

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSN 0046-0294



VOL. 106 - NO 8 AUGUST 2025



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AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

Published since 1918 by the VAA - founded in 1892 -

AUGUST 2025 - Volume 106 - No 8

Registration No. A8347

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Cover photo: by Ross Perry.
"Jess framing her future" See story page 13

Deadline for copy for the September 2025 journal is
10pm on Monday 1st of September 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

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

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The Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc. (VAA)



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

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

Our achievements include:

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

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

Management

The VAA Board meets a minimum of six times a year.

Members of the 2025 - 2026 Board

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VAA sub-committees & conveners

Contact by email is preferred

Biosecurity

Ken Gell

Finance & Insurance

Ken Gell

Education

Dr. Andrew Wootton

Melbourne Show

Richard Collins

Constitution & Legal

Lindsay Callaway

Conference

Lindsay Callaway

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Resources

Ken Gell
Services

Commercial beekeeping

Ben Moore

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

Membership Rates

Up to 100 hives (1 vote): \$93
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1000+ hives (4 votes): \$550
Partner membership is \$20 less in each category and includes all rights except receipt of journal

How to join

Join online at

www.vicbeekeepers.com.au

or email

vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au

to request a membership form.



www.vicbeekeepers.com.au

President's Report

As the August Australian Bee Journal goes to press, beekeepers from all corners of the continent (WA, SA, VIC, NSW & QLD) and all shapes and sizes will be active in the 2025 almond pollination season. This event represents the single largest movement of livestock in the southern hemisphere.

It's pleasing to see that many regions of our beautiful state have received consistent and welcome rainfall over the past several weeks. I hope that good rainfall has reached you as we head into another busy and hopefully productive beekeeping season.

We were gratified last month to receive a letter, sent to the VAA on behalf of the Ministers for Agriculture and the Environment, following our face-to-face meeting with the government in late April. At that meeting, the VAA board presented a list of challenges faced by the apiculture sector and requested that the government respond with programs, funding and policies. On the list of issues discussed were drought conditions, the effects of planned burns, the impact of bushfires, the spread of varroa and the overall impact on the viability of beekeeping – both commercial and recreational – in the face of these issues. The Ministers' letter outlined the existing investments the government has made to support the Varroa Transition to Management Plan. The letter also outlined steps the government is planning to hold consultation meetings with industry sectors to discuss the approach to planned burns across the state. The government has also outlined its engagement with public land managers, Parks Victoria and DEECA portfolio area leads to investigate options on alternative sites for bee hives as well as other support for beekeepers in response to the bushfires in the Grampians and the Little Desert National Park. The VAA will continue to engage with government and advocate for increased support for the interests of beekeepers across the state.

The VAA has engaged with several of our branches and affiliate associations in recent weeks. The VAA is the keynote-speaker sponsor for the CVAA's annual conference (Friday 22 August). The CVAA has put together an impressive conference focusing on beekeeper well-being and we are looking forward to participating. I'd also like to note that the CVAA, NEAA and the VAA Commercial Subcommittee are organising events for the day before the CVAA conference (Thursday 21 August). Ben Moore, our new chair of the VAA's Commercial Subcommittee is organising a social event for commercial beekeepers for the afternoon of the 21st. This event will occur between two commercial beekeeper forums, one on setting up a queen bee breeding research apiary and the second on non-synthetic chemical use in varroa management. The venue for all these events is the Maryborough Highland Society. Stay tuned for more details. The VAA has also authored a letter of support for a CVAA proposal that the fees for public bee sites be waived for at least one year, taking advantage of a drought-related funding program announced by the government in July.

The VAA received communications from the NEAA regarding varroa management policies as well as on planned burns. We are collaborating with the NEAA on circulating these issues to other associations as well as

communicating directly with government. The VAA is also collaborating with the VAA Bendigo Branch in their planning for this year's field day. The organising committee is seeking sponsorship for various elements of the day and interested organisations can contact the BBVAA via our website.

We're excited to once again be participating at the Melbourne Royal Show. This annual event provides an amazing opportunity to engage with members of the public to promote the importance of apiculture to the state's economy and our country's food security. I want to thank Richard Collins for agreeing to chair this year's Show committee as well as Judy Leggett and Mike Love, our Show manager and co-manager from the past several years, for working tirelessly again to make this important event a reality. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of beekeepers who have donated honey to the VAA to sell at the show. We are actively recruiting volunteers to attend the booth to help us promote beekeeping and to sell honey. We have three convenient shifts available, and volunteers receive free entry to the show for the entire day as well as a 20% discount on any purchases of honey or hive products at the show, as well as 20% off any VAA merchandise purchased from our website. It's immensely gratifying to meet visitors to the Show who return year after year to purchase the unique and delicious honey produced by our state's beekeepers. You can contact us at vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au if you'd like to volunteer at the booth or offer honey or hive products to sell.

In July, we held the second meeting of the new VAA Board. Among many items discussed at the meeting, the board members each signed on for a wide range of subcommittees, projects and events and we will share news and updates about this work in the coming months. We have ambitious goals for the VAA, and we can't do it without our members so stay tuned for announcements on opportunities to get involved in the VAA to help us advance the interests of beekeeping and beekeepers in Victoria.

One of the most important roles for the VAA is as a member of the national Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). AHBIC held its AGM in July, and we are grateful to Millie Enbom-Goad and Ben Moore for representing the VAA at the AGM. The work that the VAA board does on behalf of the Association is voluntary and I want to acknowledge the effort and time commitment of our board members for their work. Some notable developments from the AGM include:

- The retirement of Stephen Targett, who has led strongly through Varroa and been a generous mentor in my time on AHBIC.
- The retirement of 3-term executive member Therese Kershaw who personally was the original reason that both Jon and I got involved with AHBIC, thanks Therese!
- The election of Jon Lockwood as AHBIC Chair. Congratulations, Jon!
- The appointment of Dr Dianna Leemon and Ben Hooper to the Executive

(Continued on page 6)

President's Report, cont'd

(Continued from page 5)

- Updates on
 - ◊ Tropilaelaps preparedness, training and VDO progress, and Varroa
 - ◊ Honey levy proposed changes
- Reports on:
 - ◊ Importation Fighting Fund
 - ◊ When Bee Foundation - National Pollination Strategy
 - ◊ B-Qual presentation, with life membership to Lindsay Bourke

The morning before the AHBIC AGM, the VAA was also able to participate in a strategic planning workshop with Agrifutures where stakeholders participated in exercises to help that important national organisation to develop its new strategic plan.

While the Australian Bee Journal is one of our most cherished and respected communication forums for the VAA, we acknowledge that people share and receive news, information and updates across many channels and technologies. The VAA is excited to be moving more actively into the social media space with a new Facebook page and an Instagram account (see page 27). I want to thank our board member Olivia Ducommun-Dit-Verron for agreeing to lead this initiative with the support of our Communications and Publications team

Andrew Wootton and Tino Corsetti. We look forward to sharing information via these social channels and welcome input and participation from our members. In addition to these new communication forums, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of our monthly livestream events called HiveMeet held on the first Thursday of the month from 8:00pm to 9:00pm. You can access these at the VAA's YouTube Channel. I also hope you also enjoy receiving our bi-monthly bulletins with a roundup of news from across the state, the country and around the beekeeping world.

