

AUSTRALIAN

VOL. 105 - NO 3

MARCH 2024

ISSN 0046-0294

BEE JOURNAL



AHBIC Update: Varroa jacobsoni ... page 12



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AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

Published since 1918 by the VAA - founded in 1892 -

MARCH 2024 - Volume 105 - No 3

Registration No. A8347

VAA & Board Information	4
President's Report	5
Letters To The Editor	6
Bee Bits	8/17/30/33-35
Bendigo Branch Report	10
AHBIC Update: Varroa jacobsoni	12
Tambo Valley Honey	14
New Book Releases & Reprints	15/19/22
AHBIC Newsletter Extracts	16
The Latest From Michael Bush	18
VAA Emails To Members	22
University Honey & Bee Research	24/28
Honey Bee Health Coalition	25
Friends With Honey Musical Kids Show	29
Beware The Asian Hornet	30
Melbourne Section Report	31
Fight For Australia's Honey Bees	32
AHBIC: Varroa Update	34
Bee Buzzer Monitoring System	35
Contacts	36/37
Classifieds / Members / Index of Advertisers	38

Cover photo supplied by Tambo Valley Honey (see story page 14) - Ben Murphy in the field.
Credit - Lauren Anderson Photography and Hannah Gilbert Photography

**Deadline for copy for the April 2024 journal is
10pm on Monday 1st of April 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

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Clubs & Affiliates

Phillip McPherson

Aust. Bee Journal/Website

John van Weeghel

Resources

Ken Gell

Services

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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

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www.vicbeekeepers.com.au

President's Report

Most members will be aware by now that the CCEPP has signed off on the Transition to Management (T2M) plan. This is a big step towards beekeepers receiving information and training to manage varroa. It is a credit to the AHBIC team to have been able to negotiate a comprehensive package that has something for every beekeeper. It includes face-to-face and online training, with two days of training available to the commercial and one day training for the recreational beekeepers. All the local bee clubs will be able to get one of the six Varroa Development Officers (VDO) to visit and receive training at the local meetings. It is expected that it may be some time before all this is available as the VDO's need to be employed and trained. The association likes to encourage all members to register for the training sessions at the earliest opportunity. If training sessions are not supported, they may well be cancelled due to lack of support. In the meantime, it will be business as usual, remember we don't have varroa in Victoria! There is absolutely no need or benefit to have the chemicals in the shed or to use them in your hives. The one thing we can and must do is test for varroa and report the results to the Apiary Team at AgVic.

The Annual Conference and AGM program is starting to take shape. A considerable number of sponsors have already signed up and the conference committee under the leadership of Lindsay Callaway is determined to make the conference informative and entertaining.

This year's committee includes a representative of the local beekeepers group the South Gippsland Beekeepers, one of our affiliated groups based in Leongatha. Joe Borg, together with another well-known Gippsland beekeeper, Matt Petersen, bring new energy and approach to our conference committee.

Following on from this, I would like to remind members that in the February edition of the ABJ a call was made by Phil McPherson for volunteers to join one of the association's sub-committees. Anyone planning to contact the association to get more information can still do this as we haven't filled all our positions. Commercial or recreational beekeepers that wish to contribute, or someone with financial or business management qualifications are encouraged to contact Phil McPherson or myself.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of the association.

Today (the day of writing this report) an email was sent to members and affiliated groups, offering the Part-Time Administrative Officer contract. The information is also available on the association website, closing date is 22 March 2024. Any inquiries can be submitted by email to the association email address.

Please support our sponsors, advertisers and attend the meetings of our branches or affiliated groups. Together we will make a difference.

John van Weeghel, President

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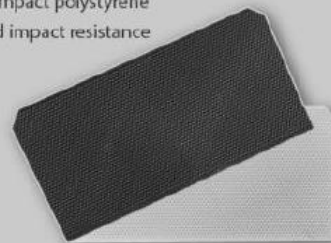
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Letters To The Editor

A Tribute to Kerrin Williams

Secretary of the Victorian Apiarists' Association from March 1989 to March 2024 (35 years).
Treasurer 1994 to March 2024 (30 years).

Dear Friends,

This is quite a historical period.

The longest serving Secretary of the VAA prior to Kerrin was Mr. Clem MacIntyre, serving in this position from 1932 to 1942.

Kerrin's history:

In July 1988 edition of the ABJ, there appeared a notice that the positions of then Editor/Treasurer Jewell Bould were to be vacated.

Later in the year Jewell's husband, Les Bould, at that time VAA Secretary (3 years) also resigned.

Following the required advertisement/interview process, Mr. Lloyd Trounce was appointed as Secretary; and Mrs. Judy Peterson (nee Graves) was appointed as Editor/Treasurer.

Mr. Trounce held the position for two months, he then resigned.

The Executive then revisited one of the failed applicants – Kerrin Williams, her experience having been Secretary/Bookkeeper for the local Taxi Service, and she accepted the position.



Ken Gell presenting flowers to Kerrin approximately 1995

With her friendly and obliging nature, Kerrin fitted comfortably into the bee-keeping family.

In May, 1992, the Editor/Treasurer Judy Peterson had resigned.

Interim positions filled by Executive Councillor, Alan Wallace.

Three months following the 1992 Annual Conference, the newly re-elected President Frank Papworth resigned from the Presidency and the Executive Council.

This then created some challenges to be met by the remaining Councillors and Secretary.

Current Vice President of the day, Alan Wallace stepped up as Acting President. He too was soon to resign from all of the above.

Due to these vacancies the Executive then successfully revisited failed Executive election applicants, Elwyne Papworth and Laurie Braybrook to fill the new vacancies.

Due to the difficulty of no Journal Editor (a black-out of communication with members), decisions within the remaining Executive Council had to be made.

Kerrin was constantly in receipt of phone calls seeking to know "what was going on?" etc.

(Continued on page 7)

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STOCKISTS OF



Letters To The Editor, cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

Ken Gell was elected as President, and Ian Fenselau was elected as Vice President.

Judy Graves (ex Peterson) returned to the position of Editor, finally bringing the Journal back 'online' by March 1993, and remaining as Editor until October 1994.

During my ten year tenure as Editor from November 1994, Kerrin & I worked closely together for the good of the Association.

KERRIN WILLIAMS, as well as "holding the fort" took over the role of Treasurer and has been Secretary/Treasurer - both being part-time positions - since approximately March 1994 (30 years Treasurer) to today.

Kerrin & Bernie have two sons, Michael and Ryan.

Michael is the proud Dad of son Mason, whose company Kerrin & Bernie enjoy on a regular basis in the form of occasional 'day care'.

My apologies for seeming to concentrate on the historical, but I consider these details are necessary for those members who are not conversant with Kerrin's devotion to the tasks and members involved over the years.

When I speak of loyalty I ask you to consider the following -

As some of us are aware, beekeepers are no resisters of time, e.g. over the years phone calls at 10pm + (on the road with a load etc.) were not unusual (we had to call a halt to these).

Phone calls to the Secretary over the years have not always been pleasant - even to the point of being downright abusive.

Executive Councillors did not learn of this until Kerrin confided in some of us outside of the Council, then Councillors were informed.

Due to time and health concerns Kerrin's tenure in these positions has come to a close.

I consider we would be remiss as an Association not to recognise her service and friendship.

After all, Kerrin is the first to have served the Association in these capacities for such a long period of time.

As a token of your appreciation, please let her know that you care and wish her well on her health journey into retirement.

As always,
Eileen McDonald

Historical Query

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am doing some local history on Cheltenham and have a particular interest in an area off Weatherall Road (between Banool Street and Fairway Ave, the former "Water Reserve").

An area of about 10 acres was allocated to John William Thomlinson, a returned serviceman. This was the base for his occupation as an apiarist, in which he had

(Continued on page 8)

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Letters To The Editor, cont'd

(Continued from page 7)

been engaged in the Stawell/Great Western area before WW1.

In a 1927 photo, he is shown as a member of the VAA executive.

He may have also held a position as an inspector of beekeeping for the Victorian Government.

Is there anyone in the VAA who could check whether there are any records of Thomlinson's involvement with VAA/beekeeping?

Any assistance that can be provided would be very much appreciated.

Regards,
Philip Morley

Eileen McDonald has supplied the following

information to Philip

Mr Tomlinson was the second Apiary Inspector appointed with Mr. Jim Eagland following the resignation of Mr Beuhne (who died in 1933), and was with the Department of Agriculture from 1927 until 1932. His name doesn't appear after 1932.

Although the photo mentions that he was a member of the VAA Executive, there is no evidence to prove that.

Due to the fact that there was an active Western Victorian Branch of the VAA, it is possible he held Office there.

Editor's Note - If anyone knows anything more about this could they please make contact with Philip at email: morley1148@outlook.com

Reusing failed bee colony resources may curb rearing of queens *Phys.org*

Beekeepers looking to establish new colonies will commonly reuse the comb and food stores of failed predecessors, including those constructed by honey bees exposed to pesticides. Wondering about the potential effects and viability of the practice, Nebraska's Judy Wu-Smart, Autumn Smart and Rogan Tokach decided to run an experiment. Read the full article [here](#)

Here's the buzz: Turns out bees and other insects hate pollution — and it affects our food supply

Yes, it turns out that the stuff coming out of our factories, power plants and cars can make flowers less attractive to insects, thus reducing the chance of pollination.

The findings come in the journal *Science*, which recently released a study showing that the airborne pollinators' sense of smell and attraction to plants they pollinate is affected by malodorous gases in the air.

Read the article [here](#)



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Bendigo Branch Report

By Carol Maunder
Secretary BBVAA

The End of the Year Dinner, held at the Lakeside Hotel, was well attended and proved to be a wonderful social evening full of laughter and friendly conversations, which appeared to be enjoyed by all. A lovely way to end the year's activities together and welcome in the new year.

