

Native bees of Moreland



There are at least 12 native bee species recorded in Moreland LGA, but the true number is likely to be higher. Here are the species you are likely to encounter in Moreland's parks and gardens.

Banded sweat-bees

rjennion



Lasioglossum callophyllae, other *Lasioglossum* species in the subgenus *Chilalictus*.

Size: 8-12 mm

Several species of black to dark bees, many with partial or complete dull, pale bands on abdomen. Common.

Resin bees

Megachile erythropyga, *Megachile ferox*

Size: 8 - 15 mm

Grey and black bees, most with white facial hair. Abdomen with white bands and an orange tip. Usually nest in pre-existing holes in mortar, soil, wood. Collect resins and gums to seal nests.



There's much unknown about Australia's bees. Spend some time looking closely and it is likely you will find a species that has never before been recorded in the area.

Blue-banded bees



Kym Nicolson

Amegilla chlorocyanea, *Amegilla asserta*

Size: 14 - 16 mm

Distinctive, fuzzy banded bee with pale to bright blue bands and a long tongue. Buzz pollinator. Females make burrows in the ground, and embankments. Males often roost communally overnight.

Lipotriches

Lipotriches species in subgenus

Austronomia

Size: 10 - 14 mm

Two species likely in the area. Medium sized bees. Pale bands of bristly, fringed hairs. Long antennae. Buzz pollinator. Males often roost overnight communally.



Plume-vented bees



Homalictus sphecodoides, other species in *Homalictus*

Size: 6-8 mm

Very small bees with a green, blue, or copper metallic sheen on the thorax. Some with red abdomen and legs. Four species likely in Moreland. Common.

There are two introduced bee species in Moreland: the very common, well-known European Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), and the still rare African Carder Bee (*Afranthidium repetitum*)

Reed bees

One *Brevineura* species recorded.

Exoneura also possibly present.

Size: 5-8 mm

Small bees nesting in hollow fern fronds and reed stems. Glossy black head and thorax, rust-red abdomen. Females have distinctive flat spot on hind abdomen.



Masked bees



Hylaeus littleri recorded. *Hylaeus nubilosus*

and *Hylaeus euxanthus* probably occur

Size: 4-8 mm

Very small bees, hairless, mostly black, with distinctive bright coloured facial markings. Solitary nesters, usually in hollow stems.

These bees have not been seen in Moreland for many years (date of last record in brackets)

- *Lasioglossum* (*Parasphecodes*) *hiltacum* (1956)
- *Hyleoides concinna* (1946)
- *Lasioglossum* (*Chilalictus*) *lanarium* (1934)
- *Megachile* (*Eutricharaea*) *obtusa* (1906)

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Sources used:

1. [Atlas of Living Australia](#)
2. [iNaturalist](#)
3. [Pest and Disease Image Library \(PaDIL\)](#)
4. [Museums Victoria Collections](#)
5. Michael Batley's guide to [Megachile](#) and [Hylaeus](#)

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