

## Early Level 3 Non-fiction – A Sweet Business

The idea to keep bees came up in a roundabout way a few years ago, when Rūma Koromiko was planning a garden. While researching what a garden needs, the students learnt about bees. These busy insects are *essential* to help plants reproduce, but worldwide, their numbers are dropping. To attract bees to their garden, the students decided to have lots of bee-friendly plants (ones with yellow, blue, purple, or white flowers). But even with those plants, where would the bees come from? Bees fly up to 2 kilometres – were there any beehives within that range? Maybe it would be better if the school set up its own hives. That way, the bees would live right beside the school garden. This would be good for the plants *and* the bees.

Martin has been a bee-keeper for many years, and he visited Te Aro School to share his knowledge. He thought it was a great idea for the students to keep their own hives. “You’ll have bees in your garden *and* honey for your toast,” he said.

Martin knew all about the equipment first-time bee-keepers need. He explained that it costs around five hundred dollars to set up a beehive.