The February meeting was once again well attended, with a few new hobbyist beekeepers coming along to meet other like-minded apiarist and learn tips and techniques from experienced beekeepers who are all keen to chat about their craft. We hope they all continue to attend and encourage other beekeepers, both new and experienced, to attend our meetings to add to the richness of our discussions.

We unanimously nominated Bendigo Branch's Representative for the 2024-2025 VAA Board, with this being submitted to Angelique Perry the VAA Returning Officer well before the due date of 28th February.

We welcomed and offered thanks to John van Weeghel, VAA President, for attending as our guest speaker. John gave a comprehensive informative report about the VAA's upcoming Recreational Conference being held on 9th March at the Croquet Centre in Cairnlea Victoria, including a run-down of the speakers and activities being offered. He also spoke about the hive register as displayed on the VAA website, encouraging

beekeepers to add their information to this register. As always we really appreciate the time devoted by John to support beekeepers and Branches such as Bendigo.

A regular feature of our meeting is a Question-and-Answer Session which promotes a lot of discussion along with varying viewpoints. A couple of items discussed in February were as follows:

Q1: a) What indicators to look for in a hive to tell if it requires feeding? (Jamie T)

b) Do bee numbers make a difference?

c) What signs on flora to look for in current and upcoming bee food sources locally?

A1 a): One way to tell if bees need feeding is to check if nectar is present, and the environmental availability of honey supplies, and check what the bees have stored. Check the weight of the hive will indicate how much honey is present. If thin syrup is fed bees will build brood. As a guide in winter feed thick Syrup and in spring feed thin syrup. If the bees are not getting honey they need to be shifted.

A1 b): Bee number do make a difference because more bees mean more honey – gathering power.

A1 c): This is different according to the location. You need to look for what is flowering soon and move your bees in there now in readiness. However, do not assume there is nectar in flowers. If they are not glistening there will be no nectar for the bees.

(Continued on page 10)



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Bendigo Branch Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 9)

Q2: We seem to have plenty of honey in our frames in our supers but it's taking a long time for the bees to cap it. Is this because of the humid weather we have had making it difficult to evaporate the moisture from the honey to ripen it? (Angelique)

A2: *The reason is probably that the bees are not gathering sufficient honey, or that the honey may be too thin to allow the bees to cure it ready for capping. Use a moisture checker to check honey quality – check lots of frames. In the afternoon pull out one of the frames and give it a good shake.*

Another regular feature of our meetings includes sharing some "Bunches of Five" Tips. These frequently result in robust discussions, debate, questions, and varied viewpoints, according to beekeepers' various personal experiences and ideas. A great way to initiate participation and sharing of thoughts.

February's Bunch of Five included:-

A. BUNCH OF FIVE: (Jamie Trimby)

1. Basic Small Hive Beetle (SHB) trap – use a chux-cloth folded to approx. 8-10cm and stapled near each corner and left on top of frames catch quite a few SHB's.

2. The Ezy (brand) IP65, 50 litre plastic container version holds 8 honey frames and has a good seal.

3. Canvas hive mat (sourced from removed awning), allows moisture movement. 10mm gap between side wall and canvas for winter.

4. If holding onto a few frames of honey, place them in freezer for a day to kill wax moth and SHB eggs.

5. If putting full honey frames in freezer, put a foundation-less or foundation only frame turned 180 degrees between honey frames to prevent honey leaking in the freezer.

B. BUNCH OF FIVE: (Dana Windle)

1) Ikea boxes (sambla) fit 8 standard frames perfectly, and they fit in a chest freezer and also stack well. Cheap and so useful!

2) An early learning was to shower, wash hair and change clothes after any inspections (noting mine are backyard bees close to the house). Wash away the smell of smoke and pheromones, so that you can keep gardening or going about your backyard in peace.

3) Red light on head torch when moving hives at night, stops bees being attracted to the bright torch light but you can still see.

4) My husband is a home brewer and he has programmed a fridge to both cool and also heat for brewing (apparently this is quite simple). This has been invaluable for warming honey frames and also allowing slow sieving of honey in a closed space and without attracting a heap of bees.

(Continued on page 11)

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Bendigo Branch Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 10)

5) For new beekeepers, two hives is definitely better than one. I have learned so much just from comparing my hives.

C BUNCH OF FIVE: (Angelique Perry)

1. Approach the hive quietly. You don't want your bees to be startled by loud noises. This gets them on the defence. I do talk with my husband while working them and they seem fine.

2. Work slowly. Don't go ripping the frames in and out quickly. Remember that's their home and sisters and they won't appreciate you knocking down walls and hurting their sisters.

3. Never open the hive without smoke. I've done it and it ended badly! Keep your smoker within reach at all times.

4. Listen to them. They'll let you know if they're happy or becoming unhappy. Nice calm bees sound calm which is how I like them. If the volume goes up, use some smoke and wait.

5. Join a beekeeping club and ask heaps of questions. The treasure trove of wisdom you'll gain is something you can't read about in a book. The experienced beekeepers want you to become a great beekeeper and want to share their wisdom to help you achieve this. I can't recommend this tip enough, it's priceless!

Our meeting included with a presentation of a

healthy Virtual Hive by Robert McDonald, Eileen McDonald and Eileen's grandson Jacob Atkinson. After a general introduction, the frames with their fabulous photos were handed out randomly amongst those in attendance to view and discuss with those at their tables. This proves a great impetus for discussion, questions and improved understanding. Unfortunately, time restraints meant we will probably continue this at a future meeting, to which we will all look forward.

Our next meeting on March 6th will feature Mark Hall – City of Greater Bendigo Senior Biosecurity Officer, who is planning to bring along sufficient "Insects of Central Victoria" Booklets providing a copy for all members.

Wednesday 3rd April is our General Annual Meeting. We encourage all to seriously consider who they would like to elect for our next Board of Management Executive Committee, as all positions will be considered as being vacant at that date. This will be followed by Lindsay Callaway giving a presentation about queen bee rearing.

Future activities planned are our Annual Pack-Down day, and a Mead Making demonstration one weekend.

We look forward to seeing many VAA members attending Bendigo Branch meetings, and encourage you to do so, as you will be warmly welcomed.

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AHBIC Important Industry Update

Varroa jacobsoni Detection; Port of Brisbane
27th February 2024

Situation

On 19 February 2024, Biosecurity Queensland detected a single suspect Varroa mite in one of the six sentinel hives of *Apis mellifera* at the Port of Brisbane.

CSIRO has confirmed the mite *Varroa jacobsoni* and the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Murrumbidgee, NSW, is testing for the presence of exotic honey bee viruses.

The single infected sentinel hive has been euthanised and further testing and diagnostics will be conducted to confirm it is a single mite. The remaining 5 hives at the Port have undergone additional surveillance by Biosecurity Queensland, including immediate alcohol washes, drone uncapping (where possible) and additional miticide strips and mats. To date, no further mites have been found in either the euthanised infected hive nor the other 5 remaining sentinel hives at the Port of Brisbane.

Incident Management Team

Biosecurity Queensland have stood up an Incident Management Team (IMT) and are preparing for the next steps in this evolving situation. Delimiting surveillance is planned along with volunteer industry involvement. AHBIC reminds beekeepers that in Queensland, varroa mite (both *V. destructor* and *V. jacobsoni*) is listed as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

Movement restrictions in place: QLD

A Movement Control Order is in place to assist in

preventing the spread of Varroa, beekeepers are not permitted to move any bee (living or dead), a swarm, nest or hive of bees, apiary equipment, or apiary products within the Control Area. A map of the area (below) surrounding the Port of Brisbane shows the Control Area:

For detailed information beekeepers should refer to the Movement Control Order:
[varroa-mite-carriers-movement-control-order.pdf](https://publications.qld.gov.au/varroa-mite-carriers-movement-control-order.pdf)
(publications.qld.gov.au)

AHBIC encourages QLD beekeepers to be registered and stay up to date through Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website: Varroa mite alert | Business Queensland or
<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/animal/industries/bees/varroa-mite>

All Beekeepers

Importantly, all beekeepers should remember that the state of Queensland remains a biosecurity zone and any movements of Varroa mite carriers into Queensland require an approved permit through:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-instrumentpermit>

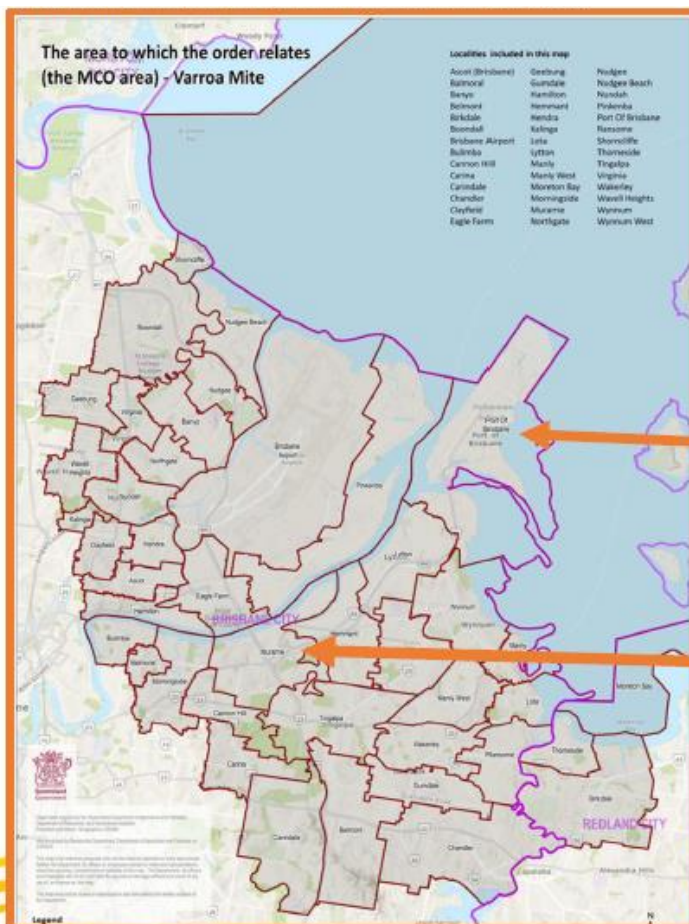
Continue Exotic Mite Monitoring

To learn more about alcohol washing check out the nationally agreed resource Bee Pest Blitz:

<https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/beepestblitz/>

You can reach out to AHBIC via: Varroa Coordinator Bianca Giggins 0402 467 780 bianca@honeybee.org.au

Control Map
Brisbane Area in grey



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HONEY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
POLLEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SUGAR SYRUP	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

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Tambo Valley Honey

TAMBO VALLEY HONEY OFFERS A SWEET TASTE OF GIPPSLAND

By John Kennedy

An exciting new beekeeping and honey production venture, Tambo Valley Honey, is making impressive progress at 64 Main Street in Bruthen.

