

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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VAA 2025 Conference & AGM
Grand Oaks Resort, Beechworth, VIC
Wed 11 - Fri 13 June





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VAA 2025 Conference & AGM

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<https://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au/events>

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Wednesday 11 June

Early registration
Evening welcome reception

Other Conference Highlights

- Over 20 trade stalls
- Partners' Program
- Competitions & prizes

Thursday 12 June

Morning Program

Cameron Jack

Optimizing effectiveness of oxalic acid

Randy Oliver

Selective breeding for mite resistance

Peter Czetl

AQBBA: Breeding resistance for Australia

Madlen Kratz

Nutrition for honey bees and varroa mites

Afternoon Program

Tracie Armstrong

The Australian pollination strategy (Wheen Bee Fnd.)

Lewis Bartlett

Bee ecology, evolution, & epidemiology of parasites

John Roberts

Varroa & virus surveillance using hive eDNA

Simon Burt

Refining your business plan

Marcus O'Connor

Managing finances in changing times

Darren Balnbridge

Data collection & business decision-making

Evening Program

VAA AGM

Varroa Panel: Surviving the first phase

Friday 13 June

Morning Program

Bill Hesbach

Condensing hives

Frank Linton

Observation hives can enhance your business

William Melkle

Spying on honey bees with continuous data

Jessica Locarnini

VAA honey competition results

Cameron Jack

Varroa chemicals & seasonal effectiveness

Liz Barbour

B-Qual speech-to-text app for hive inspections

Afternoon Program

Industry Updates

AHBIC

Crop Pollinators Association

Agrifutures

La Trobe University

Agriculture Victoria

Trader Talks

Evening Program

Conference dinner

Auction & Raffle

"We're beekeepers."

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.

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Ken Gell

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Ken Gell

Education

Dr. Andrew Wootton

Melbourne Show/fund raising

Judy Leggett

Constitution & Legal

Lindsay Callaway

Conference

Lindsay Callaway

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Aust. Bee Journal/Website

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Phil McPherson

Recreational beekeeping

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

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How to join

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AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

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Grand Oaks Resort, Beechworth, Victoria

**Deadline for copy for the June 2025 journal is
10pm on Sunday 1st of June 2025.**

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

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

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President's Report

It's an honor to be writing my first report as President of the Victorian Apirarists' Association. I've appreciated the support and goodwill from members across the state. The VAA has always been more than just a representative body - it's a living network of beekeepers who look out for each other, share knowledge, and advocate for a better future. I've been part of that network for five decades, and I'm proud to step into this leadership role at such a pivotal time for our industry.

I've been professionally working with bees for over 33 years. Like many of you, I've seen the industry change dramatically in that time. Right now, we're facing some of the most complex challenges we've ever had - however the most important role we have, food security through pollination, will continue to create opportunities for us.

In recent weeks, the VAA has been actively engaging with Agriculture Victoria (DEECA), ministerial representatives, and other key stakeholders to address some of the most pressing issues facing our members.

One major focus has been the development of a more structured and transparent relationship between government and the beekeeping sector. This includes work on a Functional Map - a tool to help us clearly understand which parts of government impact apiculture and where decisions are made. From there, we're undertaking an Industry Needs Assessment and preparing for targeted workshops that will test the strength of current systems and identify where change is needed.

We've also been working to ensure beekeeper voices are heard at the highest levels. On April 24, a small VAA delegation met with ministerial advisors to raise key concerns around Varroa support, public land bee site access, and planned burn impacts. We highlighted the real costs involved in Varroa management - \$50 to \$100 per hive - and the importance of clear, up-to-date communication through platforms like BeeMAX.

We also raised serious concerns about the loss of bee sites due to fire - over 150 sites on public land have been impacted in recent months, with many unlikely to recover for at least a decade. We're pushing hard for stronger consultation and better planning in land and fire management.

One issue that's come through loud and clear is the need for better communication between departments and beekeepers. With the winding up of APLEG, there's currently no formal structure for that dialogue. We're working with DEECA to build a new framework that ensures timely responses, transparent processes, and genuine two-way engagement.

As we move forward, the VAA will continue pushing for:

- A review of planned burn protocols with industry consultation
- Ongoing support and planning for Varroa management beyond 2025
- Faster processing of bee site applications and clear-

(Continued on page 7)

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President's Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 6)

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This work is only possible because of the efforts of so many across our community - branch leaders, committee members, staff, volunteers, and every individual member who picks up the phone or turns up to a meeting. Thank you.

We've got some real work ahead, but I believe in the strength of our community and the shared passion we have for bees, beekeeping, and the land that sustains us.

Our 2025 Annual Conference and AGM promises to be a great conference at a great venue, looking forward to seeing you all there.

Kind regards,
Lindsay Callaway
President,
Victorian Apiarists Association

University of Greenwich. London

A 2021 study reveals that giving bumblebees a blend of caffeine, sugar and flower aromas whilst still in their nest, before they go foraging, can help them target specific flowers and pollinate them more effectively.

To cope with the shortage of wild bees, many growers of fruit such as strawberries, use 'managed pollinators' – either honeybee hives or specially bought-in commercial bumblebee colonies – to help pollinate their crops. However, often the commercial bumblebees don't leave the nest, or they become distracted by wildflowers growing nearby and end up avoiding the crop flowers.

NRI's Dr Sarah Arnold, who led a team of pollinator experts from NRI, working together with Dr Michelle Fountain's team from NIAB EMR (a horticultural research centre in Kent), think they may have found a solution to this problem.

Data from previous studies had shown that honeybees fed on caffeine formed longer-lasting memories of odours associated with good food – meaning that they were better at recalling flying routes and the best sources of nectar...

Drs Arnold and Fountain concocted a special composition of caffeine, sugar and the specific target flower smells that they wanted their bees to find, and wafted the blend through the nest before releasing the bees in the laboratory where robotic flowers awaited them.

"In our laboratory experiment", Dr Arnold explains, "we found that the bees we had trained using the caffeine/sugar/ odour priming treatment were much more interested in the target flowers with the strawberry odour, compared to the distractor flowers."

Read the full story [here](#)

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VAA HiveMeet

Your Monthly Beekeeping Connection

The Victorian Apiarists' Association is delighted to introduce VAA HiveMeet, our brand-new, interactive livestreaming platform, designed to connect and educate beekeepers across the state.

Join us for live monthly sessions with leading beekeeping experts, held on the first Thursday of every month. Engage directly by posting your questions during the stream! Can't make it live? No worries! Recordings will be immediately available on the VAA YouTube channel and linked in our bulletin.