You may have noticed that the VAA's online shop has expanded with a range of VAA-branded merchandise. We have T-shirts, hoodies, baseball caps and stubby holders for sale. We're excited to be able to expand the presence of our "I'm a beekeeper." and "We're beekeepers" campaigns with high-quality branded apparel. We welcome feedback on our merchandise through vaa@vicbeekeepers.com.au.

I am excited to be travelling to Denmark in September to attend Apimondia 2025. I look forward to reporting back on the conference and the opportunity to engage with beekeepers from other countries in a future issue of this journal.

Lindsay Callaway

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AHBIC AGM 2025: Report From VAA Delegates

Voting Delegate: Millie Enbom-Goad

Non-Voting Delegate: Ben Moore

Dear VAA Members,

The 2025 AHBIC AGM was held on 5 July 2025 in Adelaide, in line with the South Australian conference. Ben Moore attended in person and Millie Enbom-Goad attended online as the VAA members of AHBIC.

Current representatives from Victoria on AHBIC subcommittees are as follows:

PCF Fund: Olivia Ducommon-Dit-Verron

Imported Honey: Lindsay Callaway

Levies Review: Peter McDonald

It was agreed by majority vote to close the following subcommittees on the basis that these can be re-established at any point should they be required:

Resources

Biosecurity

Education

Imported Bee Genetics

Events

Motions moved successfully at the AGM included the following: That AHBIC investigate the logistics of requiring the honey levy to be paid at the first point of sale for all commercial sales (ie removing the current 1500kg floor), with an exception for not-for-profit industry organisations eg. Tasmanian Junior Beekeepers Association.

That AHBIC investigate the possibility of finding a laboratory in Australia that will become accredited to do honey residue testing

That AHBIC request ABARES to have the Apiculture industry included in the Agriculture Survey; this to include apiarists and pollination dependent industries reliant on either intended or incidental pollination

If any members have matters that are most appropriately dealt with by our national body, AHBIC, please raise these with me or Ben Moore in our capacity as the VAA AHBIC representatives. We can then discuss these at our VAA meetings and forward to the AHBIC if required.

Millie Enbom-Goad

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Please send an initial Expression Of Interest to my private email: lindsay@warralmaldon.com.au.

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Lindsay Callaway

Lindsay Callaway – Owner/Managing Director



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AHBIC CEO Report

Lobbying government

A productive workshop with the DAFF staff highlighting the industry issues was held in May. Follow up from this workshop has continued particularly around imported honey and improving border testing. We are confident the department now hears us, and our issues, and is proactively working with AHBIC to improve the situation knowing we are limited as to what can be done.

The first sitting week of the new government has seen a lot of activity in Canberra. I was in Canberra for the week and met with many members and senators updating them, and their staff, on the important issues facing our industry. The continual feedback from many in Canberra is they were under the impression that varroa has passed and we're just getting on with it as an industry. If you have the opportunity, I encourage you to reach out to your local member of parliament to highlight that the challenges are still ongoing. Keeping the honey bee industry front of mind for MP's is important as we lobby for support.

Varroa treatments

As always, we continue to seek out varroa treatment manufactures to encourage, and facilitate them in bringing new treatments to the Australian market. Globally there has been some new products hit the market.

In the USA, a Canadian company called Greenlight, has recently been approved in parts of the USA for a product called 'Norroa'. We have highlighted this

product previously as the RNAi technology that inhibits the mite's ability to reproduce. We have been able to connect the manufacture with Australian researchers to trial the product in Australia and hopefully eventually register it here.

Another interesting product is a European manufacturer that has developed a Metarhizium (fungal control) that targets varroa but also has temperature protection technology. This new product has shown some promising results, prompting funding through Hort Innovation to look at discovering an Australian version of the fungal control. This work has been awarded to Macquarie University and whilst exciting, progress will be slow with commercialisation maybe some time away.

The Month Ahead

With the conference season and AGM behind us we focus back onto progressing the important industry issues.

Levy reform, imported honey and varroa are a big focus over the next few months in addition to delivering AHBIC's parts of the Transition to Management Program (T2M) as that begins to wind up.

We will continue to advocate to both state and federal governments for additional support post T2M, particularly for continued extension officers on the ground.

Danny LeFeuvre

From the AHBIC July newsletter

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And Now: VarroDetector

By John Kennedy

A new Windows software program -VarroDetector – has been released.

It appears to have been developed by staff of the University of Zaragoza in Spain and may assist beekeepers to improve their calculations of mite drop on a sticky board.

It is claimed to be a superior method to physically counting the number of varroa mites, thus, its application is seen as more relevant to situations of medium to high mite load concentrations.

VarroDetector is an open source tool designed to identify and count varroa mites in images of sticky board sheets taken with smartphones.

The software runs in low range computers (no GPU is needed). Neither installation nor internet installation are needed and it appears to be free to access.

If you do a web search of the name some six pages of technical information about its functionality and application are available.

I note that the UK beekeeper who reports and publishes to subscribers as 'The Apiarist' has tested the software and I think it's fair to say he found a number of weaknesses, or improvements that needed to be made to its efficacy.

He concluded that the software was determined by the quality and readability of the photography of the sticky board, and wondered whether it could accurately determine the number of mites recorded and also its ability to distinguish them from other detritus (that typically falls through a screened bottom board) and is normally collected.

The web page description notes that more platforms "are coming soon" suggesting that it is a software aide to beekeeping that is being refined and will be further developed into the future.

What a bumble bee chooses to eat may not match ideal diet

PENN STATE

Humans may not be the only species that struggles to eat the right amounts of the ideal foods. A new study led by researchers at Penn State suggests that what bumble bees choose to eat may not line up with their ideal nutritional needs. The study — published in the *Journal of Insect Physiology* — examined whether giving bumble bees diets of pollen and nectar enriched with different amounts of proteins, fats and carbohydrates had an effect on how much they ate, as well as a variety of physical characteristics.

Read the article [here](#)

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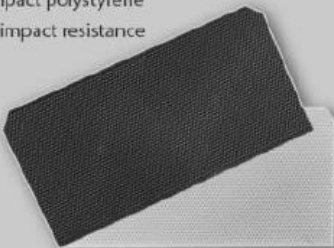
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Bendigo Branch Report

A nippy evening met new and regular members on the 2nd of July where Stafford presented 'Building an Apiary Plan' combining seasonal hive management; monthly weather observations; with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Varroa treatment constraints. Highlighting the importance of testing, testing, testing, considerations and the planning required to look after bees to survive the Varroa reinfestation phase. Stafford's talk provided thought provoking ideas surrounding the promoted Varroa treatment options during the different seasons giving further context to the VDO workshops. At the August meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at the Quality Lakeside Hotel BBVAA members will talk to their Apiary Plan.

On Sunday 27th July the BBVAA conducted our Make and Mend Day activity which was hosted by Angelique and Ross. With the weather being particularly fresh attendees were grateful of a cup of warm soup. We started with an overview of putting together Whirakee Woodware rebated hive flat packs, covering a few pointers on the nuances of timber like cupping or shrinkage, the important aspects of assembling hives for the best results. Stafford and Michael brought their hive jigs, demonstrating the efficiencies of different styles of jigs for efficiently assembling square (corner) hives.



Stafford explain how the frame jig works, demonstrated assembling quantities of wooden frames in the jig, and the importance of gluing, and correctly fixing components for longevity. Participants then assembled their own equipment, with experienced members around to call on for reminders, tips to make the job easier, various ways to hold and secure components to achieve a good finish. It was great observing the joy and satisfaction as people became more independent in building their own hive ware.