The venture has been developed over the past two years by Ben & Stacey Murphy, who acquired the hives and beekeeping business of notable Bruthen beekeeper Ian Cane.

The Cane family has a three generation beekeeping history throughout Victoria dating back to the 1920s, initially in Gippsland, with variants in Ballarat, Beaufort and Euroa, before third generation family members Max (now at Ararat) and Ian became involved.

The Cane family involvement in the industry has always been significant as migratory beekeepers, pollinators and honey producers with plenty of innovation thrown in.

Ian it is noted, had hives from an early age, becoming a full time beekeeper in 1997, and when he left school he completed his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner in Ararat.

By the time he was twenty he had 150 hives.

Ian, his wife and young family shifted to Bruthen in 1980 where they managed 1000 to 1200 hives working bees across Victoria, South Australia and NSW, as well as working with his brother Max in the Mallee region of western Victoria.

They are recognised as having spent countless hours developing innovative ideas to continuously improve their operations.

It is noted that Ian, although now effectively retired, retains his industry involvement as current President of the Gippsland Apiarists Association.

But here the story diverges.

Ben Murphy with his wife Stacey are also Bruthen locals, with Ben having completed a butcher's apprenticeship in his home town and then working for seven years as a butcher running his own shop.

But in 2012 the opportunity was presented to join Ian as effectively his apprentice beekeeper.

After about seven years in the role and learning the ropes, Ben took up the opportunity to purchase Ian's complete beekeeping business.

Since acquisition he has applied his own ideas – one of which was rebranding the business as Tambo Valley



The multi-enterprise Tambo Valley Honey café, restaurant and honey sales in the Bruthen township. The Great Alpine Road turnoff to the high country and ski resorts is virtually directly opposite.

Honey (the Tambo River of course is a local district landmark flowing a considerable way through East Gippsland from its beginnings up beyond Benambra).

A vacant brick shop in Main Street, Bruthen was repurposed as a café and honey sales store.

More recently with the hiring of a qualified chef it has become an appealing restaurant.

Bruthen is on a bit of a noted tourist route that continues to the Buchan caves one way, and is also the start of the Great Alpine Road to Omeo, Dinner Plain and Hotham and then through to the north east centres like Milawa, Bright and Wangaratta. So, it was probably the ideal place for such a retail venture.

Ben Murphy told me that since acquiring Ian Cane's bee business he has continued it in pretty much the same way and scale with around 1000 or so hives.

"We are continuing with almond pollination in the districts near Mildura, we also go to Bateman's Bay for winter buildup and honey production".

He added that Ian held a number of bee sites throughout East Gippsland which he has retained (and Tambo Valley Honey releases about a dozen very attractively branded honeys under their district source or varietal name (one even has the delightful name of Bruthen Blossoms!)).

He says he has pretty much continued the Cane operation, modifying or upgrading the equipment that was considered timely or necessary and replacing some

bushfire losses.

"Ian continues to provide guidance and acts as a mentor, so I feel I am on the right beekeeping track" Ben says.



*Above: at the honey tasting bar
Below: with David Hurley the Governor General who has bees of his own at Yarralumla in Canberra.
Photos supplied Tambo Valley Honey
Credit: Lauren Anderson Photography and Hannah Gilbert Photography*



Tambo Valley Honey, cont'd

(Continued from page 14)

The Tambo Valley Honey operation now employs 15 people, most of whom are Bruthen locals working in the main street café, restaurant and honey sales operation, and the rest are the beekeeping crew.

Ben notes that East Gippsland is reliable and highly productive beekeeping country.

He says he is adopting a 'wait and see' response to the arrival of the varroa mite and until solutions are developed before expanding the bee operation.

I think the Tambo Valley Honey beekeeping operation is likely to expand quite significantly in coming years as the foundations are being well laid. The commercial transformation and expansion that Ben and Stacey have achieved with Tambo Valley Honey is a great example of how a number of multi generational beekeeping businesses based in country town areas in Victoria could perhaps respond as a way of bringing their operations up to more lively businesses.

If you are ever in East Gippsland, remember that Bruthen is only a 20 minute drive inland off the Princes Highway from Bairnsdale, so make sure that the Tambo Valley Honey café, restaurant and honey sales is a must stop destination.

For more information see

www.tambovalleyhoney.com.au

SCIENTIFIC QUEEN REARING 1901 CLASSIC TEXT RE-RELEASED

By John Kennedy

An historic book with the title of *Scientific Queen - Rearing* and subtitled *As Practically Applied Being A Method By Which The Best Queen Bees are Reared in Perfect Accord with Nature's Ways* was last published as the third edition in 1901. It was authored by G. M Doolittle who is remembered as the father of commercial queen rearing. He is quoted as saying "our time for study and preparation all along the line of bee work is during the winter months and he who takes time by the forelock is the one most likely to succeed".

This publication is judged as a classic work on the subject by the publisher [Northern Bee Books](http://NorthernBeeBooks.com) who have just released it as a reproduction/facsimile of the 1901 edition, but with the text enhanced at a 110% scale of the original for easier reading. They say "there is much advice in this volume, although written over 100 years ago, which is relevant to queen rearers of today".

Scientific Queen Rearing stands now as a work of multiple chapters with an index to comb honey management and with an index to illustrations. The author spent two decades devoted to researching, experimenting, and documenting his methods. Paperback. 128 pages. 13 pounds 95 sterling plus conversion and postage.

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AHBIC February Newsletter Extracts

It is with some relief that the National Management Group (NMG) has approved the Varroa Response Transition to Management (T2M) Plan. An historical decision requiring all affected parties to the Deed to agree with the proposed plan and budget. The CCEPP and NSW DPI are working to have a publicly available document detailing the T2M that we can distribute through industry. We expect this to become available in the coming weeks.

Much of the success in getting the T2M approved was due to the hard work and behind the scenes phone calls by Danny our CEO and Bianca. A big thank you from industry for the hard yards.

We are aware that several beekeepers from NSW are saying 'about time', and this is understandable, however delivering outcomes under such a large response with government agencies and several affected pollination dependent industry peak bodies across the country is a slow and deliberate process which is frustrating to most involved.

As Chair and on behalf of the AHBIC executive I extend a big thank you to our CEO, Danny and also our Varroa Coordinator, Bianca, for getting a T2M plan over the line. This is the first T2M plan under the plant deed to be extended beyond 12 months under the special circumstances clause. As such the plan will extend the rollout of activities beyond 12 months to 24 months. The agreed upper limit of expenditure for the entire response inclusive of T2M will not exceed \$100 million, only the length of time in which to carry out the activi-

ties has been extended.

This fantastic result required intense lobbying, by our CEO, to jurisdictions and pollination dependent industries who now understand the need for an extended plan and common sense prevailed. We now have a T2M where all Australian beekeepers have access to education, extension and several other important activities to transition to living with Varroa.

Bianca Giggins will continue to play an important role in the T2M rollout, remaining within AHBIC, we look forward to more great work from Bianca over the next period.

The levy sub-committee will be busy working on recommendations for our industry to repay the Federal government the estimated \$1.1 million for our industries share of the cost for the varroa response. AHBIC's request to the commonwealth to have the debt underwritten for 10 years has been granted allowing our industry to pay down the debt over time.

Once the T2M plan is up and fully functioning then AHBIC will continue concentrating on our other priorities. This includes AHBIC's strategic plan, a review of AHBIC structure, lobbying of government on imported honey, funding for sentinel hives and continued and improved access to natural resources.

The AHBIC 2024 AGM will be in Townsville on 10th July, one day prior to the QBA conference due to a lack of venue availability immediately after the QBA conference. Delegates from our 10 member bodies

(Continued on page 17)

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AHBIC February Newsletter Extracts, cont'd

(Continued from page 16)

will be in attendance and anyone can attend as an observer. Observer registration will be on our website or alternatively email AHBIC. AHBIC welcomes observers to attend and see what our member bodies identify as industries key issues and priorities, which AHBIC will concentrate on in the year ahead.

Stephen Targett
Chair

Bee Pest Blitz

Bee Pest Blitz is an initiative throughout April annually, it is a national campaign to increase awareness of the importance of bee biosecurity and encourage beekeepers to inspect their hives for high priority exotic pests.

This national month-long call-to-action campaign encourages beekeepers to conduct surveillance during the month of April.

The Bee Pest Blitz website

beepestblitz.com.au is live and contains resources to assist beekeepers to conduct alcohol washes on their hives and report their findings.

