AUSTRALIAN VOL. 105 - NO 8 AUGUST 2024
ISSN 0046-0294

BEE JOURNAL

Make & Mend Day … page 28

KELVIN TRADING PTY LTD

Manufacturer, Wholesaler and Retailer

August Special
Price includes GST

Queen Excluder
(Galvanized Steel)
8-frame: **$10** ea.,
10-frame: **$11** ea.
Minimum ordering quantity (MOQ): 100 pieces

Plastic Foundation (Food-grade Plastic)
FD: **$1** ea., WSP: **$0.90** ea.,
Manley: **$0.90** ea., Ideal: **$0.80** ea.
MOQ:1000 pieces

Emlock (SPCC Steel)
$5 ea., MOQ: 200 pieces

Hive Frame (New Zealand Radiata Pine)
FD, WSP, Manley, Ideal
Flatpack or assembled
Fit for wax or plastic foundations

Hive Super (New Zealand Radiata Pine)
FD, WSP, Manley, Ideal
Flatpack or assembled and painted

Visit our website!

31/830-850 Princes Highway, Springvale, VIC 3171

ktpl10@yahoo.com.au

PH: (03) 8555 4754, Mobile: 0405123098

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

Published since 1918 by the VAA - founded in 1892 -

Registration No. A8347

AUGUST 2024 - Volume 105 - No 8

VAA President's Report	5
Bendigo Branch VAA Report	6
PCF Reports	7
Bee Bits	7/8/13/14/15/23/24/28/31
AgriFutures Clover4Bees	8
Double Gold For Coorong	10
Honeybees Can Detect Lung Cancer	11
Norman Rice MBE Queens' Land	12
Book Review: Honey Bee Solution To Varroa	13
A Few More Ways To Think About Change	14
AHBIC AGM Report	15
Bendigo Branch VAA Field Day	18/19
Melbourne Section Report	20
Bee Bits From The USA	22
Potential Varroacide Has Commercial Partner	23
VAA Emails To Members	25
Bendigo Branch VAA Make And Mend Day	28
Making Queens The Welsh Way	31
Contacts	32/33
Classifieds / Members / Index of Advertisers	34

Cover photo: Jamie Trimby & Peta Dawe.
Michael and his son Lachie practicing heating the foundation at the VAA Bendigo Branch Make & Mend Day (see story page 28)

Deadline for copy for the September journal is
10pm on Sunday 1st of September 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

Australian Bee Journal Advertising rates

		12 mth	6 Mth	3 Mth	1 Mth
Color	Full page	$3,000.00	$1,980.00	$1,185.00	$450.00
	1/2 page	$2,100.00	$1,170.00	$660.00	$280.00
	1/4 page	$1,188.00	$690.00	$405.00	$200.00
	B/Card	$960.00	$600.00	$360.00	$150.00
B&W	Full page	$2,280.00	$1,500.00	$900.00	$380.00
	1/2 page	$1,560.00	$930.00	$555.00	$210.00
	1/4 page	$960.00	$600.00	$390.00	$150.00
	B/Card	$600.00	$480.00	$300.00	$120.00

2-page ad - $4800.00 - available for 12 month contract only

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
2024 - 2025 Board

Administration Officer
Tino Corsetti
VAA
PO Box 721
Woodend, Victoria, 3442
Mob: 0498 461 460
vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au
tino.corsetti@vicbeekeepers.com.au

President
John van Weeghel
0419 542 479
john.vanweeghel@bigpond.com

Vice President:
Lindsay Callaway
(Bendigo Branch representative)
0429 857 835
warral@iinet.net.au

Vice President
Dr. Andrew Wootton
0481 392 798
andrew.wootton@gmail.com

Other members:
Judy Leggett
0423 464 800
aandjleggett@bigpond.com

Phil McPherson
0428 621 455
mchoney1@optusnet.com.au

Ken Gell
0428 506 752
gellshoneymaryborough@gmail.com

Angela Enbom
0400 261 233
angela_enbom@yahoo.com

Rob Kerr
0421 078 387
robkerr62@gmail.com

Ben Moore
0400 728 796
moore_honey@hotmail.com

VAA sub-committees & conveners
Contact by email is preferred
Biosecurity
Ken Gell
Finance & Insurance
Ken Gell
Education
Don Whitehead
don@walkabouthoney.com.au
Melbourne Show/fund raising
Judy Leggett
Constitution & Legal
Lindsay Callaway
Conference
Lindsay Callaway
Clubs & Affiliates
Phillip McPherson
Aust. Bee Journal/Website
John van Weeghel
Resources
Ken Gell
Services
John van Weeghel
Commercial beekeeping
Phil McPherson
Recreational beekeeping
John van Weeghel

All beekeepers and interested groups are welcome to join the VAA.
Membership benefits include:

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

Membership Rates
Up to 100 hives (1 vote): $93
101- 500 hives (2 votes): $249
501-1000 hives (3 votes): $400
1000+ hives (4 votes): $550
Partner membership is $20 less in each category and includes all rights except receipt of journal

How to join
Join online at
www.vicbeekeepers.com.au
or email
vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au
to request a membership form.

www.vicbeekeepers.com.au

President's Report

It is great to see that the Varroa Management Workshops are open for registration. Currently only a small number of workshops are advertised but more will follow soon. These workshops are organized by DPI NSW and dates and locations are available on the DPI and AHBIC websites. There is an option to register for notifications of future workshops. Any member that needs assistance to register for a workshop can contact our Secretary Tino.

Earlier this month Lindsay and I had the pleasure of flying to sunny Townsville to attend several meetings. The first meeting I attended as a proxy for Phil McPherson, who was on a well-deserved holiday. Phil is the Victorian representative on the Producer Contingency Fund. A report of this meeting is on page 7. The second meeting was the AHBIC AGM. Lindsay is the Victorian Voting delegate, and his report is on page 15. The third meeting was a time to relax, the Queensland Annual Conference. It was great to talk to beekeepers from around the country and listen to what is happening in their state. It was not surprising that varroa and the price of honey are two main topics. Queensland has had two poor years, and the expectations are that if the coming season fails and or varroa arrives it will lead to beekeepers walking away and some may go bankrupt.

There is little doubt that the coming years will be challenging for beekeepers, equipment suppliers and beekeeping associations. The VAA will do what ever it can to support the members in any way we can. The new Commercial Subcommittee did meet for the first time this week and l encourage all commercial members to contact Lindsay Callaway and get involved in this group. This subcommittee will ensure that issues are addressed at Board level and will support commercial members in any way possible.

Recently we received the sad news of the passing of Brian Rich and Alan Gell. Brian was a member of the VAA and CVAA for many years, and contributed to many conferences and Resources meetings. Alan was a VAA Life member and a member for 73 years, served the association as a member of the Executive and President. Thank you to Brian and Alan for the enormous contribution made to our association and industry. Our deepest sympathy to families and friends.

Online membership renewal continues to be an issue for some members. Please contact Tino or I if you need assistance. Remember printed copies of the ABJ are available at an additional cost of $35.00.

Swarming season is not far away, please ensure your contact details are correct on the swarm collectors list and it is not too late to add your name to the list if you would like to collect some swarms this spring.

Happy beekeeping.

John van Weeghel
President

The industry benchmark in beekeeping equipment & stainless steel manufacturing.
Creating the largest Automated Honey Extractors in the world!

Horizontal Extractors
• 36 to 60 frame 3 bank • 48 to 144 frame 4 bank
• 198 frame 6 bank • Twin Systems
• Automated self loading machines

• Wax Melters – 200 ltr to 750 ltr
• Reducers - 1200 to 1800
• Capping spinner • S/S vane pumps
• Centrifuge • Heat exchange
• Storage tanks • Mixing/heating tanks

Prestige Stainless
1994 Finlay Road (P.O. Box 187) Tongala Victoria 3621
P: +61 3 5859 1492 • F: +61 3 5859 1495
E: info@prestigestainless.com
www.prestigestainless.com.au

Bendigo Branch VAA Report

Making plans and preparations for Almond Pollination, the Bendigo Field Day on 13th October at Harcourt and CVAA's Annual Conference in Maryborough on the 16th of August were the only things heating up in July! Bendigo's July meeting had an excellent turn out considering the chilly weather conditions. Guest speaker Scott Wright explained how the moisture level during nectar ripening affects the honey quality, too high a moisture content leads to honey fermenting. Scott described how a refractometer is used to accurately measure the moisture content in honey, required moisture content range and practical options when the moisture content is too high. Scott and members provided great feedback on various scenarios asked by members and explained how to initiate creamed honey. Our second guest speaker Lindsay Callaway (VAA Vice President) provided an overview of the VAA rebranding process and new VAA logo and imagery. Anyone who has missed Lindsay's presentation see the link on VAA website or search on YouTube.

The August meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, Guest speaker Stafford Kelly will cover the seasons in the apiary, how to prepare, what signs to monitor and planning required for in the coming seasons.

Bendigo Branch held a Make and Mend day on the 28th of July, wonderfully hosted by Margie and Wayne Gallagher, greatly appreciated by attendees. A marvellous day organised by Peta, with Stafford demonstrating construction of hive components, explaining a variety of tools and methods suitable for making one or two units or hundreds of units.

Locally, recreational beekeepers were teased during July, a few older Yellow Gums (E.leucoxylon) began flowering early in Bendigo until along came the rain and washed them out. A cold spell two weeks later when bees weren't flying, parrots were enjoying some Red Ironbark (E.tricarpa) when the rain returned wiping them out also. Commercial beekeepers were monitoring and feeding hives for weight in slightly warmer climates in preparation for pollination, of which most will be in place by the first week of August. Hoping for August rain to boost crops to the west, north and east of Bendigo to help them along to provide nectar sources in the coming months.

Check out the branch Facebook page where Lorraine Hughes posts bee and apiary related information, the group is called Bendigo Branch VAA Inc.

Jamie Trimby

The deadline for the September 2024 Australian Bee Journal is 10pm on Sun. 1st of September

PCF Report

As the VAA's rep on the PCF Committee I have been asked to update members and answer a few questions on the history and role of the PCF.

