

# NZ Bumblebee Conservation Trust

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## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

### Bumblebees Are Nowhere to be Seen

Now that we are in the depth of winter huddling up to keep warm, spare a thought for our beloved bumblebee queens. At the end of autumn, the impregnated queens dug a small nest for themselves in the ground to hibernate over the winter. Some of their amazing characteristics include living underground at temperatures as low as -19 degrees. To stop them freezing up, their bodies contain a chemical a bit like the antifreeze we use in our car radiators. Amazing stuff, and in fact, this is how our 4 species of bumblebees originally arrived in NZ - in a fridge on a cargo ship way back in the 1800's.



The above pictures show a queen bee approaching an underground nest and how she looks curled up inside for the winter.

And finally, spare a thought for the two species of bumblebees that live in the arctic circle. These two are especially adapted for deep cold, and upon emergence in the spring can raise their own body temperatures up to 38 degrees in order to fly.

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### **Upcoming Spring/Summer Programmes**

Recently we met with the Garden to Table Trust to discuss next summer's programme. The incredible success of 2023 has meant that we are thrilled to announce that we will co-partner again with Garden to Table to supply 800 books and 30 live hives to another 80 schools throughout the country. More on this later. Once again this has been made possible with the incredible support of our sponsors - The Wright Family Foundation and Al Brown & Friends.

Our Bumblebee Trust will be participating in this year's Garden & Art Festival in November. Geoff & Liz Brunsden are opening their garden, The Owlery, for the first time and will be running twice daily talks on the incredible world of bumblebees. There will be a live perspex hive on view and merchandise for sale.

More information is on their website [Bay of Plenty Garden & Art Festival | 14-17 November 2024 \(gardenandartfestival.co.nz\)](https://www.gardenandartfestival.co.nz)



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## How you can help

Two of our supporters, Cloe & Jordan, have just set up a Trade Me auction to try and raise some donations for NZ Bumblebee Conservation Trust. They say that their family is passionate about conservation and absolutely love bees, both bumblebees and honey bees. They purchased a packet of M&Ms and saw that one of them looked a bit like a bee. You can bid on this charity auction right here - the auction closes on Tuesday 23rd:

<https://www.trademe.co.nz/a/marketplace/home-living/food-beverage/chocolate-sweets/listing/4810995038>

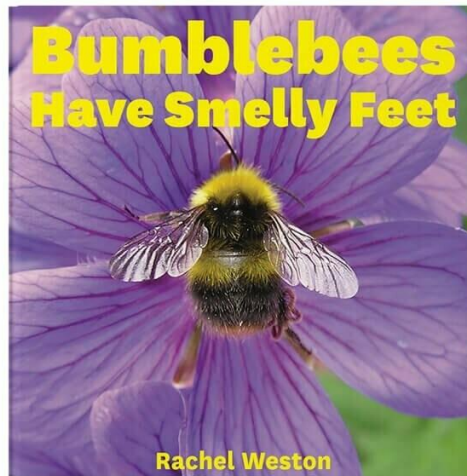


How clever is that! Thank you both so much.

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## Bumblebees Have Smelly Feet

This is an amazing children's book (actually ideal for adults also) written by one of our Trustee's - Rachel Weston. This is the book that our Trust has sent to 80 schools. Learn some fascinating buzz facts on why bumblebees have whiffy feet, how their bodies work, their super power eyesight, their family life cycle, fun experiments and more! What a great present. The kids just love it.

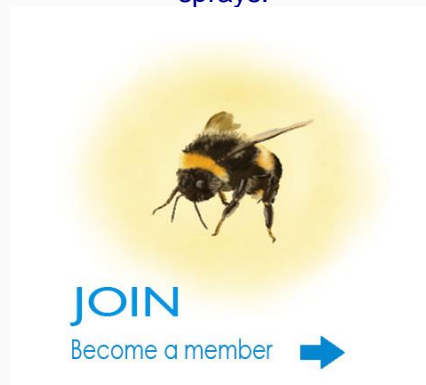


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## Help Support our Bumblebees

The future of bees in NZ is under threat. Bees are dealing with disease, battling changing environments, reduced green space and increasing use of toxic pesticide sprays.



**YOU CAN HELP - Click on the bee and become a member today.**

A small donation will go towards our education and conservation programmes.

[www.nzbct.org.nz](http://www.nzbct.org.nz)