Why join the HiveMeet live stream?

It's free, it's highly informative, and it's your chance to directly interact with experts in real-time. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your beekeeping knowledge and connect with a thriving community. As varroa establishes itself, VAA HiveMeet provides a crucial forum for beekeepers to gain insights and perspectives from experienced apiarists.

Tune in for our next HiveMeet: Thursday, 05th June, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

We're delighted to welcome Rob Stephens who'll be discussing the detection of varroa in the Lockyer Valley. Rob is the Manager Projects, Varroa Mite Innovation and Resilience Initiative, Biosecurity Queensland.

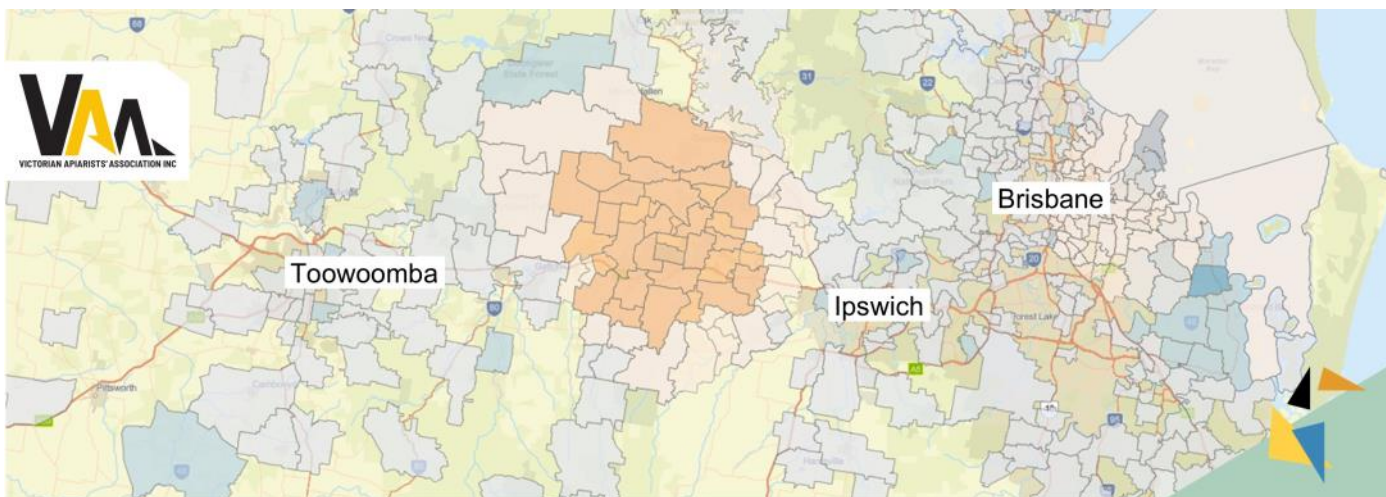
[Register](#) for the live stream on the VAA Events Page
Unable to attend live?

Watch the recording later at: <https://www.youtube.com/@VictorianApiaristsAssociation>

The VAA is committed to keeping you connected and informed. We invite all beekeepers to join us for this exciting event. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Help us spread the word on your social media. Together, we can strengthen the beekeeping community.

*Andrew Wootton and Angelique Drew
VAA Education Sub-Committee*



HiveMeet

Streaming Live ▶ Thursday 5th June, 8pm

Guest Speaker: Rob Stephens, Manager Projects, Varroa Mite Innovation and Resilience Initiative, Biosecurity Queensland

[youtube.com/@VictorianApiaristsAssociation](https://www.youtube.com/@VictorianApiaristsAssociation)

VAA HiveMeet is sponsored by B-Qual 

"Varroa - in Queensland now!"

Science Direct

Bee pollination affects coffee quality, yield, and trade-offs within them

- Bee pollination not only increases coffee yields but also improves the quality of the roasted beans.
- Bee-pollinated plants exhibited a 9 % higher fruit set and a 2 % enhancement in aroma and body, as assessed by professional cuppers, compared to self-pollinated plants.
- Potential trade-offs exist: while aroma, body, and fruit set improve, the weight of the coffee berries is slightly reduced, and their balance scores in cupping decrease.
- The importance of bees in coffee production expands beyond yield enhancement, as they also positively influence aroma - a crucial factor in the pricing of specialty coffee.
- Protecting bee habitats on coffee farms can lead to better quality coffee and greater profits for farmers, while also contributing to biodiversity conservation efforts.

This is one of the first experimental studies to evaluate pollination services for coffee, considering not just yield but also its cup profile.

Read the full article [here](#)

Pesticide Bee-Kill In Corowa, NSW

By Kris Fricke,

Editor: *The Australasian Beekeeper*

On 12 March 2025, local beekeepers in Corowa, NSW, alerted the EPA to an unusually high number of dead bees across at least three different locations.

"There's quite a few hobby beekeepers in town — all of their hives died, basically overnight," local beekeeper Alex McGillvray reports. "There was just inches of dead bees in front of the hives and in the hives themselves, and the bees were obviously dying in agony." — probably referring to the spinning bees commonly indicative of pesticide poisoning. He notes this is the fourth year in a row his hives have all died in March, leading to his suspicion someone is locally using an insecticide annually at that time of year.

The EPA promptly collected samples, which have now tested positive for fipronil - a chemical commonly used as an insecticide in agriculture and pest control. The broad-use pesticide kills insects by disrupting their nervous systems and is banned in the United States and Europe but legal in Australia. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has been reviewing fipronil use for more than a decade. Since the start of 2023 the EPA has received 70 reports of birds and bees dying in similar circumstances.¹ In the 1990s fipronil was implicated in mass bee deaths in France.³

Studies have shown that even low doses of fipronil can have permanent effects on honey bees such as nerve damage causing aberrant behavior, from which they

never recover. In addition, it accumulates over time in bees, allowing even very very low doses to eventually add up to harmful amounts. Fipronil has a half life in agricultural field settings of 18 months, which can be greater than 49 months in water. There are currently 198 products registered or permitted for use in Australia that have fipronil as the active ingredient.

EPA Executive Director of Operations, Jason Gordon, says the EPA is trying to determine the source of the chemical and is appealing for any information from the community.

