

# Upskilling community leaders for

## Australian Pollinator Week

Planting floral resources (food) for insect  
pollinators





# Australian Pollinator Week

Why should we celebrate it  
and how can we get involved?



**[www.beesbusiness.com.au](http://www.beesbusiness.com.au)**

go to the Australian Pollinator Week tab



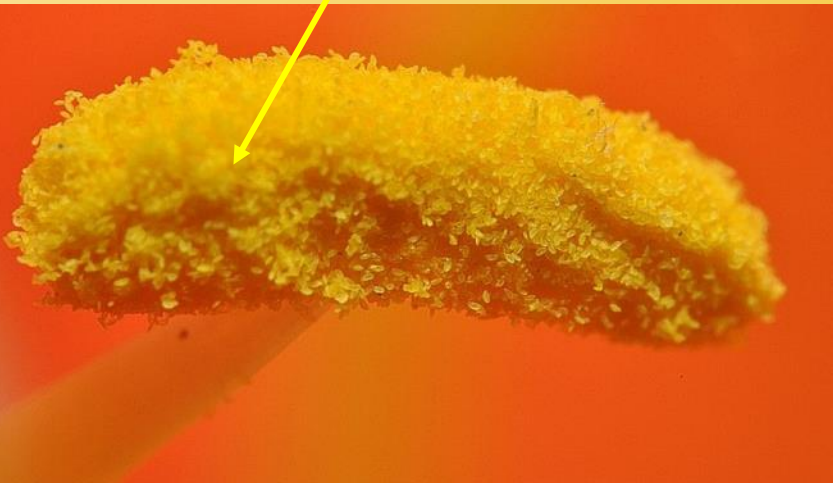
# What is pollination?

Stigmatic surface

Pollen grains on anther



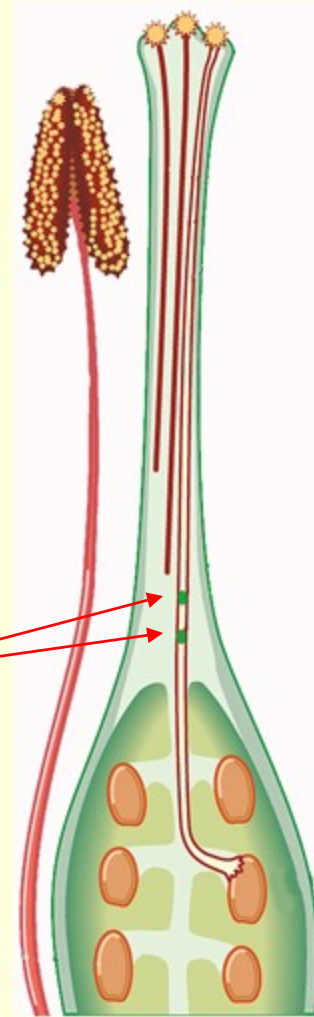
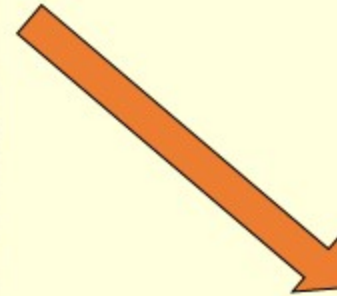
Jon Sullivan