Bee Pest Blitz is a Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) funded initiative, led by Plant Health Australia (PHA), and supported by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) and all state and territory governments.

Bee Pest Blitz will be supported by Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) in each state under the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP), and engagement and networking with the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSp).

By participating in the Bee Pest Blitz month, Australian beekeepers will fulfil their bee biosecurity obligations and one of the two inspection requirements under the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice](#).

Honey bee virus has evolved to become less deadly in a U.S. forest

Penn State researchers have made a significant discovery regarding the deformed wing virus (DWV) affecting honey bees. The team found that in at least one U.S. forest, the virus may have evolved into a less deadly form.

This revelation offers hope for better management and treatment of the virus in bee colonies.

The study compared deformed wing virus infection rates and severity in wild honey bees from a forest near Ithaca, New York, to those in managed apiaries in New York and Pennsylvania. The findings showed that while infection rates were similar, the virus genotype in wild bees resulted in milder infections than those in managed apiaries.

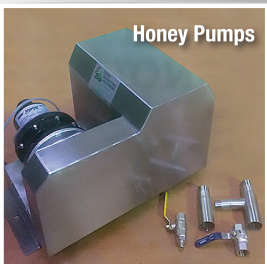
Read the full article [here](#)



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The Latest From Michael Bush

By John Kennedy

Michael Bush, the noted US beekeeper who trades as www.bushfarms.com or as the Practical Beekeeper based in Nebraska, has produced an extensive account of what he sees as the challenges for beekeepers today.

His missive (available on the website above) begins "I suppose you'd have to be living under a rock these days to have not heard that the honey bees and beekeepers are in trouble."

Bush notes that the major challenges he sees currently (in addition to a lot of effort fighting varroa) are getting his nucs through winter in south eastern Nebraska, coming up with hives that won't hurt his back from lifting, or finding better ways to feed his bees. He then provides a detailed overview (over about 10 pages of text) on current problems and solutions.

He contends that firstly it's an unsustainable beekeeping system, noting that "beekeeping now has the dubious honor of becoming the first part of our system of industrial agriculture to fall apart".

There are no longer enough bees to pollinate crops and each time bees go through a downturn, we respond by making things more stressful for them, rather than less. Then he turns to beekeeping pests. There are also shallow gene pools with only a handful of queen breeders who supply 99% of our (USA) queens.

Then there is contamination of pesticides to kill the

mite and other pests which have built up in the wax and cause sterile drones which in turn means failing queens,

And the gene pool is wrong because with treatments of pesticides and antibiotics we keep on propagating bees that can't survive.

The ecology of the bee colony has been upset since it is a whole system of beneficial and benign fungi, bacteria, yeasts, mites, insects and other flora and fauna which rely on bees for their livelihood.

Bush attributes the USDA and universities as having built up a house of cards creating a precarious system of beekeeping that relies on chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides to keep it going. He says the only way to have a sustainable system of beekeeping is to stop treating, as it's a death spiral that is now collapsing.

Beekeepers must use clean wax because foundation is made from recycled contaminated wax with araracides.

There needs to be a return to natural cell size to control bees in a natural way.

He notes the leading work of other US beekeeping notables in Dee and Ed Lusby in this area.

Further, a return to natural food noting that sugar syrup has a pH of 6, compared to honey or pollen at 3.2 to 4.5. stating "artificial pollen substitute makes for short lived, unhealthy bees".

It's definitely a contrarian view available at his website, and well worth your time to read.



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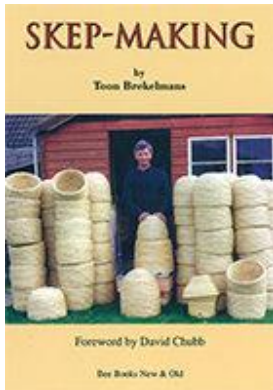
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New Bee Books Releases And Reprints

By John Kennedy

More new releases and reprints released by Northern Bee Books underline that UK company's role as the largest publisher of English language bee books in the world.



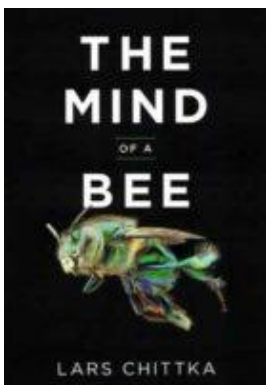
The first is an eight page reprint (costing three pounds 99 plus postage) entitled *Skep-Making*.

It was originally published in 1998 by a Netherlands publisher and is written by Tood Bekelmans. It comes with a new extended forward by David Chubb.

The publisher notes that it explains, with diagrams, skeps and skep making.

The book includes useful recommendations for further reading as well as explanations of the materials and tools used in the process of skep making.

Both authors are experienced skep makers and there are instructive drawings for whether you are left or right handed.



The second re-release is a somewhat weightier tome *The Mind of a Bee* by Lars Chittka.

Originally emerging from Princeton University Press as a first edition in 2022, it is a weighty 260 page hardback available for 25 pounds sterling plus postage costs.

It is described as “a rich and surprising exploration of the intelligence of bees”.

The author Lars Chittka draws on decades of research to argue that bees have remarkable cognitive ability, saying they are profoundly smart, have distinct personalities, can recognise flowers and human faces, exhibit basic emotions, use simple tools, can solve problems, and learn by observing others.

They may also possess consciousness, Chittka posits.

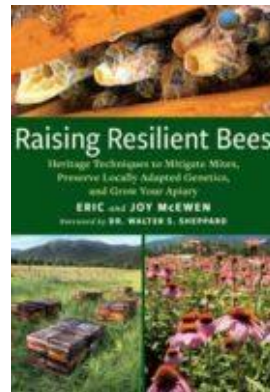
This book explores an insect whose sensory experiences rival those of humans.

The *Mind of a Bee* reveals the singular abilities of some of the world's most incredible creatures.

See www.northernbeebooks.co.uk for more info or to order.

New and relevant bee books continue to emerge at a rapid rate.

The latest with the title of *Raising Resilient Bees* and subtitled *Heritage Techniques to Mitigate Mites, Preserve Locally Adopted Genetics and Grow Your Apiary* is a first edition from US publisher Chelsea Green and is a paperback of 256 pages. It is released internationally by www.northernbeebooks.co.uk for 30 pounds sterling plus postage. It weighs 660 grams.



Raising Resilient Bees is authored by Eric and Joy McEwan who it is said “have over two decades worth of beekeeping experience, experiments, and professional production to deliver ground-breaking methods in queen rearing, varroa mite management and natural nest hive design”.

It also comes with a foreword provided by Dr. Walter S Shepard, and an endorsement from

Welsh beekeeping identity David G Heaf who notes its relevance to biodynamic and organic beekeepers.

Some of the topics include revived and adapted Integrated Pest Management techniques, methods to naturally rear queens and to select for resilience, mite-resistant genetic lines without relying on swarming or grafting, and how to establish a flourishing and sustainable beekeeping business.

There are seven chapters plus an Appendix on “beekeeper shorthand” with a glossary and more resources that can be accessed.

The book contains 100 colour photographs and illustrations alongside expert advice and easy-to-follow instructions.

Conclusions are drawn along with lessons from the field.

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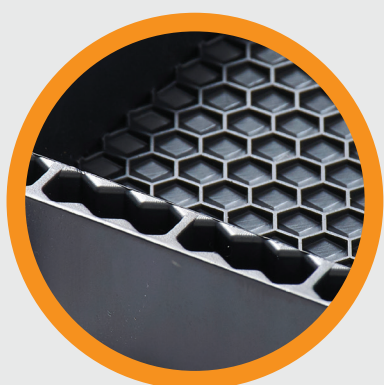
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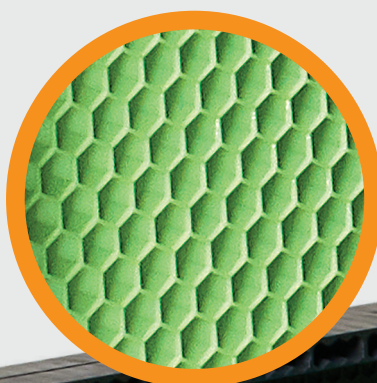


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- ▶ Assembled Timber Frame with Plastic Foundation
- ▶ Assembled Wired Frame

VAA Emails To Members

Friday 1st March 2024

The VAA is offering the position of part-time Contract Administrative Officer owing to the retirement of our long term contractor. Details are here and the closing date is 22nd March.

Best regards,

Victorian Apiarists Association

ENQUIRIES AND SUBMISSIONS For enquiries and submission of applications, please contact the President of the Association, John van Weeghel, via email: vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au. Applications must be submitted by the 22nd March 2024

Sunday 18th February 2024

To all VAA members,

This email is to check in with members who may

have been affected by the adverse weather conditions and fires that occurred over this last week. We would like to make an assessment of losses and to offer any assistance that we can to affected beekeepers. Please reply to this email if you were adversely affected, with details of your losses and we will work to assist where we can. Depending on the response, we may be able to liaise with the Department to further coordinate assistance to beekeepers.

For anyone that has been affected, please know your fellow beekeepers are thinking of you and will help where we can. Please pass this message onto any beekeepers you know that are affected, even if they are not VAA members.

Regards,

VAA Board

NEW FIFTH EDITION OF THE BACKYARD BEEKEEPER

By John Kennedy

A well regarded US beekeeping book carrying the title of *The Backyard Beekeeper – An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Backyard or Garden* - has just been re-released.

It is authored by and contains a preface by the late Kim Flottum, who notes it is six years since its last revision and describes the most up-to-date understanding of the new challenges facing today's beekeepers and strategies for confronting and coping with them.

