

AUSTRALIAN

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ISSN 0046-0294

BEE JOURNAL





Victorian Apiarists' Association
Recreational Beekeepers Conference

Melbourne, Saturday 9th March 2024

See page 13 for more details

SAVE THE DATE

**The dates for the
2024**

VAA conference

have been confirmed.

4th, 5th and 6th of June

**at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club
Wonthaggi.**

Tuesday evening - Hospitality Night,
Wednesday morning & Thursday - Conference,
Wednesday afternoon - AGM
Thursday evening - Annual Dinner

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

Published since 1918 by the VAA - founded in 1892 -

JANUARY 2024 - Volume 105 - No 1

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Cover photo: Bee on brassica flower

**Deadline for copy for the February 2024 journal is
10pm on Thursday 1st of February 2024.**

The Australian Bee Journal seeks to publish contributions dealing with all aspects of beekeeping.
Statements expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the VAA Inc or the editor.
Editor: Annette Engstrom

Contact the Editor for ads, photos, classifieds and article information

The Editor, Australian Bee Journal, P.O. Box 42 Newstead, VIC. 3462 Email: abjeditors@yahoo.com

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The Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. (VAA)

The VAA was founded in 1892 and is the peak body for beekeeping in Victoria. The Association advocates to federal, state, and local governments to protect and improve Victoria's honey resources and to ensure beekeepers' interests are safeguarded and promoted. We work to secure effective legislation and encourage scientific investigation and research in all aspects of beekeeping.

Our achievements include:

- Introducing the Victorian Apiary Code of Practice allowing bees to be kept in urban areas
- Contributing to the new Apiculture on Public Lands Policy through our involvement with the Buzz Committee
- Working with Plant Health Australia which contributed to the development of the Australian Biosecurity Code of Practice.

The VAA advocates for the beekeeping industry on behalf of all beekeepers in Victoria.

Management

The VAA Board meets a minimum of six times a year. Members of the 2023 - 2024 Board

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VAA sub-committees & conveners

Contact by email is preferred

Biosecurity

Ken Gell

Finance & Insurance

Ken Gell

Education

Don Whitehead
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Melbourne Show/fund raising

Judy Leggett

Constitution & Legal

Lindsay Callaway

Conference

Lindsay Callaway

Clubs & Affiliates

Phillip McPherson

Aust. Bee Journal/Website

John van Weeghel

Resources

Ken Gell

Services

John van Weeghel

Commercial beekeeping

Phil McPherson

Recreational beekeeping

John van Weeghel

All beekeepers and interested groups are welcome to join the VAA.

Membership benefits include:

- The VAA's monthly magazine *Australian Bee Journal* (ABJ) including one free classified ad per year
- Access to the members' only section of the VAA website vicbeekeepers.com.au
- Discounts for beekeeping services and products, including insurance
- Borrowing rights to the extensive VAA library
- Voting rights at VAA regional group meetings and the annual VAA state conference
- Opportunity to participate in and contribute to VAA sub-committees
- Opportunity to meet and share ideas with other beekeepers at local group meetings, field days, shows and conferences
- Opportunity to contribute to advocacy to government and development of policy on beekeeping

Membership Rates

Up to 100 hives (1 vote): \$90
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501-1000 hives (3 votes): \$385
1000+ hives (4 votes): \$530
Partner membership is \$20 less in each category and includes all rights except receipt of journal

How to join

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vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au
to request a membership form.

www.vicbeekeepers.com.au

President's Report

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024, may it be a year that brings prosperity, peace and good health.

The coming year will bring changes to the Association in more than one way. Our long serving Secretary and Treasurer Kerrin Williams has given notice to the Board that this year will be her last and she will not renew her contract at the end of July. It will be 35 years in March that Kerrin started in her role as Secretary, taking on the Treasurer's role several years later. She has seen and has been part of many changes in our Association. Imagine, no computers not even a fax machine, no mobile phones, compared to today, unable to function if the internet fails. The experience and knowledge she has gained over the many years will be a loss to the Association. The Board thanks Kerrin for her many years of service, and wishes her well for the future.

One of the benefits of an Association that was founded in 1892 is that it has a rich history and traditions. The downside is that at times things are done because of tradition and not because of best practice. Board members have discussed ways to improve the Association and came to realize that it needs a coordinated effort and the support of a professional to achieve a positive outcome. At a meeting on the 4th of December the Board met with Barry Robinson and agreed to engage him to conduct a rebranding/refresh of the Association. Barry has a lifetime experience in brand development. The Board gratefully accepted an offer made by Lindsay Callaway on behalf of Warral Maldon to sponsor half the agreed cost of the rebrand.

The venue for this year's Annual Conference and AGM has been booked, it is the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club in Wonthaggi. The Hospitality Night will be on Tuesday the 4th of June and the Annual Conference and AGM on Wednesday the 5th and Thursday the 6th of June. Further details will be made available in due time. Please book your accommodation early as there is limited accommodation available.

The time for members to react to the proposed By-

Laws has passed and the Association has not received a request for a Special General Meeting to disallow the By-Laws. This concludes the Constitution rewrite, and the Association now has a completely new set of rules. This part was stage one of the rewrite, meaning that we now have a constitution that complies with the Act and closely reflects the previous constitution.

Stage two will propose changes to individual clauses of the Constitution. The Board has agreed to refer several proposed changes to the Constitution Committee. Nothing will be put to this year's AGM as time will not allow it and it will be good to have an AGM without the need to talk about the Constitution. One of the proposed changes will be to delete the Regional Representation part of the Board election. Reasons are that there is very little support from the Branches and Affiliated Regional Associations, and it will shorten and simplify the election procedure by months. Another proposal may be to introduce two-year terms for the Board with a half Board election each year. This would create a level of stability and continuation of the Association's programs.

On Tuesday the 19th of December many members attended a service to celebrate the life of Gavin Jamieson. Listening to the different speakers it was obvious that beekeeping played a large role in Gavin's life, but he was also involved in many other groups such as the CFA and Landcare. Gavin supported many individual beekeepers, beekeeping groups and served on the Melbourne Section Committee for many years which included taking the position of Chair, served on the Executive of the Association and was elected President of VFF Beekeeping Group. The text "Some people, like some trees, are worth taking another closer look at" on the front of the Funeral/memorial booklet are very appropriate. For those that had a closer look they will have memories of a loyal friend.

John van Weeghel
President

Do you have photos of bee or honey related subjects?



John van Weeghel

**The Australian Bee Journal
would love some of your photos
for use in the journal and
on the VAA website.**

**Please send to
abjeditors@yahoo.com**



Photo: Lindsay Callaway



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Gavin Jamieson

VAA Email to members 12th December 2023

The Association has received the sad news of the passing of Gavin Jamieson. Gavin is a past member of the Association and has served on the state Executive and numerous committees, over many decades. Members may have attended meetings with Gavin contributing on topics relating to beekeeping.

He had an incredible knowledge of nectar yielding plants and had a wide range of connections that would provide him with inside information on beekeeping issues. This together with his wealth of knowledge on planning enabled the Association to successfully lobby the state government to introduce the Apiary Code of Practice. Today's urban beekeepers continue to enjoy the benefits.

Gavin, rest in peace.

The Funeral Service will be at 12.30pm, December 19th at Pat Cashin Funerals, 1114 Doveton Street, North Ballarat. Following the service, there will be a

catered reception at the nearby Midlands Sports Club, 330 Heinz Lane, Invermay Park.

John van Weeghel
President

Subject: OFFICIAL: RE: Vale Gavin Jamieson

Good afternoon John [van Weeghel]

On behalf of the AgVic Apiary Team, we wish to pass on our condolences to VAA members and to Gavin's family and friends on hearing of his passing, and also to acknowledge his dedication to developing the industry and his passion for beekeeping.

May he rest in peace.

Kind regards,

Karla, on behalf of the team

Apiary team | Plants, Chemicals and Invasives
Biosecurity and Agriculture Services
Agriculture Victoria | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Email to VAA members 22/12/2023

VAA RETURNING OFFICER

At a recent Board meeting it was agreed to appoint Angelique Perry as the VAA Returning Officer for the 2024 Board election. Angelique is a hobby beekeeper, a member of the VAA and supports the Bendigo Branch. The Returning Officer is appointed by the Board but conducts the election independently from the Board. Please support the Association and Angelique by participation in next year's election.