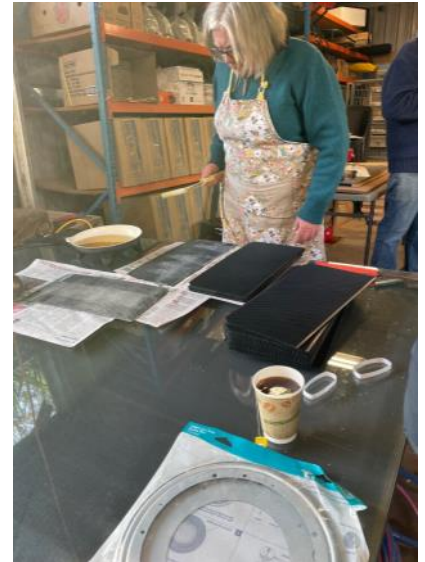
Angelique demonstrated and guided us through waxing plastic foundation. Stafford discussed the benefits of pollen patties, placement, how and when to use them to best advantage. Making up a batch with tips for a smooth consistency, with patties available to members.

Thank you to Angelique, Ross, Stafford, Peta and Michael for hosting, coordinating, supplying and instructing your efforts were greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, there was an amazing level of collaboration, such a supportive environment, with plenty of socialising and bee discussions.

The branches next weekend activity is on Sunday 24th August - Inspecting Hives after winter, understanding swarms, and how to catch swarms.

The days are getting longer, trees are budding, days are warming, Spring is on the way, all the best with your bees and pollination.



By Jamie Trimby
Photos: Ross Perry

Eleven UK Honey Rates

By John Kennedy

The Guardian newspaper in the UK has a decent interest in beekeeping topics and products with regular reports.

Its latest, just published contribution, is to rate eleven different supermarket honeys.

They range from those of leading brand suppliers like Rowse and Waitrose, to those originating from Greece, as well as other branded UK produced honeys.

Even the Marks & Spencer Mexican Wildflower Honey was included.

The eleven honeys ranged in price from three pounds 74 pence Sterling per 100 grams, to as low as 88 pence per 100 grams.

The Guardian comments that its experience was "like a warm walk in the woods."

"It seems you get what you pay for when it comes to honey from the bee's knees to bog-standard syrup."

The report notes that honey is a store-cupboard staple and households often have three different types – "a squeeze bottle to bake with, a jar for sweetening teas and yoghurt, to something a little fancier and more complex to enjoy drizzled on toast or crumpets or with cheese".

The Guardian judged the best all-rounder to be Odysea Greek Pine & Fir

Honey (one pound 96 at Amazon and others per 100 grams) awarding it four stars.

Another Greek honey The Kitchen Pine Tree Greek Honey (two pounds 40 pence per 100 grams) also got their tick as "delicious well balanced honey with a really appealing colour and a floral flavour that comes through softly".

The popular branded Rowse, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer honeys were all rated as three stars and all described as "runny honeys".

Topping *The Guardian* poll with five stars was the most expensive, the Scottish Bee Company's Signature Blend Honey described as "punchy and woody with a bit of muskiness too – almost savoury leaning.

"It smells divine, but it won't be to everyone's taste", they commented, giving it five stars.



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Referencing Tropilaelaps Mite

By John Kennedy

Richard Noel is a former British beekeeper now based in France, where he trades as *Bees in Brittany*.

He regularly describes his progress on Facebook where he has recently documented the building of an extensive new honey house and extraction plant, and he also operates a good number of hives for honey production (just search richardnoelbees or beesinbrittany for details).

His most recent interest is the *Tropilaelaps Mite (tropilaelaps clareae)* whose machinations and spread in the former USSR country of Georgia are of concern, and have been documented.

Apparently the mite was identified in Ukraine in 2019 and there are concerns that it will spread further west into Europe.

In a presentation by experienced Welsh beekeeper, researcher and entomologist Maggie Gill, who has investigated the mite in Thailand and more recently the incursion into Georgia, she notes that *tropilaelaps* is adjusting to cooler climates and is slowly moving west towards Europe.

Her presentation which runs for about 100 minutes will tell you everything a beekeeper should know about this emerging parasite. Highly recommended and worth following up.

If you as a beekeeper consider the varroa mite as the most serious threat to beekeeping here, just wait and see what happens with Mr *Tropilaelaps* if it makes it to Australia!

This pesky parasite lives on bees and breeds rapidly.

It's even smaller than varroa, at about one mm by a half mm, and a good deal longer than the rounder varroa mite.

Moreover, as a parasite it brings a whole new raft of likely fatal diseases to *Apis mellifera*.

The excellent book *Honey Bee Pests and Diseases*, locally produced by authors Owen, Scheerlinck and Anderson, devotes multiple pages to a description, its spread, infestations, and treatments (really none agreed upon!).

It appears to be well based on the Asian mainland including the Philippines, and is already present in Papua New Guinea.

So, it's potentially a likely threat of unknown but most likely severe consequences to local beekeepers.

Another useful reference is a two page Fact Sheet flyer available on the web and produced by Plant Health Australia.

It would be a useful investment of your time to be acquiring some basic knowledge about *Tropilaelaps* mite, just in case it makes it here.



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Mite Maths

By Andrew Wootton

Here in Victoria, it's the calm before the (varroa) storm. The Victorian heat map of July shows three detection clusters, the incursion is well-seeded. And almond pollination will inevitably be a super-spreader event. I'm assuming I will have mites in my hive sometime in the next 12 months.

"Nine to five" is the mnemonic for mite wash thresholds, easily recalled thanks to Dolly Parton. But let's dig deeper into what these numbers signal. If during spring, autumn or winter our sample of 300 bees contains 5 mites, we should consider how many mites this represents in the colony. Five mites per 300 is 1.6%. Let's estimate a population of 30,000 bees (not unreasonable), but the mites will be concentrated on the nurse bees, corresponding to 250 mites on 15,000 nurse bees. Remember though, that in a hive that is actively raising brood, 2/3 of the mites will be in the reproductive phase under the brood cappings, meaning there are likely to be at least 750 mites in the hive. Similarly, a mite wash count of 9 during summer denotes 1350 mites in the hive – which is starting to get scary! And don't forget those reproductive mites will soon emerge with their daughters.

