

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Compulsory Honey Levy ... page 5



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AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Showy Honey Myrtle - Melaleuca nesophila

Deadline for copy for the February 2025 journal is
10pm on Saturday 1st of February 2025.

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The Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. (VAA)



The VAA was founded in 1892 and is the peak body for beekeeping in Victoria.

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

Our achievements include:

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

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

Management

The VAA Board meets a minimum of six times a year. Members of the 2024 - 2025 Board

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Contact by email is preferred

Biosecurity

Ken Gell

Finance & Insurance

Ken Gell

Education

Dr. Andrew Wootton

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 www.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

VAA President's Report

Happy 2025. May the new year bring good tidings, health and happiness. Hopefully you had a well-earned break and shared the festivities with family and/or friends.

It is the time of the year when most will make plans for the next year and reflect on last year's results. As we all know beekeepers are always optimistic. In the middle of a poor season we will get excited about the prospects of the coming season. The first half of this season has been difficult for beekeepers that work bees outside the urban areas, prospects for the remainder of the summer are more optimistic and promising. Whatever your plans are for 2025 consult with the VAA, as the Association provides assistance in different areas.

If you are new to beekeeping, we offer beekeeping courses with hands on sessions, branches and affiliated groups providing educational and social monthly meetings.

If you are a professional beekeeper, we have a commercial beekeeper committee that meets regularly to discuss any commercial issues. These meetings can be attended in person or by zoom.

The Association website has an employment section to assist in finding the worker you have been looking for. These are just some of the things the Association can assist with, please contact the office if we can be of any assistance.

Unfortunately, Victoria has once again a summer with devastating bush fires. Please contact us if you, or one of your friends, have lost hives or equipment. Some of our members that have lost bees in the Grampians fire also lost hives in floods and fires over the last two years. At the time of writing we haven't established if any assistance is required by the affected beekeepers but offers of assistance can be emailed to our secretary Tino. A big thank you to the member that has very kindly offered 100 hives to help the affected beekeepers. It is

needless to say, but we all need to be aware of the fire dangers when we work bees in the country

Just prior to Christmas the Association was notified by DEECA that the APLEG was cancelled. For those that are not aware, the Apiculture on Public Land Engagement Group was an engagement group between the beekeeping industry and Public Land Managers. Over many years some great outcomes were achieved by this group, and it is very disappointing that over recent times the land managers have gradually withdrawn support for APLEG and now have closed it down.

Beekeepers will be aware of the issue that the location of many beesites on the ground does not match the location on the Department map. It appears that this project was ticked off as being completed, but we are aware of numerous beekeepers that did not have their issues resolved or even looked at. The Board and Resources Committee will have a discussion on the best possible approach to lobby for the reinstatement of APLEG.

The VAA has sold the Beekeepers Museum located at Huntly to the Heathcote McIvor Historical Society. Since its relocation to Huntly the Museum has never reached its potential due to many reasons. Unfortunately, the Museum needs to be removed from its current location and the Board decided to offer the Museum to interested parties, which resulted in the HMHS indicating their interest. This is a great solution as the Museum was first located in Heathcote. All items in the Museum will be on loan to the HMHS and will be on display again after the relocation of the building.

John van Weeghel
President

Compulsory Honey Levy

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

Records of sales are required to be kept from 1 January to 31 December, and the closing date for payment is the following February 28th. Penalties are charged for late returns. There is also a requirement that the producer should make those records available to an Inspector at any time of request.

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

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

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

The honey levy and charge rate comprises Emergency Plant Pest Response (EPPR) 2.7 cents per kg, NRS testing 0.3 cents per kg, PHA membership 0.1 cents per kg and Research & Development (R&D) 1.5 cents per kg.

First time lodging You will need to [register](#) before you can lodge your first return. You will receive a unique LRS number that you need to include in your return

If you have questions about levies accounts, how to lodge returns or pay levies and charges:

Phone: 1800 020 619 (in Australia) or +61 2 6272 4174 (outside Australia)

Email: Levies.management@aff.gov.au

Mail: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Levies

Locked Bag 4488

Kingston ACT 2604

For more information: www.agriculture.gov.au

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

Bendigo Branch Report

Our thoughts are with beekeepers who have been affected by the fires in the Grampians.

On the other end of the spectrum - Happy New Year, I hope 2025 brings good health, joy, social connection and satisfaction.

The next Bendigo Branch meeting is on Wednesday 5th of February at the Quality Lakeside Hotel 286 Napier Street Bendigo from 6pm, with the meeting commencing at 7pm.

In Bendigo suburbia currently there are no strong nectar flows, and the bees are storing more nectar than they are consuming, and bringing in more than three varieties of pollen. Forage sources are small and mixed and the majority of hives have retained a population of drones. The best nectar source spotted is an unidentified smaller eucalypt with large bright yellow flowers plus some sparse Sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). Red Stringy Bark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) flowers do not tend to yield nectar north of Sedgewick. Non-commercial static beekeepers have the benefit of monitoring local nectar and pollen sources and target plants to provide their bees forage when resources are meagre through Summer.

In late December, inspecting a smaller swarm hived in late October, I weighed up whether it was worth join-

ing the smaller colony with another colony using the newspaper method, to feed it with sugar syrup, or rob a frame of capped brood to boost the smaller colony's population. If you have a similar size colony your options will depend on your circumstances, the resources you have at your disposal and your personal preference

to maintain or reduce hive numbers. At this stage of summer in suburbia static hives with a good bee population are generally growing with the strength of their foraging workforce, whilst colonies with 3 or less frames of brood tend to struggle to increase in size to compete for the available resources, balance the brood nest environment and nurse the open brood. If you have other strong hives, taking a frame of capped brood can help boost the smaller colony over this tipping point, whilst less mouths to

feed for a stronger hive when available resources are more likely to decline through the peak summer heat around Bendigo, will not be detrimental to the stronger hive. Another beekeeping conundrum, one query - many options that will be influenced by your apiary circumstances, and the beekeepers' preference in colony numbers.

Best wishes in the apiary for 2025,
Jamie Trimby



Photo Jamie Trimby. A Mystery Tree

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AHBIC Newsletter Extracts - Tropilaelaps Mite

What beekeepers should Know

Tropilaelaps mercedesae (Tropi mites) mites are a growing concern for beekeepers around the world. We have included some resources from [Project Apis m.](#) and [Honeybeepests.org](#) to share what some international researchers are currently finding and publishing regarding this parasitic mite of the honeybee. Thankfully Tropi is not yet present in North America or Australia but the information below is a great insight to the risk Tropi poses to our industry worldwide.

[A short clip](#) with some valuable insights from researchers and beekeepers on the risks associated with tropi mites on established honeybee industry in North America, learnings from Thailand beekeepers.

The life cycle of *Tropilaelaps* mites is similar to that of *Varroa* mites; they reproduce in capped brood cells in

the colony, and feed primarily on the hemolymph of honey bee brood. Both mites vector viruses, such as deformed wing virus (DWV). While *Varroa* mites can feed on adult bees, it is believed the mouthparts of *Tropilaelaps* cannot penetrate the exoskeleton of an adult bee. As a result, *Tropilaelaps* mites cannot survive on adult bees for more than 2–3 days and require constant access to brood to feed and reproduce.

Having a shorter reproductive cycle than *Varroa*, *Tropilaelaps* mites can quickly overcome a colony. *Tropilaelaps* mites are smaller than *Varroa* mites. Their length is similar to that of *Varroa* mites (~1 mm), but they are only about 1/3 as wide. Although they can be seen with the naked eye, they are difficult to spot due to their small size, making them easily missed by the untrained beekeeper.

Tropi Look a-likes



Photo by AHPA Bee Unit York. UK Crown Copyright.
OIE Terrestrial Manual 2018.

Varroa Mite (L) vs Tropi Mite (R)



Photo by A. Abbate, Auburn University



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Lindsay Callaway
Warral Maldon Honey

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Being A VAA Board Member

Being A VAA Board Member: What's in it for me?

WIIFM or What's In It For Me?!

The age old question that every politician plays on. Even the most altruistic of us have this WIIFM streak in us. Man does not live on bread alone. I'm sure Confucius has a pithy contribution too.