John van Weeghel, President



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Selecting For Hygienic Behaviour Traits

Plan Bee is helping beekeepers learn new skills for selecting traits of importance to their breeding objectives, including higher levels of hygienic behaviour.

Hygienic behaviour is a characteristic of honey bees that targets the removal of brood diseases. It can reduce the spread of American foulbrood (AFB) if infected pupae are removed before the AFB bacteria sporulate. Hygienic behaviour is also the primary mechanism of resistance against chalkbrood.

Bees that carry the hygienic behaviour trait detect, uncap, and remove dead and diseased brood before it reaches the infectious stage, preventing the spread of disease within the colony.

Upskilling beekeepers

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Plan Bee Technical Officer, Emily Noordyke, visited beekeepers in Orange and Cowra in Central West NSW in late October and early November to teach beekeepers how to test for hygienic behaviour.

“Our focus with these visits was to do hygienic testing and give beekeepers the skills to do it themselves if they want,” Ms Noordyke said. “And because it’s a very specialised skill set that requires special equipment, we wanted to work with them directly and give them the opportunity to see if that’s something they’re interested in working into their breeding programs in the future.”

“With this particular test, euthanise a small patch of the brood with liquid nitrogen and put the brood back into the colony. We then see how well the bees remove dead brood in 24 hours. “If they score higher on these hygienic tests then beekeepers have the potential to select for this trait.”



“A colony is typically considered hygienic if it scores 95% brood removal or higher. However, a beekeeper can start by selectively breeding from their most hygienic queens until they achieve a better score over time.

“Walking the beekeepers through the steps to test for hygienic behaviour means they can do it themselves if they really want to focus on hygienic testing. The participating beekeepers were really enthusiastic about the testing, learning new skills and seeing the results of the tests.

“Hygienic behaviour has been heavily selected for in other countries, especially in the United States, where it has been pretty successful in increasing the hygienic behaviour in certain breeding stock.”

Ms Noordyke said the hygienic behaviour testing results at Orange and Cowra were mixed. “Because there hasn’t been a lot of selection for hygienic behaviour in Australia in the past it is a pretty mixed bag, but we definitely saw some highly hygienic colonies and I was able to highlight which ones we found to be very hygienic in case the beekeepers were interested in breeding off those colonies in particular,” Ms Noordyke said.

“We specifically tested and tracked multiple queen lines in an effort to uncover different patterns in hygienic behaviour depending on colony background.”

For more information about testing for hygienic behaviour, see this [NSW DPI factsheet](#).

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Meet The VAA Returning Officer

I was thrown into the beekeeping world quite by chance with the arrival of a swarm in my yard 3 1/2 years ago. Knowing nothing about bees and what to expect I sought out all the local information I could get on the subject. I discovered the Bendigo Branch VAA and went along to a couple of meetings to see what I could learn. Well it turns out it was a fantastic opportunity to learn, ask questions and meet the wise, experienced mentors we all covet.

As time went on I was asked to join the Organising committee for the 2023 VAA Conference which was held in Bendigo. It was a great place to meet the Board and gain a lot of understanding of the role of the VAA and the deep history it holds. The conference provided me the chance to meet a load of like minded people with very similar values and interests which is the perfect forum to learn from and bounce ideas off. I am grateful for the chance to host the Recreational Beekeepers evening with my husband Ross. The night was a huge success, to know that people like us learnt from

it was a satisfying feeling that even I learnt from as well.

The VAA Board has appointed me Returning Officer for the upcoming election of the Board this year at the Conference. This has enabled me to once again converse with all the knowledgeable men and women the VAA have as members. Without these wonderful people being able to share their experiences and knowledge with us recreational beekeepers and those considering becoming a beekeeper where would we be? Sitting in front of a computer watching Youtube clips on Beekeeping from overseas? The expertise these members have and love to share is priceless.

In a nutshell, there are so many people out there willing to help you in the beekeeping community. I feel blessed to be part of that community and encourage every single new beekeeper to join their local group, as the opportunities that it opens is endless and quite surprising

Angelique Perry, VAA Returning Officer

December 11 2023. **Vale: Peter Kim Flottum, 1947 - 2023.** Past Editor of Bee Culture.

It is with profound sadness and a heavy heart that I share the news of the passing of Kim Flottum, a cherished friend, esteemed cohost, devoted husband, and father. After a courageous battle with cancer, Kim left us, leaving behind a legacy enriched with kindness, passion for beekeeping, and a deep love for nature, particularly his garden.

Kim's presence was a beacon of positivity; he was one of those rare individuals who seldom spoke ill of anything, finding joy in his work with bees and people alike. I had the privilege of working alongside him since my first article for 'Gleanings in Bee Culture' in February 1991, an experience filled with learning, camaraderie, and shared enthusiasm for beekeeping.

Jeff Ott

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AHBIC Industry Varroa Updates

22nd December 2023

Beekeeper reporting to the DPI continues across areas of NSW where we expect Varroa to be present, there is a steady increase in regions south of Sydney and extensions from Kempsey. The heat map shows Varroa continues to extend its spread beyond the known Varroa management zones. AHBIC encourages beekeepers to monitor for mites in your hives and keep up to date with the risks of Varroa near you by checking the [heat map](#).

CCEPP Update

The NSW DPI and a working group of CCEPP members incorporated feedback from the previous CCEPP meeting and re-drafted the Response Plan Version 4 - Transition to Management. This final draft was presented by NSW DPI for consideration at the CCEPP on Tuesday 19th December. All parties understood the urgency for national agreement, CCEPP members were generally supportive of the new plan with some recommendations to be implemented and agreed in an out of session agreement, this will then be forwarded to NMG for final agreement mid January 2024. Whilst the process to reach agreement in the CCEPP is frustratingly slow, AHBIC is determined to ensure the best possible outcomes for our honey bee industry whilst negotiating with the other 25 parties. We will continue to represent the national interest, guided by the AHBIC executive and our 10 member bodies expectations at the CCEPP and NMG.

The chemical treatment table will also be updated on a standalone page from our website, please refer to the most up to date version regularly via [AHBIC Varroa](#)

[Treatment Table - Australian Honey Bee Industry Council](#)

11th December 2023

The total number of infected premises across NSW has risen to 396. The heat map has had some gradual increases across southwestern Sydney, Central Coast, Underbank and north in the Kempsey region.

NSW DPI are still supplying chemical treatments but have stated that this arrangement will be phased out soon. The ability for NSW beekeepers to purchase chemical treatments from retail suppliers is gradually increasing as stocks begin to arrive in the country.

Treatment Registration Progress

AHBIC has been working with NSW DPI and the APVMA as well many manufactures to progress as many management tools for registration as possible. Whilst we do not have visibility on all applications submitted, through conversations with manufactures and resellers we are aware of a number of registration applications that have either been submitted or are close to submission, this includes: ☐ Bayvarol ☐ Oxalic Acid (fogging and dribble) ☐ Formic Pro ☐ Several Oxalic Acid strip products ☐ BeeGate ☐ Apitraz ☐ A formic acid + Oxalic Acid mix in a dribble form.

Processing applications through APVMA is a slow process and typically takes 8-9 months if the application is complete on submission. After lobbying from AHBIC, the APVMA has agreed to prioritise any Varroa registrations, but the process will still take 6 months at best.

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Book Reprint

AMERICA'S MASTER OF BEEKEEPING

By John Kennedy

Here is a book for the beekeeping purists.

Courtesy of www.northernbeebooks.co.uk it is actually a reprint of the 1942 original by Florence Naile.

Importantly it carries the subtitle "The Life of L. L. Langstroth". Described as a gracefully written and graphic account of the life of the man who invented the modern beehive, and "a fitting tribute to the unusual man who took the mystery out of beekeeping".

Langstroth is judged to be one of five or six founders of modern theory and practice of bee culture.

Most of us know that he was a clergyman and a tutor at Yale who engaged in beekeeping during a period of ill health, and in 1851 after patient experiments, he discovered facts about bee behaviour, then used this knowledge to design a beehive perfectly adapted to the behaviour of bees which has revolutionised beekeeping

around the globe.

Langstroth however had difficulty in protecting his patent rights and received little financial reward for his invention, and later in his life he was troubled by a nervous ailment that at times made him hate the sight of a bee.

The book's author is an Ohioan beekeeper who had access to Langstroth's original journal. This reprint comes with a foreword written by Roger Morse, the Professor of Apiculture at Cornell.

It is a volume of 216 pages with a weight of 500 grams and will cost 19 pounds sterling from Northern Bee Books (order at www.northernbeebooks.co.uk) plus the postage costs to Australia}.