"It is heartbreaking that we have multiple hives in the area impacted by pesticides, and we are exploring all avenues for potential causes of these deaths," Mr Gordon says. "We are now seeking assistance from the public to try and locate the source. The chemical detected is used in spraying crops but is also commonly used in household insecticides to contain pests like fleas and ticks."⁶

The EPA recommends the use of the BeeConnected app to assist pesticide users in preventing impacts to foraging bees in their area. See link: beeaware.org.au/pollination/beeconnected/.⁶

Members of the community with any information about the alleged pesticide misuse should contact the Environment Line on **131 555** or via email at info@epa.nsw.gov.au.⁶

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-17/bees-dead-poisoned-corowa-pesticide-fipronil/105150102>



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DIY Beekeeping Research

Practical ways to conduct your own Beekeeping research

By Jamie Trimby

Lynae Ovinge (MSc), a Canadian Commercial beekeeper, researcher and beekeeping contract consultant at Buzzworthy Solutions presented how beekeepers can conduct their own practical research with low additional tasks.

Scientific research methodology has fundamental requirements that are too onerous in time, labour and record keeping for beekeepers.

Well-considered, practical on farm and in apiary trials, can be designed to evaluate new products, inputs, controls and methods to make decisions whilst reducing risk to overall beekeeping operations.

Lynae outlines strategies to construct experimental designs for your circumstances, using existing operating methods; highlighting the importance of working out an appropriate **control** for comparison that will provide measurable results with minimal record keeping, aligned with current apiary practices.

Various trial designs have different requirements

and considerations, especially when conducting Varroa trials due to mite movement, whilst interspersing the trail in the same apiary.

The core trials covered compare the new product/practice with the control being the normal product or practice; small - within pallet (4 hives), medium - half apiary, and large - between apiaries.

Noting the smaller the sample group size used requires well-defined hive labelling for identification, employing consistent apiary layout provides an easier process with less record keeping, and needs to be understood by all team members.

Measurements are required when more detailed results are needed to obtain the return on investment for product evaluations, and effects on honey production.

As effects of Varroa increase on beekeeping operations, and IPM strategies become more critical in making decisions for different seasons, conducting your own trials for your management style will provide real and timely information to act on.

To see the full details search YouTube - How Beekeepers Can Do Research with Lynae Ovinge, Manitoba Beekeepers April 24 2025, or click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DIH49bleGQ>

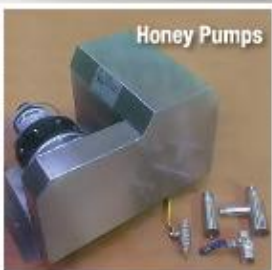
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VAA Melbourne Section Report

Pack down has happened .. or has it? How warm will winter be? Honey and other products - it's competition time! Do we cooperate or do we compete under varroa? Did you mite test your hives like it mattered? And other questions?

It's that time of the year again where, hopefully, each of us have made considered decisions for getting our hives through Winter. Some extended, warmer than average weather may have lulled us into a false sense of "the bees are fine", but it may get cold very quickly. Like many other issues, there is no right answer or anyone to tell you what to do. Record your actions and analyse them later when the fate of your hives is determined by the progress of time.

Honey Competition Season

Being the end of the season, I hope that you have put aside a couple of jars of honey. One to send off to AFB testing, and one to send to the Honey competitions. The VAA MS Honey Competition is on at the May meeting on Thursday 27th May. The categories will match the revised categories for the VAA Conference competition. Bring your entries of honey, comb, wax, beverage, etc to the May meeting and then take them to the conference yourself or send them along with another delegate. We have to keep our VAA MS record of the most best entries to claim the Cup for the best Bee Group.

Act like shark is after you!

The recent finding of varroa in a number of hives / apiaries in central Victoria is alarming. However, the

more alarming fact is that the testing of nearby hives showed the presence of mites AND the infestations were large enough to say "testing was not done or not done well enough".

This is highly likely to happen in Melbourne as well! We shall not test often enough and when our mates down the road find varroa, it may be well advanced in our own hives. Act as though the mite is here, and test, test, test. Don't wait for reports that it is near.

Try this for size: Aim to be the first beekeeper to find varroa in hives in your area. See it as a badge of honour: that you are leading the beekeeping community and definitely not being found wanting.

The sooner you find the mite, the sooner you will be able to combat its horrible impact.

Cooperation before Competition

In Australia, I suggest that we usually have a culture of competition in business and our other interests. We may need to look at local cooperatives that can work together to support each other emotionally and also practically by having a buddies with you to work your hives for varroa testing and treatment. Competition may mean that we keep secrets or don't share our experiences. However, if we do not share and work together, the transition to living with varroa is a much higher risk activity than if we do work together. Once we have more resilient bees, or lower cost treatments, then we may start to operate as competitors again.

(Continued on page 12)

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VAA Melbourne Section Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 11)

Some key dates

The next VAA MS Monthly Meeting is Thursday 27th May 2025.

The Collingwood Children's Farm Apiary is open on the Sunday 11th and 25th May. Volunteers to share their experiences with the public and other beekeepers are needed for both dates.

The next HiveMeet is the first Thursday in June. Put a repeating entry in your calendar to help you get to this event.

The VAA Conference is at Beechworth on the 11-13 June 2025.

Winter and onwards

It is likely that you will need to repair equipment or

perform preventative maintenance on equipment, so do this early.

Plan your activity for late winter and spring. Hives to pollination may be a risk and also may be a necessary evil if we are to maintain the critical service that only our bees can provide.

Plan your conference attendance to get the full advantage of rubbing shoulders with Cameron Jack and other international and interstate experts.

And enjoy the break from routine hive inspections while you sit in front of the fire.

Enjoy your bees,

Rob Kerr

For the VAA MS Committee

Photo: Jamie Trimby. *Salvia rosmarinus*
(Rosemary)



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Bendigo Branch VAA Pack Down 2025

By Peta Dawe

The weather leading up to our pack down day was not looking good. ANZAC Day the region received anywhere from 20 – 30mm of rain. We were all very pleased with this however we had our fingers crossed for a slightly better day in two days' time. Well, someone was looking after us. The sun came out, although it wasn't a heat wave we were very thankful that the sun was shining. Thirty members descended on Margie and Wayne's place, this included eight new people who joined us for the activity. Errol did his mastery on the BBQ with his special made hamburgers. Once the team was fed and watered off over to the hives.

Under the guidance of Chris, Max and Stafford they slowly and precisely worked through the five hives. Along the way providing explanations of what they were doing and looking for.



Looking for the queen



Extraction



Packing down

As this was the perfect time to check the hives for mites Chris and Stafford checked for the queen to ensure she was looked after. The team demonstrated how to do an alcohol wash as most members had only done sugar shake before.



Extraction

Once we got a box of frames the extraction team (Angelique and Jamie) started the enjoyable task of uncapping, scratching and spinning the frames. The team was joined by a few new members to get their hands sticky.