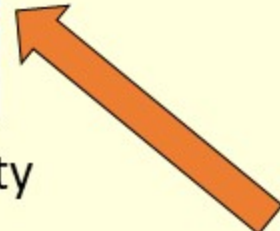
Pollination



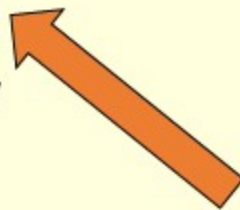
Ovule  
fertilisation



Seed set &  
fruit tissue growth



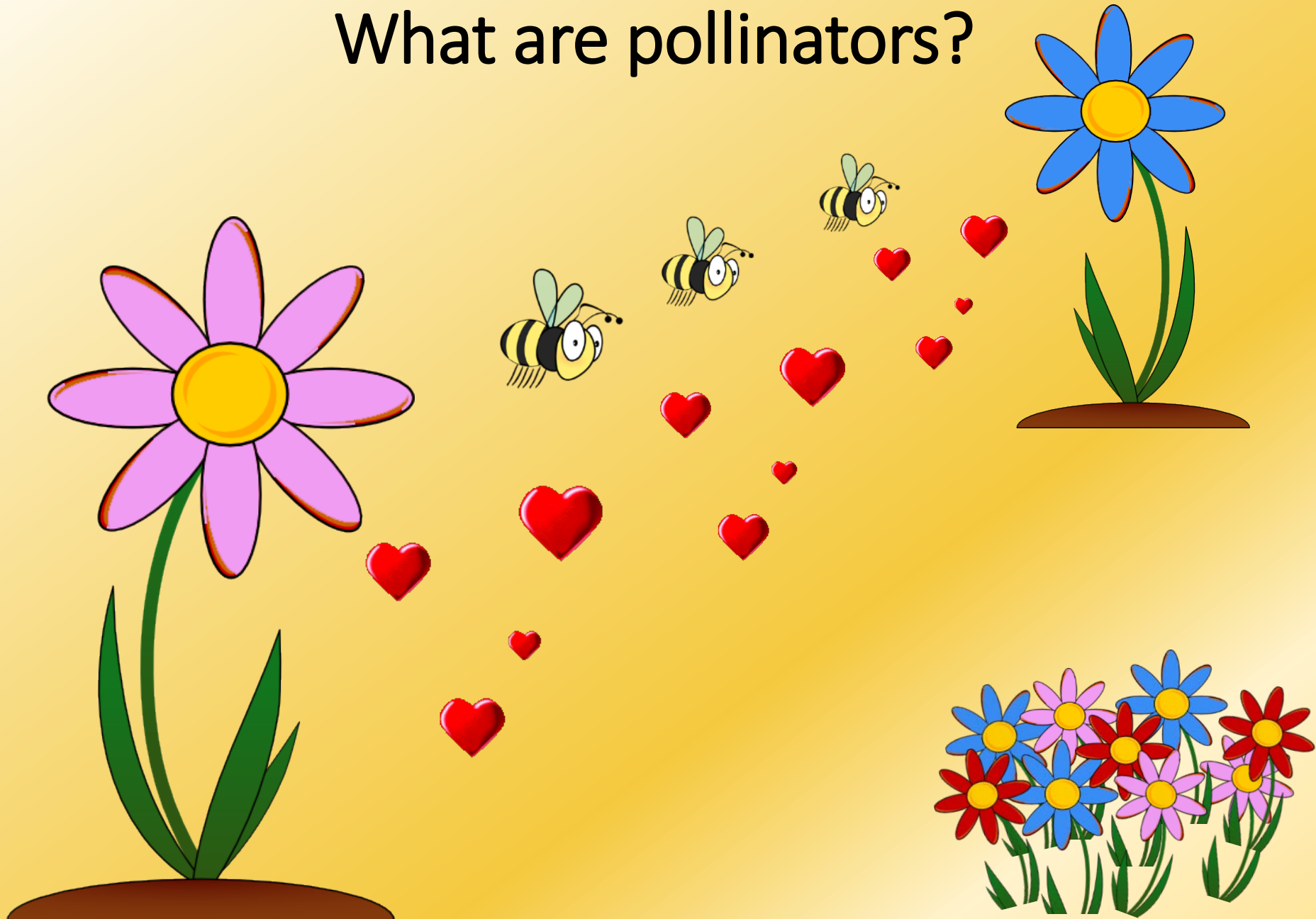
Increase seed quality  
& germination



Increased yield & quality



# What are pollinators?







Images  
Bees Business





# What is Pollinator Week?

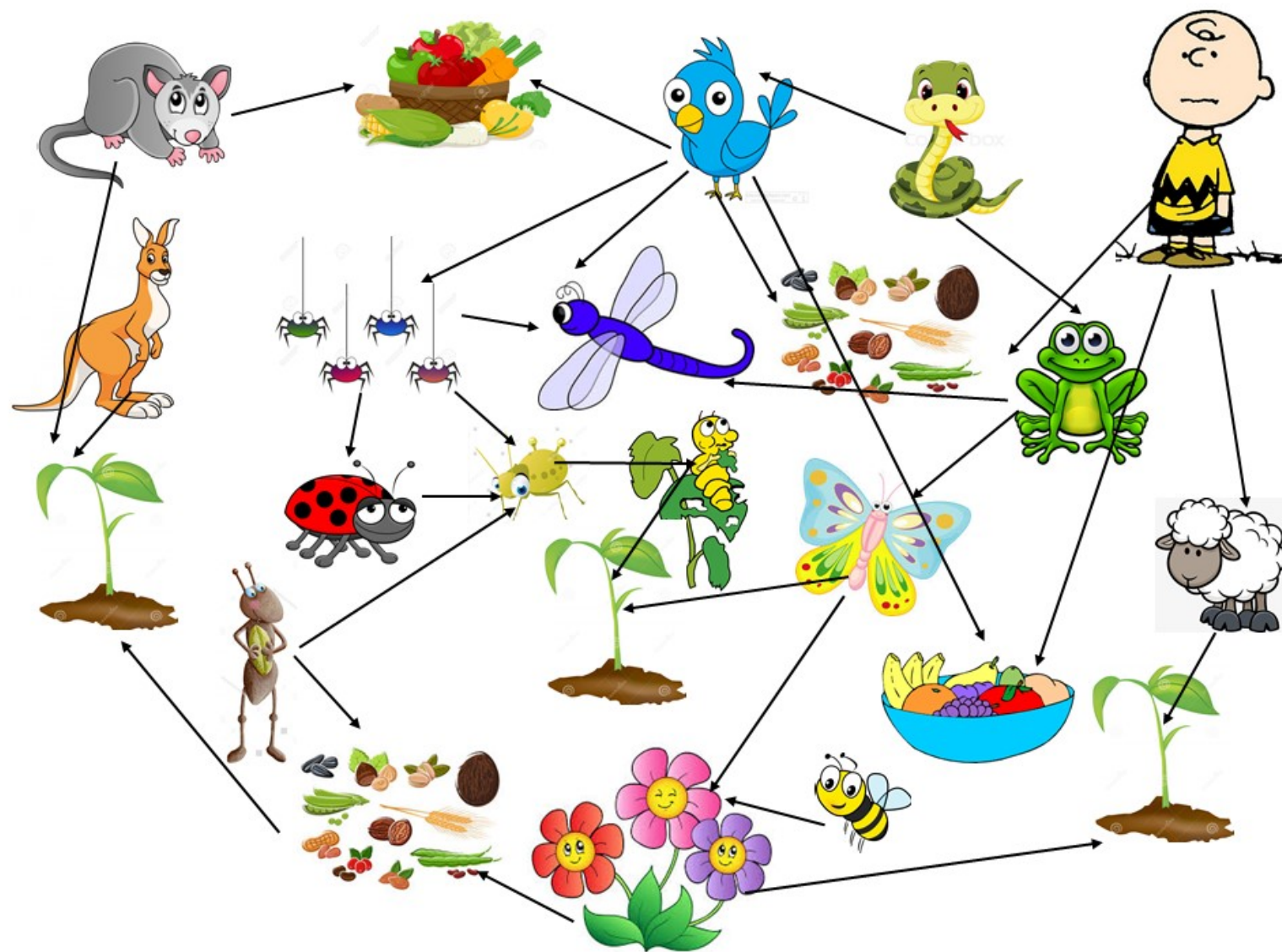


#OzPollinatorWeek



# Why should we participate?









L.R. Sanders



# What can we do?







Kurrajong-a-Buzz 2017









# Planting floral resources

Healthy pollinator populations help drive biodiversity

Plant for successive flowering

Include understory plants as well as trees

Food builds healthy native pollinator populations

Insects can provide free pollination services for

- crop plants
- native flora

## Choosing plants to attract native bees

Although most native bees are 'generalist' foragers, collecting pollen and nectar from a variety of flowers, it is advisable to incorporate some native plants into your garden. Native plants not only attract bees, but they attract other beneficial insects such as predators and parasitoids. Predators hunt and eat many pest insects such as aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers and katydids. Parasitoids lay eggs inside many soft-bodied pests. The balance between beneficial and pest insects is a delicate one, and if we provide the ideal habitat garden for the beneficial insect the balance will swing more toward controlling the pests.

This doesn't mean that you must use native plants exclusively, but that their inclusion will help with pest management. There are many exotic plants that attract bees and provide good quality pollen and nectar.

### Australian native plants

Choose local plant species if possible, as they are more likely to do well in your area. Some examples of bee-attracting flowers are shown below, but they are not limited to this list.

**Myrtaceae**, with their large bowls of easily-accessible nectar, are a particular favourite with many Australian native bees. Our short-tongued bees, in the family Colletidae, are the most diverse in the world because they have evolved with these bountiful food resources.