I prefer to think of it as the "mixed motive". I often find that I am most ready to act when it works for the VAA **and** it works for me.

If we apply this idea to the Board room, there should be something in it for each Board member besides the opportunity to take on responsibility and, at times, perhaps a little stress.

A Contrast

As a VAA Board member, your mindset is no longer that of working for yourself. You are now taking on a stewardship role that requires you to adopt the purpose, values and methods (and restrictions!) of the Association. These rules are defined in the Constitution and By-laws. And to live under a constitution is quite different from being a natural person making your own decisions and judgements.

You, as a person, have experience, memory, intuition, motivation and objectives.

You, as a Board member, are one part of any of these, and the other parts may leave the Board or the Association, or remember differently or not have the same sense of importance of some fact.

You as a Board member must enable the experience, memory, intuition, motivation and objectives of the VAA in a way that is external to you as a person.

Your own business method

Running your own business often ends up with the direction setting and oversight of the business not being distinguished from the execution of the strategy (the operational management and work). The 'what' and the 'how' are often not separated. This does not mean that these roles are not performed, but all of your experience at each level is with you when you do your work. The lack of explicit strategy monitoring, explicit risk monitoring, and explicit financial monitoring from a group, the Board, that should have no ego in the operational success or failure, is usually absent. Not a judgement, just an observation.

A 'shared business' method

The VAA is a business that no one owns and where the leadership and Board membership change frequently relative to a regular business of similar size. It is in fact best practice that limits be set on the number of terms for a Board member to reduce the likelihood of 'personal ownership' developing.

So if you can't run it "your way" and you won't be there forever, the only option is to make Board processes explicit and repeatable and document the outcomes.

When a new Board member arrives, this corporate memory is available to be absorbed prior to being a co-steward of the VAA strategy and operations.

Experience - separating strategy from operation

VAA Board membership can provide the experience of explicitly working with strategy (development and monitoring) and this being separated from operations (implementing the strategy), because you will be doing both types of work as a VAA Board member. The very effort by a Board member to see these levels of work as different things and to wear the right hat at the right time is a great opportunity for individual growth.

Experience - standalone, written business cases

Board papers drive decision making. Best practice Board decision making occurs when a written business case presents the context, the problem / opportunity, the reasonable / plausible options, the benefits and costs and risks of said options, and the recommended option based on value under the VAA purpose. Well documented business cases and meeting minutes provide the corporate memory of the VAA.

Experience - promoting the VAA strategy

All board members are now responsible for all decisions made by the Board and for supporting / promoting all decisions from the Board. You may have argued against a decision, but after the Board's decision making process has occurred, you are going to fully support the decision in all external (non-Board) forums (forever!!). That is now your job. The 'Board' collectively is responsible and you are also responsible for all decisions being supported and implemented / achieved.

The Board is separate from you

A reemphasis that as a Board member your personal preferences are left at the door when you enter the Board room. The Board member focus is that the decisions align with the VAA purpose and that research, planning and due diligence support the decision and that the decision is implemented and the benefits achieved.

VAA Board members pursue the VAA purpose as stated in the constitution. Thus you will represent the broad church of beekeeping: you must not represent a class or type or faction of beekeeping. You must not be there to ensure that decisions are in the interests of a subset of Victorian Apiarists. It may "hurt like hell" to choose an option in full alignment with the VAA purpose, because you are not in the "greater good" at the time, but that's Board business.

So a VAA Board position can be seen as an opportunity to work in a specific way that is different from the ways you might run your own business. Board membership methods and mindset are different, but valuable experience for your own business or for when you want to contribute in some other sphere at board level

Rob Kerr

Just thinking

See pages 10 and 11 of this journal for Board Election information

VAA Conference and AGM Wed 11th to Fri 13th June 2025



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Extract From VAA Constitution

PART D. BOARD & BOARD ELECTIONS

Powers of the Board

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

By-Laws

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

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

Types of Board membership and size of Board

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

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

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

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

Board member must be able to communicate electronically

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

Returning Officer appointment

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

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

Appointed Representative Board Member process

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

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

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

Generally Elected Board Member process

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

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

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

(Continued on page 11)

Extract From VAA Constitution, cont'd

(Continued from page 10)

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

Nomination for election as Generally Elected Board Member

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

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

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

General duties of Board members

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

Term of office of Board members

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

**VAA Conference and AGM
Wed 11th to Fri 13th June 2025**

**VAA Recreational Conference
Sat 29th March 2025**

Bee Bits

By John Kennedy

New Book Release

SPOONFULS OF HONEY

Subtitled – *A Complete Guide to honey's flavours & culinary uses with over 80 recipes*

Published: Northern Bee Books Hardback. 192 pages.

20 Pounds sterling plus \$A conversion & postage.

www.northernbeebooks.co.uk

There has been a wealth of new releases of honey books over the last 12 months.

Here the acclaimed UK specialist publisher appears to have done a reissue of the landmark work by Hattie Ellis, originally published by Pavilion as a first edition in 2014.

They note “just as bees are found all over the world so too are recipes that use honey.

Caribbean jerk, Spanish chicken, French sauces, British biscuits, and Turkish cakes all gleam with the sweet stuff.

It can take just a spoonful to bring flavour to a dish.

As a marinade it can enhance meat and poultry, and it works particularly well with nuts and fruit, cream and cheese and herbs and spices,”

There are ten chapters, all well illustrated, which discuss the topics under fact and application.

The book concludes with a Bibliography and a Sourcebook.

The 80 recipes are based on throughout the day snacks and drinks.

Author Ellis describes also the different types of honey, explains what to consider when purchasing honey and gives tips on honey use in cooking, underlines the health benefits, and concludes with the benefits to your health and the role that bees play in nature.

Surely a great book for the gastronomically aware and engaged.

HORNETS UPDATE UK & USA

The Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) appears to have hit some responses in the UK. The Asian, and its vari-

ant the yellow legged hornet, spread in 2023 and established itself in France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Jersey.

The hornets can kill 50 bees in a day and thus are a major impediment to beekeeping.

The UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology reports that responses against the hornets in the UK have stopped its spread, despite the suitable climate and habitat for the insect.

They say that the invasive Asian Hornet arrived in the country about 20 years ago in a cargo of pottery sourced from China.

It was first detected in 2016 in Essex and Surrey, and spread rapidly after having already devastated bee hives in France and Italy. The National Bee Unit responded quickly, destroying hornet nests.

According to the Centre's summary, vigilant reporting by members of the public, then rapid action by authorities to locate and eradicate insects and nests have succeeded.

“The contributions from volunteers to citizen science are inspiring, the Asian hornet is a voracious predator and has caused notable losses to honey bees in parts of Europe and we predict there would be major impacts to wild pollinators if it became established here.”

Meanwhile in the USA, the Washington Department of Agriculture has announced that after three years without confirmed detections it has declared that northern states have eradicated the hornet.

Their report says that along with support from the USDA and dedicated years of hard work the threat to native pollinators and beekeepers and agriculture has been successful.

“It was a multi year effort aided by collaboration between state, federal and international government agencies as well as significant community support.

“The northern giant hornet is able to kill an entire honey hive in as little as 30 minutes. They are also a threat to humans as their sting is more dangerous than a honey bee.” their report says.

VAA Annual Conference & AGM

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday 11th June - Friday 13th June 2025

Grand Oaks Resort, Beechworth, Victoria



Crowd Funding For BeeSTAR, A Digital Beekeeping Solution

By John Kennedy

A crowd funding solution for the further development of BeeSTAR, described as a digital beekeeping solution for commercial beekeepers, appears to have been moderately successful.

It seems about \$130,000 was raised, or about a 40% result, before the offer closed; a maximum objective of \$500,000 was sought.

The offer was made by two Queensland based beekeepers, Simon Burt and Ray Kwon, who are co-founders and directors.

The fundraising was to expand their technology, grow their team and meet rising demand.

The objective appears to be to identify poorly performing or unhealthy hives, and to focus the beekeeper's management skills only on those.

The original offer document which was available on line, on Facebook. and on a crowd funding site, said that BeeSTAR was a data driven, remote monitoring system, enabling commercial beekeepers to monitor thousands of hives easily.

