

Summer Updates

What's been happening this summer

It appears that there have been good sightings of bumblebees across the country this summer. Our garden is teeming with them, and during our recent trip to the South Island we observed bumblebees everywhere.

New Website

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website. Our gratitude goes to Paula at Wanderlust Design for creating such a wonderful site.

Saving the Sounds of Summer

NZ Bumblebee
Conservation Trust

Help us save NZ bumblebees!



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Bumblebees play a little understood yet critical role in pollination, and are superior in this role to honey bees.

Help us conserve and preserve the humble bumblebee

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Saving the Short Haired Bumblebee

The Bumblebee Trust is taking part in a programme in the South Island to protect NZ's rarest bumblebee — *Bombus subterraneus* — the Short Haired Bumblebee. This species is only found in the McKenzie Country and parts of Southland. The project involves Lake Tekapo School children learning about this bumblebee and creating an environment to attract them. In time we hope to increase and keep track of numbers and involve other schools in the region. Eventually the aim is to re-export some hibernating queens back to the UK, who sent them here in the 1890's. This species is now extinct in the UK. In February 2025 Geoff & Liz

Brunsdon from the Bumblebee

Trust, along with Ruud Kleinpaste (The Bug Man) who initiated the project, visited Lake Tekapo School to set up the project. They also talked at a public meeting which attracted over 40 people. The response was amazing with so many people learning about the importance of pollinators and wanting to become involved.



[Learn More](#)



Pupils from Tepako School having fun doing a bumblebee dance

Talk to Twizel Area School

Geoff & Liz also talked to Twizel Area School about the project and the importance of bumblebees. Pupils here are building wooden boxes to attract queen bumblebees. We will keep updated on all these projects. The kids were also able to see the live see-into perspex hive - a sight not normally seen as they nest underground.



Dunedin Bug Day

NZBCT were proud to be part of the recent Bug Day at the Tūhura Otago Museum and organised by the University of Otago. We had the live bumblebee hive on display and

were able to reach out to so many people. Congratulations to Connor Chu who won a live bumblebee hive. We are thrilled that the Otago University will be becoming involved in the Saving the Short Haired Bumblebee Project.



Garden to Table Project

The trust is once again starting to roll out a school education programme in association with Garden to Table. We will be sending 30 live hives and hundreds of books to schools involved in this programme.

Learn More

Become a member of the NZ Bumblebee Trust and help by promoting the conservation of our bumblebees. An annual subscription will ensure you continue to help our very worthy cause. [JOIN here](#)