



Pollination Garden:

A Unique Inner City Ecosystem

Encouraging people to stop, to take a moment, and to observe, through the seasonal tale of a garden that provides sanctuary to a hive and its keepers.



Gardens, for me, are made of moments. Some of my favourite have been the smell of honey that wafts from the beehive in our garden when I walk past it, or the sound of bird song accompanying me while I work in the garden on a winter's day, their chorus echoing across the valley. Then there is that moment, on a summer's evening, when I sit in my garden, the light is slowly fading, but there is still a dedicated notion of activity. Honeybees and bumbles making the most of the fading light, stretching out the day for as long as they can. For me, taking time to enjoy these moments is important to my wellbeing.

Over the past 5 years I have been quietly developing a pollination garden. It has become an ecosystem unique to where I live, I use plants that fit my locality and my landscape, ensuring they provide food for my bees. My role is to provide space for pollinators and plants to grow and live well. By doing this I help the earth breathe deeper, something I also experience after time in the garden. The more I have learnt and understood about creating this space, the more I want to share what I know.

Gardening can be a small, but significant step in helping deal with a number of the overwhelming environmental challenges we face. A garden can teach us to slow down—plants grow and harvest in their own time. We can learn a lot from the seasonality of gardens, embracing in our own lives the time for doing and the time resting. Pollination Garden is made up of myself, Mel, the Guardian of the Garden and my partner, Damian, who is the Keeper of the Bees. We live in a small city in the South Island of New Zealand. As a business Pollination Garden is a small seed in our hands, hopefully growing into something more. We have plans to expand our garden and to have more beehives. Then we wish to share with others what we know, with experiences, moments and education.

Creating a space where you can learn about bees, making your own pollination garden and breathing easier. Until we find our space to develop our bigger garden our story is virtually told. Here in our online space we tell stories of our current garden and the hive that lives there. We believe in the power of storytelling as a means of learning. I love taking photos of the flowers and plants which grow in the pollination garden as a way to teach and inspire, using my images to encourage people to stop and take a moment to observe. The coming months will see the release of our first e-book on how to create a pollination garden and over the next year or so as we are looking forward to developing our teaching programme.

Becoming the guardian of my garden has taught and given me so much and I cherish it so. If you wish to take a moment to breathe deeper and understand more about the natural world, then visit the pollination garden website or follow along via our social media platforms.

www.pollinationgarden.com
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