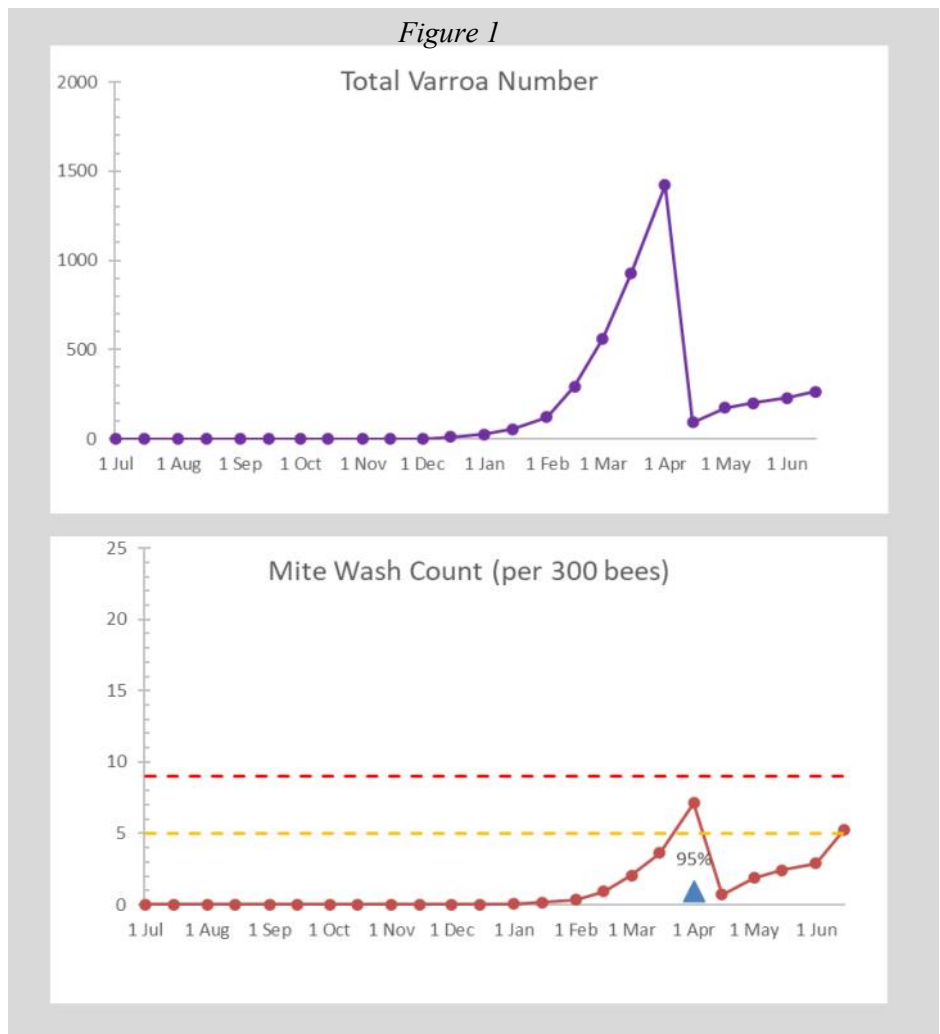
We know that once mite numbers exceed several thousand, the colony will collapse and die. How much damage do these intermediate numbers of mites cause? This is harder to determine due to the variable impact of viruses. And Australia is unusual in that we don't have deformed wing virus in our European honey bee population (keep those fingers crossed).

One way of deciding when to treat is the economic threshold. This is chosen to keep numbers below the economic injury level, which is the pest number at which treatment cost balances against losses. Researchers Cameron Jack and Jamie Ellis reviewed the literature on economic thresholds and suggest 2-5% was the level for treatment, but report a lack of data. Since then, data from Canada suggests that <1% in autumn may reduce colony loss. Monitoring weight gain in hives in France showed 3% to be the threshold above which colony performance weakened. Of note is the likelihood that high immigration during the early acute phase of the incursion may allow higher economic thresholds and economic injury levels due to mite impact being focused on adult bees rather than pupae.

All of which suggests that the recommendation from Australia's National Varroa Mite Management Plan to use treatment thresholds of 5 and 9 is very reasonable. But I'd like to challenge the thinking behind this. The concepts of integrated pest management and economic threshold have been handed down from agriculture in general. They are appropriate if you are growing cabbages. Spray with a pesticide and get more cabbages to sell. Balance the cost with the increased yield. But we are dealing with bees. We are interested not only in a harvest, but the year-to-year survival of our colonies. The more relevant metric is the number of treatments per year.

Randy Oliver has built and made available a model of mite population growth. It allows variable inputs for climate, colony size and mite immigration. Mite numbers are calculated throughout the year and treatments at various levels of efficacy can be applied. I've run extensive tests using the model, selecting the option for high mite immigration due to feral colony collapse – what we have in Australia now. Here are the results.

The first graphs (fig 1) show what happens over a year with no mites at the start of the season. Due to immigration, we hit the treatment threshold in April. I've utilized a treatment with 95% efficacy (e.g. a synthetic strip such as Apistan or Apivar, see note) and this has reduced the mites. However, the residual winter mite load is over 200.

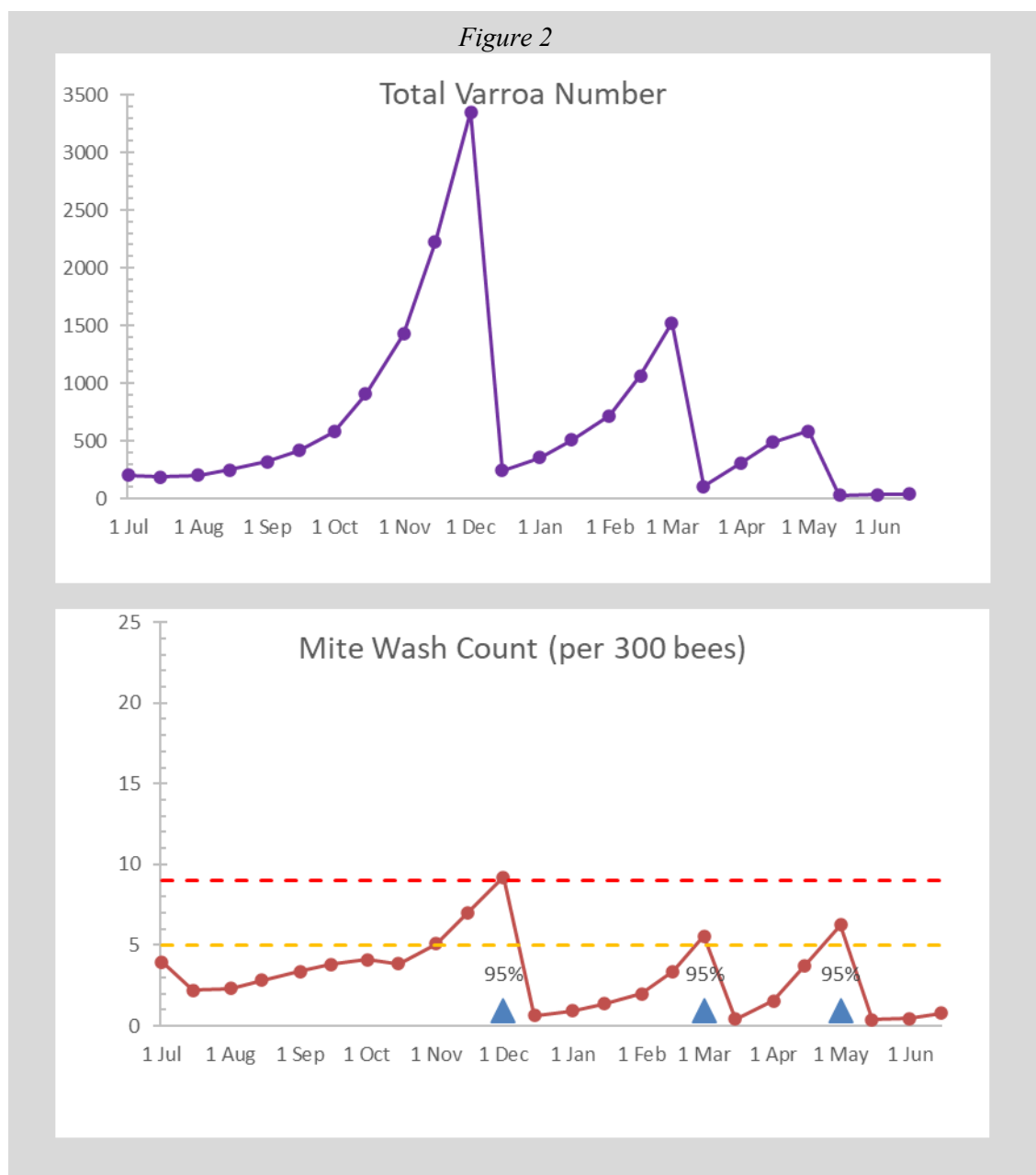


(Continued on page 17)

Mite Maths, cont'd

(Continued from page 16)

Now let's look at the following year, starting with this initial mite load of 200 (fig 2). Here, we have to treat in December (>9), March and May (note the different scale for the total mite numbers). Again, I've used the most highly effective treatments (and I have, of course, remembered to rotate between these to avoid resistance).