"With over 1,100 hives using BeeSTAR across Australia, we are saving over 30-50% inspection time, allowing beekeepers to focus on maintaining hive health better, increasing honey quality and business capacity by adding more beehives."

A recreational version BeeSTAR Mini was said to be under development.

BeeSTAR was said to have a number of credentials having won the Australian BeeTech challenge in 2022, recognised by Agrifutures and AHBIC.

It was also the first to gain a Data Protection Guarantee.

BeeSTAR was said to have an app that alerts beekeepers to hives with potential issues and identifies problems through data analysis.

"This enables efficient inspection planning, immediate cost savings and quick responses to prevent colony loss.

"By enhancing overall apiary performance beekeeper checks directly increase profits.

"While inspections remain necessary, Targeted Hive Inspections, a method unique to BeeSTAR, focuses efforts where they are most needed, revolutionising traditional beekeeping practices and maximising efficiency".

At the time of writing the BeeSTAR fund raising offer document was still accessible (try www.swarmer.com.au for reference. It includes a short video endorsement from beekeeper Paul Dalkenberg.

It was said to be in use by six commercial clients (with 1612 hives), two educational Institutions (MG University and Winstonson High School) two government departments (Agriculture Victoria and PIRRSA South Australia) with aggressive growth plans in place to deploy 10,000 BeeSTAR units by August 2025

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STOCKISTS OF



VALE Chiltern Honey Farm

By John Kennedy

The long established beekeeping, honey production and pollination contracting business based in the north east of Chiltern has closed, and been effectively sold off.

Simon Knowles, who has operated the Chiltern Honey Farm business with his wife with a total of about 600 hives, has sold the bees to an established NSW beekeeper based in Orange, along with his local bee sites.

Simon and his wife purchased the business, founded by two generations of the Taylor family, 42 years ago.

It was originally founded by Alec and later Gary Taylor in 1917.

Simon told me the business has given them a pretty good ride, with notable ups and downs, with some very prolific seasons and a number of poor ones.

The purchaser who operates up to 5000 hives in NSW has lost about 20% of his total due to recent events including varroa, and was keen to be set up with a new beekeeping enterprise south of the River Murray.

Hence the hives have apparently been relocated to Simon's bee sites which were sold with the bees.

The former Chiltern extracting plant and two substantial sheds and contents have been sold as well, although he says the demand for beekeeping plant was low and the prices he realised on a piecemeal basis were poor.

He retains and has currently available for sale a Mitsubishi Fuso six tonne tray truck and an Avant hive loader at reasonable prices.

The Chiltern freehold property with dual street frontages, including the four bedroom brick family home plus two currently vacant shed structures, is listed for sale with an indicative sale price of \$790,000 on multiple property websites.

These are prominently located at the northern end of the historic main street in Chiltern, an old gold mining town.

Simon says he is left with quite substantial stock of bulk varietal honey which has been moved to another shed he owns in Chiltern township, and he intends it to be packaged and sold through a number of retail outlets he has created in Victoria over many years.

Previously he has been a supplier to Beechworth Honey,

Simon has been a pollination supplier to the almond industry often taking around 500 hives to the almonds.

He told me he has done this via a staging point block he has near Swan Hill, where the hives were based for

winter build up, until demand from almond growers warranted their shipment.

On their return they went to a canola seed company at Coleambally, then some went to apple orchards in the north east.

"The pollination contracts to me were always the backbone, with the honey sales usually topping up our income".

He summarises his long beekeeping experience as being a good ride, adding, fortunately we paid off our debts quite early in our career.

Simon has an interesting back career having originally graduated from Hawkesbury College in Horticulture.

Then working in the Sydney metro area for a partnership engaged in queen rearing and honey production.

Then there was a three and a half year project in Saudi Arabia.

On his return he was alerted to the well- established Chiltern Honey Farm being for sale "except that I had no idea where Chiltern was!".

After a trip to view he and his wife elected to buy the continuing business 42 years ago.

I first became aware of its existence quite a few years ago when I stopped on a trip up the Hume to buy a coffee at the local bakery, and they had Chiltern jarred honey for sale, returning a few months later I found them out of stock but was alerted I could buy honey from the address along the main street.

Simon and his wife have had jarred honey for sale on a take and pay basis from the veranda of their home.

Ever since, their outlet has been a mandatory stop for me when travelling the Hume, as I regard the Chiltern grey box, messmate, stringybark or Chiltern forest honeys (the area is in the middle of the Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park) as quite delectable and always good value.

On a couple of visits, I have engaged Simon in yarns over the back fence of his sheds and extracting plant on beekeeping topics. Twice he invited me for an inspection of what I regarded as a quite impressive and practical extraction plant.

So, I will sadly miss what I regard as a must stop site in the historic township of Chiltern between Wangaratta and Albury-Wodonga on the Hume Highway.

Simon says he is winding down (now in his mid-sixties) after a long and enjoyable involvement in beekeeping, awaiting the sale of his freehold property and remaining mobile gear.



Red gum buds.
Photo: Peter Kaczynski

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abjeditors@yahoo.com**

NZ Manufacturer Of Swing Basket Extractors

By John Kennedy

Based at Ruakara in the Northland region of New Zealand, Boutelje Products is a successful manufacturer with a broad range of honey processing and extracting equipment.

Although little seen in Australia their equipment has been exported to at least 16 countries.

For instance their extracting gear, especially swing basket extractors, often appear in overseas video productions and stories on Facebook.

These swing basket extractors range from 16 frames up to much larger commercial sizes.

The machines are ideal for high thixotropic honeys such as manuka, heather in the UK, and tea tree varieties.

Their website reports on the supply of extracting equipment to the New Guinea Fruit Company from 2018 onwards. The local company is also a significant

beekeeper as well as buying honey from established local beekeepers in the Highlands of PNG.

The company reports that it makes its honey from 100% sourced honey from local villages.

In the pre-Covid period they sought better extraction equipment and a representative flew to NZ to investigate the range.

Being impressed, the first order was placed, but it was damaged on delivery due to the rough roads beyond Goroka.

Subsequently more material and equipment has been sent to PNG that they cannot source locally.

A good working arrangement now exists and the local company is a highly ethical business producing a 100% organic honey in a challenging part of the world.

For more information on the Boutelje extensive range of honey extraction, production and packaging equipment go to www.bouteljeproducts.co.nz

US BEEKEEPERS CAN RECRUIT FOREIGN LABOUR

By John Kennedy

There is a process whereby US beekeepers can recruit foreign labourers in cases where they have a seasonal or temporary need. A process known as H-2A sets out the terms and conditions. It must be settled 60-75 days prior to the start date of need, and may last no longer than ten months. Beekeepers are required to know the H-2A process even if using an agent or attorney and be in compliance. The employer is required to attest that the application meets all local, state and federal laws. Conditions include the number of foreign workers needed, their job duties, qualifications or requirements, wages, frequency of pay, deductions, housing provided, transportation and daily subsistence, referrals and hiring instructions and operation specific rules.

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Bee Bits

By John Kennedy

SUE BEE SEA SALT HONEY

Large scale US beekeeper owned honey marketing business Sioux Honey, which sells its honey products under the Sue Bee brand has come up with a new product release. It's a blended honey with the addition of sea salt, although the proportion of the additive is not stated.

Sue Bee however says the flavoured honey is delicious in just about everything "but it can also be a great energy boost for your workouts".

The new flavoured honey is described as a combination of sweet and savoury.

Sue Bee has released the new honey with a 10% discount at purchase accompanied by a recipe list of ten applications. One is to use it as a glazing for carrots, with water and sugar in a saucepan.

The Sioux Honey Cooperative offers a range of honeys under ten source brands.

Also on offer are flavoured honeys including hot with chillies added and a lemon variety.

They are retailed through leading supermarket chains and an extensive Honey Club online membership.

TWO MORE USEFUL VIDEOS ON VARROA

Two more useful videos on varroa have just been detected.

Both feature Professor Stephen Martin, recently retired from his 40 year career as a biologist but now an Emeritus Professor fully committed to research on varroa, its origins, career around the world, development of resistance and potential solutions.

The latest video, which can be found by a web search, is given to a group of German beekeepers.

