

# HONEY BEES

*Apis mellifera*

The honey bee has been domesticated by humans for many centuries, primarily for their honey making.

## MONEY BEES

The honey bee performs an extremely important role in nature. We all know about their honey making abilities but of greater importance is their work in pollination of various plants including the clover in paddocks and pasture.

Clover is needed to make sure cows and sheep can grow properly so this is very important to New Zealand.



## BUSY BEES

Honey bees usually live in large colonies and work very hard.

The queen bee lays up to 1500 eggs per day and lives for 5 to 8 years.

The worker bees clean the hive, keep it cool, drive away enemies, look after the young, attend to the queen, collect the food, and make the honey.

Each worker lives for about six weeks. The workers that develop in autumn will live for three months. The drones mate with the new queens which leave the hive to make new colonies elsewhere.