*Leptospermum* – Tea tree



*Eucalyptus* & other 'gums'



*Syzigium* – Lilly pilly

**Proteaceae**, have quite complex floral structures and some of our bees are able to 'unlock' the pollen presenter to access the protein-rich resource. These flowers also provide a sugar-rich nectar which is attractive to many small and large pollinators.



*Banksia*



*Grevillea*



*Hakea*



*Macadamia*





# Wetlands are important food and habitat resources





# Creating a pollinator habitat garden

Large areas of the same species

Provide a succession of flowers

Flowers available all year round

Don't be too tidy







Jaime Pawelek



Elizabeth Richmond



Jaime Pawelek



Jaime Pawelek



It doesn't have to be BIG





Don't forget ground nesting bees & other insects  
Leave some unmulched ground for these insects



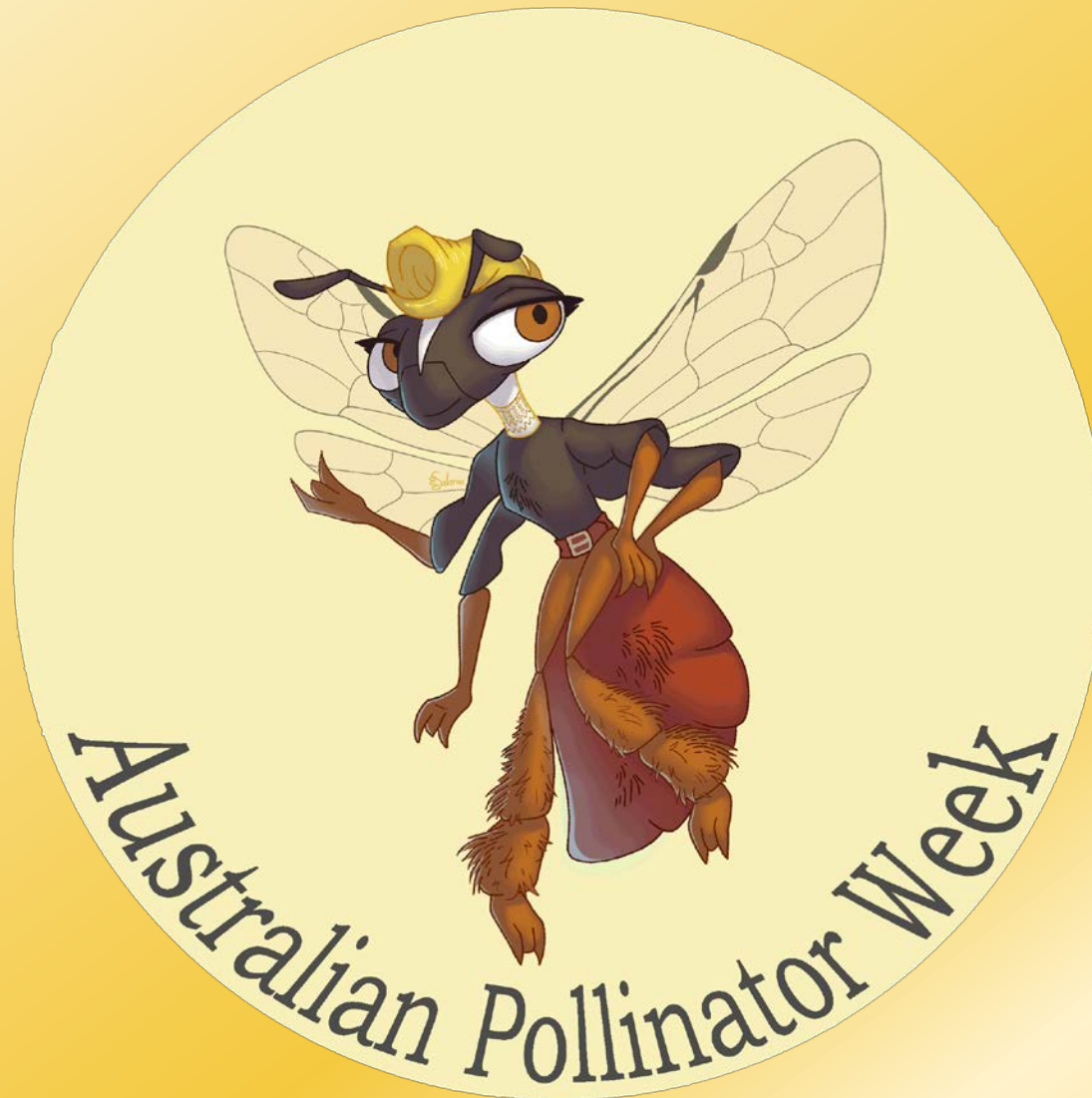