It runs for 56 minutes and it is fairly painful to watch considering he gives it in English and then each sentence is translated into German by a translator,

The second Professor Stephen Martin exercise is a presentation he and four other contributors make on the varroa problem, to the Spring 2023 Convention of BIB-BA - the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association of the UK. It's titled Pathways to Varroa Resistance.

In this interim period, before varroa fully arrives in our hives, the experience of beekeepers around the world is a critical background for us to consider.

For instance, in the former of the two Martin videos he analyses the outcome for beekeepers in countries like South Africa and Cuba who have overcome infestations, and also in Hawaii where the mite is present on two major islands but not on others.

VAA Recreational Conference Sat 29th March 2025



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Bee Gene Specifies Collective Behaviour

Bee research: publication in Science Advances

Researchers at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (HHU) are collaborating with colleagues from Frankfurt/Main, Oxford and Würzburg to investigate how the complex, cooperative behaviour of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) is genetically programmed so that it can be passed on to subsequent generations. As they explain in the scientific journal *Science Advances*, they found an answer in what is known as the doublesex gene (*dsx*).

Behavioural interactions between organisms are fundamental and often inherited. Every human being and every animal interacts with other individuals in its social group in one way or another through its behaviour. In the animal kingdom, this has considerable advantages in collective foraging for food, defence against predators and the rearing of offspring.

In some animals, such as honeybees, the social behaviour bonds are so strong that the individual members form a tight-knit society that function collectively as a single “superorganism”. Through their individual behaviour, thousands of worker bees protect the entire colony, feed it and care for the brood.

Professor Dr Martin Beye, who heads the Institute of Evolutionary Genetics at HHU and is the corresponding author of the study that has now been published in *Science Advances*, emphasises: “The behavioural repertoire of the individual bees and their function in the colony are not learned, but rather inherited. Until now, it was not known how such complex behaviours were genetically encoded.”

Together with colleagues from the universities in Frankfurt/Main, Oxford and Würzburg, the team of researchers at HHU led by Beye and first author Dr Vivien Sommer has now discovered that a special gene known as *dsx* specifies worker bee-specific behaviour.

Sommer: “The gene programmes whether a worker bee takes up a task in the colony and for how long. This includes collective tasks such as caring for the larvae or foraging for food and social exchanges on food sources, for example.”

The biologists used the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors in their investigations to modify or switch off the *dsx* gene in selected bees. They attached a QR code to the manipulated bees, then monitored their behaviour in the hive with cameras. The resulting video sequences were analysed with the support of artificial intelligence to determine the bees’ individual behavioural patterns.

Sommer: “Our central question was whether and how the inherited behavioural patterns changed as a result of the gene modification. Such changes must be reflected in the nervous system of the worker bees where the specific behaviour is controlled.”

The researchers introduced green fluorescent protein (GFP) into the *dsx* sequence so that GFP was produced together with the *dsx* protein. The neuronal circuits could then be viewed using fluorescence microscopy, in both the unmodified bees and in those with genetic modifications. “We were able to use these tools to see exactly which neural pathways the *dsx* gene creates in the brain and how this gene in turn specifies the inherited behavioural patterns of honeybees,” explains doctoral researcher Jana Seiler, who is also a co-author of the study.

“Our findings indicate a fundamental genetic programme that determines the neuronal circuitry and behaviour of worker bees,” says Professor Dr Wolfgang Rössler from the Department of Behavioural Physiology and Sociobiology, who led the study at the University of Würzburg.

In the next step, the researchers now want to move from the level of the individual honeybee to the bee colony superorganism. Alina Sturm, who is also a doctoral researcher at HHU and study co-author, adds: “We hope to find the link between individual programming and the coordinated behaviour of many individuals.”

Original publication: Vivien Sommer, Jana Seiler, Alina Sturm, Sven Köhnen, Anna Wagner, Christina Blut, Wolfgang Rössler, Stephen F. Goodwin, Bernd Grünewald, Martin Beye. Dedicated developmental programming for group-supporting behaviors in eusocial honeybees. *Science Advances* (2024).

AHBIC December Newsletter CEO Report

Emergency Plant Pest Response Fund

The objection period for the changes to the EPPR levy closed on the 18th December after which time the feedback will be reviewed, any changes will be made and the minister will be notified. This will conclude the formal process from AHBIC and it will be then up to the Minister to approve the changes. If approved these changes will come into effect from July 1 2025.

Code of Practice Revision

As part of the transition to management program we are updating the national Biosecurity Code of Practice (CoP). The CoP has been circulated to industry and jurisdictions with feedback incorporated. Within that feedback a material change of reducing the part C threshold from 50 to 5 hives was proposed so we decided to go back out to consultation. Feedback from the second round has been consolidated and a third and final draft has again been circulated to industry and jurisdictions.

Whilst there was some support for the threshold reduction there was a lack of support from the governments and the recreational sector. Overwhelmingly the feedback suggested a compromise of 20 or more as the threshold. This suggested amendment has been included in the third draft circulated.

Swarm Story



Photos: Rob Kerr

Above: A wet swarm is too heavy for some branches

Above right: Being absorbed in a swarm collection

Below: To a hive with a view







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VAA Emails To Members

3rd January 2025

Mallee National Parks | Temporary Closure

Apiarists are advised that sections of Hattah-Kulkyne, Wyperfeld and Murray-Sunset National Parks will be temporarily closed at times from the 6th of January to May 2025 for safety reasons while herbivore management and park conservation programs are underway. Initially one weeks work will occur on 6 January within the northern part of Murray-Sunset National Park – Taparoo, followed by two weeks work at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Further work will then occur pending approvals.

Parks Victoria undertakes dedicated conservation programs to protect the health of these parks from overgrazing by rabbits, goats, and kangaroos. These programs are part of more than two decades of work to actively restore the Mallee ecosystem and achieve a natural balance in these parks, based on scientific research, data collection and technical advice.

The closures are from sunset to sunrise on weekdays only in designated areas and the parks will be accessible in daylight hours and each weekend from sunrise Friday. Closure signs will be in place on all main entry points to closed sections of the park.

For details of park closures please go to www.parks.vic.gov.au and search for each respective park or you can contact Julian Raudino, Project Officer Grazing Management, Northern Region at julian.raudino@parks.vic.gov.au.

Grampians Fires & Beekeepers: Peter McDonald was interviewed on the [ABC's Victorian Country Hour](#) on 31st December about the impact of the Grampians fires on beekeepers. Peter's interview starts at the 15:04 minute mark in the longer program.

Bees & Art: In this [Guardian article](#), artist Garnett Puett talks about how he has created works of art with his bees for the past 40 years.

Swarm Season: Last month the ABC published an [article about swarm season](#) across Victoria.

20th December 2024

VAA Community Engagement

Great Outdoors Taskforce

On 14 November a Stakeholder Workshop was held by [The Great Outdoors Taskforce](#). The DEECA Taskforce was set up for stakeholders to discuss the future management of the 1.8 million hectares that was previously used for timber harvesting. Discussions were focused on future new opportunities, possible extensions of current uses and what has worked well and what needs improvement.

The overwhelming majority of participants agreed that the loss of local DEECA staff has meant the loss of local knowledge, and the centralized Melbourne management is not delivering a satisfactory outcome. It was stated again that National Parks will not be extended. Beekeepers were well represented with two NEAA and two VAA delegates.

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AgriFutures Open Call

The AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Program goal is to invest in RD&E that will secure a productive, sustainable and more profitable Australian beekeeping industry and secure pollination of Australia's horticultural and agricultural crops. To ensure the Program goal is achieved, AgriFutures Australia is currently seeking research proposals to address targeted investment priorities outlined below.

During this Open Call, AgriFutures Australia is seeking research proposals that align with the Varroa destructor Research Strategy and the Honey Bee and Pollination Program RD&E Plan. Alignment to the listed investment priorities must be demonstrated in all submissions made to the Open Call. Investing in projects which are aligned with the research, development and extension (RD&E) priorities and objectives of the industry ensures that AgriFutures Australia is investing in research that meets the needs of the honey bee and pollination industry. If researchers are unsure of the alignment and relevance of their research to the listed investment priorities, they are encouraged to speak with the AgriFutures team.

