the project. There was a fabulous song written and performed by local beekeeper Stephanie and the children had an opportunity to make insect hotels.



Cygnnet Library Bee Friendly Community Garden

How to Plant Bee Friendly

A variety of natives and 'heirloom' or open-pollinated varieties;
4 or more species flowering at a time, continually through year
A range of flower colours - blue, purple, violet, white and yellow
A range of shapes - open or cup shaped, short tubes
Examples: rosemary, alyssum, lavender, echinacea, borage
mint, currants, oregano, lemon balm.

Download Planting Guide: Bee Friendly - A Planting Guide for European Honeybees and Australian Native Pollinators by Mark Leech (2012).

Make your own Bee Friendly Garden!



How to Plant, Water and Hotels

Plant flowers in 1 metre clumps rather than scattered
Plant in sunny area sheltered from winds
Provide water via a small pool with shallow edges,
wet sand or a birdbath full of stones
Make a Bee Hotel



Bee Friendly ways to control Garden Pests

Use organic methods such as:
Encouraging natural predators eg: lacewings, hoverflies and ladybirds
Encouraging healthy soil and microbes by avoiding chemical fertilisers
Rotating crop plants allowing 3 years before returning to same spot
Avoiding monoculture plantings
Visit www.beeaware.org.au for information on pesticides toxic to bees



The Cygnnet Library Community Garden is
Proudly supported by Bee Literate Tasmania

Kingston Library

For the month of January 2020, the Kingston Library had a bee display, which included the Bee Book and how we made the book. They asked me to facilitate a book writing session with local children.

The children were aged 1-9 years old, and we focused on pollen, pollinators and pollination. The children created some beautiful origami books, including the one below by Audrey.



What next?

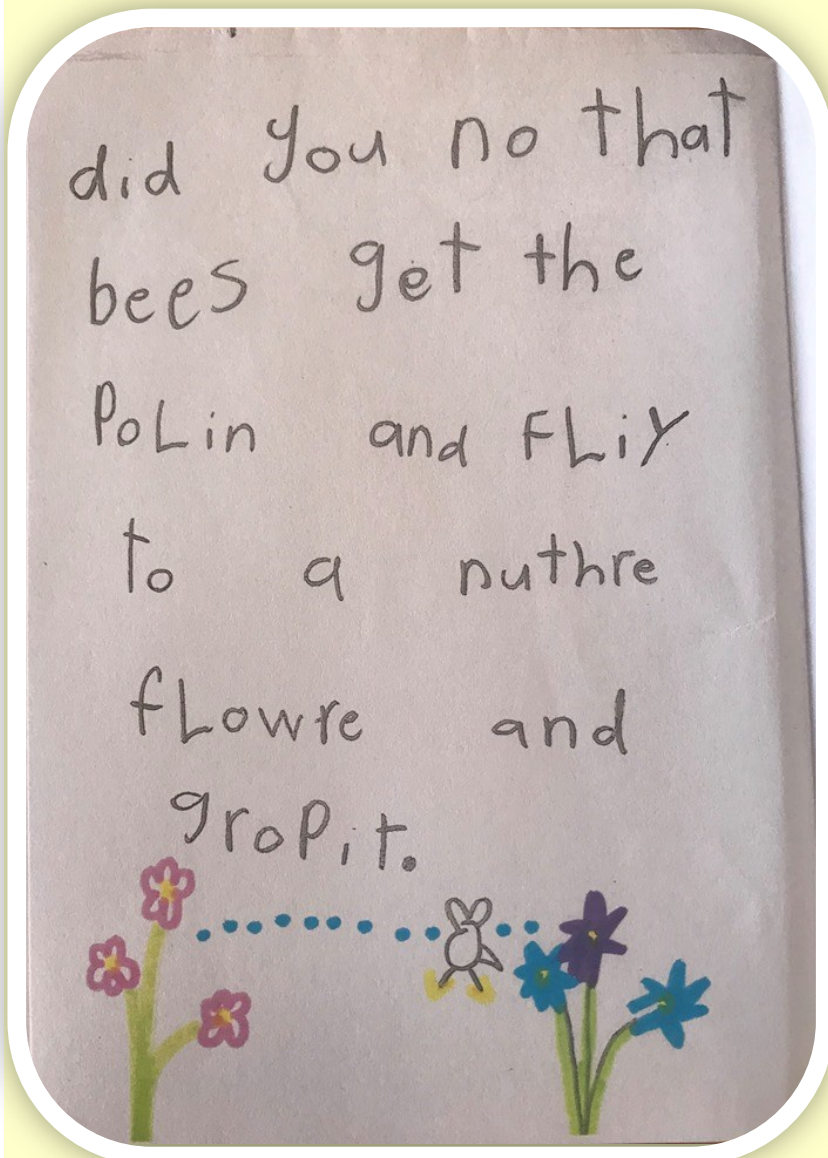
What this project has demonstrated is community driven initiatives that are relevant, authentic and meaningful connect with people to unlock potential.

Who would have thought that a simple enquiry to a 99 year old Beekeeper would kickstart such a lasting legacy.

The interest from Kingston, Cygnet and our Publisher-40 South Publishing-has opened an opportunity to create a book about pollination and the importance of pollinators.

The Huon Valley and Channel area in Hobart has self selected for this project and I'm excited to work with schools and libraries in the valley to create this book with children as part of the 'Project Pollinator First' initiative set up by the Bee Collective (formerly Beautiful Girls Bees)

Children are invested in the future of pollinators.





About the Bee Book Co-ordinator

Jenni is a backyard beekeeper, consultant, educator, pollinator advocate and founder of the Bee Collective.

Jenni's apiary sites are located on the South Arm Peninsula.

The Bee Collective was started to bring Tasmania's backyard beekeepers together, to expand apiary sites into the community and to educate community about the importance of pollinators.

The Bee Collective aims to protect pollinators, one backyard at a time.





the Bee Book

Contact

Bee Literate Tasmania:



Book sales:

[The Bee Collective](#)

Bee Book

Co-ordinator:

0448 515 867

RIP Fred House 1917-2016



neighbourhood
honey
south arm
tasmania



beautiful girls