The original 1942 edition carried an endorsement from another historic identity, E. R. Root, published thereafter saying "when this book was laid on my desk about three o'clock this afternoon, I read it clear through at a sitting, taking only enough time to eat my evening meal before I got clear through it".

AHBIC December Newsletter

CEO Report

I attended the Plant Health Australia AGM in Canberra in November and met with several other plant industries. We had presentations on a number of topics across the week. DAFF presented on the proposed Biosecurity Protection Levy (BPL) which created robust discussion discussions from industries. Unfortunately, it appears the consultation from the department is not considering if the levy should be applied but more around how it is applied and collected. Despite significant push back from AHBIC and many other industries it appears that it will be implemented in July. This will mean that an additional 10% increase in the honey levy is likely to be applied from July 2024.



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USDA Totals Pollination Costs

By John Kennedy

The United States Department of Agriculture issues a National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) report on an annual basis totaling the cost of pollination services on an enterprise basis.

The latest just released figures compare year on year figures for 2023 versus the previous year.

In almonds the pollination cost fell by 3% on a cost per colony basis from \$US194 to \$US188.

The total investment in pollination by almond growers in California saw the average cost per acre decreasing from \$US 336 to \$US310, an 8% fall.

The total investment in pollination in California is totaled at \$US356 million also 8% less than 2022.

In cranberries the price per colony was only 1% low-

er at \$US82.8 or \$US200 per acre or a total industry value of \$US26.2 million.

The NASS report attributes the blueberry growers pollination costs with a 15% fall to \$US66.4 per colony although the cost per acre was unchanged at \$US139.

The total value of pollination for blueberries is compiled at \$US10 million dollars.

Watermelons saw the cost of colony falling by 26% and a fall per acre of 19% at \$US82.

In apples the price per colony year 2023 versus 2022 saw the price per colony increase by 44% to \$US75 per colony with the cost per acre also rising 8% to \$US68 per acre,

The full NASS report of the USDA on pollination costs is available at www.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda

AHBIC December Newsletter

B-Trace: The specially designed app will assist in maintaining hive record information that satisfies the requirements of the National Biosecurity Code of Practice. The program is intended for small commercial and recreational beekeepers who sell honeybee products direct to: Famers Markets, consumers, Food stalls and Boutique shops such as Bakeries, Fruit and Vegetable, Delicatessens, Restaurants and similar. The low annual fee includes the use of the hive management app and an annual desk audit. For further information go to www.btrace.com.au

Red Dwarf Honey Bee incursion in WA: The first detection was in March 2023 at Dampier. There has been a total of 12 nests discovered to date. *Euvarroa sinhai* has been detected on many of the RDHB's but has not been found on European honey bees yet. *Euvarroa* is a relative of *Varroa destructor*. It is unclear if this species of varroa can survive and reproduce on European honey bees with mixed reports in peer reviewed papers. Continual surveillance by DPIRD and DAFF is being conducted to delimit the incursion and monitor European honey bees in the area with 12 swarms being detected so far.



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Victorian Apiarists' Association Recreational Beekeepers Conference

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AgriFutures Update, Plan Bee December 2023

AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Update Special Edition

Plan Bee Survey results:

Australian queen bee production

Plan Bee surveyed queen production for the 2020–21 season in order to report on the state of queen production nationally. It provides valuable insights into queen products sold to domestic and export markets, and market access.

Results from a new survey provide valuable insights into queen bee production across Australia and queen products sold to domestic and export markets.

Plan Bee, Australia's national honey bee genetic improvement program, has released results from a nationwide survey into queen production for the 2020-21 season to report on the state of queen production nationally.

The survey is the first of its kind to describe values for queen and package bee sales from all major Australian beekeeping states.

It also provides valuable insights into queen products sold to domestic and export markets, and market access.

Before the survey was undertaken, no official, nationwide data on domestic or export queen and

package bee sales had been recorded or reported formally in Australia.

Australia's honey bee industry is underpinned by a specialised queen breeding and production sector.

There are opportunities in domestic and export markets for the queen sector, however, the limited number of skilled queen bee breeders is a major constraint.

Growing global markets for Australian queens and package bees are potentially lucrative, however the marketplace is further constrained by major risks including freight costs and the threat of export bans.

A total of 34.3% of survey respondents were from New South Wales, 22.9% from Queensland, 14.3% from Tasmania, 14.3% from Western Australia, 5.7% from Victoria, 2.9% from South Australia, and 5.7% did not disclose their location.

Plan Bee co-lead researcher, Elizabeth Frost, NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), said there were a total of 35 survey respondents, who sold a total of 41,803 queen products domestically while 2,664 queen products were exported.

"Meanwhile 17.6% of respondents did not sell any queen products, instead breeding queens solely for use within their own enterprise," Ms Frost said.

"The full range of products were reported in domestic sales including naturally and artificially in-

(Continued on page 15)

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AgriFutures Update, Plan Bee December 2023, cont'd

(Continued from page 14)

seminated queens, package bees, nucleus colonies, queen cells, virgin queens, and naturally mated breeder queens mated in specific geographically isolated breeding locations.

“Survey respondents reported selling 2,664 exported queen products, all originating from Western Australia with 99% exported to Canada and 1% exported to Fiji.

“It’s important to note the survey was undertaken before Varroa destructor (Varroa mite) was detected in NSW in June 2022. Varroa mite is likely to impact queen production and the sale of queen products to domestic and export markets, but how and to what extent, we don’t know at this stage.”

Additional information on queen bee production was also sought outside the survey. The NSW DPI annual market access reporting yielded additional details on 2021–2022 queen bees and package bee sales for NSW to the interstate domestic and export markets.

A number of recommendations have been made based on survey findings.

They include the establishment of an official register of Australian queen breeders and producers to assist the domestic market to locate production or breeder queens to purchase and sustain their business

enterprises, while also connecting queen breeders and producers to potential new markets.

“Clear delineation of queen breeders and producers will assist in the development of a market for queen breeders of elite selected stock. Queen breeding requires additional work that must be remunerated, which is difficult when the market doesn’t understand the difference,” Ms Frost said.

“The low volume of queen exports as well as domestic sales proportionate to registered beekeepers do not justify raising the queen bee levy, which is currently set at zero.”

[View full survey findings here](#)

[View factsheet here](#)

[For more information visit the Plan Bee program here](#)

Record keeping for beekeepers:

Review of applications and technology available for beekeepers and bee breeders

Record keeping is an integral part of beekeeping and is required by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code) (Plant Health Australia 2016). Inspections must be carried out at least twice a year, at least four months apart.

According to the Code, beekeepers must keep a minimum record of the following, which significantly

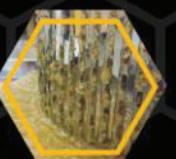
(Continued on page 16)

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(Continued from page 15)

assists with biosecurity: date of the inspection; strength assessment of colonies; pests and diseases found; actions and treatments used for pests and diseases; details of tests for American foulbrood; date, number and locations of hive movements; date and supplier of bee introduction and used hive and hive components; and details of biosecurity training undertaken by the beekeeper and employees.

These records can be kept either electronically or on paper, and must be kept for at least three years.

Keeping detailed records is crucial for complying with biosecurity regulations and gaining insight into bee biology over time (Bolshakova and Niño 2018), as well as for monitoring the performance of colonies, which assists with making informed decisions regarding building profitable businesses.

Depending on beekeepers' goals and interests, a variety of records can be maintained, including apiary information such as weather, location and flora; details about the colony, such as temperament, frames, brood, equipment, and queen presence; harvest records for pollen and honey; actions taken, such as treatments, feeding and hive movement; and finances, including honey sales and equipment costs. All beekeepers should prioritise keeping accurate and comprehensive records to improve their practices.

One group of beekeepers who could particularly benefit from record keeping is bee breeders and queen producers. Bee breeders have frequently cited a lack of time for not performing colony evaluations and keeping records. Recording queen introductions, pedigree and trait evaluations would enable better bee breeding.

Record keeping for bee breeders

Plan Bee is the national honey bee genetic improvement program. It provides a platform with tools and technology to introduce modern animal breeding techniques into the Australian beekeeping industry. These techniques will enable the production of estimated breeding values (EBVs) in the future. EBVs give the genetic merit of the queen – i.e. how much of the difference in observed performance between colonies is due to the genes of the queen. EBVs can increase the efficiency of the selection process.