AgriFutures Australia is only seeking proposals which address at least one of the following investment priorities:

- An integrated approach to varroa management
- Minimising the impacts of varroa on honey bee health

- Breeding resistant honey bees
- Slowing the spread of varroa
- Pollination continuation
- Floral resource access & industry sustainability
- Enhance industry capability

Proposals should clearly indicate the following:

- The project benefits for the honey bee industry.
- The objectives and outcomes of the proposed project and the link to the R&D objectives.
- Who will be undertaking the majority of the work, including statistical analysis (it must be clear if new staff, and/or students, are to be employed to undertake the work).
- The plan for extension and adoption of research outcomes from the project activity work, i.e. beyond distribution of summaries, journal papers and conference presentations.
- Where relevant, proposals should include collaboration with experts in the field, which may not be located in Australia.
- The researcher's understanding of past research in this field.

The AgriFutures Honey Bee & Pollination Program Open Call closes 12 noon on Wednesday, 12 February 2025.

[More information](#)

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The advertisement features a black background with a yellow honeycomb pattern. At the top, the 'LYSON BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES' logo is displayed in bold white and yellow text, with a silhouette of a bee. Below the logo, several hexagonal images showcase various beekeeping products: a blue hive, a person in a beekeeping suit, a yellow beehive, a person holding a jar, a person in a beekeeping suit, a yellow beehive, a person holding a jar, and a person in a beekeeping suit. The text 'OVER 500 PRODUCTS', 'PREMIUM EUROPEAN EQUIPMENT', and 'AUSSIE OWNED' is written in white. The text 'BEEKEEPING NOTEBOOK' is written in yellow. At the bottom, the text 'WE'RE HERE FOR EVERY BEEKEEPER' is written in white, followed by the website 'WWW.LYSONAU.COM.AU' and the phone number '1800 955 579' in white, and the email 'INFO@LYSONAU.COM.AU' in yellow.

Stressed Bees Lack The Buzz In Life

Stressed bees are much more likely to make pessimistic choices and lack a buzz in life, new research has revealed.

Scientists at Newcastle University, UK, have found that bumblebees have a response to an adverse event resembling human emotions.

Findings, published recently in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, show bees reduce their expectations of reward when they are agitated, and this could impact how they approach and pollinate flowers.

High and low rewards

Researchers trained bees to decide about whether a colour signalled something good or bad.

Bees learned to identify that different colours were associated with different outcomes, with one colour associated with a sweet reward location and another colour indicating a location that had a much lower reward. Bees learned the difference and visited the appropriate location when shown each colour.

Once bees learnt these associations, two groups experienced a simulated predatory attack, and a third group did not experience any external stress.

The bees who had experienced the attack were found to be much less likely to interpret ambiguous colours as indicating high rewards and in response visited low reward locations more than the control bees.

Dr Vivek Nityananda, from Newcastle University, said: "Our study shows that bees are more pessimistic after stress as their behaviour suggests that they do not

expect to get rewards.

"Emotions are complex states and in humans involve a subjective understanding of what you are feeling. We might never know if bees feel something similar, however, what this research can say is that bees have similar responses when they are stressed and make pessimistic choices.

"The best explanation for their behaviour is that they expect high rewards to be less likely and exhibit traits of pessimistic people."

Scientists say the research is important as it means stress can impact how bees approach flowers and pollinate plants, as well as their ability to access high-quality rewards.

The results also shows that we can find emotion-like responses in very different animals, including insects. The bees in the study were stressed by shaking or being trapped by a robotic arm with a sponge.

'Emotion-like' states

Dr Olga Prochenko led the research at Newcastle University and is now a researcher at the University of Birmingham.

She said: "Our research suggests that, like other animals including humans, bees may experience emotion-like states when stressed, as demonstrated by a clear shift towards pessimism.

Read the full article [here](#)



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Melbourne Section Report

Having a safe break. December end of year party. Remember our meetings this year! Keeping on beekeeping better. We are all beekeepers and we seek to support those in adversity.

“Welcome to 2025” from the VAA Melbourne Section.

Have you put on more weight than your average hive in the Christmas / New Year period?

The VAA MS is excited for this year as we consolidate education and learning and work to provide more events for recreational beekeepers. Remember that the VAA Melbourne Section was formed in 1965 to support urban beekeepers in particular. However, we are all beekeepers and we share far more than we may differ.

The Melbourne Section

Let's review what's in place with the Melbourne Section.

Our base is the monthly meeting on the last Thursday of the month. It is social catch up, informal learning, specific learning, supper, library browsing, shopping, mentoring and winning.

Beginner's Corner caters for novices and progressive questions on your beekeeping experiences as we progress through the seasons. Notices, happenings and events of interest are brought to the meeting. Our main session at 8pm is a chance for expertise to present and to be questioned. The end of the night is raffle and door prize with supper.

Throughout the evening, drinks and nibbles are available, the library books are displayed for browsing and borrowing and the VAA MS shop can sell you that thing you need.

This is the centre of our community. We continue to re-energise post COVID. All beekeepers and supporters are invited to every meeting.

In addition to meetings, we see the value of sharing experiences on group trips to places that extend the horizons of small scale urban beekeepers. These may take you on a different journey or tell you that you are just where you need to be. But you won't get stung not knowing!

Our training program is back in business with Andrew Wootton having the knowledge and ability to teach lots of courses! The special role for a hands-on beekeeping group is to raise the level of knowledge and skill of its members. The VAA MS is back on track as a place to improve your beekeeping.

December

The Christmas party was lots of fun with the smoker competition being won by James Doery, the pizza eating competition being won by everyone and the annual quiz being won by the questions in many cases (presenter idiosyncrasies likely contributed).

But it was a social event to talk to people about anything and a lovely variety of MS people attended and enjoyed themselves. The food was terrific and we thank Angelique, Isles and Janet for their organisation. And thanks to Mike who ran the smoker competition and Rob who ran the quiz.

Meetings this year

Everyone, and I mean everyone, who is interested in beekeeping or bees is invited to our monthly meeting. It's the last Thursday of the month, which may be the fourth or fifth Thursday of the month. Get that “last Thursday” repeating event into your calendar. While varroa may be the hot topic, we will pursue all aspects of beekeeping in our topics and events this year. Performing beautifully the fundamentals of beekeeping will enable us to be effective and efficient in our transition to varroa management

Meeting dates for the first half of 2025 are January 30th (fifth Thursday) followed by Feb 27th and March 27th. April 24, May 29 and June 26 lead into the VAA MS AGM on July 31st.

Events

The VAA Recreational Beekeeping Conference is on 29 March 2025. This will be held at the Hume Global Learning Centre: a beautiful new conference facility in Sunbury. Encourage every beekeeper to register and even organise a group from your club to take ideas back and build on them from a shared knowledge base.

The VAA Annual Conference and AGM will be held in Beechworth in early June, so get that into your diary. You can look forward to some really good speakers live on the floor as well as online.

Training courses on queen rearing, business management, pest management, MRLs, hive management under a chemical treatment regime, the use of technology in beekeeping, and adopting new tools and techniques will all have a place in the Melbourne section program.

When you're out and about

Each of us meets beekeepers around the traps, and this is a chance to grow our impact on Victorian apiculture. Find out what they are interested in and where they go for support and connection. Ask if they are registered and if they are members of beekeeping groups. Invite them to attend the VAA MS or your local club's events.

Happy New Year to all,

Rob Kerr, VAA MS Secretary

On behalf of the VAA Melbourne Section Committee



*Photo: Rob Kerr
Beekeepers come in all shapes and sizes*

NQI Annual Report

By John Kennedy

The Northern Queen Initiative (NQI) an initiative conducted by a group of beekeeping organisations in the USA, and recently gaining a series of new grants, has the objective of breeding and commercialising a run of Varroa Sensitive Hygiene queen bees for adoption by beekeepers.

Its stated objective is to focus on “Improving the Value, Availability and Production of Mite-Resistant Honey Bee Queens in a Northern Climate” of the USA.

Its just released 2024 progress report advises that it was a successful year, and they are moving forward cautiously.

In the year, 735 VSH queens were supplied to supporting beekeepers.