Packing down

We finished off the day with afternoon tea, lots of questions and lots of honey extracted for Margie.

Our newcomers thoroughly enjoyed the practical demonstration and the wisdom of our pack down and extraction teams.

NEAA Varroa Management Day

A GREAT SUCCESS

By John Kennedy

The well attended Varroa Management Day of the North Eastern Apiarist's Association, held at Whorouly in the north east on Friday 3 May, opened to the news that the guest speaker, (noted and veteran) New Zealand beekeeper Frank Lindsay would not be making his scheduled appearance.

On the day of Frank's proposed departure his local area was hit by an exceptional wind storm with winds of 150 km per hour, hence all flights from Wellington were suspended. (Giving credence to the fact that Wellington is known to locals as Windy Wellington).

In consequence Frank had no chance of getting across the Tasman and his scheduled trip up the Hume.

However the day was salvaged by Zoom, and Frank more than capably delivered three sessions of his experience and knowledge (gained from fifty years of local beekeeping experience) as to how NZ beekeeper first discovered the presence of the mite, how they attempted to control its spread to both islands, and more recently how they have come to live and operate successfully with the mite, including their proven mite treatments.

The day's agenda was underwritten by contributions from other notable presenters.

Victoria's Biosecurity Apiary Officer Karla Williams provided an update on official responses including the status of the bait hives at the major ports, as well

as the six hives located between Mildura and Nyah West set up to monitor the progression of the mite across the River Murray – especially after major pollination events including the seasonal almond campaign.

In addition, two of Victoria's Varroa Development Officers, Kris Fricke and Junie Rey Bay, were on hand to update on the status of the ongoing VDO led information and support initiative.

So, an active day, supported by good catering, and plenty of opportunity for discussion with the strong representation of commercial and sideline beekeepers present, made it a value filled day.

Now to Frank Lindsay's contributions.

His first presentation on the history of varroa in New Zealand showed that using containment lines on a map to prevent its spread was not a success.

The lines simply drawn on a map were not observed with a number of beekeeper transgressions.

There was also a case of a large sawmill log, later found to contain a feral hive, that also transversed the control line and unfortunately help the spread of the mite.

So, in two years the mite had spread from the North Island to the South Island.

He noted also that within five years the feral hives had died out.

Frank's second presentation was on the evolution of

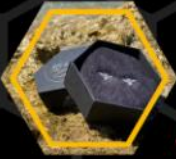
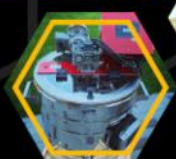
(Continued on page 15)

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NEAA Varroa Management Day, cont'd

(Continued from page 14)

Varroa Management Treatments, observing that all treatments do harm to bees and knowing the effects of wax retention is important.

His final session over the dinner was on Living with Varroa.

His thoughts are that varroa mite management adds to the costs by treatment and an increased labour requirement.

But the good news he proffered was the fact that our NZ colleagues have shown it is still possible to operate

a successful beekeeping business even with the mite, news which was welcomed by those present.

My understanding is that under the emergency move to a Zoom presentation without Frank's actual presence, it was not possible to record all the information he provided, for the benefit of the wider local beekeeping community.

But the message is clear, learn as much as you can by attending relevant industry functions and events – the varroa mite problem has a nuisance effect, but throughout the world solutions that are practical to implement are regularly emerging.

NEW FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PROGRAM

By John Kennedy

"Agriculture Victoria, in association with the VAA and regional beekeeping associations, are working together to support beekeeping businesses.

Applications are now open to join the new Farm Business Resilience Program 2025-29.

The program supports beekeepers to improve their business management skills to include drought, climate and biosecurity risks,

There are short courses, workshops and webinars, including face to face and on line group activities,

Very positive reports have emerged from industry participants who joined the initial course.

Now this second program is focusing on what do you need to better manage your business?

Would you like to engage in the FBR program?

For more information contact Angela Enbom on 0400 261 233 or email vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

The deadline for the June 2025 ABJ is 10pm on Sunday 1st of June



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Morning Program

Cameron Jack

Cameron Jack is from a small farming community northeast of Las Vegas, NV. His grandpa was a sideline beekeeper, so Cameron grew up around honey bees and beekeeping. He traveled across the country to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Florida under the mentorship of Dr. Jamie Ellis where he began investigating methods to control Varroa destructor a devastating honey bee pest. He is now an assistant professor at the University of Florida teaching nine different beekeeping courses and conducting research focused on pesticides, pathogens, and parasites that affect honey bees.



Randy Oliver

Randy Oliver is a commercial beekeeper from California, whose management decisions are based upon the understanding of bee biology. He performs applied research for the benefit of beekeepers worldwide, and shares information at his website ScientificBeekeeping.com. Randy Oliver sees beekeeping through the eyes of a biologist. He now helps his sons to run a commercial beekeeping operation of around 1500 hives in the foothills of Northern California, managing them for migratory pollination, nuc sales, and queen and honey production -- freeing Randy to engage in full-time in beekeeper-funded research projects.



Peter Czetl

Peter is a computer software engineer and geospatial systems expert with experience in various industries, including agriculture. He's also a passionate naturalist with a keen interest in genetics and breeding. Peter runs a successful business near Cooma in Southern NSW, supplying locally acclimated queens and nucleus colonies. He's a committee member of the Australian Queen Bee Breeder's Association (AQBBA), representing Australian bee breeders and producers. In addition to his business, Peter actively participates in his local beekeeping community and contributes to research and development programs, such as managing research apiaries for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Division of Ecology and Evolution at the Australian National University (ANU).



Madlen Kratz

Madlen's interest in bees started at the beginning of her Bachelor's degree, where she joined the Centre of Integrative Bee Research (CIBER) at the University of Western Australia. Her background is in research on honey bee nutrition, foraging behaviour, and pollination, focusing on honey bee health and productivity for the Honey Bee and Pollination Industries. Current areas of work include evaluating supplementary feeding practices for their costs and benefits to beekeepers, assessing alternative pasture species for their value to honey bees, and evaluating the attractiveness of blueberry flowers to bees under crop covers.



"We're beekeepers."



VAA 2025 Conference Competitions

The VAA competitions are a standout on the beekeeping calendar and a true celebration of craftsmanship and dedication in Australian apiculture. We welcome back Jessica Locarnini - Australia's only honey sommelier - as our lead judge.

Key Competition Dates

- **Thursday 12 June**
 - Competition judging
- **Friday 13 June**
 - Winners announced
 - Prizes and awards presented

Jessica will also provide some general feedback and insights on the competition process prior to the awards announcements.

