



Spring into your Garden

In these difficult COVID times Rotary Clubs are missing rewarding hands-on projects which are the fabric binding clubs and members together. It is doubly important to involve clubs in positive, fun purposeful action. The answer is to join Rotarians for BEES in their support for the innovative District 9800 gardening project and ...

Colour your World

Right now your garden is a great place to be, with new spring growth and perfect weather. Gardening complies with COVID regulations! Nurturing pollinator friendly flowers is a rewarding activity. Share your gardening accomplishments with friends and family. Add a little competitive spirit to instigate boasting and banter! Clearly, kids will love it and learn to appreciate the bees and pollinators in their own backyard! Share this experience with your club members. Being involved in environmental sustainability is newsworthy and is good to feature in your bulletin and other social platforms! We know that the environment is important to so many people, particularly the young, and this project could be a magnet for new members! Your gardening might not only endure this spring - but be of ongoing interest for years to come. Plant for the future!

For the project to take off in your club you need a member to drive it. With the recent declaration of environment as a seventh focus area in Rotary International, your club may already have a person to manage environment related action. If not, perhaps someone will be inspired to step up and lead the way with the 'Colour your World' garden program.

Every club has their own ideas and style but here are some possibilities for starting off: All manner of gardens are suitable, from rural to dense residential. Even patios and pots! So why not consider offering prizes for different categories? Best existing or new pollinator friendly garden; best balcony, patio or potted display; best children's garden; best vegetable and herb; most colourful; tallest sunflower... The possibilities are endless. Share photographs too. Perhaps the best bee or butterfly in your blooms!

Get local stockists involved and request special offers on pollinator friendly seed packs and to offer gift vouchers. A nurseryman or other knowledgeable guest speaker might agree to *colour* your zoom meetings! Involve a local school. Rotarians for Bees has a great relationship with the Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV) and they work closely with schools. Their website is a mine of information too! <https://www.ngiv.com.au/>. Your involvement results in many opportunities to inspire and connect with people and other organisations. If you are successful, let it flow from your garden to your club, to other districts... and to the world. Share your successful, humorous, inspiring, and entertaining stories that will emerge with us at rotariansforbees@gmail.com! Go to <https://rotarydistrict9800.org.au/> for information. Best of luck with your gardening. Your action will promote bee health and global food security while you are have fun!

