



Summer Newsletter

What an Amazing Year It's Been

Let's quickly review the happenings and remember you can find more detail on our website newsletters.

- **Record Year:** 2025 was the busiest year for the Trust since its founding in 2016! It's sure been busy!
- **Promotion & Outreach:**
 - Numerous guest speaking events and workshops held in Tauranga and Bee Valley Flower Farm for the Taranaki Garden Festival.
 - Engagement with a wide range of community groups, including garden clubs, retirement homes, environmental clubs and schools.



Daisie with Geoff & Liz, at Blue Cottage Early Learning Centre

- **Educational Support:**
 - Over 200 copies of 'Bumblebees Have Smelly Feet' book and 30 live hives donated to schools across New Zealand via the Garden to Table Programme.
 - Best Start Childcare purchased 2,000 Bumblebee Books and tote bags for new entrants.
 - Website membership and merchandise sales have grown.
- **Educational Achievements:**
 - Developed a national Bumblebee Identification chart and a Bumblebee Discovery field trail.
 - Introduced a holiday activity pack for schoolchildren, with trials and feedback underway for a national rollout in 2026.
- **Special Projects:**
 - Launched the Tekapo School and community project to save the Short-haired Bumblebee, described as a project of international significance ("To Catch a Queen").
 - This project is expected to have major implications for the Trust's future educational work.
- **Supporters & People:**
 - Key supporters include the Wright Family Foundation, Al Brown, Certified Clean, Zonda Beneficials, and generous private family trusts. Our heartfelt thanks.
 - The Trust acknowledges the dedication of trustees and volunteers emphasizing their role in "Saving the Sounds of Summer". Thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Geoff Brunsden, Chairman

To Catch a Queen Project Update

This project is progressing well. Our aim is to study and support our rare species, the short haired bumblebee - *Bombus subterraneus*. Learn more about our goals on our website [To Catch a Queen](#)

Recently, Geoff and Liz from the Bumblebee Trust, together with our new Science Advisor Nelson Pomeroy, NZ's own Bugman Ruud Kleinpaste and Otago University PhD student Connal Mclean, re-visited Tekapo School in the Mackenzie Basin. Activities showcased the fascinating world of bumblebees and their pollinator friends and set the stage for further hands-on learning.

In mid-December, Nelson and Connal will return to Tekapo School to help students capture and observe different species of queen bumblebees. The team will demonstrate the differences between worker and queen bumblebees, and guide students in identifying local flowers, understanding pollen and nectar collection, and observing the progression from bud to flower to seed head.

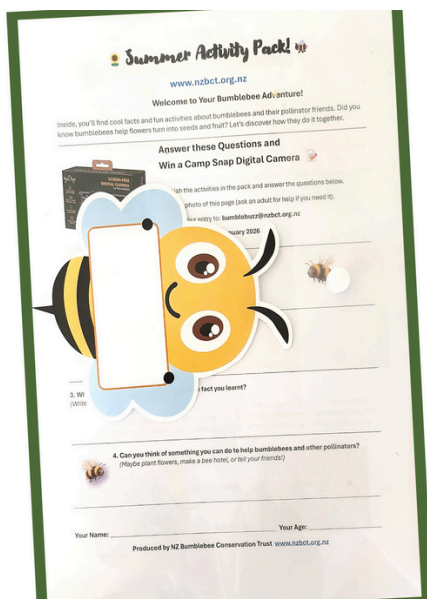
As part of the project, Nelson will install semi-underground field hives, hoping they will attract *Bombus subterraneus* queens. If successful, students may have the opportunity to observe a colony when school resumes. Additionally, Nelson plans to attempt captive rearing of *subterraneus* queens to further our research. Other schools will also become involved in 2026.

Many thanks to Simon, Maria and their team at Tekapo School - they are amazing and so enthusiastic.

We're so excited about this project and the chance to inspire future scientists! Special thanks to [Certified Clean NZ](#) in Wellington for funding this visit.



Summer 2025 Bumblebee Activity Pack



Looking for a fun way to keep the kids busy this summer? The NZ Bumblebee Trust has created a brand-new Summer Bumblebee Activity Pack designed especially for school-age children (6+).

What's inside?

- Fascinating facts about bumblebees and their pollinator friends
- Fun activities to spark curiosity
- Bright stickers to get kids excited

**It's FREE Order Yours
Right Here**

Extra fun

Each child can share their feedback with the NZ Bumblebee Trust — what they loved or didn't — and go into the draw to win a little digital camera. We have 2 cameras to give away!

How to get yours

The pack is FREE — you'll only need to cover postage:

- \$9.00 standard postage
- \$14.00 rural postage

✨ It's a perfect mix of learning and fun, while helping kids connect with nature and support pollinator awareness.



Bumblebee Trail

The Bumblebee Trail will once again be held at the beautiful [Elms | Te Papa](#) Tauranga Historic House and Garden on the 16-17th January, 11.00am to 2.00pm. Check our [Facebook](#) page for updates.

The trail features five interactive stations, each packed with fascinating bumblebee facts and questions. Kids get to stamp their answers on a special trail sheet as they go, turning learning into an adventure.

If you are part of an organization that would like information to run this trail, please email bumblebuzz@nzbct.org.nz

HELP - I found a Bumblebee Nest!

We are often contacted if someone finds a nest that is in the wrong place.

First, the Bumblebee Trust does not offer nest relocation services. Generally, we do not advise that people move nests unless it is absolutely necessary.

If immediate relocation is necessary, you may move the nest at night using a red torchlight (or a white light covered with red cellophane) to keep the bees calm. Carefully transfer the nest into a 3- 5-litre planter pot with adequate drainage holes, cover it, and place it upside down under a tree with the holes exposed. The bees will adapt to the new location. Alternatively, you may wish to contact a local apiarist for assistance. For further detailed information, please visit our [website](#) - Moving a Bumblebee Nest

BEST WISHES



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NZ BUMBLEBEE TRUST



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

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