

## BEE POLES

*Robert Powell*

Native bees are really important as pollinators, especially for the numerous pea-flowered plants found in WA bushland, including daviesias, gastrolobiums, gompholobiums, jacksonias etc. Many of these flowers are designed for the small native bees, and introduced honeybees merely rob the nectar without pollinating the flower. To encourage native bees to live in your bushland or native garden, you might like to think of providing them with nesting sites.

Many of these bees are solitary, and build nests in small holes. Margaret Moir, in WW 8/3, described one of these in her story *Bees in my bamboo*. Robert Powell of the Insect Study Society suggests that everyone with a native garden could erect a 'bee pole' to provide nesting sites for these insects.

Bore holes into a spare piece of timber: jarrah



*Robert Powell points to a hole that is being used by a native bee.*

would be good. Make them different widths and angles, and don't go right through the pole. Then erect it alongside some plants where native bees are working and hope the insects find it useful.