They say NQI initiatives for 2025 are:

- To further establish a network of honey bee queen stocks to develop a sustainable apiary with mite resistance based in Michigan.
- To improve access to queen stocks by local pickup for beekeepers, bee clubs as well as overnight mail-ins.
- To recruit additional queen producers and improve the local saturation of viable honey bee queen

stocks.

The objective being that the queens will be producing offspring for mite and viral resistance with northern winter survivability and honey production, and that their efforts will be focused on heritable and preferred traits in honey bee queens.

Further to determine and develop criteria that novice, intermediate and advanced beekeepers can employ for selection methods.

They use the Harbo Assays, UbeeO assays and mite wash consistency across colonies being selected for future breeding efforts.

The NQI is obviously one of the most advanced breeding and selection programs for VSH queen bees.

They advise they have launched free online VSH queen breeding and a Harbo assay curriculum that is self-paced and free to all beekeepers.

“We registered and graduated 304 students and provided hands on grafting instructions and they took home mite resistant queens from their own efforts.

The progress reports and newsletters from the NQI available at www.sbgmi.org are always informative and relevant.

1,300-Year-Old Bee Hive Found in Oak Stuns Scientists

A surprising discovery has delighted scientists and beekeeping enthusiasts alike. A perfectly preserved beekeeping chamber was found inside a centuries-old oak trunk unearthed in a gravel pit in Poland. This ancient hive, dating back to around 680 AD, is now considered the oldest of its kind ever found. Read the full story [here](#)



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How Important Are Our Public Land Floral Resources?

TRANSCRIPT FROM A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION FROM IAN CANE TO THE CVAA CONFERENCE 2024.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE OUR PUBLIC LAND FLORAL RESOURCES?

Imagine this - in 5 years time, the peak wave of Varroa is impacting everyone hard, really hard and you have just been directed by DEECA to shift your bees off Messmate 3 weeks in because of a fuel reduction burn or some other issue!!!

I will leave that thought with you.

The management of the Public Land Estate is going through great change.

The end of native timber harvesting as we have known it, and there is a greater pressure from population growth with a very different political scene.

How do we influence this change and what should VAA resource management be?

How do we, as an industry, best adapt to create an opportunity?

I always place floral resources in two categories, one is access - being about policy and licensing, and two is resource security - forest and ecosystem health.

I believe the policy (**Apiculture (beekeeping) on Public Land**) is still very sound after 10 or more years, but we should now complete an internal review.

POLICY OBJECTIVES.

1. Encourage apiculture on public land.
2. Maximize co-existence or minimize conflict between apiculture and other public land uses/values.
3. Establish an efficient, effective, and uniform system for the management and administration of apiculture on public land, and
4. Ensure an appropriate financial return to the state from the use of a public resource.

These four main points captured in the policy are still relevant today.

1. The Victorian government recognises the importance of the honeybee industry in helping to ensure Victorian food security.

2. Boost regional jobs and support the State's billion-dollar agricultural exports.

3. Accordingly, DEPI seeks to encourage and support beekeeping on public land except wilderness and reference areas.

4. And reduce administrative burden on beekeepers.

This was also a very important statement to capture in the document.

In any review, hang onto these words, and only strengthen, do not take a backward step!

A disappointing aspect is that DEPI are not complying with parts of the policy.

I must pay a tribute to the work of Bob MacDonald, Linton Briggs and Gavin Jamieson, as we all worked on this project for the Victorian beekeepers for many years.

During the development of the policy, I thought we should have developed and implemented some resource security statements, and meaningful rights to floral resource for all beekeepers. I was extremely disappointed we did not achieve this, as this was so important.

The Gippsland Forest Apiary Plan is the only model that addresses resource security.

Statewide fuel reduction burning is an issue that requires a solution, I think there are opportunities in this space.

Ten years after the policy it is appropriate that an internal review be completed by the resources/VAA, with what has worked well, the catch phrases, the statements. The "Vision"! And importantly what has not worked well and why?

Some of the thoughts, planning and methodology I have used to position the VAA were - solution based approach, always cast a wider net, do not think inward, incorporate others, and always remember it is public land, and it belongs to everyone.

Think global act local, there are lots of ways you can utilise this, think of United Nations food and agriculture organisation, global population growth and the demand for food and what that means for bees and then weave statistics in to make people stop and think!

Always be prepared, develop lots of notes and a question-and-answer list days before the meeting.

These four guiding principals have underpinned the planning process and the ultimate position the VAA seeks to achieve.

1. The Public Land Estate belongs to everyone.
2. Recognise all uses and values in perpetuity.
3. Equitable Co-Existence, not winners and losers, not this compartmentalised, silo managed philosophy we have witnessed gather momentum over the last 25 years.
4. Always make certain that the messaging is clear, our industry and many honeybee pollination dependant industries would fail if we did not have access to Healthy Forests and Ecosystems!!

DEECA's policy has become very silo driven and disconnected from the land managed, and is a very city based, centralised and politically driven organisation.

During my 40 plus year period from 1980 to now forest health has declined.

The VAA's ability to influence has declined and productivity has also declined.

This is the current environment the VAA operates in, how do we create the opportunity?

If your plans are to be in the beekeeping industry for the next 10-20-30 years what can you do?

Contribute and shape the content of important policies, develop and implement resource security models/guidelines.

Continually review key statements and catch phrases that leave people thinking.

So, what is your Vision?

These are the fundamental words that have captured the "Vision" for decades.

**HEALTHY FORESTS = HEALTHY BEES
= HEALTHY PEOPLE!**

I have indicated to Ken Gell and others I would prefer someone to take on the lead role in representing the VAA. I think it is a great opportunity for someone else with a passion for the industry and the environment. Thank You!!

Simplkomb Improves Comb Honey

By John Kennedy

New product innovations are already starting to emerge from NAHBE, the giant North American Honey Bee Expo staged in Louisville Kentucky in early January.

Simplkomb, the quite newly released capsuled way of producing new comb honey parcels for sale, is one of the innovators.

The company, a father and daughter beekeeping team who combine as Fry Family Apiaries, first released their product in April 2023.

Now they say they have an improved version for 2025.

One of the key features is that their comb system is now compatible with more medium frame brands, saying when they released the product they were 'unaware

just how variable wooden hardware was between brands and manufacturers" especially medium Langstroth frames with altered thickness of the bars.

So, they have decided to deal in frames that are specially compatible with the Simplkomb.

Another change is an improved snap in function for the combs, which now reliably snap together.

The combs are now manufactured from recycled plastic that includes 25% of recycled bottles which also makes them PETE or post consumption recyclable for an environmental benefit.

On their website simplkomb.com there are a number of demonstration videos and product information to show producing and selling comb honey "can be simple".

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council investigates concerns about imported honey

Australia was never a big importer of honey.

That was until the millennium drought crippled floral reserves and prompted some companies to look overseas, lifting imports from 300 tonnes in 2000-01 to 3,000 tonnes the following year.

That number has since risen to 8,800 tonnes a year.

It came despite Australian beekeepers producing 20,800 tonnes in 2022-23, which excluded production from amateur beekeepers.

Beekeeper Andrew Farrugia said cheap imported honey was pushing prices down to unsustainable levels.

He said his price of \$7.80 for 1 kilogram tubs hadn't moved for a decade, as input costs such as jar prices and diesel had risen sharply.

Read the full story [here](#)



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Quantity Over Quality?

Different bees are attracted to different floral traits
The research findings may help guide efforts to restore pollinator habitats

[Penn State](#)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — When it comes to deciding where they're going to get their next meal, different species of bees may be attracted to different flower traits, according to a study led by researchers at Penn State and published in *PNAS Nexus*.

The study focused on two species of solitary bees: the horned-face bee, which helps pollinate crops like apples and blueberries, and the alfalfa leafcutting bee, which pollinates alfalfa.

The researchers found that the horned-face bees tended to prefer plants with a large number of flowers — for them, quantity was most important. Meanwhile, the alfalfa leafcutting bees tended to visit flowers with a high pollen protein-to-lipid, or more protein than fat, content ratio. In this case, they prioritized nutritional quality.