To calculate an EBV, the following data is needed: unique queen ID; queen age; date introduced; queen mother ID and any other pedigree data available; the load the colony is kept in; the apiary the colony is in; the date of the colony trait evaluation; and trait evaluation records.

Other tools for trait recording

Other technologies are available to reduce the time taken to perform colony inspections. These include hive scales; sensors to measure humidity and temperature within colonies, carbon dioxide concentration, and the number of foragers entering and exiting colonies and whether they are carrying pollen; sound recorders; local weather data recorders; and infrared technology to estimate colony population.

Scope of this report

There is a plethora of apps that allow beekeepers to record their data via technology, assisting them with record keeping. This report summarises many of the apps available below for their utility in general record keeping and record keeping for Plan Bee. Data from apps that can export to .csv format may be able to be integrated with the Plan Bee database.

AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Program Industry Development Grants are now open for the 2023-24 application period.

The grants seek to expand industry understanding, knowledge and skills to drive the Australian honey bee and pollination industry into the future. This year there is a particular focus on supporting Early Career Researchers (ECR) on their research journey. Annelies McGaw, Manager, Research AgriFutures Australia said the industry development grants were introduced to address current challenges. "It's been a tough few years for the industry. The 2019/20 Black Summer bushfires, the floods in Northern NSW earlier in the year, and now biosecurity threats like varroa mite have resulted in significant hive losses, with potentially devastating implications for the nation's agricultural sectors and food security resources. While research and development will play a role in rebuilding the industry, participation and innovation are key to ensure the profitability and sustainability of the industry". Applications for the Industry Development Grants (up to \$7,000) may focus on, but are not limited to, research funding including PhD top-ups, industry body development, personal development or travel. "Ultimately applicants must clearly demonstrate a strong benefit for the industry at large and not just to one organisation or individual," said Ms McGaw.

Applications must also address one or more of the strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan. These include to:

- Identify and develop technology for improved hive performance
- Increase capacity within research community and future industry leaders
- Improve understanding of nutrition best practice and disease interaction
- Improve understanding of the benefits of honey and develop chain traceability
- Improve understanding of pollination strategies that impact crop yields and improve hive health
- Improve understanding of floral resources as assets for the Australian honey bee industry.

For more information on requirements, evaluation criteria and Terms of Reference visit: <https://agrifutures.com.au/funding-opportunity/agrifutures-honey-bee-and-pollination-program-industry-development-grants/>

Applications close Monday, 5 February 2024 at 12 noon (AEDT).

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HONEY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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MORE TREES FOR BEES AT STRATHFIELDSAYE ESTATE

By John Kennedy

A major farm reforestation project is nearing completion near Stratford in Gippsland on the 2,100 hectare property Strathfieldsaye Estate. It is one of 14 such projects that are active nationwide in five states.

Strathfieldsaye Estate, dating back to around 1842, was formerly owned by the Disher family for three generations, who bequeathed it to the University of Melbourne, who in 2013 then transferred it to the Australian Landscape Trust. The property is regarded as having one of the best remnants of forest redgum and grassy woodlands, and includes portions of the property which have never been cleared.

The Greening Australia project is planting 350,000 trees on land which has been specially prepared and are mostly eucalypts. With the passage of time allowing the trees to become established there are expected to be seasonal opportunities for beekeepers on this or neighbouring holdings to participate in hive placements.

The property and project is registered with the Clean Energy Regulator as a carbon farming initiative enabling businesses to purchase carbon credit units to help offset greenhouse gas emissions that their operations may create. These credits are helping to fund the restoration works on the property.

NEW ALMOND PROJECT UNDERWAY

By John Kennedy

Almond plantations are now arising in the Goulburn Valley, with an investment manager and developer which trades as goFARM from a base in Cremorne (Melbourne) launching a proposed \$A90 million new almond development on a portfolio of farms it has consolidated at Katunga.

The farm area, known as Sandmount, is about 6,000 hectares and comprises former dairy and cropping properties.

The company has secured an agreement with Goulburn Valley Water to access up to 1,800 megalitres of recycled water from a nearby treatment plant which processes Mooroopna's water.

The first almond area is now planted with drip irrigated almond trees. The project apparently already employs four staff and this could grow to 12-15 in coming years. goFARM says that the site had the right soil types for almonds.

A USA and California based consultant David Dell has been advising goFARM on the project, and is quoted as saying that there are opportunities for more almond groves in Australia.

goFarm already operates the Canally Almond project in the Sunraysia industry based in NSW near the Darling and Murray River junction.

However according to the company's web site the new project will be planted to the self-pollinating Shasta variety which will require only one beehive per hectare (which it says compares with six hives per hectare in current established plantings).

Nevertheless this project seems likely to add to the demand for honey bees as pollinators in the immediate future.

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Dr Tom Seeley On Bait Hives

By John Kennedy

Dr Tom Seeley from Cornell University is one of the world's most renowned researchers on a variety of bee topics and issues, but he is a gun on bait hives.

His research on bait hives goes back as far as 1975 when he first placed half a dozen likely bait hives out in his local environment in New York State, for a 50% result in hives collected. He subsequently has greatly increased the number maintaining the 50% average collection result rate.

His detailed work has led to him to design the right type of bait hives in their cubic capacity (about 1.5 cubic feet), the size of the entry (about two and a half inches), where best to place them (north facing here) and originally high up in trees (but now he says much closer to the ground for easier, safer removal or collection).

He has recently extended his studies with a comparison with bait hive responses to varroa by adding imported queens (in this case from a noted Hawaiian producer) instead of leaving hives collected from bait hives in his apiary with their own queens. His conclusion is that the hives left in original condition, that is with their own queens, do much better, have greater winter survival skills and are better than those with imported queens, and they have a much lower Varroa mite load.

He also produces three rules on bait hives 1/ you need to have the right sized box to attract the swarm (preferably with old drawn comb included), 2/ they need to be placed correctly (relative to height above ground and in a shaded position) and 3/ placed at the right time (pending the swarming season).

Dr Tom's Iowa Honey Producers Association presentation is excellent, and will be a vital reference for bee swarm collection in the spring. Search it out.

AHBIC December newsletter

CEO report

AHBIC's time is still being consumed with the Varroa response. We have been focused on getting agreement to the transition to management plan to enable the rollout of broad scale training for beekeepers as quickly as possible. We are hopeful for CCEPP agreement in December and final sign-off from NMG in January.

AHBIC has been strongly advocating for training and education across the country, boots on the ground to support beekeepers across the country and a number of other activities including a national heat map, Coloss survey, updating of the CoP, queen breeding workshops and a queen breeding sector capacity and capability report.

Achieving agreement to the plan is slow as there are 26 votes from 26 parties that all have their individual requirements and needs.



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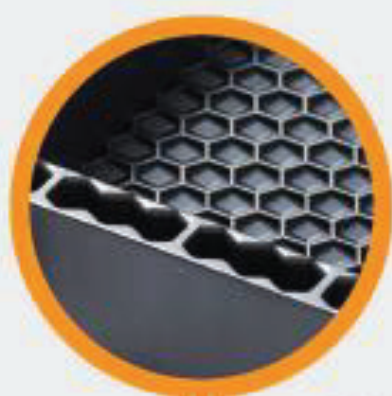
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Mick Camilleri

By Bill Ringin with Linda Filsell

The following is a brief history of G.A.A. life Member Mick Camilleri's memories of his experiences over his 80+ years as a beekeeper, combined with those of Nola, who has been with him much of this time. They are both still very active in the industry.



When I was about six years old, I used to get the mail and Argus paper at the Tostaree Post Office, which was owned by the Johnson Family and was next to our farm. Dave Johnson ran the farm, and Bill Johnson looked after the Apiary.

In 1927 they extracted 600 x 60lb (27kg) tins of honey at Tostaree. Bill told me every tree produced honey that year. By having a good return in

money they paid off debts on the farm and bought two new Chrysler cars in 1928.

Bill used to take me around the honey shed to fill containers for customers and give me a taste of the honey. When I got a bit older he would put an overcoat and bee veil on me and take me to the bees they had, which were not very friendly, I used to swell up when I was stung. My mother used to put a blue bag on me (it was used for washing clothes).

Bill lent me a Vic Ag book on Eucalyptus flowering and a book to read on beekeeping. He sold me 10 frame boxes for 10 shillings. I was about 12 years old helping my father plant maize on the flat when a swarm came over, so he started hitting a tin with a stick so the swarm landed and I put it in a hive, but it didn't survive.