Firstly, what is the PCF? The PCF [Producer Contingency Fund] is a fund which was established in the late 1970's by the then FCAAA [Federal Council of Australian Apiarist Associations] to fight the Federal Government over the introduction of beetles to eradicate Paterson's Curse in Australia. The PCF is controlled by a committee of seven, a rep from each state and a rep from AHBIC. AHBIC administers the funds, but all decisions are made by the committee. It has its own rulers and only meets when an application for funding is received.

Initial funds were by donations of beekeepers and other interested parties ie; farmers and pastoralists. Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales were the main beekeeping contributors. With the establishment of AHBIC the fund administration passed from FCAAA to AHBIC.

All applications for funding required a unanimous decision for approval up until November 2023, when the voting system was changed by vote of the Committee to a majority of 5 votes to qualify for a funding application to be successful. The voting was changed because it was almost impossible to get a unanimous vote to approve an application.

The PCF committee had a meeting prior to the AHBIC Annual meeting in Townsville this year where they had two motions to be decided on. I was not present, but Board Chairman, John Van Weeghel, represented the VAA by proxy.

I hope this answers a few questions and gives an overview of the workings of the PCF.

Phil McPherson
Board Member

Producer Contingency Fund July Meeting

Producer Contingency Fund (PCF) meeting 9 July 2024.

Phil McPherson is the Victorian representative on the PCF. I attended the meeting as Phil's proxy. Please see Phil's article on the PCF above.

The prime purpose of this meeting was to deal with two NSW motions. The first motion was: That control of all funds in the PCF be transferred to AHBIC and used only for repayment of EPPRD cost shared responsibilities outside of the NSW Varroa response and that the PCF committee be dissolved. This motion was lost with 2 for, 4 against and 1 abstention. The VAA Board had a lengthy discussion on the two motions. It was decided that we would support this motion but reluctantly and as a last resort. The background to this decision is that the PCF committee has been unable to agree on several funding proposals over many years. At times point scoring and playing politics seem to be more important than putting some of this money to good use for the benefit of all.

The second motion: That the remaining AMHA (Australian Manuka Honey Association) debt to the PCF be expunged. This motion was proposed by NSW but was withdrawn by the NSW representative at the last minute. It was then moved by Tasmania and seconded by Western Australia. This motion was carried 5 for 2 against. The VAA Board's position was to oppose this motion. The background to this motion is that the AMHA received a loan to finance the legal cost related to a court case regarding the use of the name Manuka honey. The VAA Board position was that this was not for the benefit of all honey producers and manuka honey producers sell their honey at a premium price. The original loan was for $45,000.00 of which three repayments of $5,000.00 each have been made, reducing the debt to $30,000.00.

John van Weeghel
President

BEECHWORTH'S BANKSIA HONEY
By John Kennedy

Beechworth Honey has released new Banksia Honey, which it says is a sweet return after three years of absence, as a Limited Edition.
Noting that banksias are an unreliable honey producer in nature because weather patterns, and not enough or too much rain affects whether they will flower and produce an excess of nectar for the bees to gather.
"All these factors influence the availability of our Limited Edition collection sometimes making for long absences of very unique honeys" the company says in its product release.
They note that many banksia varieties bloom vibrantly throughout autumn and winter providing a vital source of nectar for bees when other flowers are scarce, noting that "certain banksia species produce large volumes of nectar which bees use to make honey".
"Whilst Australia has over 170 different types of banksias, beekeepers across Australia only work about 20 of them.
'To produce banksia honey, beekeepers need to wait until there is an abundance of flowers in an area where there are masses of banksia plants".
Beechworth's Limited Edition release of Banksia Honey is available as a 350 gram jar for $10 or a 1.5 kg tub for $27 at its retail outlets in Beechworth or in the Melbourne CBD.

Clover4Bees makes encouraging progress prioritising pasture species | AgriFutures Australia

Pasture legumes shortlisted for honey bee food source potential, honey production attributes and industry collaboration opportunities.

A pilot study exploring the potential of pasture legumes as a food source for honey bees is on track to deliver valuable results to beekeepers in 2024.

Dr Richard Hayes of the NSW Department of Primary Industries is leading the research project *Clover4Bees*, which is investigating how pasture legumes produced on private land can play a role in honey production in light of reduced native floral resources, reduced access to public land, and increased demand for bee services for pollination.

Richard hopes the research will pave the way for tangible, on-ground collaboration between apiarists, researchers and other agricultural industries, such as pasture-grown livestock or horticulture.

"We want to deliver to industry a shortlist of species that we think would be of interest to apiarists and the Australian honey bee industry," he said.

"We're also examining the methods to compare pasture legume species for their honey production attributes, so that future research can incorporate an assessment of important floral characteristics into standard legume evaluation.

"We're coming up to the finish line. We're in the process of getting our field data into a database so we can analyse it, check it for errors and interpret the findings."

Species and sites in the spotlight

Richard and his team evaluated 22 pasture legume species at four locations across New South Wales: Wagga Wagga, Tocal, Cowra and Glen Innes. The team quantified flowering abundance, flower structure and the flowering window of different species in the first year of the project, and turned their attention to bee preference, nectar secretion and nectar composition in the second year.

The data will be used to create the shortlist of the most promising pasture legume species that could provide an additional food source to honey bees. The team will also use bee visitation data to assess which species are not attractive to bees, which is just as important in producing the shortlist.

"Having flowers isn't enough. You can have flowers out there and the bees don't go to them, so you've got to understand what it is about the flowers that is beneficial to honey production," Richard said.

"We saw some clear winners and they seemed largely consistent between sites. When there were bees around, they tended to go for the same sort of species regardless of the site."

The project is not without its challenges, however – the team is breaking new ground in its work to refine and test methodologies to compare traits across species.

"It's very difficult to compare one species with another, particularly when the flowers are a different size, shape and structure, and when the flowering windows don't overlap," Richard said.

However, the project team had success extracting nectar from almost every species examined. This provided confidence in their methodology to underpin more detailed comparisons of these species in the future.

Industry involvement a key element of success

An industry advisory committee of experienced apiarists provided valuable input to ensure the project findings would directly benefit beekeepers.

"It was important in this project that we had a reference group of experienced beekeepers to make sure our findings are rational and practical for the industry," Richard said.

The project team, in collaboration with the industry advisory group, assessed the data for feasibility. Richard is keen to ensure the recommended species are not only productive and attractive to bees, but are realistic choices from a livestock producer perspective. For instance, a species can be attractive to bees, but its usefulness will be limited in pastures if it has a small niche or cannot adapt to a variety of climates.

"From an industry perspective, we're looking for something that is not only reasonably attractive to bees, but also widespread and well adapted."

Opening doors for future research and collaboration

Richard and his team hope their results will have a wide range of uses across the honey bee industry and other agricultural industries, and will spark opportunities for collaboration.

"We're just scratching the surface with this initial project. For example, there's untapped potential in terms of pasture seed production," Richard said.

"Honey bee producers are looking to take these species of interest through to the end of flowering, so there's opportunity to follow through and harvest legume seed.

Many of these alternative legume species were developed specifically so that they could be harvested on farm using conventional machinery."

The project team hopes that future research could use their methodology to analyse other pasture legume species and assess how pasture management or growing conditions can influence species' nectar production.

Richard also identified an opportunity for the shortlisted species to be grown alongside horticultural crops to improve bee health during pollination, and contribute to other well-researched legume crop benefits, such as soil nitrogen fixation.

"There's a lot of scope to improve our productivity just by thinking about pollinators in general," Richard said.

The Conversation:
Honeybee hives maintained by urban beekeepers could provide a new, more efficient way to sample the urban microbiome – a collection of the local microbes, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and their genes.
Read the story here

AVANT®
Compact Articulated Loaders

AUSTRALIA'S NO.1 BEEKEEPING LOADER

BEE SMARTER. WORK SMARTER.

Add efficiency, comfort and versatility with a multi-purpose loader from Avant Equipment Pty Ltd

Manufactured in Finalnd to the highest specifications, these machines are reliable and well designed for access, safety and ease of maintenance. Free call 1800 686 411 to organise your obligation free demo!

Made in Finland

- ✓ Ability to load the truck from one side using telescopic boom
- ✓ Huge lifting capacity up to 1500kg
- ✓ Park sideways across truck
- ✓ Optional air-conditioned cabin
- ✓ Self Levelling Boom
- ✓ Prompt delivery Australia wide

- ✓ All terrain 4wd with outstanding stability
- ✓ Backed by a Family business for over 25 years
- ✓ Save time and man power
- ✓ Easy to access and operate
- ✓ Over 200 attachments
- ✓ Easy finance options available

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

1800 686 411 | sales@avantequipment.com | www.avantequipment.com

Double Gold For Coorong

By John Kennedy

I was interested to read a job advertisement from Coorong Apiaries seeking a multi-talented employee who was interested in beekeeping, and was also an experienced operator of a range of earthmoving machinery for a gold mining operation at Sandstone in the Murchison area of the WA goldfields.

So, I looked to see if they had a website and here's what I found.

Coorong Apiaries is based at Meningie in the lower southeast of South Australia.

Its principals are Bill and Natalie Brown with their family and a number of employees.

Bill got his first hive at age 12 and founded the business in 1998 and it now operates in excess of 4,000 hives marketing their honey under the Coorong Gold banner, and I assume they do a lot of other things including pollination services.

They are fully BQual accredited.

Coorong Apiaries is also the benefactor of a large painted and colourful 40 foot long mural related to beekeeping donated to their local community.

'...It is sited adjacent to their operations facing the main Princes Highway through Meningie (a gateway tourist town fronting Lake Albert in the lower lakes or Coorong region of the state].

But the Coorong apiaries website reveals that the business is active and very committed to conservation and are "lovers of the land and sea".

"Since 2012 they have acquired Youno Downs, Gidgee and Black Hill Stations (leased) in WA and in NSW they own Nantilla Station and two properties near Emmaville.

"Closer to home they also own a heritage listed scrub block south of Meningie.

"In total the area of land under rehabilitation is 460,000 hectares" their website explains.