Competition Categories

Honey

- Liquid: Light, Medium, Dark
- Creamed & Natural Granulation
- Comb Honey: Full Depth, Ideal, Section
- Young Beekeeper Category: Honey submission from school-aged beekeepers. (New!)

Honey & Hive Products

- Honey: Value Add (e.g. infusions)
- Mead & Other Honey Beverage
- Beeswax: 1 kg block (min), decorative (natural)
- Beeswax: Value Add (e.g. balms, furniture polish)

Photography - Categories (New! Digital-only submissions)

You can submit your entries on the VAA website!

- ***I'm a Beekeeper:*** Portraits of beekeepers at work, moments between a beekeeper and their bees, close-up shots of individual craftsmanship, interactions with bees.
- ***We're Beekeepers:*** Showcasing the spirit of teamwork and collective effort that defines our industry. This could include photos of apiaries in operation, working with equipment, moments of collaboration, or historical beekeeping activities.
- ***The Home of Victoria's Beekeepers:*** Celebrating the environments that sustain bees and beekeepers – from landscapes full of native flora to apiaries nestled in the countryside, orchards in bloom, or the beauty of the seasons in beekeeping life.

Grand Champion: The best entry across all categories

Check the VAA website for detailed competition rules!

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Unprecedented Sightings Of Asian Hornets In The UK

By John Kennedy

A report just published in *The Guardian* newspaper in the UK says that sightings of *vespa valutina* – the Asian or yellow legged Hornet are at unprecedented levels in the UK.

This is after recurrent hornet experiences in the almost adjacent France and elsewhere in Europe.

The concern being that a single hornet colony can 'butcher' 90,000 insects in just one season.

So, the risk to beekeepers is obvious.

Asian Hornets are about 25mm, or one inch long. and *The Guardian* report says that UK beekeepers and scientists "have waged a vigorous campaign to minimise the damage that this invasive species can do to Britain's biodiversity and bee colonies".

They note that last year's wet spring and washout summer appeared to have hindered the growth of the population when the number of nests spotted in the country fell from 72 in 2022 to 24 in 2023.

But it was also the first year that the National Bee Unit received confirmation by DNA that the hornet had successfully bred and over-wintered in the UK.

Record numbers of hornets are now expected to establish nests with multiple queens spotted earlier this year.

On Jersey for instance 262 hornets were spotted by 11 April - a 1060% percent increase on the year before.

According to the British Beekeepers Association spokesperson, Ian Campbell, "this species is carnivorous and a typical nest of between 2 or 3 thousand hornets can devour more than 11 kg of insects a season, or about the weight of 90,000 bees".

The Guardian report notes that the hornet typically bites off the heads, wings, legs and abdomens of bees, so that their thoraxes, a source of protein, are fed to the queen's larvae.

Their stings can also cause potentially deadly allergic reactions to humans and sightings should be reported to the National Bee Unit by its hornetwatch app or online.

France is believed to have more than half a million nests which are said to cost the economy 30 million a year in lost colonies and honey production.

In Spain and Portugal hornet numbers have increased from a handful to over 10,000 nests in four years.

The Asian Hornet originates in Asia and warmer climates.

It is not currently a threat to Australia's bees and beekeepers, however its survival and growth in cooler European climates is worth noting.

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



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Personality Test For Bees

University of Konstanz

Researchers from the Cluster of Excellence "Collective Behaviour" at the University of Konstanz have discovered that honey bees from the same colony have different preferences in terms of defensive behaviour

Honey bee colonies are well organized. Some collect nectar, others water, a few fan the hive with air to cool it down – and some defend the colony by stinging enemies. But when exactly does this happen? And do some individuals have a greater propensity to attack than others? A research team from the University of Konstanz is investigating these questions in more detail. In a recent study the researchers have now discovered that there are bees that attack, while other conspecifics always stay calm. They also show how social factors regulate this decision and that the personality of the individual bees is more important for the group dynamics than assumed.

For her research, doctoral student Kavitha Kannan at the University of Konstanz, led by neurobiologist Morgane Nouvian, specifically captured guard bees at the university's own beehives. The idea was to have a homogeneous group with assumed identical stinging behaviour. "Basically, you can expect that, simply by the distribution of tasks, a collector will have a different stinging behaviour than a guard. As we wanted to exclude as many influencing factors as possible, this selection was the first logical step. We were then able to gradually test other influencing factors", explains Kannan.

One bee sounds the alarm, but not everyone follows

The researchers knew from previous studies that the animals are influenced by pheromones. If a bee decides to sting, an alarm pheromone is released that encourages other bees to do the same. With each additional sting, the concentration of this pheromone increases, which in turn provides information on how many bees are already involved in the attack. Studies have shown that after a certain concentration has been reached, the stinging behaviour starts to decrease. Especially in view of the fact that bees usually lose their stinger after using it and consequently die, this is a sensible method

to prevent mass mortality as a result of an attack. According to studies, the likelihood that a bee will respond to a given concentration of alarm pheromone also depends on the size of the group.

What had been unknown so far is how the bees decide which of them will ultimately sting. The results of the current study by Nouvian suggest that the personality of each bee plays a major role in this context. "We simulated several situations in our tests in order to gradually explore various influencing factors", explains Nouvian. To provoke the bees to sting, the team used dummies in which the bees' stings did not stick. This way the animals could be repeatedly exposed to such situations in order to verify its respective reaction and rule out random behaviour.

Blend in or stand out

"In one group, for example, we tested whether stinging behaviour was affected by the presence of a conspecific, and in another group we tested the effect of the alarm pheromone", Nouvian says. "Ultimately, it turned out that although these factors had an influence, they did not impact the predictability of individual stinging behaviour", she adds. The respective personality therefor prevailed over conformism. This was also confirmed in a final experiment where the researchers determined that bees did not change their stinging behaviour as a function of group composition. Thus, even honeybees, which are renowned for their highly social lifestyle and for putting the needs of the colony before their own, retain some individuality.

Photo: Jamie Trimby. Unknown Eucalypt.



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NEAA New Committee In Place

By John Kennedy

The North Eastern Apiarists Association (the NEAA) was founded in 1954 and held its first annual meeting in 1955. This year's AGM and Varroa Management Day celebrating the 70th anniversary, included the Annual Conference and was held at a good venue in Whorouly in the north east of Victoria.

It was well attended especially by notable commercial beekeepers of the area and much further afield, as well as sideline beekeepers. And of course, it was very professionally run!

The Committee had elected to update and add a new wing to the historic Honour Board which shows that many notable beekeepers, quite a number now deceased, had played an active role in the establishment and evolution of the organisation's theme of "for the advancement of Apiculture" adopted such a long time ago.