I used to check water holes for bees then follow their flight path to hives in trees and cut the tree down to get the bees out and put in a box. We used to get the Weekly Times paper and there was an advert in it "for sale eight frame bee hives" I got a Postal Note and ordered two hives from a beekeeper in Geelong. They came by goods train to Tostaree Railway Station.

We, as a family went to Nowa Nowa Church on Sunday and on the way there was a beekeeper working his bees in the bush. When we came home I got the bike and went up to see him. It was Claude Ilton and he was checking the bees and looking at the queen. I told him I bought two hives and he came down and checked them out. He said I've got bad news, they have A.F.B. so we took them into the Nowa Nowa Saw Mill and burnt them in a fire. Claude was a Bee Inspector and worked with Laurie Braybrook. The chap that sold me the hives only had a Post Office Box Number in his ad. Laurie went to the Postmaster to get his name but the

Postmaster wouldn't tell Laurie, so he and Claude took turns to see who used the box. Later Laurie discovered who owned the box and they, over time, became good friends, and Snowy also became a much better beekeeper.

I bought 20 hives off Jim Thom, he used to work for Allan Worchester, a beekeeper at Lakes Entrance.



Wairewa School where Mick attended.

I left the Wairewa School at 14 years old, my father said we would build a dairy shed and start milking cows.

At his time we bought our first vehicle for the farm. We also did cropping, bean and pea seed and later sweetcorn and maize.

I joined the V.A.A. when I was 16 years old to get the magazine.

At 17 years old I had approximately 60 hives. Bill Roderick used to call in to see me – he packed honey in Bairnsdale and took it up to the Orbost shops and also the Gippsland shops. I sold him my bees because every time I wanted to work them my father wanted me to do farm work.

[Around this time Mick and Nola Forrest met and developed a close relationship. Nola's family lived in Lakes and she worked at the hospital.]

Bill Roderick let Ernie Goode take over his honey packing, Laurie Braybrook would stop with Ernie when he came to Gippsland as an Apiary Inspector, and they would both call in to have a look at my hives on their way to Orbost. I bought some queen bees from Frank Johnson who was an Italian Queen Breeder from Bruthen and they made all the difference to my bees.

I got out of dairying in 1970 and went contracting bush work and earthworks. I used to get hives of bees from trees that got knocked over and put them in a box and started up with bees again. Ernie, Terry and Margaret Goode put their bees on our farm for the honey flows of Roundleaf Box over the years. Tostaree was a good area for Roundleaf Box flows and extraction was carried out on site with the bees, in a tent.

Later, I built an extracting shed, with a two frame hand



(Continued on page 23)

Mick Camilleri, cont'd

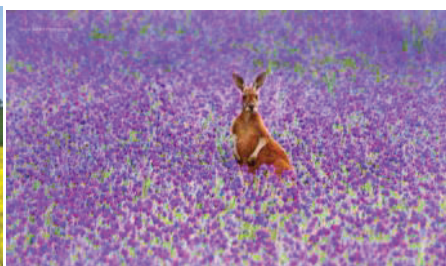
(Continued from page 22)

driven extractor, and used a hot water urn for uncapping. The uncapping knives were heated in hot water, all by primus stove and I had a galvanised settling tank. Later on I used a container with water heated with the primus stove to make steam for the uncapping knife. I bought a Jacko steam boiler and I'm still using it today.

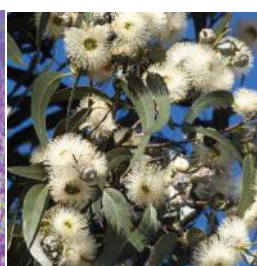
The honey buyers paid one shilling per pound (450 grams), which was top money. We sold it in 44 gallon (300kg) drums and 60lb (27kg) tins with metal bungs, often soldered in bungs.



Canola



Salvation Jane



Blue Gum



In the year 1990 Nola and I went over to North Eastern Victoria to work Canola, Salvation Jane, and Blue Gum. We pollinated thirty acres of Kiwi Fruit (see photo left) at

Orbost for a number of years, also Almonds at Swan Hill up until 2019.

We had about 180 hives around this time and when we had bees away, we would camp nearby in a tent.



Part of our 180 hive Apiary

Later we bought a caravan, and stayed on site with the bees.

We would work on hives taking the honey off. Nola would work putting clearer boards on the supers for two or three days so the bees cleared from the supers. Nola

helped with all the beekeeping jobs as everyone put their shoulders to the wheel when necessary.

Our vehicles became more sophisticated as time went by. Loading ramps, cranes etc to take the back breaking work out of it.

(Continued on page 24)



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Mick Camilleri, cont'd

(Continued from page 23)

Being members of the G.A.A. and the V.A.A. we met a lot of beekeepers and had a lot of good times. We went to the G.A.A and the V.A.A. meetings, Field Days etc., and made good friendships with quite a few and looked forward to the bus trips the G.A.A. ran to the V.A.A's field days in central Victoria.

In recent times Mick was asked to act as a Mentor, to assist the new Orbost Bee Carers Group in training new members to become familiar in the craft of beekeeping. Mick looked after this group for two or three years very successfully.

The contribution Mick has made and continues to make to the beekeeping industry is invaluable, and as a Master Beekeeper Mick continues to advise beekeepers on how to manage bees in a professional manner.



Nola in the caravan while camping with the bees.



Mick weighing a frame of honey



Moving bees was a big job



(Continued on page 25)

Mick Camilleri, cont'd

(Continued from page 24)



Above: Bob Stevenson (Stevo) organised bus trips each year to the Bendigo Field Days. This trip and photo were taken in 2011 and was very much enjoyed by all.

Photo left: Mick receiving Life Membership from the GAA.

Right: Mick speaking at a GAA meeting.

Far right: Mick, a Master Beekeeper



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New Miticide Development

Wed 13th December 2023

Véto-pharma and SFU reach agreement to develop solution to save honey bees against varroa mites.

Varroa mites are one of the major threats leading to bee colony losses at a global level.

Véto-pharma will support Simon Fraser University (SFU) in the development and registration of a new miticide based on the innovative compound recently discovered and patented by SFU.

Bees are sentinels of our environment and are responsible for the production of around 30% of the world's consumable food. Varroa mites, a deadly parasite that affects honey bees, is the main challenge that beekeepers face to protect their beehives today. Health and survival of honey bees are major issues that have implications for local and global wellbeing.

Understanding this challenge, the announcement that SFU and Véto-pharma have reached an exclusive collaboration agreement to evaluate the effectiveness of a new asset in controlling varroosis is exciting news! The cooperation between the parties is a significant step forward, and both are optimistic about the potential of the new asset in protecting honeybees and securing their future.

In the beekeeping industry, few companies invest in innovation. However, Véto-pharma, a French veterinary pharmaceutical laboratory with almost 3 decades of experience and knowledge in bee health, is dedicated to offering innovative solutions by investing annually 8-10% of their revenues. Véto-pharma, a world leader in honeybee health, works tirelessly to ensure the future of the beekeeping industry. In addition to product development, they also actively engage in research and education to raise awareness about the importance of bee health and the threats they face. They collaborate with beekeepers, researchers, and industry experts to share knowledge and develop best practices for bee management. By constantly striving to improve bee health, they aim to safeguard their vital role in pollination and food production.

The limited availability of effective options for varroa control poses a challenge for beekeepers to adapt their strategies for varroa control. Therefore, finding a

chemical compound that can effectively eliminate varroa mites without harming bees is a difficult task. Nevertheless, this new chemical compound under development could give beekeepers an edge in the fight against varroa mites.

Véto-pharma is excited to support this promising project and to collaborate with SFU to bring innovation to beekeepers around the world. We are confident that our unique capabilities will be valuable to turn this discovery into a valuable solution to allow beekeepers to fight against varroosis in an efficient manner.

SFU is equally excited for this collaboration and translate leading edge research from the chemistry lab of Professor Erika Plettner to help protect bee-colonies globally. The discovery of the new acaricide began in the early 2000s when the Plettner group began looking for compounds that could interfere with chemoreception in insects. Insects use chemical signals to communicate with each other, detect their hosts, signal danger, to name a few. Chemoreception is the process by which these signals are detected, an essential process for survival of insects. The team discovered that the acaricide could paralyze and "confuse" the mite Varroa destructor. After initial laboratory assays, multiple small-scale field trials were conducted in Canada to demonstrate that the compound could be used to significantly decrease the number of mites in a colony. Treatments currently used are few, and they each have their challenges or limitations. To manage mites in bees more effectively, more options for treatment are required, to implement integrated pest management (IPM) schemes.

