

# ECOMARINES HEALTHY HABITATS ACTIVITY:



## HOW TO MAKE A BEE HOTEL

### Background:

Australia has over 2,000 species of native bees! They are all extremely important pollinators of our native plants. Sadly, native bee populations in Australia are declining to several factors such as:

- Destruction of habitat e.g., trees and shrubs are cleared which bees would use to nest.
- Climate Change
- Invasive species e.g., the over population of the European honeybee.

By creating bee hotels, you are helping create nest sites for our precious native bees. As a result, this will help boost pollination in your local environment!



### What You Will Need:

- **A can** - repurpose used cans!
- **Sheets of scrap paper** -tip: use brightly coloured paper to attract bees.
- **Scissors**
- **Tape/glue**
- **Toilet paper roll**
- **Twigs**
- **2 pieces of long string**
- **(optional) art supplies** - to decorate your can(s)

### How to Assemble:

1. Before you start decorating the can, please ensure that the entire can is clean and dry.
2. Either paint the outside of the can with a bright colour or wrap a sheet of brightly- coloured paper around it.
3. Decorate the can the way you would like to with art supplies that you have access to.
4. Trim the sheets of scrap paper you have and make sure they are shorter (lengthwise) than the tin - these sheets of paper will end up inside the can.
5. Use a pencil to roll each sheet of scrap paper. You may need to roll these sheets several times in order for them to form a firm tube. Once formed, tape the ends. Repeat this until you have around 30 tubes.
6. Gather a few tubes and fit them inside the toilet paper roll. Then insert the roll into the can. Please ensure that the tubes aren't squished otherwise the bees won't be able to fit inside. Add in the other rolls to fill the can and add some twigs to make the hotel more complex.
7. Once your can is filled, tie two pieces of string around the can, one on either end.
8. Now you can hang your new bee hotel! Try and choose a tree in a sunny location.
9. Check in on your new bee neighbours a few times a week! If after a couple of weeks there are no bee residents, maybe try a different location