There are new chapters on maladies, problems and solutions as well as new information that reflects advances in hive designs, honey bee genetics, climate change and more.

And yes, included is a new Chapter Five, of 30 odd pages, on maladies including varroa.

The mite, along with chalkbrood and foulbrood are covered with an IPM emphasis.

It adds "not doom and gloom, but quite enlightening".

The final Chapter Seven is devoted to the 'Rules of Modern Beekeeping'.

Included here are three rules on queens – they must be raised in luxury, well mated before sale or use, and must be productive.

The four key bee rules are – your bees should be adapted to your location, they should be selected to match your management style and technique, and they should be resistant to pests and diseases. and your bees should be well behaved.

There are also three rules on varroa - learn about the mite, the best way to control varroa is the worst way to make honey, and three use IPM first, soft chemicals next and hard chemicals never.

This is a pretty comprehensive text, and although it has a USA focus, the themes are universal and it will be a great reference for educators, bee groups or clubs.

A quarto sized book it is listed by multiple local on line and retail booksellers at prices ranging from \$A32ish to \$A45 but be sure you or your bee interest group are buying the latest, and much more comprehensive new fifth edition.

*The end of an Apiary Open Day
Photo Rob Kerr*





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Research: University Of Wyoming

UW Researcher Learns How Nectar-Laden Honey Bees Avoid Overheating

Published February 13, 2024

Honey bees carrying nectar have the remarkable ability to adjust their flight behavior to avoid overheating when air temperatures increase, according to research led by a University of Wyoming scientist.

Jordan Glass, a postdoctoral research associate in UW's Department of Zoology and Physiology, conducted the study to determine how high air temperatures may limit the ability of honey bees to forage for nectar. His research findings appear in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, one of the world's most prestigious multidisciplinary scientific journals covering the biological, physical and social sciences.

Insect pollinators are declining at an alarming rate, due in part to climate change. While it is thought that extremely hot, dry conditions should limit when a honey bee can forage, Glass and colleagues found that these pollinating insects have the ability to remain active in significant heat. In fact, this study showed that honey bees can carry the same amount of nectar without a threat to their lives in temperatures ranging from 77 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

The researchers measured the flight muscle temperatures, metabolism and water loss of honey bees carrying nectar inside a temperature-controlled flight room to determine the insects' ability to fly at high air temperatures. And, to determine how carrying nectar might change the flight behavior, the scientists also used high-speed videos of the flying bees to measure changes in how they flap their wings.

Specifically, their results demonstrated that the honey bees' flight muscle temperatures and metabolism increased while carrying nectar at 68 and 86 degrees. However, at 104 degrees, muscle temperatures did not change, and flight metabolism only slightly increased with increasing nectar loads.

Analysis of the high-speed videos of honey bees flying at air temperatures of 77 and 104 degrees showed that, at high body temperatures, "bees apparently increase flight efficiency by lowering their wingbeat frequency and increasing stroke amplitude to compensate, reducing the need for evaporative cooling," wrote Glass, who led the research as a doctoral student at Arizona State University.

In other words, as temperatures rise, the bees change how they fly to decrease the heat they generate from metabolism, which helps these insects avoid overheating and save precious water.

"Due to the capacity of hot bees to reduce metabolic heat production during flight, our data suggest that, under dry and poor forage conditions, (dehydration) may limit activity before overheating, impairing critical pollination services provided by honey bees," Glass wrote. "Even with reductions in metabolic heat production, (dehydration) likely limits foraging at temperatures well below bees' critical thermal maxima in hot, dry conditions."

Although the findings from this study relieve some concern about the impact of a warming climate on honey bees, Glass says there is still reason for worry as the world becomes warmer and drier.

[University of Wyoming](https://www.universityofwyoming.edu/)



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Honey Bee Health Coalition

OFFERS VARROA MANAGEMENT GUIDE

By John Kennedy

Since its formation in 2014 in the USA, the Honey Bee Health Coalition (HBHC) has aimed to “collaboratively implement solutions that will help achieve a healthy population of honey bees and other pollinators in the context of productive agricultural systems and thriving ecosystems.”

Its membership comprises dozens of beekeeping organisations, university and research groups, many extension providers and specific commodity organisations including from the US and Canada.

According to its just released 2023 annual report, hive management is one of its priorities where it seeks to place the best available tools, techniques and technologies in the hands of beekeepers so they can best manage their hives.

A focus of the HBHC is the Varroacide Resistance and Testing Team (VRRT) comprising 30 researchers from three countries working on testing orphan compounds to find an effective miticide to kill varroa mites.

This team comprising government, academia and the private sector (in the USA) has been working for eight

years testing dozens of compounds in the lab and in the field.

The HBHC has announced it has just secured a four year \$US4 million grant from the USDA’s Specialty Crop Research Initiative to advance this research.

Another project is the publication (of the latest eighth edition) of a Tools for Varroa Management Guide, which it says explains practical, effective methods that beekeepers can use to measure varroa infections in their hives and select appropriate control methods.

This is a document of some 37 pages which can be downloaded from the internet by a search for that title, so be sure to load up your printer first.

In Australia where we are so new to the mite, lack informative resources we can grab, or as yet individually not exposed to the varroa mite, this document is a worthwhile information source.

The HBHC is also abreast with the tropilaelaps mite (another field where local beekeepers need to be informed) issue.

They also offer on their website the proceedings of a recent webinar on this topic.

For more information see

www.honeybeehealthcoalition.org



Photos: Jon Williams

Bees gathering road bitumen, then degreasing themselves on road signs. They were on a patch of road in SW NSW about 100 metres long, about 2km from the river. They would be there all day long even on days of mid 30s.

Numbering a few thousand, where they came from we couldn't tell, and they were still there after we moved our bees away, the nearest were 4km away. They were working this patch for at least 2 months that I know of.

Editor's Note: Does anyone know why the bees gathered bitumen? If you know why or have a theory about it please email abjeditors@yahoo.com



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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

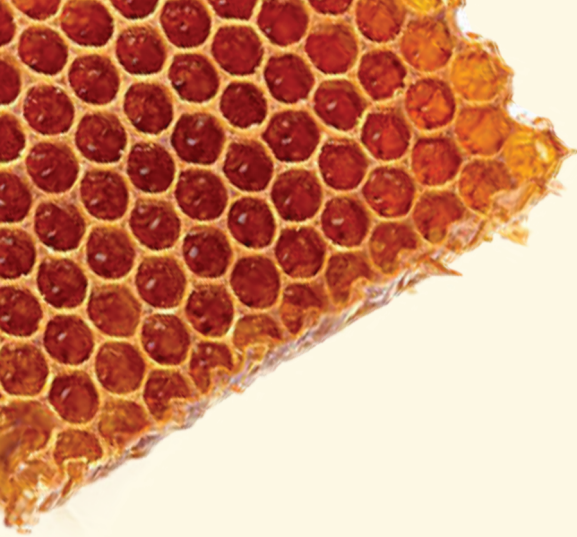
1kg, 1.5kg Honey Pails &
2.2L, 5L Pails

10L, 15L, 20L Pails

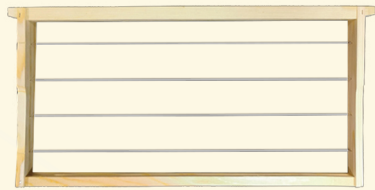
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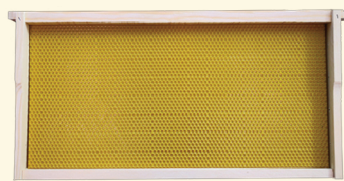
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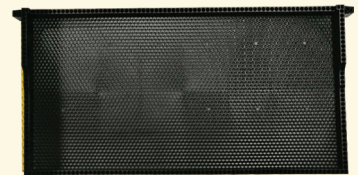
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Wood Frame Full Depth
With Plastic Foundation
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Plastic Frame Full Depth

Plastic Beehive

Plastic Beehive with 10 Frames

Material: food grade polypropylene

Thickness: 30mm

Working life: 30 years

Packing dimension: 60x50x44cm 13.8/kg

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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



Research: Lancaster University UK

New evidence shows UK solar parks can provide for bees and butterflies

21 February 2024

A new study shows that UK solar parks, if managed correctly, can provide vital resources to help stem the decline in the nation's bees and butterflies.

The new research, led by scientists at Lancaster University and in collaboration with the University of Reading, has been published in the journal *Ecological Solutions and Evidence*. It provides the first peer-reviewed field data of insect pollinators at solar parks in the UK, covering 15 sites.

The scientists recorded around 1,400 pollinators across more than 30 species, including nearly 900 butterflies, more than 170 hoverflies, more than 160 bumble bees, as well as moths and honeybees.

The most commonly observed species was the meadow brown butterfly. Bumble bees were observed at two thirds of the solar parks, while the small heath butterfly, a priority biodiversity species, was observed at three of the solar parks.

Their field data, gathered through repeated surveys during the summer of 2021, shows two critical factors are at play in determining whether solar parks can become beneficial to pollinators – the flowering plants available to pollinators within solar farms and the characteristics of the surrounding landscape.

The availability of a greater diversity of flowering plant species was a key factor in increased pollinator abundance and biodiversity within solar parks. Parks containing a wider variety of flowering plants saw increased numbers of bumblebees, butterflies and hoverflies.

The study also showed the number of flowering plants available is less important to the pollinators than having a variety of flowering species to forage across.

The surrounding landscape was also a critical determining factor. Solar parks managed for biodiversity that are located in disconnected landscapes with fewer features such as hedgerows appear to benefit pollinators the most.

The researchers say this is because those pollinating insects are more reliant on the food resources on offer in the solar parks than they would be for solar parks located in landscapes containing more food and habitat options.