It seems that the Board will return to hang in the premises of Beechworth Honey!

The NEAA remains as a well-funded and active group, committed to that objective by regular events that are significantly attractive to all levels of beekeepers, are well supported by industry suppliers as spon-

sors, and deliver untold value in information and management ideas being passed on.

The program for the day included a look at the first 50 years of the NEAA, compiled by the late Linton Briggs in 2004.

A slightly amended committee was also appointed for the future.

Queen breeding maestro David Briggs was appointed as the new President.

Don Whitehead has stepped back from his highly successful role as President but continues as Vice-President, where he is joined by Andrew McCallum also as Vice President.

Moss McCallum was reappointed as Secretary with Peter Lewis assisting.

Rick Horne was reappointed as Treasurer.

In addition, the Committee is formed by Deb Rodda, Luke McGonigle, Andrew Turnbull, Craig Scott, Lachlan Cooper and Shaun Murphy.

So, the NEAA is undoubtedly in good hands. Its major annual event the Swanpool Field Day, which is always booked out, will again happen at the end of the first week of October.

For more information see www.neaa.com.au for background or to join as a member.

Have you booked for this years VAA Conference? It will be held at Grand Oaks Resort, Beechworth from Wed 11th to Friday 13th June. See pages 3, 18 and 19 of this journal for more details.



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New Pollen-Replacing Food For Honey Bees

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Scientists have unveiled a new food source designed to sustain honey bee colonies indefinitely without natural pollen.

Published April 16 in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, the research from Washington State University and APIX Biosciences NV in Wingene, Belgium details successful trials where nutritionally stressed colonies, deployed for commercial crop pollination in Washington state, thrived on the new food source.

This innovation, which resembles the man-made diets fed to livestock and pets all their life, contains all the nutrients honey bees need. It's expected to become a potent strategy for combating the escalating rates of colony collapse and safeguarding global food supplies reliant on bee pollination.

The newly developed food source resembles human "Power Bars". These are placed directly into honey bee colonies, where young bees process and distribute the essential nutrients to larvae and adult bees.

This breakthrough addresses one of the growing challenges faced by honey bees: lack of adequate nutrition in their environment.

"Changes in land use, urban expansion, and extreme weather all negatively impact nutrition for honey bees and other pollinators," said Brandon Hopkins, P.F. Thurber Endowed Distinguished Professor of Pollinator Ecology at WSU and a co-author of the paper. "Honey bees are generalists and do not get all their nutrition from a single source. They need variety in their diet to survive but find it increasingly difficult to find the continuous supply of pollen they need to sustain the colony."

Dr. Patrick Pilkington, CEO of APIX Biosciences US, emphasized the significance of this development.

"Until this study, honey bees were the only livestock that could not be maintained on a man-made feed," Pilkington said. "The reported scientific work shows in commercial field conditions that providing nutritionally stressed colonies with our pollen-replacing feed results in a major measurable step change in colony health compared to current best practices. Our product has the potential to change the way honey bees are managed."

The research, a culmination of over a decade of work, involved extensive collaboration. Thierry Bogaert, lead author and chairman of APIX Biosciences, highlighted the collaborative effort.

"The newly published work is the result of a herculean scientific effort of three teams," Bogaert said. "First, the founders and scientists of APIX Biosciences who tested thousands of combinations of ingredients on honey bees over more than 10 years to create this feed. Second, the WSU team with leading honey bee and field expertise, and, third, leading beekeepers in California together with extension teams. They made large scale and science-based field testing of feeds possible. Paper co-author Anne Marie Fauvel managed that third aspect."

A critical discovery within the research is the role of isofucosterol, a molecule found naturally in pollen that acts as a vital nutrient for honey bees. Colonies fed with isofucosterol-enriched food survived an entire season without pollen access, while those without it experienced severe declines, including reduced larval production, adult paralysis, and colony collapse. The new feed also contains a comprehensive blend of the other nutrients honey bees require.

To validate the efficacy of the new food source under real-world conditions, WSU conducted field trials with nutritionally stressed colonies in blueberry and sunflower fields, both known for poor pollen quality for bees. Compared to colonies receiving standard commercial feed or no supplementation, those fed the new food source thrived, demonstrating increased survival and colony growth.

"Some beekeepers don't pollinate blueberries anymore because colonies suffer or die and the pollination fees don't cover the losses," Hopkins said. "Blueberry pollen isn't very nutritious for honey bees, and they aren't adapted well to pollinating that crop. But if they have this supplemental food source, beekeepers may return to pollinating those fields since they know their bees are more likely to survive."

The severe challenge of high annual colony mortality, with recent reports indicating crisis-level losses, underscores the urgency of this innovation.

Pilkington expressed optimism about the discovery's impact.

"We are confident that the product will positively impact beekeepers and growers once it's available to purchase in the US, which is targeted for mid-2026," he said. "Meanwhile we are working with WSU and the beekeeping community across the USA to develop the best way to make use of this new tool in agricultural settings."

MSN News

Exploring the Potential of Bees to Detect Lung Cancer

In an intriguing development, a study published in *Biosensors and Bioelectronics* suggests that honeybees might play a surprising role in detecting lung cancer at an early stage. This research highlights the role of "odorants" - tiny, volatile molecules that move through the human body and may carry crucial information about diseases, including cancer.

Odorants are small molecules found in human breath that can carry biomarkers, which are indicators of various diseases, including lung cancer. These molecules circulate throughout the body, entering and exiting via our respiratory system. The connection between odorants and our sense of smell lies in the way our noses process these molecules through olfactory receptors.

Read the article in full [here](#)



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New Book Releases

By John Kennedy

ASIAN HORNET - The Beekeeper's Guide to Defences against the Yellow-legged Hornet

A first edition published by and available from Northern Bee Books (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk).

Paperback of 228 pages, Cost 26 Pounds Sterling plus \$A conversion and postage.

Any local beekeeper who follows almost any international bee media will be aware that this insect, the Yellow Legged Hornet, is a clear and present danger to bees.

Hailing from a warm environment it is now adjusting to much cooler local environments, breeding and expanding in major numbers,

It has not yet reached Australia.

But it's ability to consume whole bee hives, seemingly its preferred insect, in a very rapid time frame, often within a season, even in a day or so, is evidence of the threat being borne by beekeepers in many countries.

The Asian Hornet or *vespa valutina* is now the reason for a timely reference book.

It's author, Andrew Durham, is an experienced beekeeper in Cambridgeshire in the UK and he began his research in 2014.