SFU personnel are committed to conduct further research to ensure the full potential of this technology is realized. SFU's Technology Licensing Office (TLO) has supported the commercialization of this technology by protecting the IP and brokering the collaboration with Véto-pharma. The future of the technology, after further industry testing, could result in one of the most useful tools to ensure healthy bee colonies worldwide.

See more: <https://www.blog-veto-pharma.com/en/new-treatment-against-varroa-mites-veto-pharma-and-simon-fraser-university-join-forces/>

NQI SEEKS BETTER BEES

By John Kennedy

The Varroa Mite continues to concentrate the attention of bee industry group in the USA even though it has impacted beekeepers for over 20 years. A recent new initiative is designated the Northern Queen Initiative based in Michigan where it is registered and is actively seeking support and funding.

Its website www.sbgmi.org describes its role as being "organized to educate and train beekeepers in queen rearing techniques. "We seek to improve the value and production of locally adapted survivor stock queens."

Further, that it will provide training for interested beekeepers to raise queen bees while improving genetics with opportunities to participate in queen improvement through a queen rearing program.

The NQI says its training is focused on proven techniques with access to breeding stock that "thrives in northern cold climates (of the USA), exhibits good honey production and possesses a calm temperament and are mite resistant."

Further information is that there is an objective to create alternatives to the permeation of prophylactic and systemic chemical treatment education and practice for mites in modern beekeeping.

"The simple objective is to equip beekeepers with knowledge to reduce the dependence on these toxic interventions and facilitate sustainable beekeeping that trends towards better bred bees."

Compulsory Honey Levies

Producers who sell more than 1500 kg of honey (retail) are required to keep records and pay a honey levy of 4.6 cents per kilogram.

Records of sales are required to be kept from 1 January to 31 December, and the closing date for payment is the following February 28th.

Penalties are charged for late returns. There is also a requirement that the producer should make those records available to an Inspector at any time of request.

Honey levy is payable by the producer (ie the person who owned the product immediately before sale).

If honey is used in production of other goods, levy is payable by the person who uses the honey in the production of those goods. Honey export charge is payable by the exporter.

The levy may be paid on a quarterly or annual basis.

The honey levy and charge rate comprises Emergency Plant Pest Response (EPPR), NRS testing, PHA membership and research and development (R&D), as shown in the table below:

Levy & charge component	Rate
EPPR	2.7 cents per kilogram
NRS	0.3 cents per kilogram
PHA	0.1 cents per kilogram
R&D	1.5 cents per kilogram
TOTAL	4.6 cents per kilogram

For further information: -

The Director,
Levies Revenue Service
Locked Bag 4488,
Kingston ACT 2604.
Tel. 1800 020 619
Fax: 02 6272 5695

www.agriculture.gov.au

Please note this levy is compulsory and not to be confused with the AHBIC voluntary contribution.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/levies/>

Levies Online available for Honey levy and export charge returns

You can now submit your honey levy and export charge returns using [Levies Online](#).

Information on how to use Levies Online:

If you are a first time user, you will need to select the 'Register as Online User' button, where you will be required to provide the following information:

- LRS account number
- Australian Business Number (ABN)
- email address

Note: there is no charge to register or use Levies Online.

[Levies Online available for Honey levy and export charge returns - DAFF \(\[agriculture.gov.au\]\(http://agriculture.gov.au\)\)](#)



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And Now It's The Keeper's Hive

By John Kennedy

A group of three US beekeepers and professionals, one of whom, Dr George Datto, is a medical doctor who operates a 70 hive apiary, have invented and patent protected in the USA what they call The Keeper's Hive.

Importantly, by the end of February, they will have launched an Indiegogo public fund raising, seeking up to \$US200K to manufacture and produce their invention.

The Keeper's Hive is designed with the hobby beekeeper, especially the less able, in mind.

See the website www.thekeepershive.com where there is an informative few minutes long demonstration video on show.

The three developers say, "there are two types of beekeepers ... those with sore backs and those that will get sore backs".

Their new product idea is that the Langstroth hive is the most popular beehive in the world, but its major flaw is that the boxes can get very heavy,

Their product uses many standard Langstroth components, but it requires minimal lifting to manage.

Their product provides access to the brood chamber without the need to move any of the upper boxes.

Their release information says, "beekeepers can now manage Langstroth style hives with significantly less physical labour".

Put simply their product idea is to make a standard ten frame Langstroth brood box accessible with the honey boxes being five frame multiple nucleus style boxes on top.

This is achieved by their design (patent protected at least in the USA) of a unique spacer bar design and assembly which sits between the two conventional boxes.

The spacer bar includes a hinged part cover with a



(Photo: Supplied by The Keeper's Hive) Shows the concept using a specially designed and patented in the USA timber spacer bar assembly that sits between a standard ten frame Langstroth brood box and as many as you care to add five frame nucleus hives as honey supers. The hinged entry to the timber spacer bar enables examination and removal of the frames from the ten frame brood box without dismantling the full hive assembly with a shorter five frame queen excluder inserted between the two hive types.

glass window where the frames in the standard brood box can be viewed, accessed and slid out as necessary for maintenance tasks without the need to dismantle or separate the hives.

The bees are then protected in the nucleus five frame boxes above with a smaller queen excluder and you can add as many nucleus style boxes as the season and the honey gathering ability of your bees allows.

They inventors are also planning to offer a Two Queen Keeper assembly as a "high risk, high reward style" of beekeeping that can produce significantly more honey than a single colony hive, if successfully managed.

The three inventors say that beta testing has been completed with the participation of numerous beekeeping contacts, and that they have already shown their prototype hives to some notable bee commentators like David Burns in the UK and Frederick Dunn in the USA to quite positive responses.

It will also be presented at the North American Bee Equipment Expo trade show this month.

There is more information available at the website, and on YouTube and Facebook via relevant searches. Pre-orders will be

available during the launch of the crowd funding campaign's duration.

The three co-founders Dr George Datto, Nat Wolfe (who is a master carpenter and backyard beekeeper) and Dave McNeely, a business operations and marketing professional, say that their funding target should be enough to commission a competent product manufacturer.

They told me in a Zoom conversation that their principal market target will be the recreational and hobby beekeepers in the USA and Canada, with the rest of the world, including Australia to follow if there is interest.

UNIQUE IRISH HONEY BLEND

By John Kennedy

Open Hive, the beekeeping enterprise in Ireland successfully initiated by three local beekeepers, has added a new dimension to their honeys. They say their objective is to conserve the unique Irish black bee.

To further this aim they offer a range of district specific honeys.

Their latest value added product is a 227 gram jar that combines a blend of organic Dublin chillis, raw Irish honey, Tipperary cider vinegar and Achill Island sea salt. They say this product was so successful the blend sold out in two days. I think you can sense what it tastes like when they say it gives "a lovely warm and sweet mix".

As it sold out no indicative price is given.

For more information see www.openhive.ie

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Pails



Non Tamper Proof Pails

500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg, 3kg, & 5kg Pail
(500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg available in clear as well)



Tamper Proof Pails

1kg, 1.5kg Honey Pails &
2.2L, 5L Pails

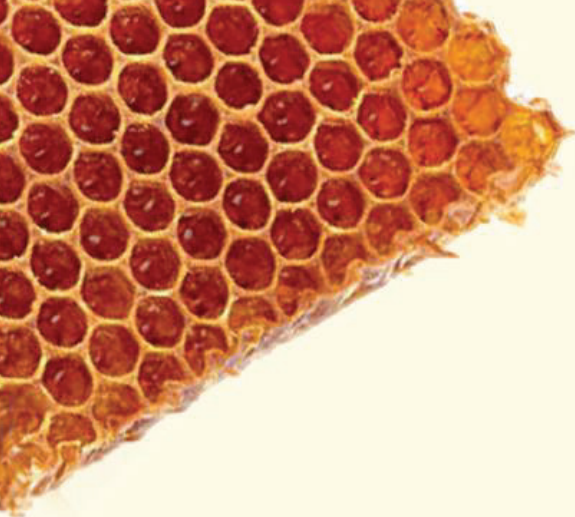


10L, 15L, 20L Pails

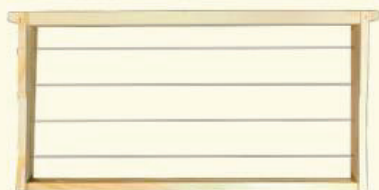
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Plastic Beehive

Plastic Beehive with 10 Frames

Material: food grade polypropylene

Thickness: 30mm

Working life: 30 years

Packing dimension: 60x50x44cm 13.8/kg

Features:

- UV resistant
- Thermal insulated increasing honey production
- Light weight for easy lifting and carrying
- Antioxidant plastic material for longer life expectancy
- Holds standard and full depth frames
- Easily assembled
- Digital Thermometer
- Built in ventilation
- No painting required

What you get:

2 box hive consisting of:

- 1 x ventilated top cover
- 1 x full size super
- 1 x Queen excluder
- 1 x brood box
- 1 x bottom board (including 2 feeders and pollen trap)
- 1 x Entrance reducer
- 4 x Lock, Latch connectors
- 1 x Temperature Gauge



PART D. BOARD & BOARD ELECTIONS

Powers of the Board

D.1. Unless the Act or the Constitution states to the contrary, all powers of the Association may be exercised by the Board.