All three WA stations are in established gold mining and producing areas near Meekatharra and Sandstone (Black Hill Station being on the township boundary of Sandstone, and it appears, according to a previous for sale listing, to have not been operated for some years).

While Gidgee Station has a former open cut gold mine that has been operated under various small mining company ownerships.

All beekeepers to my mind are conservationists, with great care for the regions in which they site their hives.

But Coorong Apiaries is setting a new objective for fellow large beekeepers to follow.

Their website www.corrongapiaries.com.au is worth a look for further information.

The site adds that it is their vision to engage in conservation practices that regenerate and bring back to life scarred and denuded landscapes (the result of poor pastoral practices) so that indigenous land and many endangered species of flora and fauna and fish can once again flourish.

MSU Researchers Discover Honeybees Can Detect Lung Cancer

Michigan State University researchers have discovered that honeybees can detect biomarkers or chemical concentrations associated with lung cancer in human breath. The researchers have also shown that the honeybees can distinguish between different lung cancer cell types using only the 'smell' of the cell cultures. These findings could be used as a model for developing new tests to diagnose lung cancer early.

"Insects have an amazing sense of smell the same way dogs do," said Debajit Saha, an assistant professor in the College of Engineering and MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering.

Saha and his team wanted to see if honeybees could distinguish between the chemicals in human breath from someone who was healthy compared to someone with lung cancer. Elyssa Cox, Saha's former lab manager, and Michael Parnas, a doctoral candidate working in Saha's lab, developed a "recipe" for a synthetic breath mixture using different levels of six compounds such as trichloroethylene and 2-methylheptane to create the chemical makeup of the breath of someone with lung cancer and a synthetic healthy breath mixture.

"It took a steady hand to create the recipe," said Cox. "We tested the synthetic lung cancer versus healthy human breath mixtures on approximately 20 bees."

Cox helped design a custom 3D-printed harness to hold a live honeybee while she attached a tiny electrode to its brain to measure any changes in the bee's brain signals.

"We pass those odors on to the antenna of the honeybees and recorded the neural signals from their brain," said Saha. "We see a change in the honeybee's neural firing response."

The researchers also wanted to measure how much of the cancer-indicating compounds needed to be present in someone's breath for the honeybee to detect cancer.

"The honeybees detected very small concentrations; it was a very strong result," said Saha. "Bees can differentiate between minute changes in the chemical concentrations of the breath mixture which is in the parts per 1 billion range."

Parnas analyzed the neural data and saw the spikes in the bees' brain signals.

"We can see differences in how the honeybees are smelling," said Parnas. "We detected several different neurons firing in the honeybees' brains that clearly differentiated between the synthetic lung cancer breath and healthy breath."

Saha envisions this work will open the door for more biological and smell-based disease detection technologies. In the future, Saha's team plans to develop a non-invasive test that only requires patients breathe into a device and the sensor inside, based on honeybee brains, would analyze the breath and wirelessly report back in real time if cancer chemicals are present.

The research was published in the journal *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*.

Read the article in full here

QUEEN BEE AUSTRALIAN EXPORTERS
ABN 96 078 192 300

Prices include GST:

1-10 ..... $33.50 each
11-49 ..... $31.00 each
50-100 ..... $29.00 each
OVER 100 (in total) ..... $28.50 each
200 and over—Discounts apply

Queen Rearing Manager: Rose Taylor - 0409 667 908

Package bees available October to March…
Terms: Payment prior to delivery/pick-up

FOR ORDERS OR ENQUIRIES CONTACT
ROSE and NICOLE TAYLOR / ROWENA

1800 024 432 FREE CALL *from anywhere in Australia*
(Call from anywhere in Australia for the price of a local call)

IF UNANSWERED: (02) 6368 3788

Or write: 58 Marshalls Lane, Blayney, NSW 2799
Email: aqbe@bigpond.com / Fax: 02 6368 3799

Norman Rice MBE - Queens' Land - Book And Career

By John Kennedy

The reprint of a book and its ready availability has revived memories of Norman Rice MBE, a noted Queensland based beekeeper and queen breeder who created a family business, which at its peak is credited with exporting 30,000 or more queen bees a year all over the world.

Mr Rice, who received his MBE in 1986, was recorded in 2022 as residing in a home (then in a Covid lockdown) and celebrating on 1 January of that year his 100th birthday!

My searches on the internet have come up with nothing of note about his career, even whether he has subsequently passed away.

At that time Trevor Weatherhead, then chair of AHBIC, commented in a newsletter as follows "Many may not know Norm, but our industry is indebted to him for his work within our industry.

"Just a few of his achievements were that he commercialised the instrumental insemination of queen breeding.

"He pioneered the sending of packaged bees overseas".

Trevor Whitehead's tribute also notes that Norm Rice was the Queensland producer representative and Deputy Chair of the Australian Honey Board when it started in 1963, and had also served long terms as President of the Queensland Beekeepers Association.

This is a roundabout way of announcing that Northern Bee Books (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk) in the UK has republished a paperback edition of Norman Rice's book *Queens' Land* as an edition of 142 pages at 16 pounds sterling, plus postage and local dollar conversion.

As publisher they note that this book was reviewed in the US journal *Gleanings in Bee Culture* (succeeded by the monthly journal *Bee Culture*) in October 1985, as "one of the best bee books to come along in years.

The review notes that Norman Rice spent most of his adult life raising queens in Australia and they noted that commercial queen rearing is very, very, very similar to what is practised in the U.S.

Their review goes on to say "Rice explains in great detail, and in plain, easy-to-understand language the problems, solutions, tricks and secrets of what it takes to run a huge business.

Adding "little is left out – bee biology, and how to make it work for you, not against you: mailing cages, package production, selling honey, equipment, equipment, equipment; moving bees, freighting bees…. Everything involved in the business".

It seems unfortunate that so little recorded information on Norman Rice's obviously significant career can be accessed via the internet, nor it appears, elsewhere.

REDPATH'S BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES
A Family Business since 1964

Phone (03) 9587 5950
Email redpaths@redpaths.com.au
Web www.redpaths.com.au

"Supplying beekeepers for over 50 years"

Redpath Quality "Weed Process" Comb Foundation
Alliance (NZ) Beekeepers Woodware
Lega (Italy) Extractors, Honey Tanks and Pumps
Pierce (USA) Electric and Steam Uncapping Knives
Beeco (AUS) Stainless Steel Smokers
Ecrotek (NZ) Full Bee Suits

And many more quality apiary items also available in our shop and online.

Opening hours
Monday to Friday:
9am - 5pm
Saturday morning:
(August to March)
9am - 12pm

193 COMO PARADE EAST, PARKDALE 3195

Book Review

By John Kennedy

THE HONEY BEE SOLUTION TO VARROA - subtitled A practical guide for beekeepers.

A hard copy of the just published book (see ABJ July last issue page 31) has now been received and it is highly recommended to all levels of beekeepers seeking to expand their knowledge of varroa destructor, its origins, causes and some solutions.

Written eloquently in an easy to read style by Steve Riley, a well accredited UK beekeeper and educator who is also Chair and Education Officer at the Westerham Beekeepers in the south east of the UK, it explains the practical steps that beekeepers can take to identify and select for easily observable Varroa-resistant traits in their colonies.

Riley says, "the science behind the bee's mechanisms for controlling their mite population is explained in what is a bee-led solution to the biggest challenge facing the European honey bee".

A 132 page book with copious illustrations and charts, this book is obtainable from a number of sources including Amazon (expensive) or Northern Bee Books (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk) who can ship on order for prompt delivery in $A equivalent plus postage, or it is listed by several independent booksellers at a reduced cost, even with their postage included!

But in this time where we are all inclined towards a lack of knowledge on most aspects of varroa, it will be probably the best $A40 or so investment in your bee business that you will ever make. I am sure the multiple chapters in a positive style will expand your knowledge of all aspects of varroa destructor.

In the introduction it is noted that the Westerham club of beekeepers in the UK became interested in varroa-resistant bees when some were able to resist the mite without intervention (i.e. that is chemical treatment) from beekeepers. The Westerham group found many keepers "had always been uncomfortable applying pesticide controls for varroa mites in our colonies and looked for and found a long-term bee-led solution".

In its 13 chapters issues such as monitoring, seasonality of the bee's hygienic behaviour, other health factors, selection process of bee's hygienic behaviour and addressing Drones as a pivot for varroa resistant traits, together with a sustainable apiary for varroa-resistant bees and honey yields and colony survival are all addressed.

The book concludes with advice on lessons learned, and getting started and transitioning from treated colonies, are other issues addressed.

Of particular note is that the experiments conducted by the Westerham Beekeepers group produced large, productive and healthy varroa-resistant honey bee populations throughout the sub-Saharan Africa, most of Central and South America and Cuba.

Steve Riley adds there are well studied bee populations in Avignon France, Gotland Island in Sweden, Oslo in Norway and the Arnot Forest in New York State which are providing valuable insights into the traits of bees. There is an extensive list of appendices for follow up.

So, this book has the dual appeal of expanding your knowledge of the varroa mite but posing a range of potential solutions which might take some time to implement but are of significant value to beekeepers.

Recommended.

The Independent

Bumblebees can survive underwater for up to a week, an accidental discovery shows.
Scientists have made the shock discovery that bees can survive underwater for a week - and only found it out because researchers accidentally kept one submerged for days.
One queen common eastern bumblebee survived for seven days after water accidentally got into the container it was being kept in - described as a "surprising" discovery by researchers from the University of Guelph, Canada.
The team then carried out the study on 143 insects with those kept underwater showing similar survival rates to those above ground

Read the story here

A Few More Ways To Think About Change

By Rob Kerr

Outputs and Outcomes

They both start with "out". I hear you saying "without what?", but I'll ignore you.

Sports people are always saying "you can only control your own play, not the opposition" they say. And "we just have to stick to our processes, to give us the best chance to win" they say.

The output is what we produce by specific design and with the resources, knowledge and skills that we have. The outcome is what we hope will end up being the situation at a defined point in the future.

If we train and play to our ability - our output - then we hope this will result in a win - the desired outcome.

Outcomes are things like: improved membership numbers, beekeepers who like biosecurity and neighbours who love us having bees. None of these things can we actually do or control.