# Ground nesting bees





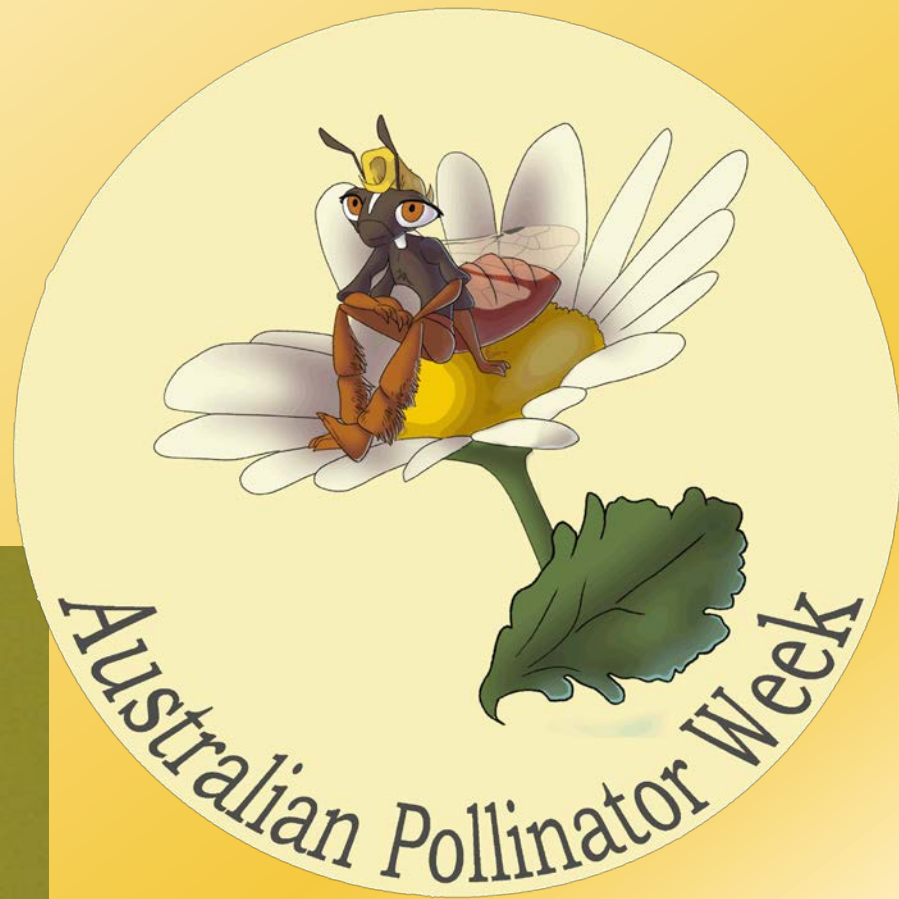
# Meet Rita the Reed bee



Tobias Smith







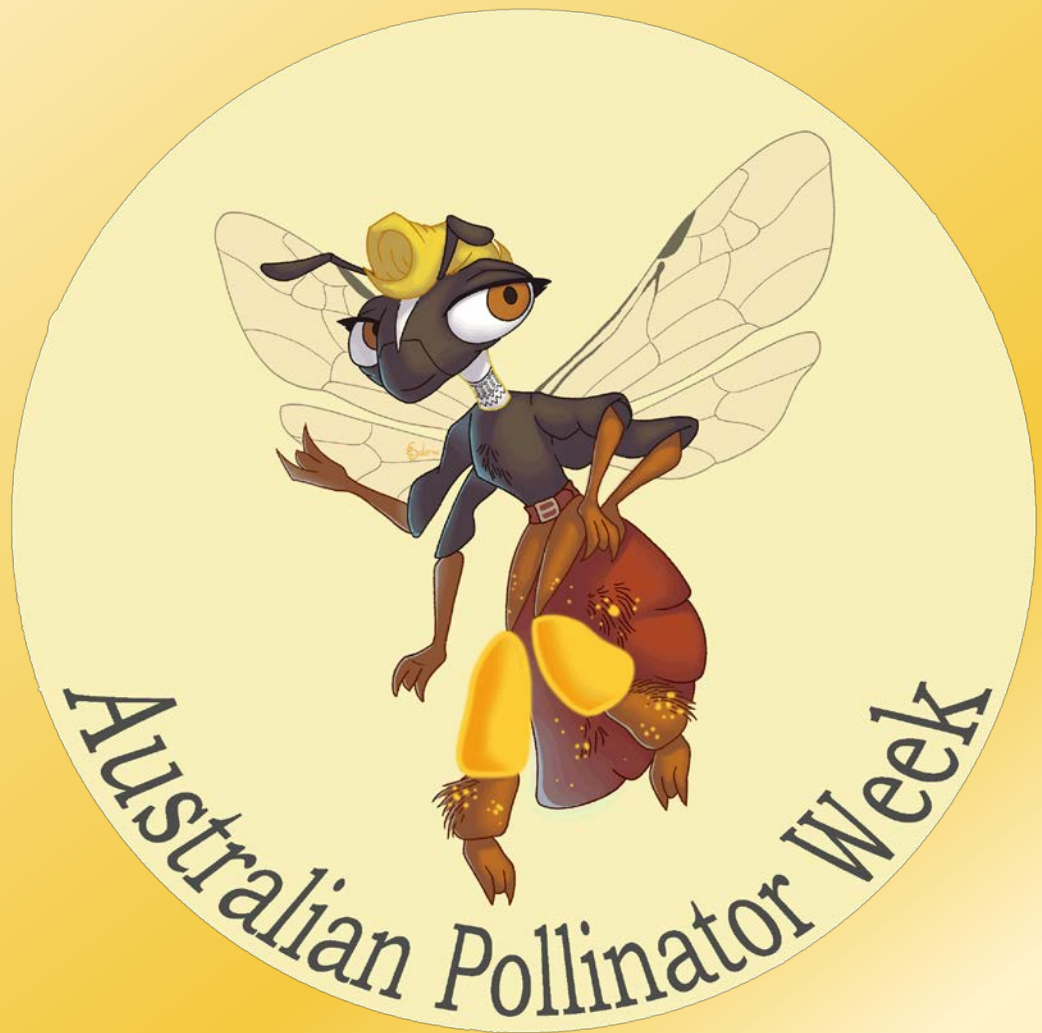
Flattened abdomen



Bob Luttrell



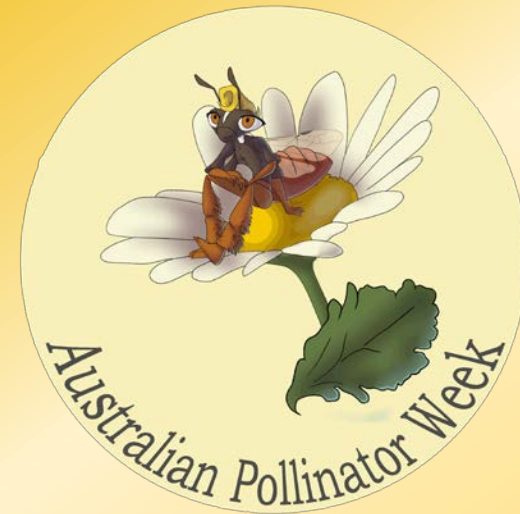
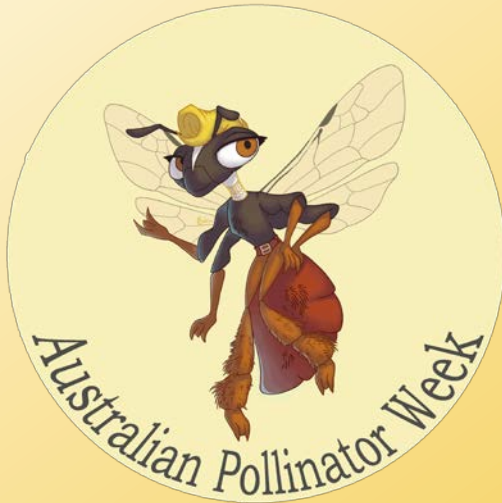




Marc Newman

Pollen on hind legs

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This project was sponsored by  
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