I've done well, ending the year with less than 50 mites. But mite numbers climbed very high, to levels that will significantly impact the bees.

What if I use the lower treatment threshold of two mites in a wash? This time I needed to treat in March and re-

(Continued on page 18)

From the AHBIC July newsletter

New AHBIC Deputy Chair – Lindsay Callaway

Lindsay has served as executive member with AHBIC since 2023 and is the current owner and managing director of Warral Maldon, based in central Victoria with over 5,000 hives.

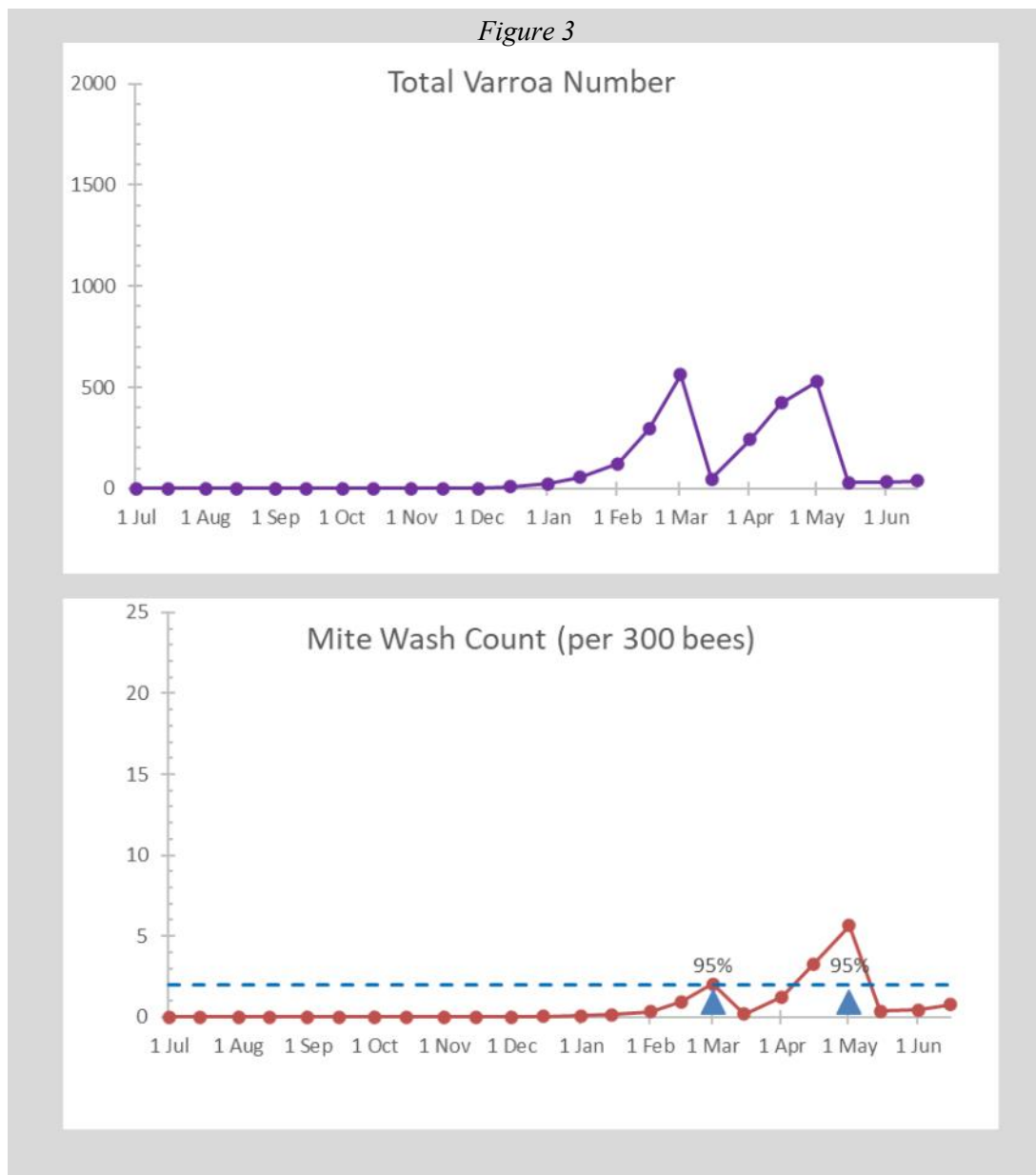
Warral Maldon found its beginning with Edward Teague Penglase in 1896 – Lindsay's great-great grandfather, making him the fifth generation owner.

Growing up in the industry, Lindsay inherited his love of bees from his dad, Roger and has continued his legacy of innovation and excellence in the beekeeping profession.

Mite Maths, cont'd

(Continued from page 17)

peated in May. It did require an extra treatment, but my mite load in winter was less than 50 (fig 3).



(Continued on page 19)

Note on Efficacy

Miticide treatments vary considerably in their efficacy, due mainly to whether mites in the reproductive phase (under the brood cappings) are affected. A flash treatment with oxalic acid will impact only the phoretic mites and so only kills about 30% of the mites in a hive when brood is present. On the other hand formic acid is more effective (~85%) as it also targets mites in brood. Synthetic miticide strips are particularly effective (~95%) as they remain in place for 6-10 weeks, thus killing mites as they emerge from the brood. Combining treatments with a brood break will greatly enhance efficacy. The table is derived from the Honey Bee Health Coalition's Tools for Varroa Management (<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/>). Note the figures for the synthetic chemicals assume no mite resistance (which has developed widely overseas).