Jaya Sravanthi Mokkalapati, first author on the study and a postdoctoral scholar in the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and Center for Pollinator Research, said that understanding how different bee species forage can help guide conservation efforts.

“Information on the foraging strategies of different bee species give insights for understanding how plant–pollinator interactions evolved,” Mokkalapati said. “Our study also highlights the need for more research on seasonal foraging habits among various bee species, which can deepen our understanding of their vital role in pollination and plant reproduction.”

Pollinators and flowering plants have evolved side by side over thousands of years to develop a mutually beneficial relationship, the researchers said. As bees visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen for food, they help plants reproduce by spreading their pollen. Since many crops require pollination to produce their fruits, vegetables or nuts, the process underpins food security for humans.

Unfortunately, many pollinator populations are in decline, the researchers added, and a major contributor to these declines is the loss of flowering plants.

Understanding which floral traits are especially attractive to bees can help in restoring pollinator habitats, according to co-author Christina Grozinger, Publius Vergilius Maro Professor of Entomology and director of the Penn State Center for Pollinator Research.

“Bees can be attracted to plants based on a number of traits, such as the color, scent, size, number and nutritional content of its flowers,” she said. “However, because these traits are co-evolved in flowers, it can also be very challenging to pinpoint which traits are the ones attracting which bees.”

For the study, the researchers worked with their collaborators in the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, who crossed the self-fertilizing *Capsella rubella* plant and the pollinator-dependent outcrosser *C. grandiflora* to produce 20 different genetic lines of plants that varied across floral traits. These traits include floral resource quantity — assessed through the number and size of flowers — and floral nutritional

quality, which was evaluated based on pollen protein concentration, lipid concentration and the protein-to-lipid ratios.

This resulted in different floral traits being uncoupled from each other, which allowed the researchers to test which trait, specifically, was most attractive to different bee species.

The differences in foraging behavior between the two species of bees may be due to resource availability, the researchers said. For example, the horned-face bee is a spring species that faces limited food sources that are only available for a short time. Because of this, they may forage for whatever is available and prioritize the quantity of flowers.

“In contrast, the alfalfa leafcutting bee is a summer species that typically has access to more abundant resources,” Mokkalapati said. “We hypothesized that these bees can afford to be more selective, choosing flowers based on nutritional quality instead of quantity.”

The findings could be helpful for restoring pollinator habitats, the researchers said. For example, landscape managers could plant a variety of flowers that cater to the bees' specific needs, which is essential for supporting their populations. They could also create habitats that ensure food sources are available that are attractive and nutrition for bees throughout the growing season, promoting healthy ecosystems.

Additionally, Mokkalapati said educating the public and stakeholders about the specific needs of these bee species can encourage support for initiatives like native plant gardens and other efforts that create pollinator-friendly environments.

“By raising awareness of how these gardens can provide essential resources for bees, we can inspire community involvement and commitment to preserving local biodiversity,” she said. “This collective effort not only benefits the bees but also enhances the beauty and ecological health of our surroundings.”

The researchers said in the future, additional studies could explore why these species differ in their foraging strategies, especially in terms of their sensory and cognitive processes and why these different strategies evolved.

Michael Hill, former graduate student at Penn State; Natalie Boyle, assistant research professor of entomology at Penn State; Pierre Ouvrard, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; and Adrien Sicard, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, also co-authored this study.

This research was supported by a grant from the Human Frontier Science Program to Grozinger, Sicard and Benjamin Risse, a collaborator at the University of Münster in Germany. Additional support was provided by the Penn State Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

For more information on how to develop habitat to support diverse pollinator species, please visit the Center for Pollinator Research website and the Penn State Master Gardener Pollinator Habitat Certification Program.

AHBIC Industry Update 65

T2M December 2024

Transition to Management

AHBIC's Deliverables under T2M:

Code of Practice & Biosecurity Manual

All state peak bodies and jurisdictions have to date received two drafts of the proposed changes to the Code of Practice. AHBIC's consultant Michael Clarke has collated the feedback and made required amendments, with a final document being circulated that represents the vast majority of the industry's expectations. More information on this can be found within the CEO December Update as part of the latest newsletter. The biosecurity Manual has completed circulation and will be forwarded shortly to meet the final requirements via the T2M and national biosecurity networks. All documents will be shared widely post completion.

Varroa Development Officers

All jurisdictions have now got VDO onboarded and actively working with beekeepers in each state, AHBIC oversees and provides guidance for all 35 VDO and their coordinators across the country. The VDOs have been extremely busy engaging with beekeepers, groups and clubs, making sure to reach their key performance targets covering numbers of engagements, regional distribution and association visits. Between March and 17 December 2024 the VDOs have engaged with over 9000 beekeepers across the country.

Contact a VDO for hands-on, face-to-face varroa support here: <https://www.varroa.org.au/vdo>

Coming in 2024:

Australian Coloss Survey

A team of dedicated people have successfully commenced work on the Australian Coloss Survey project. The project is managed via the AgriFutures Honey & Pollination Panel, but is funded and deliverable under the T2M via AHBIC. It is hoped that in the new year, the Coloss project will launch their dedicated website and begin collaborating directly with industry as the numerous stages begin to take shape.

Queen breeding workshops

Early in February 2025, AHBIC will be consulting with the queen bee breeding sector of industry. It is

expected these planning meetings will assist in decisions relating to the formulation of queen bee breeding with varroa, sector specific content, delivery locations and a process forward to carry out the activity mid-2025.

T2M National Training and Education

Varroa management training workshops have rolled out across 76 locations around the country in 2024 and will resume from February 2025, see the website to register for a workshop across WA, VIC and QLD in the new year: <https://www.varroa.org.au/training>.

Dr Nadine Chapman, Education Coordinator T2M, has also re-launched the Varroa Basic's online training accessible to all beekeepers: <https://www.varroa.org.au/online-training>. The face-to-face workshops will be converted into a two-part online training resource available to beekeepers nationally from February 2025. AHBIC will update details of how to access these when they become available.

In addition to the varroa management training the education component is yet to finalise the resource and delivery of the required two-day farm business training for beekeepers, when this information comes to hand, AHBIC will be sure to share the details with industry.

T2M Bee Virus Baseline Survey Underway

A national virus baseline survey has commenced within the T2M to sample bees from across all jurisdictions. The samples will be tested for endemic and exotic virus' to establish a national virus baseline and provide continued confidence that Australia remains free of deformed wing virus. Expressions of interest are open for Queensland and Victorian beekeepers whom wish to participate. Details of the project can be found here: <https://www.varroa.org.au/baseline>

Maximum Residue Limits(MRLs)

Over recent weeks and months we have been gathering some details from domestic and international MRL testing laboratories and have summarised these on the AHBIC website.

Please follow this link to find out more on MRL testing: <https://honeybee.org.au/industry-hub/maximum-residuelimits/>



Photo: Jamie Trimby

Blue banded bee

Amegilla cingulate on *Lantana*

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New Must Watch Videos From The NHS, UK

By John Kennedy

A raft of must watch YouTube videos from the National Honey Show in the UK are now released on Facebook.

The Show, which bills itself as the 'gold standard show', was held only in late October last year (2024).

So, it's a great credit to the organising committee that they have made the speaker presentations progressively and so readily available.

Top of the watching list is the presentation "The Honey Bee Solution to Varroa".

Presenter Peter Riley published his benchmark book of the same title only a few months before the show.

Riley, an established UK beekeeper, is one of a cohort of beekeepers in England and Wales who have not treated for the mite for six years, some even much longer.

His presentation focuses on hygienic sciences that honey bees are developing.

Riley is Chair and Education Officer of the West-
ham Beekeepers Club in the south east of England.

So, lock away a quiet uninterrupted hour in the evening to hear and watch his excellent presentation on the hygienic sciences that bees are employing against

varroa and how beekeepers can identify, monitor and select for these traits.

The stream of audience questions shows how topical this subject is amongst beekeepers in the UK and elsewhere.

Also included in the latest portfolio of speaker presentations is one on the *Tropilaelaps* Mite, by Dan Etheridge.

Although currently not a concern in Australia it is developing in many other beekeeping nations. So it's a great backgrounder.

Also in the latest release are three Randy Oliver presentations on a diversity of subjects including how bees survive in winter, handling honey bees and concepts of Varroa management.