Outputs needed if we want theses outcomes are things like: interesting and well priced products and services to attract members, good methods and clear cost benefit in biosecurity training, and queens that lay calm workers.

Listen to people when they give you advice. Is their suggested action within your control? If they want an outcome, then someone has to think of the right output (s) to be put into a well predicted environment before there is much hope of getting a better outcome.

Outputs are monitored using project measures to see that we do it right. Outcomes are monitored using environmental measures to see if we correctly predicted the impact of our output in the environment.

The Plan

Do you need one or not? Don't answer that, it's a rhetorical question. Of course you need a plan!

The plan is what you are all going to do until you find something better to do because you **know more**. And occasionally, when you do know more you will say "Jeez I'm good, we are on budget and on schedule and our quality is just right." … and then you will wake up and realise it is a dream.

So what's in a plan that makes us better able to recognise that it is now time to change the plan?

The plan has an objective (or output, surprise surprise). There is a process for producing the output, and a defined set of skills and resources and inputs to the process. It also has quality criteria to define how you know when each step has finished and finished to the right level of quality. And across everything, there are starting assumptions, a predicted cost for each part of the process (materials, tools and labour), a predicted timeframe (schedule).

And everyone of these project terms has a "tolerance": If the quality is met 98 out of 100 times, then we keep going; If the budget is within 10% of predictions, then we keep going; If progress is within predefined periods of time at each milestone, we keep going.

But if we are not within tolerances, then we change the plan: perhaps to make sure that we produce our final output(s) to the same conditions (more cost?!); perhaps to change the output specification (quality) to stay within cost (lower quality?!), or perhaps to extend the time because we need to find the new skilled people (more time?!).

There is a project triangle - Time, Cost and Quality - and a rule of thumb - You can only get two of these, not all three. Ain't that a bummer.

eLife Sciences: How honey bees make fast and accurate decisions

In the natural world, decision-making processes are often intricate and challenging. Animals frequently encounter situations where they have limited information on which to rely to guide them, yet even simple choices can have far-reaching impact on survival. Each time a bee sets out to collect nectar, for example, it must use tiny variations in colour or odour to decide which flower it should land on and explore. Each 'mistake' is costly, wasting energy and exposing the insect to potential dangers. To learn how to refine their choices through trial-and-error, bees only have at their disposal a brain the size of a sesame seed, which contains fewer than a million neurons. And yet, they excel at this task, being both quick and accurate. The underlying mechanisms which drive these remarkable decision-making capabilities remain unclear.

Read the article here

Specialising in
Caucasian
Queen Bees

Marked Queens	- - - - -	$40 ea
1 – 9	- - - - -	$35 ea
10 – 49	- - - - -	$30 ea
50 – 199	- - - - -	$27 ea
200 plus per season	- - - - -	Discounts Apply
Queen Cells	- - - - -	$8 - collect only

Breeder Queens - $825

Naturally mated on a remote island.

Post & Handling $15 per dispatch under 50 qty.

Prices include GST

Valid September 2019 to March 2020

Terms: Payment 10 days prior to dispatch.

For orders contact:

John Covey

Email: sales@coveybees.com.au

Ph: 0427 046 966

PO Box 72 Jimboomba QLD 4280

AHBIC AGM Report

Dear VAA Inc Members,

I trust this message finds you well. The recent AHBIC AGM in Townsville marked the first for our industry with varroa declared endemic on our shores (September 2023), the agenda reflecting both the challenges we face and the opportunities ahead. As one of your representative and an AHBIC executive member, I am pleased to provide a summary of key developments from this year's AHBIC AGM.

I was also joined in Townsville by our President John van Weeghel and enjoyed catching up with him each morning over a coffee and talking all things VAA Inc. There was a total of 26 representatives from around Australia joined by 18 observers at this year's AGM. I do think we need more gender diversity, of the 26 representatives around the table only two were female and one of those is an employee of AHBIC. Some youth would also be great to see!

Chair Stephen Targett expressed gratitude for the continued support in being re-elected for another two-year term as AHBIC chair, reaffirming his commitment to steering AHBIC through these challenging times. Ben McKee's re-election and the newly elected Cooper Schouten's to the AHBIC executive underlines our commitment to continuity and fresh perspectives. There was an extend heartfelt thanks to Stephen Fewster for his two decades of dedicated service to AHBIC both during the AGM and throughout the QLD conference. He was congratulated for his service.

Some significant moments from the AGM were the motion that AHBIC and its member bodies support the endeavours of the ABA (Amateur Beekeeping Australia) to lobby to government for the adoption of an 'own use permit'. This motion was carried. In New Zealand, the own use permit for varroa treatments that they have in place allows beekeepers to legally create and use treatments in their own hives. This flexibility supports beekeepers in effectively managing varroa mite infestations according to their unique requirements. Another motion addressed the membership application from Southern Tasmanian Beekeepers Association. This was defeated following a lengthy debate. Finally, on a lighter note, everyone broke out into raucous laughter when Jon Lockwood asked Lindsay Bourke why he was moving motions around the topic of NZ honey. Lindsay's response was "well it's tit for tat, Jon!!"

Following the AGM, we received important news regarding the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD). AHIBC CEO Danny Le Feuvre successfully negotiated a one-off non-repayable grant from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) of up to $550,000 to cover financial commitments to the National Bee Biosecurity Program (NBBP) for the 2024-2025 financial year. The grant will address a deficit that could have impacted a number of existing programs such as the new Varroa Development Officers, ongoing biosecurity surveillance and reimbursement of the varroa response. This is a significant achievement, and we look forward to hearing the finer details later in August.

Looking ahead, AHBIC is poised for increased subcommittee activity and continued rollout of the Varroa transition to management program. Training events are underway, with VDO recruitment progressing across several states, a testament to our proactive stance in varroa management.

In conclusion, the 2024 AGM was not just a gathering of "hive" minds but a platform for decisive actions that will shape our industry's trajectory over the next year. It was personally great to have numerous conversations with members of our beekeeping community Australia wide and express my commitment to help the Victorian Beekeeping community grow. As your representative, I am committed to fostering collaboration and driving initiatives that benefit all stakeholders.

Warm regards,
Lindsay Callaway
VAA Inc Vice President,
VAA Voting Delegate to AHBIC,
Current AHBIC Executive Member

A COMEBACK FOR COMB HONEY
By John Kennedy

Beekeepers who go to the trouble or finesse of producing Comb Honey could see a comeback in demand and increased interest in their product.
So says a recent article in the US Journal *Bee Culture*.
Described as a 'nostalgic treat you may be missing' the message to consumers is that they shouldn't miss the comeback in comb honey
It says "the honey oozed thick and glossy from a waxen comb, releasing a smell reminiscent of molasses, silage, tack rooms and county fairs.
"The best thing about the Appalachian foothills arose in a single whiff".
Noting that it graced the table of nearly every family in my timely hamlet, the author goes on to say "people purchased it directly from farmers, or local grocers and general stores.
"You could also even order comb honey from the Sears Roebuck catalogue".
The review also presents some 17 pointers as to why it presents such a sumptuous story, even why beekeepers should make enough for your local farmers market.
Some recent innovations in the combs to produce a comb honey product also make it easier for relatively small scale producers to produce. And it generally sustains as much higher price per kilo or volume when it is sought out by consumers.

Clayton Plastics

Jars & Squeezes

250gr & 500gr
Square Jars

250gr & 500gr
Amber Jars

300ml
Twist & Squeeze

500gr
Honey Comb Squeeze

500gr
Upside Down Squeeze

Servicing the honey industry for over 40 years.

AK AU KINGSUN **Clayton Plastics**

Honey Pails

Non Tamper Proof Pails
500gr 1 kg 1.5kg 3kg 5kg
(500gr avaliable in CLEAR ONLY)

Tamper Proof Pails
1 kg 1.5kg 2.2L 5L Pails
10L 15L 20L Pails

Bee Frames

Wood Frame Full Depth
Assembled with Wire

Wood Frame Full Depth
with Plastic Foundation
(not waxed)

Plastic Frame
Full Depth

Beehives

10 Frame
Plastic Hive

8 Frame Painted Wooden
Assembled Hive

Time
& Cost
Efficient

LIMITED TIME OFFER

call (03) 8401 4248

8 Frame Wooden Hive

customize your own way

Pre-Drilled Holes

SOLD SEPARATELY

Lid
Hive Box
Bottom Board

OR

Full Hives

Free Nails

www.claytonplastics.com.au

5 Lydia Court Epping, VIC 3076
sales@claytonplastics.com.au

Tel: (03) 8401 4248
Fax: (03) 8401 4946

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC
BENDIGO
43rd
BEEKEEPING
FIELD DAY
Sunday
13th October
Entry $15
$10 Conc
63 Bingham's Lane Harcourt
9am - 3pm

Open hive demonstrations
Flow & Langstroth

BYO protective gear to observe the hive demonstrations

Identifying local flora - Bushwalk

Varroa - how do we prepare?

Guest Speakers

Alcohol wash & drone uncapping
Demonstrations by Ag Vic

Industry Trade Stalls- Stock up

- guest speakers througout the day
- beginners sessions
- workshop with wax products
- primary school art display

Auction - Bring along your surplus gear to sell

All enquiries Peta Dawe
bbvaasecretary@gmail.com

Melbourne Section Report

The AGM and the 2024-5 Committee, Winter Workshops, Varroa workshops, Woodend National Insect Expo, education and a trip is planned.

The VAA Melbourne Section AGM 2024

The VAA MS AGM was held on Thursday 25th July 2024, the monthly meeting date for July.

The election results for the 2024-5 committee:

Chair;	No candidate
Deputy Chair:	Mike Love
Treasurer:	Rob Kerr
Secretary:	No candidate

Ordinary Committee: Andrew Wootton, David Baskett, Garry Dumergue, Isles Arthur, Janet Conos.

VAA MS Appointed Representative to the VAA Board: John van Weeghel

The VAA MS thanks John Kennedy who assumed the Chair for the elections.

The new committee will meet soon to address the vacant positions and plan for the coming year.

