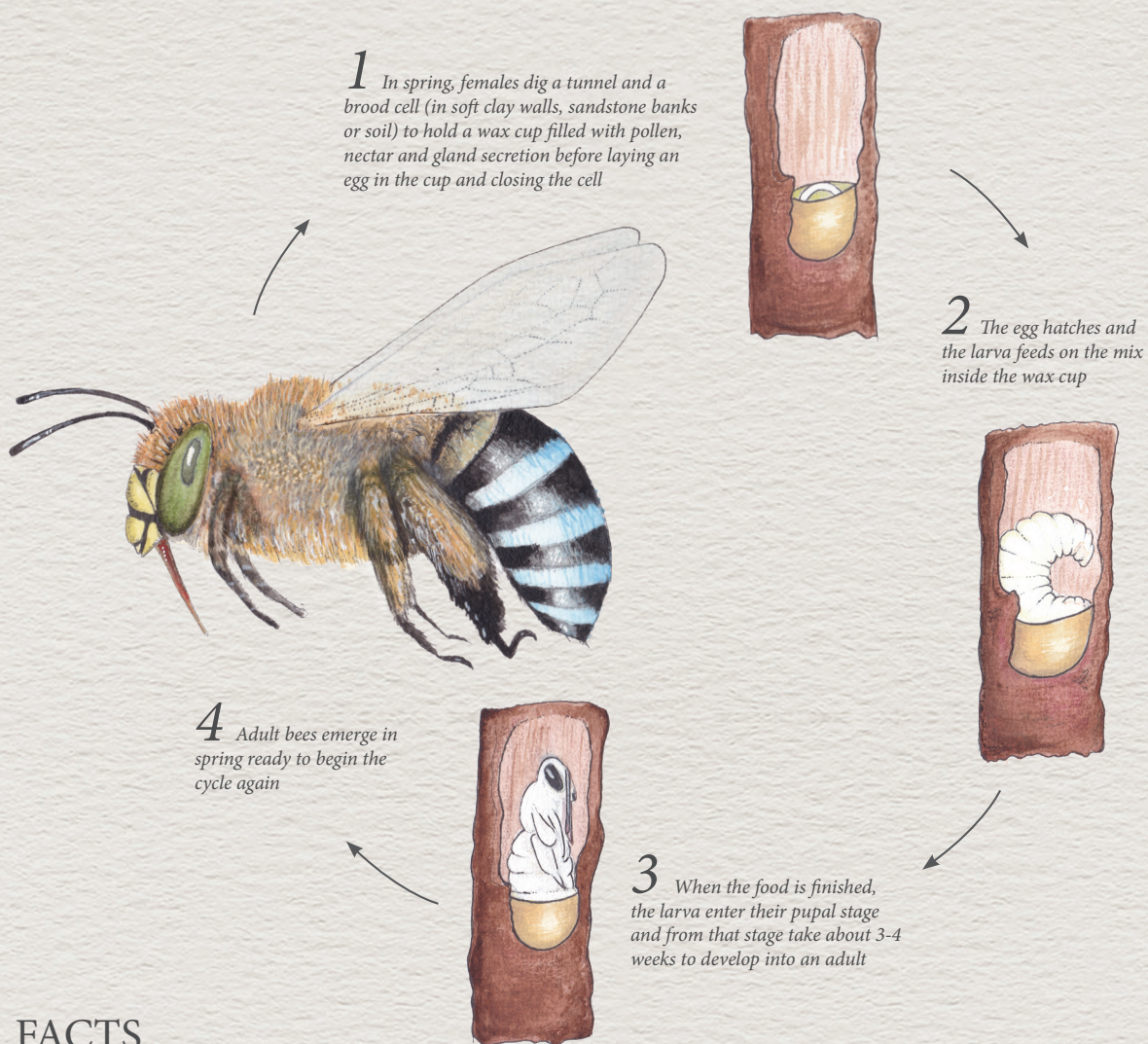


LIFE CYCLE OF THE

Blue-green blue-banded bee (*Amegilla chlorocyanea*)

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As spring arrives and flowers bloom in our gardens and parks, native bees busy themselves pollinating and building nests. While most people are familiar with the European honey bee, many are surprised to learn that Australia has over 1,650 species of native bees, many of which are solitary and don't make honey. These bees have an important role to play, as many native plants rely solely on them for pollination. One of the most beautiful and recognisable is the blue-green blue-banded bee.



FACTS

During winter, blue-green blue-banded bee larva don't pupate, but enter a resting phase inside the cell ready to emerge mid-spring.

Unlike European honey bees, these bees 'buzz' pollinate, banging their head on a flower to dislodge pollen at 350 times per second.

Tomato plants require buzz pollination to produce seed and grow larger, juicier and tastier fruit.

