



MEDIA

release

Community Engagement Unit

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QUEENS ON THE WING - EUROPEAN WASP QUEENS SEARCH FOR NESTING SITES

An unwelcome indicator of spring in urban Canberra is the many European wasp queens searching for nest sites during this time of the year. The 2cm long, black and yellow striped queens are now emerging from their winter hibernation quarters. Many have been sighted in gardens and also in houses, where the wasps get trapped while searching for a suitable place to build their nest.

Nests are always hidden away, often in the ground or behind retaining walls in the garden but also in the walls and roof spaces of houses. Last year, 60 per cent of all nests reported in Canberra were in buildings, mostly the cavity walls of homes.

Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) encourages householders to check their houses and block all possible access holes larger than a 10 cent piece in the exterior walls and thereby reduce the opportunity for European wasps to nest in their homes.

Dr Philip Spradbery, who is engaged by TAMS to provide identification and general advice on the European Wasp, will be giving talks at Floriade and he also hopes to exhibit a live nest and wasps. His talks will be at noon on Tuesday 10 October and at 1pm on Friday 13 October 2006 at the Look and Learn Marquee.

Statement ends: 09 October 2006

Further information: David Jones, telephone 62054792