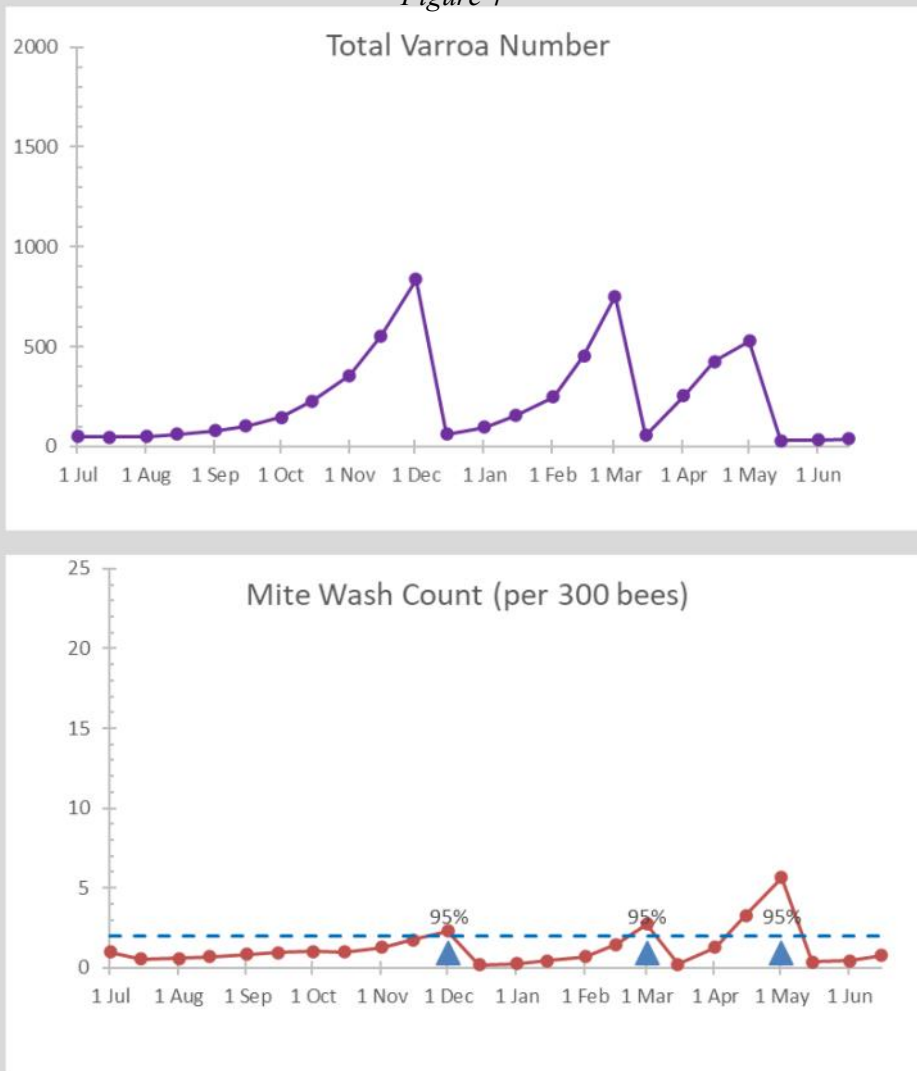
Miticide	Registrant reported efficacy
Apivar	up to 95%
Apistan	95-99%
Apiguard	74-95%
Formic Pro	83-97%
Api-Bioxal	82-99% (when brood absent)

Mite Maths, cont'd

(Continued from page 18)

And the following year, starting with 50 mites, I still needed 3 treatments (fig 4), but kept my mite numbers below 1000, ending with less than 50 mites.

Figure 4



Over the course of two years, using the higher threshold required four treatments, compared to five at the threshold of two. So, the economic argument for the “official” thresholds of 5 and 9 probably stands up (just), but with the disadvantage of hosting much higher mite numbers.

But let us consider a few other scenarios. If we compare starting mite loads of 200, we end up requiring 3 treatments per year whether we use a threshold of 2 or 5. Try as I might (pun intended) I can't simulate using less than 3 treatments per year during the initial phase of the epidemic. My conclusion from this modelling, is that waiting for mite counts to reach 5 (or worse still 9) is simply delaying the inevitable. Cameron Jack pointed out at the recent VAA conference that the more mites you have reproducing, the more opportunities there are for resistance mutations to occur. Not to mention the damage to the bees and reduction in honey gathered.⁶ During these next few years, it seems to me prudent to

treat as soon as mites appear. This is consistent with the NSW experience. Once everything settles down with less mite immigration from collapsing colonies, it will become less fraught and we may be able to transition to less frequent and more organic treatments.

Like the old election saw, “vote early, vote often”, treat early, treat often. I'm certainly going to.

Andrew Wootton is Vice President of the VAA and a certified master beekeeper with the Eastern Apicultural Society of N America. He first started beekeeping in the 1960s.

Thanks to Kris Fricke and Tony Wilsmore for helpful suggestions in the preparation of this article. This article is also published in the Australasian BeeKeeper.

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Mite Maths, cont'd

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Flower-filled dikes attract bees: 'Dikes are insect highways'

RADBOUD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN

Dikes are indispensable for bees, especially if they are home to many different plant and flower species.

A large census conducted on 157 dikes along rivers in the Netherlands revealed that more and rarer bee species live on dikes than previously thought.

According to ecologist Contant Swinkels, many more dikes can be made bee-friendly. "Many food products depend on pollination by bees. We really need these little creatures."

Over a period of three years, Radboud researchers, together with colleagues from knowledge centres, collected extensive data on the presence of bees on 160 dikes in the Netherlands, mainly in the Rhine delta (including the Waal and IJssel rivers) and along the Meuse. They encountered a total of 154 different bee species.

"That's almost half of all the species found in the Netherlands," says ecologist Constant Swinkels.

Read the article [here](#)

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Les Crowder In Australia

By John Kennedy

Les Crowder, the New Mexico beekeeper who has more than 50 years of beekeeping experience utilising both Top Bar and Langstroth hives, is making a short visit to Australia.

He is said to run 600 hives (although in his earlier years his total is reported as 4000 hives!) on a non-treatment basis, and has been multiple times, and still is currently, chair of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association.

He is also a former bee inspector in the USA and says that is where he “learned mostly what not to do”.

He designed his own Top Bar hives “finding them more natural for the honey bees nature and far less expensive than alternatives”.

Les also set about discovering how to treat disease and generic weaknesses through holistic and chemical free intervention, plant-based medicine and by promot-

ing selective breeding and disease resistance.

Les has produced several books on related topics, and according to his own webpage he is a recognised leader in Natural Beekeeping and the application of no treatment or only organic practices. His book *Top Bar Beekeeping: Organic Practices for Honey Bee Health* has sold in 60 languages.

His website notes “Les puts the wellness of the honey bee above all else as she labours enough on her own and does not need to be pushed via toxic chemicals”.

His travel itinerary sadly does not include Victoria, but he is a keynote speaker at the two day event, the Natural Beekeeping Summit, to be held at Wilsons Creek in NSW on August 23-24, along with eleven other speakers.

Les and his partner Nathalie are also scheduled to speak at public events to be held in Canberra, northern NSW and southern Qld during their local stay.

Is this what 2,500-year-old honey looks like?

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Decades ago, archaeologists discovered a sticky substance in a copper jar in an ancient Greek shrine. And until recently, the identity of the residue was still murky — is it a mixture of fats, oils and beeswax or something else? Researchers publishing in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* have reanalyzed samples of the residue using modern analytical techniques and determined that it's likely the remains of ancient honey — a conclusion previous analyses rejected. Read the article [here](#)

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From The Australasian Beekeeper

A selection from the recent writings of John Edmonds in the ABK, sent in by Kris Fricke. Many thanks to Kris for sharing, and to John Edmonds for his wide-ranging and very informative writings.

Fortunately, the rains in June have germinated crops, some appear patchy but the farmers will persist with them. Less canola and faba beans seem to be sown in my traditional areas so I might have to look further afield. I have since found some nice crops and the rain will come. I found plenty of young canola crops around the Ballarat area.

False lucerne [*Chamaecytisus palmensis*] trees have started flowering. After the 13 years of drought, they have died out compared to the numbers previously. In the 1980s they were very popular, and planted as stock feed and windbreaks. In some areas they grew as weeds. Bendigo beekeepers would winter their hives around Moorabbin with the bees foraging **Iceland poppies** [*Oreomecon nudicaulis*] grown for the flower trade and the false lucerne trees grew around the edges of the paddocks and roadsides. They produce nectar and good pollen and get the bees started early

I see scientists from Israel are warning of shifts in weather patterns due to solar flares, they can alter the weather very quickly.