Hollie Blaydes, of Lancaster University and lead author of the study, said: "Pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies have been in dramatic decline in recent years and there is a need to restore more resources for these species in our landscapes. One potential option is to use sites such as solar parks to help benefit biodiversity – however, until now empirical evidence has been lacking around how, and which, solar parks might best support pollinators.

"We've shown that through management decisions such as planting a variety of flowering plants, solar parks can support insect pollinators and also those communities can be relatively diverse and abundant - particularly in those landscapes where there are few hedgerows and wildflowers for pollinators to depend on."

Professor Alona Armstrong, also of Lancaster University and Principal Investigator of the study, said: "This is the first time that pollinators have been systematically and repeatedly surveyed on solar parks across the UK - building on previous modelling work.

"This adds to the evidence showing that solar parks, while helping to meet the UK's renewable energy goals, and if managed correctly, also have the potential to support insect biodiversity."

The study is outlined in the paper 'On-site floral resources and surrounding landscape characteristics impact pollinator biodiversity at solar parks'.

The paper's authors are Hollie Blaydes, Professor Duncan Whyatt and Professor Alona Armstrong of Lancaster University; and Professor Simon Potts of the University of Reading.

The study was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council with support from Low Carbon.

DOI: 10.1002/2688-8319.12307

[Lancaster University](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)

Photo Rob Kerr
Honeycomb segments coming up



Educating The Next Generation Of Beekeepers

It's often said that children are our future. And when it comes to the future of our bees and the world around us, this statement couldn't be more true. It's with this in mind that bee-ducator Helen Charles is aiming to reach the minds of the next generation of beekeepers.

As the founder of social enterprise business Friends With Honey, Helen has made it her mission to be part of the solution when it comes to educating children and adults about the importance of our powerful pollinators.

Building on her education programs for preschool and early learning centres, Helen has collaborated with award winning singer/songwriter Benny Allen to record an album of bee themed songs for children.

"Helen is so passionate about educating people about bees, sustainability and the environment, that it can't help but rub off", Benny said. "Having the opportunity to record some well known songs, as well as write with Helen has made this the most exciting project I've been involved with to date".

The transition to children's entertainers has come naturally, and Benny and Helen have embraced the opportunity to create songs which will not only provide an education relating to bees and their importance in the world around us, but will also provide exposure to multiple styles of music.



The new children's album, *Friends With Honey Musical Kids Show* is scheduled for release in time to celebrate World Bee Day 2024.

To celebrate the release of the album, the *Friends With Honey Musical Kids Show* is being performed as a live action musical stage show, at the RSPCA Pawditorium Theatre, located in Burwood East, Victoria.

Through inclusive singing and dancing, the show has proven to be an engaging way to connect the central themes regarding bees and their importance to our food security.

Friends With Honey Musical Kids Show is being released as an album on 17th May 2024, with the live show scheduled for 18th May 2024 - just in time for your little people to get excited for World Bee Day on the 20th May 2024.

Friends With Honey Musical Kids Show. Sing. Dance. Learn.

www.friendswithhoney.kids



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- ✓ Extend vehicle life & maintenance cost are reduced
- ✓ Save on field breakdowns, expensive down time & tyre wear



Lindsay Callaway
Warral Maldon Honey

TESTIMONIAL



"The biggest time saver! It got me out of trouble so many times, I could be going up a hill and I start to lose traction and my truck starts bogging down. I dump my air through the controller on the dash, the tyres bite in, it gets me over the hill and I just pump them back up on the bitumen. They are right with what they say - better braking, better tyre wear and it is a much easier ride on my poor old aching back" Steve Grahame – Outback Trucker



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Bee Bits From Around The World

Invasive Asian honey bees' survival may help researchers save threatened native species

ABC Rural

In short: The Asian honey bee naturalised in north Queensland from a single swarm, 17 years later there's tens of thousands of colonies.

Researchers say this population boom from such low genetic diversity offers a silver lining for native species under threat.

What's next? The scientists are working to determine the full aftermath of what's known as a genetic bottleneck.

Read the full story [here](#)

Bees bring honey and hope to a forest reserve in Nigeria

Ngel Nyaki means “forest of bees” in the Fulfulde language, which is widely spoken by the Fulani ethnic group in West and Central Africa. There are more than a dozen bee species in Ngel Nyaki, according to a 2023 study., published in the *Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry*. Its authors noted the presence of stingless bees (*Meliponula beccarii*), bumble bees (*Bombus* sp.), carpenter bees (*Xylocopa augusti*), squash bees (*Penonapis* sp.), violet bees (*Xylocopa vio-*

lacea), memic bees (*Megachile* sp.), and mining bees (*Andrena cineraria*) in the area.

But the most abundant species, accounting for over 40 percent of the study's 575 sampled bees, is the western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). The species is widespread worldwide, but genomic research suggests it is native to Africa.

Read the full article [here](#)

Bee study reveals environmental vulnerability and food production threat

A study by the University of Lausanne has discovered a symbiotic relationship between bees and a specific bacterium, *Snodgrassella alvi*, which colonises the bee gut. The bee synthesises and exports multiple acids into the gut, providing the necessary nutrients for *S. alvi*. This research is significant given the crucial role bees play in the ecosystem and the economy, including pollinating around 70 UK crops. However, bees are under threat from climate change, intensive agriculture, novel pathogens, and pesticide usage, prompting further research into the interactions between *Snodgrassella* and pesticides and their impact on bee health.

Read the article [here](#) and [here](#)

BEWARE THE ASIAN HORNET

By John Kennedy

Recent literature and posts around the bee world are highlighting the Asian Hornet (*vespa mandarinia*) as a “nightmare” for beekeepers.

It is the world's largest hornet and measures one point seven five inches in length (queens are two inches) and can have a three inch wingspan, a stinger that is a quarter of an inch long and they can fly at 25 mph.

Multiple human stings can be lethal. They originate in south east Asia and into the Russias.

The risk to beekeepers is that they eat bees to a paste which they then use to feed their young

They have been detected recently in places like France with a recent recorded sighting in the UK.

In the USA they are recorded in the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, Vancouver island and Washington State.

I quote from *Backyard Beekeeping*. “their technique is to decapitate the bees defending the hive and carry away the bee brood to feed their young.

“When attacking a hive, the scout hornet will excrete a pheromone that attracts other hornets and as many as 50 will wipe out a hive in less than two minutes.”

The joint authors of the recently published *Honey Bee Pests and Diseases* note that if it became widespread across North America, the effect on the beekeeping industry, as well as attacks on people and animals, would become a serious problem”.

Thankfully, it doesn't currently threaten Australia's bees.

But I note that Thorne, the UK bee goods house, has just released printed Asian Hornet Labels after noting that there was a sighting last year near Hastings, East Sussex.

Thorne's add “our labels feature images of Asian and European Hornets, if you spot an Asian Hornet make sure you report it.

“A label on the back of your honey jar is an easy way to spread awareness and educate”,

The Australian Bee Journal welcomes contributions and photos from readers and members. Please send any letters, articles or photos to abjeditors@yahoo.com

Melbourne Section Report

In this VAA MS report: The first VAA Recreational Beekeepers Conference was a wild success (I am writing this on 1st March, by the way.) The February meeting held a bee seance - photo proof, (see photo on right) The wind-down to the end of season is on the cards (I'm a medium & rare clairvoyant too!).

For the times, they are a changin'.

It's learning time for all of us as we make ready for the range of possibilities from Varroa in Australia.

The monthly meetings are great for this as we have a couple of people with their antennae to the ground and so we get good updates. Specific information is not always available for the questions that we have, but it will take time to absorb the new beekeeping approaches - which no one really knows what they are yet, anyway.

Running through scenarios and getting different suggestions and then revising them as we get more knowledge about spread, treatments and actual impact will gradually build new brain cells that cope much better than if Varroa suddenly happened with no warning. At this point I definitely acknowledge that we Victorians are going to benefit from the experiences of the NSW beekeepers who got thrown into the thick of it with not much mental or emotional preparation.

It's going to be a change, but we can be very well prepared and this will make the change achievable and low stress. No doubt it will be a shock when we find our first mite in our hives. I reckon we could practice being "quite interested" for when we find it. In fact, that is what scenario planning, adopted by Shell Oil, did for them when the price of oil veered sharply from all of the market predictions (some time in the '70's I think). They had practised thinking about different possibilities and not just their preferred or expected possibility. So when something different happened, they were already proficient in how to think through strange situations, unexpected situations, and they coped very well compared to the other oil companies.

And I expect that getting Varroa is going to be different for each of us and different from what has happened in other countries. We will be prepared, but exactly how each of us responds will have to be unique.

February Meeting round up.

We had a round panel at the February meeting. After Beeginners' Corner, we rearranged the chairs so that everyone was in the circle and could see each other. The panel members were just one of the crowd (spellcheck put in "cows" from my first misspelling and "crows" from my next - Freud would have a field day) and I think it provided a visible increase in participation and enjoyment. We discussed Autumn beekeeping.

And best of all, at the beginning, kitchen people just started making ham and cheese toasties and sent them around. The smell was great and the snack was much appreciated.

Great work by the librarian who prepared the next tranche of books to go to the Bendigo Branch. This is a regular arrangement between the VAA MS and the BBVAA to make sure that our wonderful library gets around to those who want it.



*The round panel at the February Meeting
Photo: Rob Kerr*

March Meeting

The March Meeting will be a speaker who is not yet confirmed, but you will know well before this AJB reaches you. We'll send out a notice when we confirm the presenter.

April Meeting

Preparing Honey for Show and for selling.

Remember we have an Apiary Code of Practice and a Biosecurity Code of Practice, so how about a Honey Selling Code of Practice? We have reports that the local governments are acting independently and differently in their requirements for small scale beekeepers who wish to sell some honey.