By-Laws

D.2. The Board may make By-Laws to deal with any matter not covered in this Constitution.

D.3. A By-Law comes into operation one month after notification to the members of its making, but if, within one month of notification to the members of the making of a By-Law, a special general meeting is requested to disallow the By-Law, the By-Law does not come into operation if the motion to disallow the By-Law is approved at the Special General Meeting.

Types of Board membership and size of Board

D.4. (a) The Board consists of nine members:

- (i) one member of the VAA appointed by each Regional Association.
- (ii) one member of the VAA appointed by each Branch.
- (iii) such number of generally elected Board members as will bring the total number of Board members for that year to nine.

(b) A regional association cannot exercise its right to appoint a Board member unless at the annual census date

- (i) It has a minimum of 25 members who are also members of the VAA; or
- (ii) 75 per cent of its total membership are members of the VAA.

Board member must be able to communicate electronically

D.5. A member cannot become a Board member if that person does not have access to electronic means of communication and the ability to attend meetings electronically.

Returning Officer appointment

D.6. (a) The Board must, by 31 October in each year, appoint a person to conduct the processes for appointment and election of Board Members.

(b) The Returning Officer cannot be a person who intends to be a Board member in the following year, and is not required to be a member of the Association.

Appointed Representative Board Member process

D.7. (a) The Returning Officer must, before the end of December, determine the date by which the Appointed Representative Board Members, who will take office at the next AGM, are to be notified to the Returning Officer.

(b) The Returning Officer must, before the end of December, notify each Regional Association and each Branch of the date determined in the previous subRule.

(c) When the notification date has passed, the Returning Officer must notify all members of the Appointed Representative Board Members who will take office at the next AGM.

Generally Elected Board Member process

D.8 (a) The Returning Officer must, not less than 8 weeks before the AGM, advise the members that nominations are called for generally elected Board member positions.

(b) Nominations must be received at the registered address of the Association-not less than 5 weeks before the AGM.

(c) If the number of nominations received is greater than the number of vacancies, the Returning Officer must, in accordance with By-Laws, conduct a ballot to be finalised before the AGM.

(Continued from page 32)

- (d) If the number of candidates nominated for election is not greater than the number of vacancies, all candidates shall be immediately declared elected
- (e) If the number of candidates is less than the number of vacancies, the Returning Officer must notify the members of the Association not less than 3 weeks before the AGM of the number of vacancies to be filled by an election conducted by the Returning Officer at the AGM from members nominated at that meeting.
- (f) It is not necessary for a candidate nominated for election at the AGM to be present at that meeting if the consent of that person is provided in writing to the meeting.

Nomination for election as Generally Elected Board Member

- D.9.(a) A nomination for an elected Board member position must be signed by the proposer, who must be an ordinary member of the Association. The candidate must also provide a signed consent to the nomination. This may be on a separate document to be received at the registered address by the same date as for the nomination.
- (b) All ordinary members of the association are eligible to stand for election for these positions and to vote in the election.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

- D.10. (a) The President and two Vice-Presidents are elected from the members of the incoming Board by the members of the Association present at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) A member cannot be elected as President unless that person has previously been a member of the Board for a minimum of two years, which may be separated.
- (c) The previous paragraph does not apply if there is no Board member who qualifies.

General duties of Board members

- D.11. (a) As soon as practicable after taking office, each Board member must become familiar with this Constitution and the Act.
- (b) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual Board members comply with this Constitution.
- (c) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties
 - (i) with reasonable care and diligence;
 - (ii) in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - (iii) for a proper purpose.
- (d) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of
 - (i) their position; or
 - (ii) information acquired by virtue of holding their position;so as to gain advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause a detriment to the Association.

Term of office of Board members

- D.12. All Board members hold office from the end of the AGM until the end of the following AGM and are eligible for re-appointment or re-election

AHBIC December Newsletter

CEO's Report

In partnership with Croplife the Bee Connected app was relaunched in Canberra with some significant improvements making the app more beekeeper friendly. I encourage all beekeepers who do pollination or place hives near crops that are likely to be sprayed to check out the new look app <https://beeconnected.org.au/>.

Invitation To Participate In A Stakeholder Interview



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Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia

E: anu.jayaweera@mq.edu.au

Project: Opportunities for insecticide resistant honey bees for pollination security

My name is Anu Jayaweera, a researcher in Applied Biosciences. I am part of a team working on a research

project to investigate the potential of using modern genetic engineering tools to engineer honey bees for beneficial traits such as pesticide resistance. We are not performing any genetic engineering. We are only evaluating the technical, regulatory, and socio-ethical landscape to determine the prudence of doing so. This will be achieved via various research activities including reviewing the relevant literature, conducting stakeholder and regulatory meetings, and a public survey.

One of our project activities aims to understand the pesticide usage patterns in Australia, their effects on honey bees, and strategies used to mitigate the negative impacts of pesticides on honey bees by conducting stakeholder (beekeepers and growers who use managed honey bees for pollination services) interviews. Further, we are also interested in understanding how beekeepers and growers anticipate any modified honey bees would impact their operations in the future.

If you are a beekeeper or a grower (who uses managed honey bees for pollination) you can be a part of our research. Please let us know if you

would like to participate in our stakeholder interviews. Your feedback will be very important for us and in any honey bee research to understand the current situation and thereby safeguard them and their services. Please see the project flyer (below and next page) for more information and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

*Thank you,
Best Regards,
Anu*

Insecticide resistant honey bees

PH22000: Opportunities for insecticide resistant honey bees for pollination security

Climate change, parasites, pathogens & pesticides are major threats to honey bee health.

New solutions are necessary to overcome major challenges imposed on bees.

Healthy bee populations are crucial for the economy & global food security.

Our research will evaluate the opportunity for gene-edited honey bees for insecticide-resistance.

Genetic engineering technologies can be used to introduce beneficial traits into organisms.



MACQUARIE
University

Opportunities for insecticide resistant honey bees for pollination security is funded through the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Macquarie University and contributions from the Australian Government.

Honey bees are at greater risk...

Honey bees are exposed to various threats including extreme weather, pathogens, parasites such as Varroa mites, and pesticides. The Australian horticulture industry is greatly dependent on bees for pollination services; therefore, maintaining healthy populations is critically important. Genetic improvement is one of the best ways to deal with these challenges. Current breeding programs are dependent on existing genetic variation which can take many generations to establish.

Therefore, novel solutions are crucial to safeguard honeybees and thereby to secure pollination. Recent advances in biotechnology have enabled precise genome editing in many organisms, including bees. These tools may be used to rapidly engineer strains to contain elite genetic variants, study existing genetic variation to inform breeding programs, and rationally develop novel traits.

Our project is aimed to,

study the opportunity landscape (stakeholder perspective, regulatory barriers, technical requirements, and environmental impacts) for honey bee genetic engineering for insecticide -resistance. It is a commercially valuable trait that could be engineered for honey bees, which enables farmers to manage pests effectively without interrupting pollination services, also if Varroa mites were established in Australia, it could be treated without negatively affecting the bees.

We will conduct various activities including a review of recent literature on honey bee pesticide sensitivity/resistance, industry and stakeholder interviews to understand the current situation of the Australian honey bee industry and the pesticide usage patterns, meetings with regulatory agencies to understand regulatory requirements, and a public survey to get their perception on honey bee gene-editing technologies. This will make a foundation for any future research studies on developing gene-edited honey bees for beneficial traits such as insecticide resistance, temperature tolerance, and improved honey production

How can you contribute?