Other stuff

The education committee at the MS level and at the VAA level are both functioning well. There is a beginner's course and a Queen rearing course in the Spring. See the VAA Website under "Events".

A **visit to John Edmonds Honey** on the first Saturday in November has been confirmed. This event is being held with the Moonee Valley Beekeepers Association. John will host 22 beekeepers after we have car pooled our way to Geelong. See the Events list again.

The Melbourne Section is partnering with the Woodend Bee Friendly Society and have booked a stall at the **Woodend National Insect Expo.** The dates are 4-6th October. The Expo has thousands of visitors over the three days and we hope to be promoting the new VAA brand and answering lots of questions about bees and, of course, Varroa.

The **Third Winter Workshop** is all about making your own frames under the expert guidance of Mike Love and friends. See the Events list again.

Varroa Workshops are being scheduled by TOCAL in conjunction with the Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). Registered beekeepers will be getting emails from "Humanitix" with the scheduled Varroa Workshops. We are providing feedback about the progress and approach in an effort to make this effective and efficient for beekeepers to book the best one for themselves.

The **August meeting** of the Melbourne Section will feature Kevin Sermon with many tales of cutouts and swarms collected. An ex-builder with a thirst for building up his hive numbers and helping people, as well as being camera happy.

The **VAA Library** is hosted by the Melbourne Section and is open at each monthly meeting. At the AGM, there was discussion about how we can make the

(Continued on page 21)

Melbourne Section Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 20)

library catalogue available online and how we might best develop the library with new items. The Library Trust Committee would be happy to receive expressions of interest from people who can help in these areas.

Rob Kerr
VAA Melbourne Section Secretary
0421 078 387

The CCF apiary gardens were full of weeds, but no more! They are now weeded with mulch distributed. Photos: Rob Kerr

MATED QUEEN BEE ORDERS

Max, of Bendigo Branch V.A.A. is now accepting orders for queens to be paid for and collected at the Field Day.

To Order: Contact Max 03 5446 7911
or email– maunderjmcv@bigpond.com

Order soon to avoid disappointment.

Bees must be paid for by 1.00 p.m., or they will be sold. Once paid they can be marked to be picked up later before you leave the Field Day..

In the event of cancellation for any reason, arrangements may be made to pay and pick them up in Bendigo.

Bee Bits From The USA

By John Kennedy

NORTHERN QUEEN INITIATIVE GAINING GROUND

The Northern Queen Initiative was founded in 2023 to educate and train beekeepers in queen raising techniques, and to improve the value and production of locally adjusted survivor stock queens while focusing on mite resistance and temperament.

The aim is to access breeding stock that thrives in northern cold climates in the USA. while exhibiting good honey production, possess a calm temperament and are mite resistant.

One objective is "to see an alternative to the permeation of prophylactic and systemic chemical treatment education and practice for mites in modern beekeeping".

The NQI continues to report good progress with one objective being to produce a line of VSH queens.

The project is supported by the US Department of Agriculture and the Baton Rouge Laboratory ready to release these queens to beekeepers.

They are known as Pol-Line queens selected for their mite resistance and are high scoring on the Harbo scale.

In a 2022 Pol-Line study the queen were given no treatment to control varroa but had a survival rate of 62.5% compared to standard bees in commercial apiaries that are given no varroa treatment that had a survival rate of only 3%.

Another NQI report is that virgin queen bees raised by James Lee in Michigan that are selected to show at least 75% VSH behaviour in their offspring plus other desirable behavioural traits like gentleness, build up and local climate survival.

These queens are selected from a line of bees originating from instrumentally inseminated breeder queens from the Harbo Bee Co.

"This batch of queens has been selected after two generations of mothers that score a "4" on the Harbo assay, meaning that they have very high VSH and can be expected to have workers and drones with these traits.

"These queens are marked green and are shipped overnight across the United states at a cost (at pickup) of $US20.

The NQI runs under the banner of the Sustainable Beekeepers Guild of Michigan and is supported by over 600 beekeepers in the United States and Canada.

For more information see www.sbgmi.org or search northern queen initiative

Can Their Drones Find Ours

DCA's or Drone Congestion Areas are one of the mysteries of beekeeping.

Yet they are essential to queen breeders and rearers and thus most beekeepers, while a USA based citizen scientist Julia Mahood has come up with some interesting ideas as to how drones (or to be accurate, unmanned aerial vehicles) can provide a solution.

Julia is a Georgia Master Beekeeper living in Atlanta and has kept bees since 2004.

In 2018 she was awarded the Georgia Beekeeper of the Year title, and she now has a website which is rich with information on drones and DCAs.

She notes that drones often fly at more than six metres high which has made the study of reproduction difficult.

DCA's or drone congestion areas are where drones from different colonies fly around looking for queens with which to mate.

Julia notes that drones only live 21 to 32 days and are raised in times of plenty in the spring and summer months when the colony can support them.

Colony survival in winter depends on it conserving stored honey, and drones are thus a dramatic drain on resources.

When spring returns the colony will rear new drones.

She says "mysteriously the new drones find the same DCAs year after year even though no old drones survived the winter.

"Without intergenerational learning how do drones know where the DCAs are?"

Previously, and even currently, beekeepers in many parts of the world have used weather balloons filled with helium with either caged virgin queens or pheromone laced lures trailing beneath as a testing medium.

But this method is time consuming and limited in aerial application.

Mahood posits that "with the advent of hobbyist unmanned aerial vehicles hunting DCAs is much easier.

She notes they have an ability to fly to 5000 metres and can videotape or photograph the bees flying beneath the UAV noting that they are now getting much smaller and can easily suspend a batch of virgin queens or a lure with synthetic queen pheromone which is the easiest and most effective product that is readily available.

She recommends suspending the laden lure with something that supplies some weight to ensure it falls below the UAV and further to act as a visual marker for both the camera and the drones to see.

She says "plastic hair rollers (weighing about 28 grams) are inexpensive and readily available and have the advantage of allowing air to flow through them."

Her recommendations are based on theories about where DCAs are located, including depressions in the landscape or flyways often run parallel to the landscape along tree lines, creeks or rivers and roadways, and of course temperature and winds are important.

She says (in the USA context) that temperature needs to be above 64F or 18C, and drones prefer to fly in calm weather and typically in the afternoon.

Her recommendation is for beekeepers to reach out to their local UAV enthusiasts and get them to let you know when they encounter lots of bees when flying.

She says many UAV pilots stumble upon DCAs without knowing what they are.

Julia Mahood's multi page website with extensive references shown is rich on information about DCAs.

It is well worth your time to review at www.mapmydca.com

Potential Varroacide Now Has New Commercial Partner

By John Kennedy

A Varroacide that has been developed by Dr Erika Plettner at Simon Fraser University and Dr Stephen Pernal of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada that has been undergoing trials, now has a commercial partner in Veto Pharma to further test and develop the product for the commercial marketplace.

The trial work has been funded to date by Costco US.

An investigation of the researchers reveals that Dr Pernal is an entomologist with his doctoral work concentrated on honey bee nutrition, the influence of pollen quality on foraging strategies of honey bees, and his recent work focused on detection and management of honey bee diseases and parasites including the detection and management of antibiotic and pesticide residues in hive products, and the development of markers for breeding resistance to diseases and the parasitic varroa mite.

He was also Chair of the Scientific Program at the 46th Apimondia held in Montreal in 2019.

It is reported that Simon Fraser University in Barnaby, British Columbia approached Veto Pharma as part of their selection process for a regulatory and commercial partner to translate their technology into a valuable solution for beekeepers.

They say that over the last three years they have investigated over 50 compounds as promising candidates for commercialization, only one of which was sourced from this research university.

Veto Pharma adds that they are now working to evaluate the high potential of the varroacide and to shorten the timelines and achieve registration of the new asset for varroa control for use by beekeepers worldwide.

According to the announcement the technology relates to a compound never used before in an animal health industry, so there is important work to provide safety and toxicity data to different authorities.

Once this laborious step is complete the path to registration for the final product includes more field trials and technical and regulatory support, including efficacy. safety, toxicity studies for bees and beekeepers and consumption studies from the hive, as well as economic and feasibility tests of the product for application in different markets.

Science News: A vaccine for bees has an unexpected effect

The first vaccine designed for insects may make honeybees healthier overall. Honeybee hives vaccinated against a bacterial disease had much lower levels of an unrelated viral disease than did unvaccinated hives, veterinarian Nigel Swift of Dalan Animal Health reported April 3 at the World Vaccine Congress. Read the story here

DENMAR APIARIES

P.O. Box 99, Wondai, Queensland, 4606
Phone: (07) 4168 6005
Mobile: 0448 690 064
International Ph: +61 7 4168 6005
Email: ausbee4@hotmail.com

ISOLATED MATED BREEDERS $600.00 EACH

QUEEN BEES
ITALIAN

UNTESTED

1 — 10	$32.00 each
11 — 49	$28.00 each
50 +	$24.00 each

Prices as from 1/9/2020

Terms 7 days - Late Payments - add $4 Per Queen

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Bee Bits

By John Kennedy

New Book – LOCAL QUEENS ARE BEST

Regardless of your beekeeping level or interest, rearing your own queens is a topic that many smaller scale beekeepers swear away from.

This makes a topical new book from the UK (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk) a timely one.

It carries the title *Local Queens are Best* and it's a paperback of 72 pages compiled by Bruce Henderson Smith, with an asking price of 12 pounds 95 sterling plus local conversion and postage.

It is presented as "a method of queen rearing on a small scale, which can be used by any beekeeper with a few years of experience and a small number of hives."

The publisher's note adds "this is a book for those of us who have a colony with a benign matriarch, whose offspring are gentle to handle, healthy and productive.

"This is how to continue her line and improve other colonies in our care, using the minimum of fuss, equipment or expense.

The note adds "ultimately this improvement benefits all beekeepers in the neighbourhood, as the density of well-bred drones increases in the area.

This book is richly illustrated with a firsthand commentary on what to look for, and when just to trust the nurse bees to know their job.

QUEEN REARING BY THE CELL PUNCH

Queen rearing can be a daunting project especially for the smaller beekeeper who seeks to produce only a limited number.