The first two CoP were developed with all stakeholders in mind, and they have smoothed the way for beekeepers in those respects. Worth thinking about a lot more!

May Meeting

Honey Competition! Since you all got good at preparing your honey at the previous meeting. AND most of us should have had a pretty good year (compared to the last few).

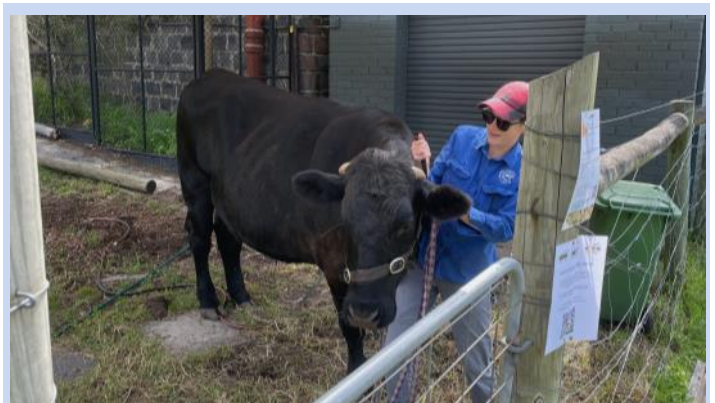
AFB test .. just came to mind. Now that we have some honey let's all test our honey for AFB. AFB won't disappear just because we talk a lot about Varroa.

So keep on beekeeping on and send in your stories and pictures to add your special variety to the mix of the ABJ.

See you at an apiary soon,

Rob Kerr

VAA MS Secretary, 0421 078 387



The grass cutters at the CCF apiary require special wranglers. Photo Rob Kerr

You Can Help

As Varroa spreads, now is the time to fight for Australia's honey bees – and you can help

THE CONVERSATION

February 27, 2024

*By Alexander Mikheyev
Professor, ANU Bee lab,
Australian National University*

A tiny foe threatens Australian beekeepers' livelihood, our food supply and the national economy. First detected in New South Wales in 2022, the Varroa mite is now established in Australia.

The parasitic mite, which feeds on honey bees and transmits bee viruses, has since spread across New South Wales.

It is expected to kill virtually all unmanaged honey bees living in the bush (also known as "feral" honey bees), which provide ecosystem-wide pollination. Honey bees managed by beekeepers will survive only with constant and costly use of pesticides.

As the last holdout against Varroa, Australia has a key advantage – we can still take action that was impossible elsewhere. We know Varroa-resistant bees would be the silver bullet. Despite decades of research, no fully resistant strains exist, largely because the genetics of Varroa resistance are complex and remain poorly understood.

A recently released national management plan places a heavy focus on beekeeper education, aiming to transition the industry to self-management in two years. This leaves research gaps that need to be urgently filled – and we can all work together to help tackle these.

Unlocking the genetic key to resistance

Without human intervention, Varroa kills around 95% of the honey bees it infects, but the survivors can evolve resistance. However, losing almost all bees would decimate Australia's agriculture.

Our feral honey bees will have no choice but to evolve resistance, as they have in other countries. However, feral honey bees are not suited for beekeeping as they are too aggressive, don't stay with the hive and don't produce enough honey.

In principle, we could breed for a combination of feral resistance and domestic docility. But figuring out the genetics of how feral bees resist Varroa has been a challenge. As most bees exposed to the parasite will die, the survivors will be genetically different.

Some of these differences will be due to natural selection, but most will be due to chance. Identifying the genes responsible for resistance in this scenario is difficult. The best way to find them is to measure genetic changes before and after Varroa infestation. But to do that, we need bee populations largely unaffected by Varroa.

This is where our unique Australian opportunity comes in. We have a small and vanishing window to collect bees before the inevitable rapid spread of the mites, and the mass die-offs, occur.

We are collecting information... and bees

My lab at the Australian National University's Research School of Biology has started collecting data on feral bee populations around New South Wales to identify pre-Varroa genetic diversity.

We will also monitor changes in bee population size and the spread of viruses and mites.

The most efficient way to collect bees is to go to a local clearing, such as a sports oval surrounded by forest. Unbeknownst to the cricket players, honey bee males (that is, drones) congregate at these sites by the thousands on sunny afternoons looking for mates.

You can lure them with some queen pheromone suspended from a balloon, and sweep them up with a butterfly net. Bee drones have no stinger and only come out for a couple of hours when the weather is fantastic, making collecting them literally a walk in the park, suitable for nature enthusiasts of all ages.

Anyone can help

You can help this effort by collecting some drones in your local area – this would save us time and carbon emissions from driving all over the country. We will provide pheromone lures, instructions, and materials for sending the bees back via mail. By sacrificing a few drones for the research now, we might save millions of bees in the future.

If you can spare just a couple of summer afternoons, this would give two time points at your location, and we can monitor any changes as the Varroa infestation progresses. More information can be found on our website.

Apart from our project, there are also other urgent research questions. For example, how will native forests respond to the loss of their dominant pollinators? Will honey bee viruses spread into other insects?

Work on these and other projects also requires pre-Varroa data. Unfortunately, Varroa falls through our research infrastructure net. Most of Australia's agricultural funding is industry-led, however, the beekeeping industry is small and lacks the resources to tackle Varroa research while also reeling from its impacts.

Other industries that rely on honey bees for pollination, including most fruit, nut and berry growers, have diverse research needs and are one step removed from the actual problem.

Together, we can take action to save Australia's honey bees and assure security for our key pollinators.

This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#)

VAA conference - 4th to 6th June 2024
Wonthaggi Workmen's Club

Bee Bits From Around The World

By John Kennedy

HORIZONTAL HIVE DEVELOPMENTS

US based beekeeping commentator, David Burns, has come down in favour of a horizontal hive which he describes as a ton of fun.

Burns is quoting on his experience in trialling four new types of hives over the last year, three of which he describes as “just slight variations on the (traditional) Langstroth hive. He says his horizontal hive holds thirty traditional Langstroth frames.

“I like it because these are the same frames that I use throughout my operation.

“What I enjoy about my horizontal hive is that I don’t have to lift heavy hive boxes (yes I am getting older) and the height of the hive is so pleasant to work and inspect”.

In a similar vein, major UK beekeeping goods supply house Thorne’s, has introduced a similar variant - a Top Bar Hive - to its product range.

Advising that “this type of hive is used extensively in Africa and the Caribbean and is mostly believed to have come from Africa in the 1960s.

Thorne’s add “its principles have been used for hundreds of years.

“Its simple design means it is popular in developing countries where manufacturing complex hives might not always be an option.

“Top Bar hives are horizontal boxes with bars placed across the hive for the bees to build comb from rather than using frames and foundation”.

Thorne’s offer a version with 24 simple bar frames with a groove for wax starter.

Centrally placed in the floor is a mesh panel for removing debris which also includes a simple varroa drawer.

Manufactured from 20mm English cedar, the Thorne’s version also includes a choice of flat or gabled roofs with galvanised or copper metal cover options.

Thorne (www.thorne.co.uk) offers quite an amount of information on the principles of top bar hive use, hive dimensions and other details, and quote a starting price of 184 pounds sterling plus delivery for its assembled and basic hive version.

ADOPT A HIVE PROJECT

The Honey Research & Extension Laboratory at the University of Florida is offering a formal Adopt A Hive Program, with the objective of improving the health of bee pollinators everywhere, increasing the sustainability of beekeeping, and preserving their vital role as pollinators.

It is offering US citizens three formal programs, saying support thereof will support the University’s bee research and outreach programs.

For a monthly Adopt a Hive program the charge is \$US10 or \$US120 on an annual basis.

For an Adopt A Queen program the fee is \$US25 a month or \$US300 annually. In this instance the University also offers other incentives, including signage of the support, website and donor recognition and a vehicle sticker.

Or if subscribers wish to support a special research project the suggested contribution is \$US100 a month or \$US1200 annually.

If the sponsor is supporting a laboratory program there will be a quarterly update from the research lab and invitation to the hive demonstration days, and an opportunity to meet with the University’s three principal researchers.

FRENCH BEEKEEPING ISSUES

According to reporting by Reuters, the French Government has set aside five million Euros (about \$A8.5 million) to help their beekeepers.

This in response to the many claims made by French farmers about higher costs, increased red tape, the poor economics of farming and other issues.

France’s beekeeper are being offered support to build up their bee stocks, reduce foreign competition and other incentives to tackle the issues that apiarists are encountering.

France has a leading beekeeping industry and is one of the top European honey producer with 71,000 beekeepers with an estimated 1.4 million hives.

France is also a country where the Asian Honey Bee has been detected recently.

Earlier this year the EU agreed to introduce regulations and harmonised methods of analysis to detect honey adulteration with sugars and to limit fraudulent practices with imports.

VALUE ADDING – HONEY RUM

A beekeeping organisation in Wiltshire in the UK has taken value adding to honey to a new level.

For 32 pounds sterling they offer for purchase a 50 cl glass bottle of British Honey Rum Liquer.

It is a combination of local British honey blended with a fair trade premium Trinidadian rum.

Multiple customer reviews on the website www.beeble.buzz/collections describe it as “a perfect blend” “really fabulous flavour” etc.

The same producer also offers a Honey Whisky blended liquor although the relevant alcohol component of each is not provided.

THORNE BIG ON CANDLES

Thorne, the major UK bee goods and hardware house, has announced a special promotion on candle making. Their range includes highly detailed silicone moulds which are hand crafted at the Thorne branch in Scotland, and they say the moulds are easy to use and with care will last for decades.

They also offer a bespoke mould making business and invite enquiries to scotland@thorne.co.uk.