Spare 20-30 minutes to share your experience in the honey bee industry and opinions on how anticipated honey bee gene-editing would impact your operations.

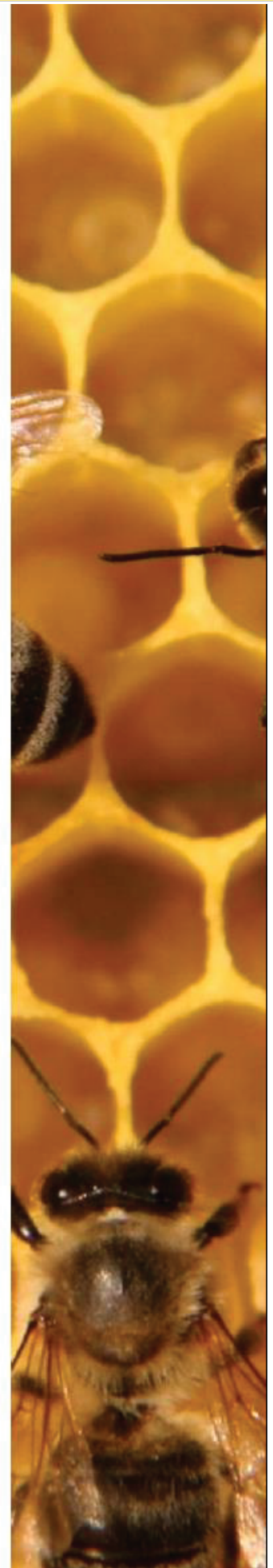
This will help us to understand the current situation of honey bees and pesticide usage in Australia, the priority pesticides on which insecticide-resistant honey bees should be achieved, and the stakeholder perspective for honey-bee genetic engineering.

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). HREC approval No. 16055

For more information contact:

Dr. Maciej Maselko - maciej.maselko@mq.edu.au

Dr. Anu Jayaweera - anu.jayaweera@mq.edu.au



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Daryl Hobbs
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Agriculture Victoria:

Agriculture Victoria: Apiary team
Website: [Honey bees | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](http://Honeybees|Livestockandanimals|AgricultureVictoria)
Website:
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees
To report a suspect exotic please call: Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881
For enquiries and endemic disease notification please use:
Ph: 136 186
Email honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au
The Varroa project team can also be contacted at the above email.

For enquiries related to permits and movement restrictions:
Email honeybee.permits@agriculture.vic.gov.au
For beekeeper registration please log onto BeeMAX
www.bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au
or call the Bee Registration Helpline 1800 356 761

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Karyn Di Florio
Bee Biosecurity Officer
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

If you can't reach an Officer and need to talk to someone urgently, please call the Customer Service Centre: Ph: 136 186

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BALLARAT:
Jennifer Bromley 0448 389 270
BENDIGO:
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Melissa.Dole@delwp.vic.gov.au
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Lloyd Beaty 02 6043 7936

Other contacts

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AHBIC@Honeybee.org.au
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Macquarie ACT 2614
www.honeybee.org.au

Crop Pollination Association
Stephen Targett,
Ph 0428 649 321

Honey Bee Research & Development committee (HBRDC)
Annie Stoddart
Program Coordinator Research
02 69236918
Annie.stoddart@agrifutures.com.au

VFF State Beekeeping Branch:
Secretary: Gail Rochelmeyer
Mob: 0408 592 091

Collingwood Childrens' Farm Apiary Open 10.30-3.30
2nd & 4th Sunday of month.
collingwoodbees@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/collingwoodbees

The Australian Bee Journal welcomes contributions from beekeepers and others for inclusion in the journal. Please send your original bee and honey related photos, articles, handy hints, anecdotes, club activities etc to abjeditors@yahoo.com

Photo: Geoff Jackson



Contacts

VAA Inc Regional Groups

Bendigo Branch:

Carol Maunder,
Ph: 03 5446 7911
secretarybendigobranch-vaa@gmail.com

General Information Q&A Meetings - 1st Wed. each month (except Jan & Dec)

Dinner at 6.00pm (optional)

Meeting at 7.00 pm.

Lakeside Hotel, Bendigo.

Executive Committee Meeting:

3rd Wed month as required.

Venue: As notified.

Please register to attend all Meetings

Melbourne Section:

Secretary, Rob Kerr

Ph: 0421 078 387

Vaamelbournesection@hotmail.com

www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/Melbourne-Section

Information/ Education Meetings: from 7:30 pm the last Thursday of each month except December

Location: Church of Christ, 1 The Avenue, Surry Hills.

Sunraysia Branch:

Trevor Monson,

Ph: 03 5024 8674.

monsonshoney@bigpond.com

VAA Inc. Library Trust

Secretary: Russell Goodman,
Ph 03 9735 3836

Affiliated Organisations

Central Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (CVAA Inc.):

Millie Enbom-Goad

Ph: 0400 083 582

cvaa_inc@outlook.com

Gippsland Apiarists'

Association Inc. (GAA Inc.):

Sue Harding,

Mob: 0408 343 779

hardstein@bigpond.com

North Eastern Apiarists'

Association Inc. (NEAA Inc.):

Secretary: Moss McCallum

secretary.neaa@gmail.com

"J" Beekeeping Club Inc.

35 Duncan's Lane, Diggers Rest
Meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7pm

Southside Beekeepers Club:

Secretary: Ted Cottle

Ph: 0428 429 547

ted@southsidebeekeepers.com.au

7.30pm on the 4th Wed each

month at Monterey Secondary

College,

21 Silvertop St, Frankston North

Geelong Beekeepers Club

Pres: Stephen Fridey

Ph: 0401 897 579

info@geelongbeekeepersclub.org.au

Meetings third Friday of the

month at Belmont Masonic

Centre,

25 Regent Street, Belmont

Latrobe Valley

Beekeepers Assoc.

President: Sean-Paul Smith

E: LatrobeValleyBees@gmail.com

LatrobeValleyBees@gmail.com

Meets 7-9pm first Tuesday each

month, Old Moe Netball Courts,

99 Savages Rd. Moe

P.O. Box 323 Newborough 3825

Mob: 0466 041 199

Woodend Bee-Friendly Society

An action group of the Macedon

Ranges Sustainability Group

E: wbfbs@mrsq.org.au

South Gippsland Beekeepers

Inc. Secretary: Anna Jones

Mob: 0411 770 062

secretary@sgbeekeepers.org.au

Web: <http://www.southgippslandbeekeepers.org.au/>

Meetings: second Thursday of the month at St Peters Anglican Church Hall, Cnr McCartin St. & Bruce St., Leongatha

Melbourne Beekeepers Club Inc:

Web: melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au

E: secretary@melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au

melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au

Northwestern Bee Club Inc.

President: Roger Mitchell

Mob. 0407 427 431

northwesternbeeclub@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.nwbee.club/>

Mornington Peninsula

Beekeepers Association :

P.O. Box 186, Mornington, 3931

Ph: 0401 965 558

E: admin@mpba.org.au

Monthly MPBA Club Meeting -

4th Wednesday of every month

at 7pm Mornington Park Pavilion,

9 Flinders Drive, Mornington

Moonee Valley Beekeepers

Club Inc. (MVBC Inc.)

Secretary: Paul Kucera

mvbeekeepersclub@gmail.com

Meets at 7pm every 2nd Tuesday

of the month at Maribyrnong Park

Bowls Club, 195 Holmes Rd,

Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039

WerriBeeks Inc.

President: Carmel Gerdson

Secretary: Helen Morland

Treasurer: Debbie Conway

E: werribeeks@gmail.com



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Contact Moe Jarrad
majarrad@gmail.com
Beemanhoney.com.au

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Contact: Terry Goode

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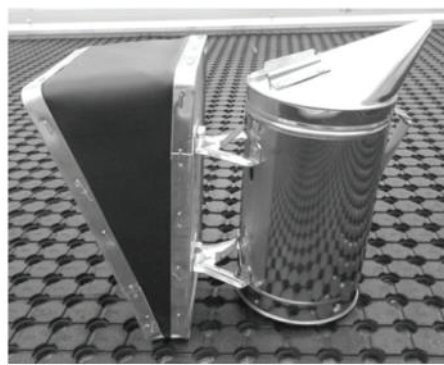
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