This is where a technique known as the Cell Punch Method comes into play.

It has been used since the 20th century and until now a booklet entitled "*Raise Your Own Queens by the Punched Cell Method*" which was created in the 1970s by UK beekeeper Richard Smales, has been the only reliable information source.

It is said that possibly due to a limited supply of punches the method has largely gone out of use.

But another UK beekeeper Roger Patterson has used it satisfactorily for over 50 years.

In this book, which is a 2021 BIBBA first edition published by Northern Bee Books, (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk) he describes his method and other useful information.

The publisher says "small scale queen rearing is needed more than ever to overcome the increasing number of queen imports into the UK and their genetic impact on locally adapted and native bees.

"For many, weak eyes and trembling hands make the idea of larval transfer via grafting a worrying challenge, especially when the larva is separated from its food and the potential queen is also dumped unceremoniously into a plastic cup of some kind".

The Punched Cell Method that author Roger Thompson describes does not separate the larva from its food, it is not moved from its original wax cell, and it is not touched in any way during the whole process.

"Good light is not even needed; the whole process can be easily performed on a hive roof in the apiary".

Describing this book (available as a paperback of 48 pages for 12 pounds sterling plus local $A conversion and postage) as well illustrated and a practical guide to the history, methods and examples of how every beekeeper can have their own sustainable supply of quality queens for many years to come at little cost with little skill required, the Publishers, on their website, also have about an 18 minute video of the technique conducted by the author.

ASIAN HORNETS GET BIG FOCUS AT NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

Early advice from the UK's National Honey Show to be held at the Sandown Park Racecourse (from Thursday 24th to Sunday 26th October next) on the principal speakers shows that the Asian Hornet will get key attention.

Speakers thus far will include Nigel Seymour with an update on the historic perspective, research and current UK situation of this decided pest.

Thomas O'Shea will outline an Artificial Intelligence system known as VespAI for the rapid detection of vespa vallentina.

This system detects hornets in real time and sends associated images via a compact remote processor.

He will discuss the development, performance and future deployment of the system to enhance surveillance and control of invasive hornets.

Alan Baxter, a resident beekeeper in the Loire Valley of France, where his apiary was the target of heavy predation by the hornet, will discuss his response and ongoing management of the situation.

All this is because UK beekeepers are seeing increased evidence of the Asian Hornet, who are moving in from infestations in Europe.

The National Honey Show includes a giant trade show on beekeeping equipment, multiple awards for honey and related products and a co-running speaker forum on topical subjects from industry leaders.

THORNE'S OFFER SMOKE STICKS

Most beekeepers have experimented with their preferred type of smoker fuel.

Everything from compressed waste paper to cardboard, dry pine needles and dry grasses are usually preferred as regular smoker fuels.

Now Thorne's, the UK's largest bee goods retailer, has introduced what it calls Smoke Sticks.

They are apparently manufactured from dry wooden materials, in this case pure spruce, which are offered as a pack of 60 sticks in a package.

Each pack includes a steel wire stand to hold the stick upright in your smoker like a wick, which when lit will have a burn time of approximately one hour. Thorne's say when lit it will produce "a cool white smoke". The Smoke Sticks are offered at an introductory price of 16 pounds sterling for the pack of 60.

Thorne's has also produced a short introductory video that shows how the sticks are inserted on the wick, placed in the smoker and lit.

See the website www.thorne.co.uk for the product information.

VAA Emails To Members

26/7/2024

Individual Insurance for Beekeepers

Update to Members & Policy Holders

We wanted to update our members and current policy holders about the Public and Products Liability Insurance for individual beekeepers that we offer for sale through the VAA's website.

Background

Past VAA Boards took the decision to purchase bulk insurance cover for both affiliate clubs and individual members. These policies were paid for by the VAA up front. Then, as individual beekeepers and affiliated associations opted to purchase insurance for themselves through the VAA, their payments allowed the VAA to recoup the premiums the Association had already paid. The VAA has never earned a profit from the insurance program. It has been a net expense for the Association. The VAA has chosen to view the expenses related to offering insurance as a mechanism to support our affiliate clubs and help individual members manage risk related to beekeeping.

April 2024

When the VAA received the renewal notice for 2024 -2025, we saw a significant increase in the premiums, specifically in the cost of providing insurance cover for affiliate clubs. This cost has increased almost 120% for individuals and 400% for affiliated clubs. In addition, the insurance companies now require increased documentation and administration regarding membership levels of the affiliate clubs and specific details about individual members.

The VAA decided to renew the policy for 2024-2025 but paused new insurance sales and renewals temporarily starting in April as we assessed the situation.

Updated VAA Insurance Program July 2024 - 10 April 2025

We have now resumed insurance sales and renewals for individuals on our website. The policies purchased will be valid until 10 April 2025. Each month we will prorate the annual premiums due so members will only pay premiums for the months that they are covered.

August – December 2024

The VAA will continue our research to identify quality, affordable insurance cover for beekeepers so that we can continue to offer this program after 10 April next year.

Autumn 2025

Prior to April 2025, the VAA will have a new insurance program available for individual members for sale on our website. In the interim, we will keep our members informed about this important initiative via email, our website and the Australian Bee Journal.

Sincerely, VAA Board

Questions? Please contact us at vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

Visit the VAA shop insurance page.

VAA Insurance | Monthly Prorated Premiums

Depending on the month you purchase or renew your insurance, these are the premiums you will pay

(Continued on page 26)

VAA Emails To Members, cont'd

(Continued from page 25)

	Non-Members	VAA Members
26 July - August 2024	$160	$120
September 2024	$140	$105
October 2024	$120	$90
November 2024	$100	$75
December 2024	$80	$60
January 2025	$60	$45
February 2025	$40	$30
March – 10 April 2025	$20	$15

24/7/24

Letter of Support for Victorian Beekeepers

Varroa Management

Victorian Apiarists Association Inc. (VAA Inc.) Commercial Subcommittee

Dear Victorian Beekeepers,

As representatives of the newly formed VAA Inc. Commercial Subcommittee, we write to extend our united support to commercial and recreational beekeepers in the likelihood of the first detection of Varroa destructor in our state this season. This devastating pest, now endemic to NSW, will be a significant challenge for all of us. United, we can confront and manage it.

We extend our support to the courage and leadership of the first few commercial or recreational beekeepers who report the initial detections in Victoria. We ask that all Victorian beekeepers provide that same support. Your prompt action and transparency will be critical in our collective efforts to protect the health of our bees and the broader apiculture industry. Your courage sets an example for all Victorian beekeepers, highlighting the importance of vigilance and cooperation in these trying times.

The VAA Inc. Commercial Subcommittee is here to support you with resources, information, and a community of fellow beekeepers who understand the challenges you face. Please see below for several resources we recommend every beekeeper become familiar with. We are stronger together, and your proactive steps are crucial in safeguarding our industry.

Together, we will navigate this challenge and ensure the continued health and productivity of our bees.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of our VAA Inc. Commercial Subcommittee

Lindsay Callaway

Chairman

VAA Inc. Commercial Subcommittee

VAA Commercial Subcommittee Members

Lindsay Callaway (Maldon)
Richard Collins (Bendigo)
Vicki Elliott (Dimboola)
Millie Enbom-Goad (Dunnstown)
Matt Lorenz (Castlemaine)
Andrew McCallum (Marraweeney)
Phil McPherson (Shepparton)
Ben Moore (Maryborough)
Matt Petersen (Fish Creek)
Lintt Taylor (Myers Flat)
Tino Corsetti (VAA Secretary)

Varroa Management | Information & Resources

AHIBIC

Approved Treatments Table
Resilient Beekeeping Podcasts
Beekeeping Biosecurity Codes

AgriFutures

Varroa - Integrated Pest Management

TOCAL – National Varroa Mite Management Training

Varroa Workshop Schedule - Victoria

Mental Health Resources

Head to Health
Beyond Blue
Lifeline

8th July

The VAA has been asked to circulate a survey regarding increasing value-addition to Australian agriculture products. The survey is part of research being conducted by a Ph.D. student at Federation University. The complete details are below.

We asked the researcher whether there was a minimum size for the agriculture/apiary business they were interested in having respond to the survey. We were told that the study would welcome input from apiary businesses of any size.

The VAA supports any research that enhances the competitiveness of Australia's agricultural output and appreciates that our members have been invited to share their insights and perspectives through this survey.

Best regards,

Tino Corsetti, Administration Officer & Secretary

Dear Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc.,

We are seeking your invaluable support in an online survey as part of a Ph.D. research project at Federation University, Australia, on increasing value addition to Australian agricultural products. This is a key strategy of Australian agriculture to enhance its competitiveness and profitability in the global market.

This online survey aims to understand the farmers'

(Continued on page 27)

VAA Emails To Members, cont'd

(Continued from page 26)

perception of adding value to their agricultural products, which will provide opportunities for farm diversification, employment, and increasing income in the regional areas. Your role as a farmer/farming organization is crucial in this research, and your insights will significantly contribute to the success of this project.

We would highly appreciate if you could share this survey link with members of your organization:

Survey link

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes, and all data collected will be kept confidential and anonymous. This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Federation University Australia (Project Reference No. 2024-051).