Scale hives all seem to be reporting about a loss of 100g weight per day with the odd report of a positive

day.

During the sunny breaks the bees are out gathering pollen and I suspect nectar. The *Aloe Bainesii* trees I have planted around my property are flowering the best ever and the nectar eating birds are very active around them. I watched bees working the flowers for pollen despite the temperature being only 12 degrees.

The bees have slowed down foraging the faba bean flour, most likely due to no brood being raised due to the cold. Signs of some activity is in the drums, so I guess they work it when it suits them. We got a surprise when [my offsider] Thomas went around to check the hives had not been tampered with and found the faba bean flour all gone. Millena [my shop manager] has made some experimental batches with icing sugar to be fed as patties. Now the shortest day has passed the bees will start to make brood. Although lately it is too cold to open hives. Our first tasks will be to inspect the brood for varroa and disease, check honey stores, and add a patty with Agrisea supplement. When the canola starts flowering usually in August and starts yielding an extra box will be added to the strong hives.

In some areas or if the hive is weak, they may be hungry and need feeding. Just lift the rear of the hive and gauge the weight. If light I prefer to use sugar fondant under the lid. During the cold weather, sugar syrup is inclined to give the bees nosema. Today, 23/6/2025,

(Continued on page 24)

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From The Australasian Beekeeper, cont'd

(Continued from page 23)

I needed to shift a heavy hive and placed a clearer board in it. I noticed the bees had fresh nectar in the combs despite the very windy north wind.

I was interested to see a bad infection of flower mites in Queensland irritated the bees for three weeks while a tree flowered. The bees would cluster at the front of the hive and try and groom off the tiny mites. It appears no harm was done to the bees. When I was doing the Port Surveillance testing at Shell refinery, one test found flower mites but as far as I know it was only once over the 15 odd years.

Winter time is a good time to get your boxes painted and frames ready, but wait till the weather warms up to fasten the wax foundation.

Napunyah is flowering in the Channel country and after the flooding beekeepers are shifting bees into their bee sites. My Japanese temporary worker Tomo has left to work for a Queensland beekeeper as the hives are filling every four days up there. This week he has 400 new queen bees to introduce to the bee hives and boxes of honey to extract.

An easy to grow plant is *Aeonium arboreum* from the Canary Islands and Morocco. It has large bright yellow flowers that are very attractive to the bees for pollen and nectar. The first flowers have appeared and will flower till spring. It has different forms with bright green or almost-black leaves, and variegated forms are available.

Reports from America indicate that approximately 60% of commercial bee hives have died over their winter. The cause appears to be the varroa mites have become 100% resistant to Amitraz miticide. We must learn from this as so far, the varroa in Australia appears to be free of resistance to the authorized treatments. I hope that more treatments will become available for use. I have been told the American beekeepers repeatedly use Amitraz or its equivalent. So not surprising the mites have resistance.

Autumn control of varroa is very important as for every one mite killed in the autumn that is 1,000 less varroa mites in the spring. I see we will have to forgo autumn honey flows. My friend in New Zealand said he has a 10-week program in autumn to rid the hives of varroa.

Commercial beekeepers pollinating seed canola crops in the Riverina have had hive numbers cut back due to a lack of irrigation water being available. This will have an impact on the large operators that rely on the pollination.

At present I am informed that the Grampians National Park is still closed, every bitumen road is blocked. Questions were asked at the Halls Gap office and the reply was there is "no money to repair the infrastructure after the fires." In the areas he could access my friend says the fire has been brutal and many trees look like they have died. The grass trees have responded with new growth. After fires they can be a good source of

(Continued on page 25)



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- Hive inspections to ensure endemic diseases and hive strength are monitored.



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2,670 Ha
15,500 HIVES
SOUTHERN REGION

1,570 Ha
9,500 HIVES
SWAN HILL REGION

WHAT TO KNOW

- We have had a relationship with the bee and pollination industry that spans over 30 years
- Bloom period = month of August
- Mature hive stocking rates = 5-6 hives/ha
- Minimum pollination standard = 8 frames of bees per hive



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From The Australasian Beekeeper, cont'd

(Continued from page 24)

nectar and pollen as they flower. From previous fires I expect it will be 8 to 10 years before we see the manuka provide honey crops. Last time a savage frost burnt off the manuka seedlings when they were about 50mm high, hopefully we do not see that happen again. After each fire we see the floral species mix change and less honey producing flora and more wattles and pines take over.

Tasmanian beekeepers have had research done on the composition of leatherwood honey and have found similar chemicals to manuka honey that will make it another medicinal honey.

A beekeeper was using a drone about 200 meters from his beehives and discovered the bees attacking the drone. Comments on the internet endorsed the beekeepers findings. I guess the whirring of the propellers annoyed the bees. I have seen drones used to observe queen mating and this did not seem to worry the bees.

The forecast for the winter and spring for southern Victoria is above average maximum temperatures, below average minimum temperature, drier than average. Below average soil moisture. Water storages in western Victoria are the lowest since 2003. Rainfall will be below average. The sea temperatures are above average. I know I am getting older but the nights seem colder than usual.

The Australian beekeepers need to unite and fight to

stop imported honey coming into Australia. My friend has returned from a trip overseas and says the honey prices are far greater through the European countries he visited. Beekeepers cannot survive in the future on the present prices being paid.

Polyphagus Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) beetles [*Euwallacea fornicatus*] is an Asian wood-boring insect and has been introduced to areas around Perth Western Australia. Control areas have been implemented but containment looks unlikely. The beetle bores very small holes into the trees and forms galleries in which a host Fungus *Fusarium euwallacae* then makes black fungus that the beetle larvae feed on. The female can infest other trees up to 400 meters away. Frass and small holes can be seen as the trees limbs wilt and die. The larvae interfere with the trees water and food conducting systems. Unfortunately, many varieties of trees are infected. **Box elder** [*Acer negundo*] seems to be the most favored but many garden plants and trees are also hosts. The Australian *Corymbia* species seem to be at risk (**Marri** [*Corymbia calophylla*], and **western Australian red flowering gum** [*Corymbia ficifolia*]), but fig trees, and even camellias are at risk. The list of trees is very extensive. Hopefully this pest does not transfer to the Eastern states but I fear it will come in timber products. It certainly appears to have the potential to decimate our forests.

Something beekeepers need to be aware of is the

(Continued on page 26)

Quality hiveware direct from the manufacturer

Whirrakee Woodware are one of Australia's largest manufacturers of quality timber products for beekeeping.

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STOCKISTS OF



PROUDLY MADE
IN AUSTRALIA

From The Australasian Beekeeper, cont'd

(Continued from page 25)

possible incursion of yellow legged hornets [*Vespa velutina*] from Asia. These hornets have done a lot of damage to bee hives in France and now moving into Spain, Portugal and England. We need to be observant

and report any suspicious sightings. It was an ex British beekeeper, Fred Bailey, who first reported English wasps (*Vespula vulgaris*) in East Malvern in 1958, but the authorities did not take any action. Now they have become a pest.

ANOTHER VOLUME ON DISEASES & PESTS OF BEES

By John Kennedy

New books on beekeeping, even reprints of important early editions, continue to emerge as multiple new releases every month.

One of the major sources is the family owned and run Northern Bee Books in the UK (www.northernbeebooks.co.uk). Founder Jeremy Burbidge began as a beekeeper and bee book dealer over 50 years ago, and his business now boasts over 350 titles, most of which he has published! Jeremy claims to sell more books into the USA than anywhere else.