All highly relevant from an acknowledged US based identity.

Also available on the site are dozens of presentations delivered by topical speakers from the UK and around the world and from previous Shows.

In short there is bound to be a speaker presentation that addresses any problems beekeeper can encounter.

It's all available on Facebook via www.nhoneyshow.co.uk



*Can you
identify this
mystery tree?*

*Jamie Trimby
sent in the
photos and
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AHBIC Newsletter Extracts

AHBIC recommends the details listed in our [Varroa Chemical Treatment Table](#) are read in conjunction with this article, especially the requirement for each of the current range of chemicals clearly noting if honey supers are permitted to be on or off while chemicals are being applied to the hive.

A withholding period is the minimum length of time that must elapse between the last application of a varroa treatment and the harvest, sale or use of honey or wax from a hive to which the chemical was applied. Withholding periods (WHPs) are used to ensure compliance with domestic maximum residue limits (MRLs).

These maximum residue limits are set in Australia and overseas markets to ensure that our agricultural products are safe to eat. It is extremely important to ensure withholding periods are adhered to when treating honeybee hives for varroa.

A **withholding period**, in relation to the use of a permitted or registered product, means **the minimum period that needs to pass between:**

(a) the last use of the chemical product before a super can be placed on for a honey crop or other product of the hive **AND**

(b) the physical harvesting of the honey crop or hive product for human consumption.

Adhering to the product labels including the listed withholding periods will ensure that the MRL will not be exceeded.

Withholding periods are based on how quickly any residues breakdown. Always make sure you follow the permit then the label, use the recommended dose (for hive size) and the recommended dose frequency. Overdosing can lead to excess residues. This can endanger human health and the reputation of Australia's beekeeping businesses, products and domestic and export markets.

In general –

- stick to the permit followed by the label (this is APVMA approved, and the withholding periods depend on correct dosing),
- don't repeat a dose sooner than the permit or label allows (i.e. within the 're-treatment interval' – if the product has not achieved satisfactory efficacy, consult with a Varroa Development Officer (from the T2M Program if before February 2026) and your

local state department of agriculture apiary team.

- ensure you rotate chemical classes so that you don't inadvertently 'double-up' on an active ingredient, by checking the mode of action and chemical name of what's in a product.

Check withholding periods before using products

It's important to note that not all treatments are the same, including when it comes to withholding periods. Products with the same mode of action and chemical class may have differences to withholding periods which beekeepers must be aware of and adhere to.

Checking the WHP and understanding the requirements considering the colony phase and the purpose of your beekeeping can be a game changer when it comes to treating for varroa.

For example:

- Some treatments state you must not have supers on hives when using the product, i.e. Apivar, Apitraz, Apiguard AND Apistan.
- Some treatments can be used when supers are on hives, but have a withholding period and these can vary in length so should be fully understood by the beekeeper, i.e. Formic Pro
- Some products prevent the sale or harvesting of honey comb for human consumption due to the treatments being absorbed into wax products, i.e. Bayvarol (Flumethrin).

Resilient beekeeping in the face of varroa

To support the industry through the transition to management phase, AgriFutures Australia has invested in research to understand what we know and don't know about varroa, and how it may react under Australian conditions.

The project involved a literature review, a survey and interviews with experts to develop a proposed national strategy for the management of varroa and to identify knowledge gaps and the research required to help beekeepers live with varroa.

AHBIC believes this publication is a valuable starting point in Australia's transition to management of varroa.

[Access the AgriFutures publication here!](#)

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Agriculture Victoria:

Agriculture Victoria: Apiary team
Website: Honey bees | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria
Website:

www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees

To report a suspect exotic please call: Exotic Plant Pest Hotline
1800 084 881

For enquiries and endemic disease notification please use:
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Email honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Varroa project team can also be contacted at the above email.

For enquiries related to permits and movement restrictions:

Email honeybee.permits@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For beekeeper registration please log onto BeeMAX

www.bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au

or call the Bee Registration Helpline 1800 356 761

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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

DEECA Regional contacts for bee sites on Crown land

Barwon South West

Geelong, Otway District –
Linda Laurie, Ph: 0408 419 759, E: linda.laurie@deeca.vic.gov.au

Heywood, Far South West –
Troy Jenkin, Ph: 0459 807 401, E: troy.jenkin@deeca.vic.gov.au

Gippsland

Tracey West – Ph:0457 501 299,
tracey.west@deeca.vic.gov.au,
tralaral-gon.property@deeca.vic.gov.au

Grampians

Ballarat – Jennifer Bromley,
Ph: 0448 389 270,
E: pub-licland.grampians@deeca.vic.gov.au

Horsham – Jess Dickerson, Ph: 0437 913 538,
E: pub-licland.grampians@deeca.vic.gov.au

(Note: Jess is on maternity leave until March 2025, but emails will automatically be forwarded to the Manager)

Hume

E: landad-min.hume@deeca.vic.gov.au
Wodonga: Lloyd Beaty is contact

Loddon Mallee

Justin Hoy (primary contact) –
Ph:0459 336 836
Daniel Cadmore (secondary contact)
– Ph: 0418 715 831

Port Phillip (Note: enquiries dealt with by Gippsland Region)

Tracey West – Ph:0457 501 299 E: tracey.west@deeca.vic.gov.au,
tralaral-gon.property@deeca.vic.gov.au

Customer Contact Centre (Ballarat based)

Ph: 136 186
E: customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au

Statewide Transaction Centre (Seymour based)

Ph: (03) 7019 2577
E: transactioncentre@deeca.vic.gov.au

Other contacts

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC):

CEO: Danny Le Feuvre
Mob: 0402 467 780
ahbic@honeybee.org.au
5 John St.
Ardrossan, SA, 5571
www.honeybee.org.au

Crop Pollination Association Inc

President: Steve Fuller,
president.cpaa.us@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

Contacts

VAA Inc Regional Groups

Bendigo Branch:

Secretary: Peta Dawe

bbvaasecretary@gmail.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:

Chair: A/Prof James Doery

Deputy Chairperson: Mike Love

Secretary, Rob Kerr

Ph: 0421 078 387

Treasurer: Janet Conos

[vaamelbournesection](mailto:vaamelbournesection@hotmail.com)

@hotmail.com

[www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/](http://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/Melbourne-Section)

[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:

Naomi Forbes-Wilson

Ph: 0407 243 313

billabonghoney@yahoo.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" Beekeepers Club Inc.

Meets on the second Wednesday

of every month (Except January)

at the Goonawarra Community

Centre, 20 Dornoch Drive,

Sunbury, VIC 3429

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

President: Nathan Whitford

0403 807 224

Vice President: Stephen Fridey

info@geelongbeekeepersclub.org.au

Meetings third Friday of 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: wbfbs@mrsg.org.au

Meets on the third Sunday of

every month (except December)

at Woodend Neighbourhood

House, 47 Forest Street,

Woodend, VIC 3442

South Gippsland Beekeepers

Inc. Secretary: Anna Jones

Mob: 0411 770 062

secretary@sgbeekeepers.org.au

Web: [http://www.southgippsland](http://www.southgippslandbeekeepers.org.au/)

[beekeepers.org.au/](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@melbourne

beekeepersclub.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 7:30pm on the second

Tuesday of each month (except

January) in the hall at

195 Holmes Rd,

Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039

WerriBeeks Inc.

President: Carmel Gerdson

Secretary: Helen Morland

Treasurer: Debbie Conway

E: werribeeks@gmail.com

**If any contact
details or
information on
these pages is
incorrect please
advise the editor at
abjeditors@yahoo.com**

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HONEY BUYERS

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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

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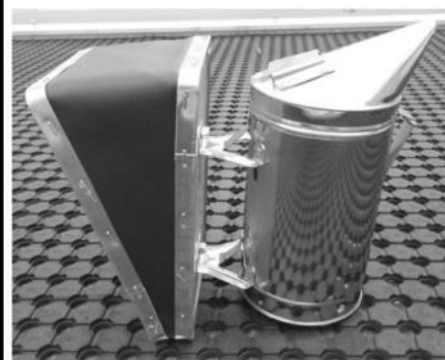
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