Also on offer are coloured candle sheets in almost 40 colour choices. These are sold as ten sheet packs measuring 406 by 203mm or 16 by eight inches and are hand coloured at their Lincolnshire factory.

The Thorne candle making range extends to polycarbonate moulds in designs that produce excellent perfectly smooth candles every time. They also offer rolled candle making kits.

For more information see www.thorne.co.uk

AHBIC Varroa Update

Industry Update – 56
13th February 2024

National Management Group

The National Management Group met on Friday 9th February where the Varroa Response Transition to Management Plan was approved. The unanimous agreement being passed means activities can now formally commence, a positive outcome for industries and jurisdictions. AHBIC praises all attendees on getting the T2M plan over the line.

The NMG lowered the agreed upper limit costs of the response to a maximum expenditure of \$100 million dollars inclusive of T2M, of this cost-sharable amount the honey bee industry is responsible for 1.1%.

AHBIC successfully advocated for exceptional circumstances to be applied at NMG, allowing for an extension of time frame beyond the usual 12 months to 24 months' for T2M activities. AHBIC's application to the NMG was successful resulting in an historic achievement. A big win for our national honey bee industry. This extension will allow critical activities like extension across all jurisdictions to continue over a longer period. This will ensure all beekeepers have the opportunity access the resources as needed.

The T2M plan

Building industry resilience and capacity

Education:

A significant portion of the T2M will focus on education. The development of national education materials and rollout of non-accredited workshop training will commence for a period of 12 months. This will include face to face training events across all jurisdictions for all beekeepers, online learning, webinars, factsheets and video resources.

Extension and Engagement:

Varroa Development Officers will be employed in each of the jurisdictions to assist beekeepers in Varroa mite management and/or planning through hands on engagement with beekeepers. These new roles will focus on engaging practically with beekeepers around hive health monitoring, extension of best management practice guidelines, presentations and engagement at club and association branches and to also promote other T2M activities such as implementation of the COLOSS survey in Australia.

A Pollination Industry Coordinator will also form part of T2M activities to assist with additional extension and engagement activities specifically for the pollination-dependent industries and their key industry contacts. This will be a great conduit for our industry to work more closely with our pollination-dependent colleagues.

Biosecurity Code of Practice, BOLT Course and Bi-

osecurity Manual for Beekeepers Updates:

The Code, BOLT and the Manual provide a framework for Australian beekeepers to use best practice biosecurity measures and is legislated in some jurisdictions. Each of these national documents are based on the principles of good biosecurity and describe the outcomes a beekeeper needs to achieve for good pest and disease prevention and control. All updates will need to reflect Varroa's presence in Australia.

Establish an Australian COLOSS survey:

Establishment of an Australian COLOSS survey will assist in helping understand the effects of Varroa mite on beekeeping in Australia. Participating in this global initiative of standardised colony loss survey will help industry drive future research priorities, treatment recommendations and practice changes. AHBIC will oversee this activity with extension provided through the Varroa Development Officers nationally.

Australian Queen Bee Sector Analysis & Advanced Queen Breeding Training Workshops:

Both important activities for industry, the first being assessing existing industry capability and capacity and determining a clear strategy and pathway to achieving Varroa resistant stock. Secondly, workshops on advanced queen breeding will be delivered across key regional areas to further develop experienced queen producers with knowledge, techniques and resources to advance this important industry sector.

Additional funding for industry focused Activities

- Investigation of a National Varroa Mite Data Management Platform
- National diagnostics enhancement
- Facilitation of Varroa control products

The NSW DPI are working to provide a publicly available version of the T2M plan and this will be made available in the coming weeks.

Surveillance/Monitoring

Mandatory hive monitoring and reporting for varroa every 16 weeks remains in place across all of NSW. For all beekeepers, regularly monitoring hives, at minimum every 16 weeks, for presence of varroa through alcohol/soapy water washing/sugar rolling and reporting results can impact on timely management choices and reduce the impacts of varroa across the landscape.

To learn more about alcohol washing check out the nationally agreed resource Bee Pest Blitz:

<https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/beepestblitz/>

You can reach out to AHBIC via:

Varroa Coordinator

Bianca Giggins

0402 467 780

bianca@honeybee.org.au

The Guardian

Where has all the honey gone? Scientists point to factors in declining yields

It's a question that has bedeviled beekeepers across the US in recent years: where has all the honey gone? Scientists now say they have some answers as to why yields of honey have declined, pointing to environmental degradation that is affecting all sorts of bees, and insects more generally. The amount of honey produced by honeybee colonies in the US has dropped by around half a pound, on average, per colony in the past decade ...

Read the full article [here](#)

Bees Buzzer Monitoring System

By John Kennedy

Another device for beekeepers to emerge from Israel is known as The Bees Buzzer.

It appears to be the latest new product from start-up technology and new product innovation companies from a country that has a quite strong history of beekeeping and related product development.

It's a remote hive monitoring system that comes in two parts, enabling beekeepers to monitor the status of honey bee colonies from their Android Phone or get the data to a personal computers XLS file,

Every hive being monitored is fitted with the two sensors. One monitoring hive weight up to 200 kilograms, and the second a GPS locator via a google map.

The Bees Buzzer also has a hand held controller

which displays its battery status, said to be a day's life for the eight 1.5volt batteries included,

A guide to cellular signal strength and a temperature sensor are also shown.

Apparently, all the data obtained and more will be saved to the cloud and able to be viewed in graphic form for a two week period.

The Bees Buzzer system checks the weight of the hive every twenty minutes, and when its weight drops by 30% it will give your mobile phone an SMS alert message,

Information on pricing on this new product is hard to acquire as its inventor/developer has yet to have a presence on the web. But on offer is an email address as the source for more product and technical information eyal.bendayan@gmail.com

ABC News

Detection of braula fly in NSW poses issues for beekeeping industry

The NSW government will not attempt to eradicate an exotic bee parasite from the state after it was detected near Tamworth. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) said braula fly was found during routine surveillance for varroa mite on hives at its Tamworth Agricultural Institute on January 15.

Once considered a major threat to the commercial beekeeping industry, DPI manager of plant biosecurity, prevention and preparedness Chris Anderson said it was now considered a minor and insignificant pest. "There's no scientific or economic justification for attempting to eradicate braula fly from NSW," Dr Anderson said. The wingless fly, which looks similar to varroa mite but has only six legs, attaches itself to bees and buries its larvae in a hive's honeycomb.

Read the article [here](#)

The Times

The world's most expensive honey and the sweet taste of success <http://www.thetimes.co.uk>

We are a precarious two-hour drive from the nearest town. We last saw a village half an hour ago. But this is the closest a 4x4 can take us to our destination. When Kazim visits his most precious beehive, a further eight-hour hike through pathless bear country is required... This is the secret source of Elvish honey: a rare and precious substance with a pricetag that stings; the going rate for a 150ml jar from last year's harvest is \$1,033 (£810), which is equivalent to more than £5,400 a kilogram.

Read the article [here](#)

Historical Photo: Phil McPherson.

Speechly brothers inspecting hives in the Big Desert about March 1977

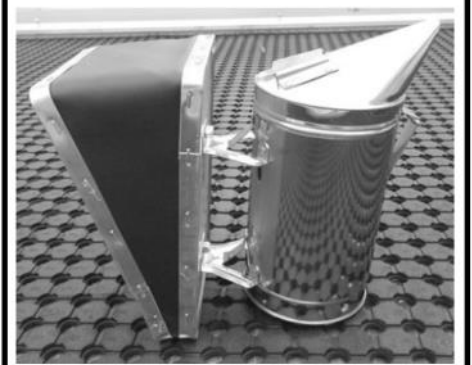


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0427 340 197

Agriculture Victoria:

Agriculture Victoria: Apiary team
Website: [Honeybees | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](http://Honeybees|Livestockandanimals|AgricultureVictoria)
Website:
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honeybees
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

Current Apiary Officers

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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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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:

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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

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Millie Enbom-Goad
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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

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

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: Stuart Archibald
Email: rosalie@archibaldhoney.com.au

Beechworth Honey Ltd.
38-40 Hammersley Rd.
Corowa, NSW 2646
Ph: 02 6033 2322
Contact: Steve or Jodie
Goldsworthy

Beeman Honey & Beekeeping Supplies
2/14-16 Tova Dr.
Carrum Downs Vic 3201
Ph: 0438 7465 01
Contact Moe Jarrad
majarrad@gmail.com
Beemanhoney.com.au

Capilano Honey Ltd
Capilano St.
Maryborough, VIC 3465
Ph: 07 3712 8224
0419 431 652
Contact: Stephen Covey

Goode's Honey
Lot 1, 75 Bosworth Rd
Bairnsdale, VIC 3875
Ph: 03 5152 2180
Contact: Terry Goode

Honey Buyers Group
Martin Drake,
Bendigo or Melbourne
0409 808 332

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Alan Redpath
redpaths@redpaths.com.au
www.redpaths.com.au

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Kerrin Williams

The deadline for the April 2024 Australian Bee Journal is 10pm on Monday 1st of April

Index of Advertisers

Agriculture Victoria	5
AIR CTI	29
Aust. Queen Bee Exporters	17
Avant Equipment	23
Becs Beehive	16
Beechworth Honey	Inside back
Beeplas Australia	5
Clayton Plastics	26/27
Covey Queens	24
Dalrymple View	9
Denmar Apiaries	7
Edmonds Honey (Geelong Honey)	13
JBee Equipment	17
Kelvin Trading	Inside front
Lyson	11
McCahons Bee Material	19
NuPlas	20/21
Prestige Stainless	10
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies	18
Simons Boilers	15
Stafford Engineering - EzyLoader	Back
Steritech	8
Whirrakee Honey	35
Whirrakee Woodware	6

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