The research is funded by the Ararat Rural City Council, Victoria, and supported by Federation University Australia and the Destination Australia Scholarship. For more details about the project, please read the Plain Language Information Statement attached to the survey link or feel free to contact me directly if you need any further information.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely, ***Thuy Van Dao****,*
PhD Candidate
Institute of Innovation, Science and Sustainability, Ararat Jobs and Technology Precinct, Federation University Australia

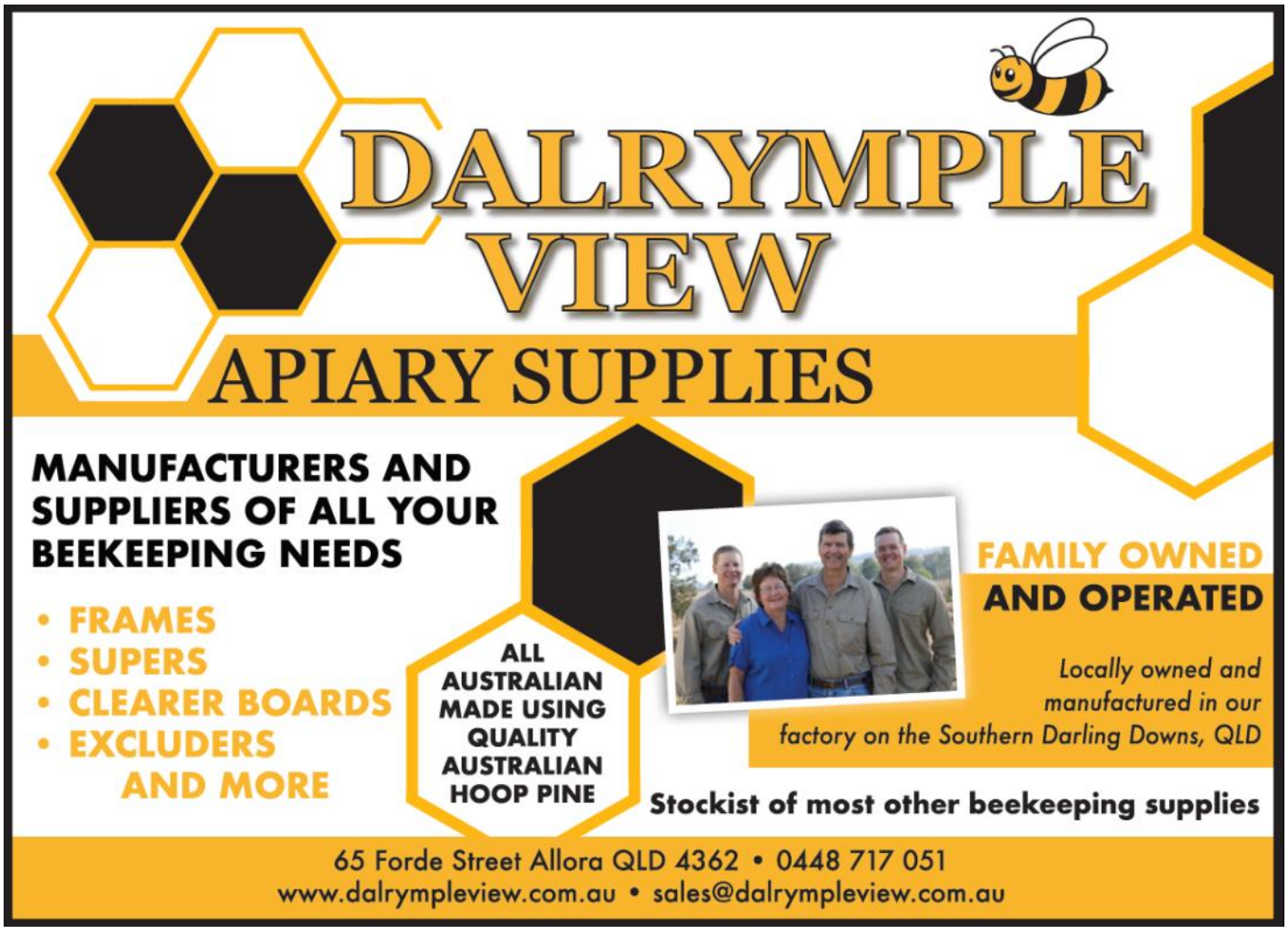
2/8/24
VAA Beekeeping Education
Intro to Beekeeping Course | Queen Rearing Workshop

The VAA's Melbourne Section is offering two education programs in spring 2024. In October, we're holding an Introduction to Beekeeping course that offers a blend of online learning as well as a hands-on session. The course is delivered over three weeks with two-hour online sessions held on Thursday evenings. This format allows the content to be delivered in convenient shorter units. On the final weekend there is a four-hour in-person session held on Sunday 20 October.

In November we're holding a workshop on queen rearing. Learners have the option to create a mating nuc from their own apiary or to purchase a mating nuc to begin their queen-rearing journey. Queen rearing is a fascinating part of the beekeeping practice. The workshop will be held over one weekend (16-17 November).

Both courses are taught by Andrew Wootton, Certified Master Beekeeper (Eastern Apicultural Society). Andrew is supported in the course delivery by experienced VAA beekeepers.

If you're interested in taking either of these courses, please visit the VAA website.



Bendigo Branch Make And Mend Day

By Peta Dawe. Photos: Peta Dawe & Jamie Trimby

Frames to be fixed

A small and committed group left the warmth of their homes on 28th July to venture out in the chilly Bendigo winter to learn and practice how to make and mend their bee equipment. The sun shining, however with very little warmth, our committed crew indulged in hot soup, coffee and tea and set about learning how to look after their equipment as well as to make new equipment. Some of the members bought along their equipment that needed some extra care and attention.

Our knowledgeable member Stafford provided some informative tips on how to give your frames some extra strength, also tips on building flat pack boxes from scratch to ensure there are no gaps, and tips on keeping the bees cool and warm with insulation in the tops and venting in the lids. There were interesting discussions about flat pack bottoms for boxes as well as the ventilated varroa bottom board which is being trialled by some beekeepers. Stafford had a sample to show the members. Also, discussion on wax dipping boxes and painting the boxes.

Above: Learning about frames

Above: Box building

Above: Learning about tops

Above: Learning about bottoms

After some warm soup, something to eat and a hot cuppa we then moved onto wiring frames and heating foundation to the frames. Michael and Jamie talked about to how to wire frames and the different tools to assist us to do this. Jamie then talked about his home-made heating implement to heat the foundation onto the wire. Some of the members still have wire frames and they enjoyed learning how to do this and then put it into practice.

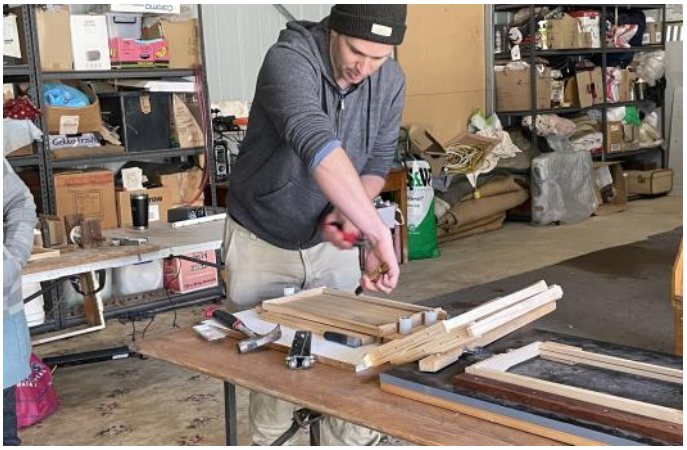
(Continued on page 29)

The Conversation: Honey bees vote to decide on nest sites – why we should listen
When people think of honey bees, they often think of classic wooden hives, in which beekeepers are having to breed more and more bees just to keep managed populations stable. Are we are missing something from the evolution of wild bees that might help managed bees today? Read the article here

Bendigo Branch Make And Mend Day, cont'd

(Continued from page 28)

Below: Learning about wire frames



Above: Learning how to heat foundation to wire frames

Above: Practising how to heat foundation to wire frames

For those members who have moved away from wiring frames Stafford talked about foundation and the different types that are available. There were a few handy tips along the way as well. He then moved onto waxing the foundation ensuring it is even and what happens if it is not. The members then had their opportunity to test their skills and roll some foundation, which they all enjoyed.

Above: Plastic foundation

Above: Learning how to wax foundation

(Continued on page 30)

Bendigo Branch Make And Mend Day, cont'd

(Continued from page 29)

Below: Practising how to wax foundation

The final part of the day was a demonstration on how to best utilise the galvanised Emlock hive strap. Along with some Q & A. Matt brought in his home-made bee vax to show the members and explain how it is used on a job.

Below: Learning how to clip up boxes

Overall, a very successful day had by all. Members learnt new tricks, practiced new skills and repaired and made equipment ready for the season ahead. There was a great exchange of ideas and discussion and "hands on" activities for everyone that attended.

Above & Below: Home made vax

Making Queens The Welsh Way

By John Kennedy

Gwenyn Gruffydd is an enthusiastic Welsh bee farmer based in Carmarthenshire in South Wales, who founded his family operated and award winning bee farming and honey producing business in 2010.

He now runs about 250 hives and has created a quite diverse beekeeping business.

He regularly posts informative Facebook videos on his pursuits which provide useful and usually informative information on how beekeeping is done in that part of the world.

I should note however that his presentations are delivered in a distinctive rich Welsh brogue, and often require careful interpretation to derive the full meaning from his videos.

He is not only enthusiastic but heavily accented in Welsh!

Two of Gwenyn's recent Facebook posts are available on the internet or from his own website at www gwenyngruffydd.co.uk

One is an afternoon spent with accomplished former UK beekeeper Richard Noel, who is now based as a commercial beekeeper in Brittany, France.

Noel has been building a quite substantial new honey house and equipping it with a new extraction plant, a hot room, and extensive materials handling aids for efficient inwards and outwards handling for his seasonal hive movements and other beekeeping gear.

It is an informative insight into how to set up a new honey house from scratch albeit in Brittany, France – including with a number of unavoidable French interruptions!

His second and quite current Facebook video presentation is a fifty minute long visit to a northern Wales queen production business known as Border Honey.

They are a family owned and run queen producer based on an original Buckfast strain, and the video shows how they produce about 300 queens seasonally for sale to commercial beekeepers across the UK.

It is well worth your time to watch especially their use of mini nuces or Apidea hives, their heated incubator. and their use of a special queen mating yard and how they produce their own drones.

It is both highly informative and entertaining and well worth the investment of 50 minutes of your time to watch.

The family run Border Honey business also operates 300 honey producing hives and offers a solid website which can be accessed at www.borderhoney.com.

It's always interesting to get an overseas view on beekeeping methods and techniques applied by accomplished commercial beekeepers of note.

Gwenyn Gruffydd notes on his website that his aim is to produce and sell quality single origin honeys including from Welsh wildflowers. that are 100% pure, minimally filtered, unpasteurised (raw), and that also win multiple awards and Good Taste award recognitions almost every year.