He also travelled to France, joining local beekeeper associations, and invested many hours in his research.

He is a regular commentator to the BBKA (British Bee Keeping Association) conferences on the hornet, where his 15 fifteen chapters Andrew lays out everything a beekeeper needs to know about the Asian Hornet.

He writes about its background, scientists and solutions, nest destruction and spring trapping, the risk to human health (there is the human risk of serious allergic reactions from a sting) and he describes the hornet as the ultimate predator.

Then he moves on with half the book devoted to the hornet and the honeybee, good beekeeping and healthy colonies.

The last couple of chapters address defences around

the apiary, electric or bait trapping, and an overall summary with defences against the hornet.

This book is likely to become a timely reference whenever the topic is broached in our part of the bee-keeping world.

MAKING A SKEP

A skep is perhaps best described as a beehive made from woven materials.

It seems they go back to antiquity and were much favoured, in the UK in particular, until fairly recently.

The problem was that to harvest honey from the wax frames created by the bees, it was necessary to destroy the whole hive in the manual extracting process, even down to killing the bees.

Pioneer beekeepers like Emile Warre and Dr Lorenzo Langstroth probably put an end to skeps with their superior timber box hives and movable frame inventions.

But if you have an historical interest in skeps, or a wish to fashion one or two, a new text has recently arrived.

It is titled *Basket Weaving* – subtitled “The spiral braiding technique for making bowls, bee-skeps and baskets”.

Authored by Toon Brekelman, originally in Dutch, this is an English translation paperback of 93 pages and is issued as a first edition.

It comes from www.northernbeebooks.co.uk and costs 17 pounds sterling plus \$A conversion and postage.

A note from the publisher says it is hoped that the English translation will lead to a wider appreciation of the author's skills in basket making, “his eye for detail and function, his attention to detail and the books excellent images” are noted.

They say that the book will be of interest to beekeepers who wish to make skeps.

A worthy reference it may be – but I am not expecting to see it on a list of best selling books about bees any time soon!



Photos: Jamie Trimby. Bees on Banksias at the Australian National Botanical Gardens in Canberra.
Left: *Banksia pencillata*, Centre: *Banksia brownie* (Feather leaved Banksia)
Right: *Banksia oblongifolia* (Fern-leaved banksia)

Cell Punch Queen Rearing

By John Kennedy

Rearing Queens by harvesting cells is a method apparently rarely practiced locally. Whereas it is often practiced in the UK and the USA.

I suspect a reason may be that a Punch to collect the cells is not widely offered here.

I have consulted the product catalogues of most of our leading bee goods suppliers and found no result.

It is in this vein that a new release from EH Thorne, the leading and probably largest multi-branch bee goods retailer in the UK, strikes a chord.

Thorne's have just announced a special offer of a product they call a Cell Punch Kit.

It includes everything they say you will need to "get started with this method of queen rearing".

The kit includes a Cell Punch, a Queen Rearing Frame and a Wax Cup Mould.

It is all available for 38 Pounds Sterling.

Even after \$A conversion and shipping and/or postage it's relatively affordable,

For more information or to enquire try sales@thorne.co.uk or www.thorne.co.uk.

Another Thorne new product release is an Easi-Steam kit, which they say is an excellent tool for cleaning, preparing, melting and reclaiming old wax comb "especially if it's a bit messy or even outside in the open".

It comprises an electric steam generator attached to a steel box via a steam hose, which fits safely over a brood box (presumably Langstroth although this is not stated).

Thorne's say all the steel and timber components are produced by them in-house.

They offer a descriptive video which is available on their website.

No price is given in the release announcement, but probably because of its relative bulk its delivery to customers outside the UK won't be feasible.

**The deadline for any contributions
to the June edition of the Australian Bee Journal
is 10pm on Sunday 1st of June.**

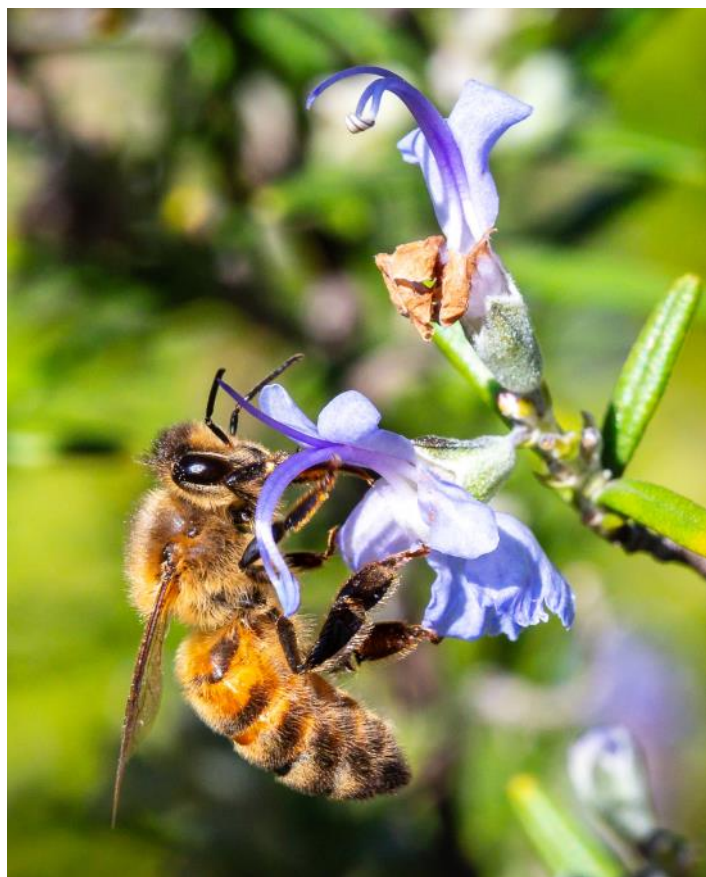


Photo: David Mangan. Bee on Salvia. From a Google search it appears to be Salvia engelmannii



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Growing wildflowers on disused urban land

Growing wildflowers on disused urban land can damage bee health

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Wildflowers growing on land previously used for buildings and factories can accumulate lead, arsenic and other metal contaminants from the soil, which are consumed by pollinators as they feed, a new study has found. The metals have previously been shown to damage the health of pollinators, which ingest them in nectar as they feed, leading to reduced population sizes and death. Even low nectar metal levels can have long-term effects, by affecting bees' learning and memory - which impacts their foraging ability.

Researchers have found that common plants including white clover and bindweed, which are vital forage for pollinators in cities, can accumulate arsenic, cadmium, chromium and lead from contaminated soils.,,

The researchers say soils in cities should be tested for metals before sowing wildflowers and if necessary, polluted areas should be cleaned up before new wildflower habitats are established.

