

Beehive yourself

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

A LOCAL council is playing its part to halt the decline of the world's bee population.

In what is believed to be a Victorian first, the City of Moonee Valley is putting bee hives on the roofs of council buildings.

The Aberfeldie Men's Shed built the hives that have been installed on the roofs of the Kellaway Avenue Neighbourhood Centre and the Incinerator Gallery in Moonee Ponds.

Mayor John Sipek said the hives were designed for honey to be collected with the turn of a tap and minimal disturbance to the bees.

"The bees will pollinate flowers in nearby Queens Park and Aberfeldie Park and produce delicious honey. We hope to expand the program to other buildings in the future," he said.

"The installation of our



own bee hives builds on our commitment to rehome problem swarms found on council land wherever possible, either in our own hives or to a local beekeeper."

Nicole Marshall, the councillor responsible for planning and environment, said the program had been embraced by the public.

"Our Knit and Knatter volunteers crocheted toy bees and the Strathmore Men's Shed built native bee hotel frames to help educate children about the value of bees during Children's Week," she said.

For more information visit mvcc.vic.gov.au/bees.

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