You can also register to receive his regular Facebook video updates as and when he releases a new one, by subscribing at no cost on his website,

LOGAR HONEY EXTRACTORS FROM SLOVENIA

By John Kennedy

Slovenia has a significant beekeeping industry, including a factory manufacturing honey extraction equipment where it has been producing such extraction aids for over 40 years. The family run business offers a full range of beekeeping equipment and exports 80%of its production to 50 countries, mainly in Europe.
They are renowned for the quality of their extractors, from hobbyist to commercial in scale, which are manufactured from 1.2 mm stainless steel which they say is twice as strong as most other manufacturers.
There are no bottom seams inside the extractor drum for easier cleaning, with adjustable height legs, a removable cage for cleaning or storage, and a top mounted gearbox and motor,
The Logar extractors are complimented by a full range of mixers, creamers and honey tank storages.
For more product information see www.logar-trade.com

Bee Culture

The Magazine Of American Beekeeping

140 years Experience Today's techniques -- Tomorrow's Ideas

ONLY US$24 for a digital Subscription

www.BeeCulture.com for details

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

The Beekeeper's Companion Since 1861

51 South 2nd St., Hamilton, IL 62341

www.americanbeejournal.com

The oldest and largest English-language beekeeping magazine

•Only $21 U.S. Dollars for a Digital Subscription

•Paper edition $66 U.S. Dollars per year—12 big monthly issues

Helpful practical beekeeping advice and discussion of current beekeeping methods.

Australia's Honeybee News

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"
The Journal of the NSW AA Inc.
Published bi-monthly
Annual Subscription
Aust. $65
Overseas $100 AUD

For more information contact:
The Editor, PO Box 7425,
SUTTON NSW 2620
Ph: 0427 552 001
honeybeenews@bigpond.com

Contacts

VAA Resources Management Comm.

Chairman: Ken Gell,
Mob: 0428 506 752
gellshoneymaryborough@gmail.com
Secretary:
Angela Enbom
0400 261 233
angela_enbom@yahoo.com

Regional Managers
Central region:
Millie Enbom-Goad
Ph: 0400 083 582
millie_enbomgoad@yahoo.com.au

North East region:
Andrew McCallum
Mob: 0448 577 780
rawhoneyvic@gmail.com

Sunraysia region:
Ron Robinson,
Ph: 03 5024 1068
honeybee711@bigpond.com

Port Phillip region:
Ashley Smith
Mob: 0419 155 857
lakesidehoney@outlook.com

Gippsland region:
Ian Cane, Mob: 0428 516 325
iancane@bigpond.com.au

Western region:
Daryl Hobbs
0427 340 197

Agriculture Victoria:

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

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

Current Apiary Officers

Nikki Jones
Biosecurity Manager Apiary
1 Taylor Street, Epsom,
Victoria, Australia 3551
Mob: 0428 617 071
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Karla Williams
Biosecurity Officer Apiary
1 McKoy Street, Wodonga,
Victoria, 3690
Mob: 0417 121 987
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Adam Maxwell,
Biosecurity Officer Apiary
475-485 Mickleham Road,
Attwood, Victoria, 3049
Mob: 0428 893 595
Email: honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

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

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

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP):

BAIRNSDALE:
Tracey West 03 5152 0422
BALLARAT:
Jennifer Bromley 0448 389 270
BENDIGO:
Melissa Dole 0436 615 569
Melissa.Dole@delwp.vic.gov.au
GEELONG
Linda Laurie 03 5233 5519
HEYWOOD
Jacki Hayward 03 5527 0444
HORSHAM:
Jess Dickerson 0437 913 538
MILDURA:
Dan Cadmore 03 5051 4349
SEYMOUR:
Kathryn Hamono 03 5735 4300
WODONGA:
Lloyd Beaty 02 6043 7936

Other contacts

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC):
CEO: Danny Le Feuvre
Mob: 0402 467 780
AHBIC@Honeybee.org.au
PO Box 42, Jamison Centre,
Macquarie ACT 2614
www.honeybee.org.au

Crop Pollination Association Inc
President: Steve Fuller,
president.cpaa.aus@gmail.com
Ph 0488 434 498
Secretary: Janet Clyde
jclyde.cpaa@gmail.com
Ph 0417 494 867

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 for inclusion in the journal. Please send your original photos, articles, handy hints, anecdotes, club activities etc to abjeditors@yahoo.com

Contacts

VAA Inc Regional Groups

Bendigo Branch:
Secretary: Peta Dawe
bbvaasecretary@gnail.com
Chair: Jamie Trimby
bbvaachair@gmail.com
Treasurer: Carol Maunder
bbvaatreasurer@gmail.com
General Information Q&A
Meetings - *1st Wed. each month (except Jan & Dec)*
Dinner at 6.00pm *(optional)*
Meeting at 7.00 pm.
Lakeside Hotel, Bendigo.
Executive Committee Meeting:
3rd Wed month as required.
Venue: As notified.
Please register to attend all Meetings

Melbourne Section:
Secretary, Rob Kerr
Ph: 0421 078 387
Vaamelbournesection@hotmail.com
www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/Melbourne-Section
Information/ Education Meetings: from 7:30 pm the last Thursday of each month except December
Location: Church of Christ,
1 The Avenue, Surry Hills.

Sunraysia Branch:
Trevor Monson,
Ph: 03 5024 8674.
monsonshoney@bigpond.com

VAA Inc. Library Trust
Secretary: Russell Goodman,
Ph 03 9735 3836

Affiliated Organisations

Central Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc (CVAA Inc.):
Millie Enbom-Goad
Ph: 0400 083 582
cvaa_inc@outlook.com

Gippsland Apiarists' Association Inc. (GAA Inc.):
President: Stan Glowacki:
jeeralangapiary@bigpond.com
0413 136 878
Secretary: Neil Barraclough:
neilbarra2@outlook.com
0429 888 706
Treasurer: Sean Paul Smith:
kaledprime@gmail.com
0466 041 199

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
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: wbfs@mrsg.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 Gerdsen
Secretary: Helen Morland
Treasurer: Debbie Conway
E: werribeeks@gmail.com

John van Weeghel

Do you have photos of bee or honey related subjects?

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

Please send to abjeditors@yahoo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

HONEY BUYERS

Archibald's Honey Co.
Spring Rd.
Dingley,
VIC, 3172
Ph: 03 9551 1860
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

****

Redpath's Beekeeping Supplies
193 Como Parade East,
Parkdale,
VIC 3195
Ph: 03 9587 5950
Alan Redpath
redpaths@redpaths.com.au
www.redpaths.com.au

FOR SALE

Business for sale
Jeeralang Apiary Supplies
Koala Drive, Jeeralang Junction
Ph: 03 5122 2641
Servicing Gippsland and
Eastern Victoria

8 & 10 frame tin lids
New & recycled tin
KAS MANUFACTURING
Ph: 03 5449 6680
Mob: 0409 017 311

Hive Loader. 12 volt 4.2 long.
Fits truck or trailer. Near new.
Honey House. 4.8 long. 2.3 wide.
Built from cool room panels.
Complete with plant.
A.H . Mob. 0429 954 000

NEW MEMBERS

Stephen Davey
Rebecca Phillips
Cheryl Stancombe
Martin Starec

CONDOLENCES

We send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of long time VAA member **Alan Gell.**
The Gell family are commercial beekeepers and honey-producers based in Maryborough. .

Classified ads
$2.20 per line.

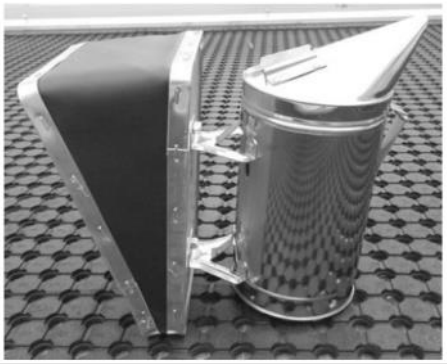
VAA members are reminded that they are entitled to one **FREE**
6–line classified ad each year.
Contact
abjeditors@yahoo.com

Members Notices
(births, deaths etc)
are always free.

Index of Advertisers

AIR CTI	20
Aust. Queen Bee Exporters	11
Avant Equipment	9
Becs Beehive	10
Beechworth Honey	Inside back
Beeplas Australia	13
Clayton Plastics	16/17
Covey Queens	14
Dalrymple View	27
Denmar Apiaries	23
JBee Equipment	11
Kelvin Trading	Inside front
Lyson	6
Prestige Stainless	5
Redpaths Beekeeping Supplies	12
Stafford Engineering - EzyLoader	Back
Steritech	25
Whirrakee Honey	34
Whirrakee Woodware	21

WHIRRAKEE
HONEY PTY LTD
Manufacturing quality Australian Beeco Smokers
White colorbond metal lid covers
Metal escape corners
Ph: 0427 843 383



BEECHWORTH HONEY

MOST SATISFIED CUSTOMERS 2022 CANSTAR BLUE HONEY

Australia's Most Satisfied Customers

Thank you to Australia's best beekeepers for supplying your honey to us. Together we can be proud to be voted Australia's #1 Honey.

★★★★★ OVERALL SATISFACTION

★★★★★ TASTE

★★★★★ TEXTURE & CONSISTENCY

★★★★★ RANGE VARIETY

★★★★★ VALUE FOR MONEY

★★★★★ PACKAGING DESIGN

If you're interested in selling your quality Australian honey or beeswax please call Steven Goldsworthy on 0419 559 242 or 02 6033 2322.

beechworthhoney.com.au

EZYLoader

www.ezyloader.com

- Manufactured in Australia
- Six models
- Customised Service

- Unique levelling feature for ease of load handling
- Boom brake system – ease of under-supering and requeening
- Split boom for load positioning anywhere within reach
- Small footprint
- Fully self contained and low maintenance
- Special range of attachment for specific industries
- Manual lifting of beehives removed – saves backs!

M & K STAFFORD ENGINEERING PTY LTD
3/204 Southern Cross Drive, Ballina NSW 2478
B 02 6686 9736 | F 02 6681 6077 | M 0412 426 132