The study highlights the importance of growing the right species of wildflowers to suit the soil conditions.

Reducing the risk of metal exposure is critical for the success of urban pollinator conservation schemes. The researchers say it is important to manage wildflower species that self-seed on contaminated urban land, for example by frequent mowing to limit flowering - which

reduces the transfer of metals from the soil to the bees...

Dr Sarah Scott in the University of Cambridge's Department of Zoology and first author of the report, said: "It's really important to have wildflowers as a food source for the bees, and our results should not discourage people from planting wildflowers in towns and cities..."

The study was carried out in the post-industrial US city of Cleveland, Ohio, which has over 33,700 vacant lots left as people have moved away from the area. In the past, iron and steel production, oil refining and car manufacturing went on there. But any land that was previously the site of human activity may be contaminated with traces of metals...

There is growing evidence that wild pollinator populations have dropped by over 50% in the last 50 years, caused primarily by changes in land use and management across the globe. Climate change and pesticide use also play a role; overall the primary cause of decline is the loss of flower-rich habitat.

Scott said: "Climate change feels so overwhelming, but simply planting flowers in certain areas can help towards conserving pollinators, which is a realistic way for people to make a positive impact on the environment."

Read the article in full [here](#)

The Farm Business Resilience Program supports primary producers to build stronger, more drought resilient businesses.

We want to understand the needs and program delivery preferences of Victorian beekeepers. Tell us what you think. Scan the QR code and fill in the online survey.

The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Are You Prepared For Varroa?

A LOT OF RECREATIONAL BEEKEEPERS ARE ILL-PREPARED FOR VARROA

By John Kennedy

Many beekeepers are not undertaking mite washes and have a head in the sand approach to mite management or control solutions.

"I think a lot of small local beekeepers are just hoping for some magic solution to the mite".

These thoughts were presented to the NEAA Varroa Day at Whorouly by committee member, Deb Rodda.

Deb runs her own retail bee supplies business in Yackandandah, and is also a force behind the local Yack Bee Group.

An unincorporated organisa-

tion, it attracts about 35 beekeepers to its monthly meetings.



NEAA Committee member Deb Rodda plays a key role in supporting beekeepers in and around the Yackandandah district in advancing their knowledge of the varroa mite and solutions.

"They can come from as far away as Albury through to Harrietville and Benalla, indicating long and usually night time travel times in the quest for information or solutions.

"This interest shows the level of concern people have for their bee hives and their desire to find the right products, information and solutions.

Deb said "it also indicates the role which interest groups and clubs can play in achieving a positive outcome, and help enthusiasts to save their beekeeping interest and hives from the mite".

Photos: GA Jackson



The Australian Bee Journal welcomes contributions and photos from readers and members.

Please send any letters, articles or photos to abjeditors@yahoo.com





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Israel's Bee IO Claiming To Make Honey

By John Kennedy

An Israel based biotechnology company Bee IO is claiming to make three tonnes of honey a week in the laboratory at minimal cost.

The development is upsetting the US beekeeping community as news of this development is currently circulating there.

The company points out the world has 20,000 types of bees yet only seven produce honey.

They say that honey production by beekeepers in important countries is subject to many challenges – the weather, seasons, inputs to operate hives (which in the USA is under threat), labour and equipment costs.

Plus bulk honey prices are low, so it is difficult to make a profit.

Also bees pollinate about 70% of the world's food crops so with the stress in maintaining bee hives successfully major pollination jobs are under threat.

Bee IO says that producing honey requires only two things – plant nectar and a bee's stomach.

They claim both can and have been created in a laboratory, and they have done so producing a honey which is identical to that produced by the bees, in every dimension.

They make their case out on their website if you search Bee

IO.

There is also a short length (just 11 minutes long) video available on YouTube headed Lab Grown Honey is Coming to America – Should we be Concerned?

Both references are important background resources for all local beekeepers.



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

abjeditors@yahoo.com

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Western region:

Daryl Hobbs
0427 340 197

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:
Ph: 136 186

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

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

For enquiries related to permits and movement restrictions:

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

For beekeeper registration please log onto BeeMAX

www.bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au

or call the Bee Registration Helpline 1800 356 761

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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: Michael St.Clair

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.):

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jeeralangapiary@bigpond.com

0413 136 878

Secretary: Neil Barraclough:

neilbarra2@outlook.com

0429 888 706

Treasurer: Sean Paul Smith:

kaleprime@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

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details or
information on
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Maryborough,
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Ph: 07 3712 8224
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Contact: Stephen Covey

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Contact: Terry Goode

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Hugo Solano
Andrew Turnbull
Russell Yardley
Luke Beks
James Brownlie
Paige McDonald

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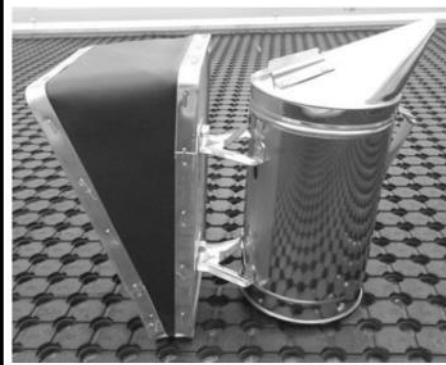
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Evening welcome reception

Thursday 12 June

Morning Program

Cameron Jack

Optimizing effectiveness of oxalic acid

Randy Oliver

Selective breeding for mite resistance

Peter Czeti

AQBBA: Breeding resistance for Australia

Madlen Kratz

Nutrition for honey bees and varroa mites

Afternoon Program

Tracie Armstrong

The Australian pollination strategy (When Bee Fnd.)

Lewis Bartlett

Bee ecology, evolution, & epidemiology of parasites

John Roberts

Varroa & virus surveillance using hive eDNA

Simon Burt

Refining your business plan

Marcus O'Connor

Managing finances in changing times

Darren Balnbridge

Data collection & business decision-making

Evening Program

VAA AGM

Varroa Panel: Surviving the first phase

Other Conference Highlights

- Over 20 trade stalls
- Partners' Program
- Competitions & prizes

Friday 13 June

Morning Program

Bill Hesbach

Condensing hives

Frank Linton

Observation hives can enhance your business

William Melkle

Spying on honey bees with continuous data

Jessica Locarnini

VAA honey competition results

Cameron Jack

Varroa chemicals & seasonal effectiveness

Liz Barbour

B-Qual speech-to-text app for hive inspections

Afternoon Program

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