One of the new releases is *Diseases and Pests of Honeybees*.

It's a paperback of 192 pages and has an asking price of 21 pounds sterling - to which \$A conversion and postage applies.

It is authored by five individual beekeepers and provides comprehensive information on bee diseases and pests.

"We have listed good beekeeping practices including preventative measures that could be used to improve bee health.

"Most of what is listed is described as useful across the world, however beekeeping practices, climate and government regulations vary significantly".

Whilst obviously valuable, this book needs to be considered alongside the local 210 page hardback *Honey Bee Pests and Diseases* compiled by local experts Robert Owen, JP Scheerlinck and Mark Stevenson and released only a year or so ago here, and should be in the library of every interested serious beekeeper as an important reference.



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maunderjmcv@bigpond.com

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Honey Bees In Southern California Remove 80% Of Pollen

By John Kennedy

A report just published in *Science Daily* on a research project undertaken by the University of California San Diego, claims that honey bees are out competing native pollinators in Southern California by removing the vast majority of pollen, making it harder for native bees to survive and reproduce.

The study says this is causing a threat to native ecosystems.

The study, compiled by four academic biologists*, says that by removing up to 80% of pollen in a day the invasive honey bees dominate nearly all bee biomass in the region, severely disrupting food sources for over 700 species of native bees.

The report says the majority of the earth's plant species, including crop plants, rely on the services of animal pollinators in order to reproduce.

"Honey bees and other pollinating insects annually contribute millions of dollars to the US Economy and are responsible for nearly a third of the food that ends up on our tables.

They add "while honey bees in general are being threatened by habitat loss, climate change and chemical pollution the researchers say that such a level of honey bee pollen exploitation is not well documented and could pose an additional and important threat to native bee populations in places where honey bees have become abundant.

"Even as the number of managed honey bee colonies is increasing worldwide due to the commercial beekeep-

ing industry, many species of native pollinators are declining.

"Public concern for honey bees often fails to consider their potential negative impacts on native pollinators" the authors note.

*The study by Travis, Kong, Hollway and Hung was published in *Science Daily* on 7 July 2025.



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Since launching in March, the Victorian Apiarists' Association's (VAA) livestream platform, HiveMeet, has resonated strongly with beekeepers across Australia, achieving 1,748 views and reinforcing our commitment to accessible education and engagement. This dynamic platform is rapidly proving itself as an essential tool for connecting and educating beekeepers across the nation, fostering a truly thriving and informed community.

HiveMeet offers free, highly informative live monthly sessions with leading local and international beekeeping experts, held on the first Thursday of every month. The true strength of HiveMeet lies in its interactive nature, you can engage directly by posting your questions during the live stream.

The VAA understands busy schedules, so for those who cannot tune in live, recordings are immediately available on the VAA YouTube channel. Reminders and links to registration for upcoming HiveMeet sessions are conveniently included in our bulletin or you can simply go to the VAA events page to register.

As varroa continues to establish itself, VAA HiveMeet provides a crucial, timely, and accessible forum for beekeepers to gain vital insights and perspectives from experienced apiarists, scientists and government agencies. Its growing viewership is a testament to its invaluable contribution to the need to broaden our collective knowledge and preparedness.

August HiveMeet Session: Dr Mark Goodwin on Varroa Management

Thursday, 07th August, 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM AEST.

The VAA will host renowned bee scientist **Dr Mark Goodwin** from New Zealand. With over three decades of experience, Dr Goodwin, a former leader of the Pol-

ination and Apiculture research team at Plant & Food Research, is a leading New Zealand authority on honey bee pests and diseases. He is the co-author of the essential guide, *Control of Varroa: A Guide for New Zealand Beekeepers*, and his extensive knowledge of varroa management and integrated pest management strategies will offer critical lessons learned from New Zealand's experience. This is an opportunity to hear directly from New Zealand's foremost experts on a challenge directly impacting our industry.

SEPTEMBER HiveMeet Session: Kris Fricke on Varroa Management for Victoria Thursday, 04th September, 8:00 PM

Join Us and Strengthen Our Community

Register for the live stream on the VAA Events

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

Join Live stream:

https://www.youtube.com/live/b6fO_H53bpo

Unable to attend live. Watch the recording later:

<https://www.youtube.com/>

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

The VAA is committed to keeping our beekeeping community connected, informed, and resilient. The resounding success of HiveMeet, reflected in its impressive views, truly highlights its immense value to every beekeeper. We strongly encourage you to embrace this outstanding resource. Tune in, participate, and contribute to building this powerful platform, proudly sponsored by BQUAL. By spreading the word through your beekeeping network and on your social media, you directly strengthen our beekeeping community for the benefit of all.

Angelique Drew



HiveMeet

"Varroa, here now; what it means for you!"

Streaming Live



Thursday 4th September, 8pm

youtube.com/VictorianApiaristsAssociation

Guest Speaker: Kris Fricke,
Victorian Varroa Development Officer

VAA HiveMeet is sponsored by B-Qual



Make Your Iced Tea With Honey

By John Kennedy

It's fair to say that most of the United Kingdom and Europe have been enjoying an uncharacteristically warm summer.

There are many reports of protracted day runs with the local temperature running about 30 degrees plus.

In London I understand, there has also been at least one day with the gauges showing a peak reaching 36 degrees.

This may seem of no real concern to beekeepers, who in many parts of Australia will endure temperatures higher than this regularly.

But overseas, remedies for hydration and cooling are now being regularly brought out.

The London Honey Company of Steve Jeffery, a fully integrated honey producer and smart retailer, has come up with the idea of Homemade Iced Tea With Honey.

They present what they say is their simple no sugar recipe, that uses the natural sweetness of British honey

to create a delicious refreshing drink.

"With no refined sugar and no artificial sweeteners that you find in many of the off-the-shelf mixed tea products.

"Using honey as a natural sweetener for your summer drinks - alcoholic cocktails or mocktails - is a great way to add flavour with a hint of sweetness, without making them overly sugary.

"For us, British honey is simply the best natural sweetener ingredient you will find".

Their recipe involves sweetening the tea while its hot (not just boiled).

They propose using Black, Orange Pekoe and/or Earl Grey tea with freshly sliced lemons and some fresh mint leaves with ice. After allowing it to cool slightly add two tablespoons of honey and stir until it dissolves.

Then allow it to cool naturally and place in the fridge and serve over ice, with the sliced lemon and fresh mint leaves

As our daily temperature cycle turns towards summer, why not give it a try?

Heat and heavy metals are changing the way that bees buzz

SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

Ongoing research into the effect of environmental change on the buzzing of bees reveals that high temperatures and exposure to heavy metals reduces the frequency (and audible pitch) of non-flight wing vibrations, which could have consequences on the effectiveness of bee communication and their role as pollinators.

"People have been long interested in how insect flight muscles work, as these muscles power the most efficient flight systems in nature," says Dr Charlie Woodrow, a post-doctoral researcher at Uppsala University.

Read the article [here](#)



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Report On The CVAA Survey, Part 2

Millie Enbom-Goad, Secretary and Executive Member, Central Victorian Apiarists' Association 4 May 2025
Continued from the July ABJ

D. Communications With Relevant Departments

Anecdotally, beekeepers report that they are dissatisfied with communications with the relevant departments to address issues surrounding sites. Two questions in the survey address this in particular:

10) *If you have applied for new licenced sites within the last 5 years, how long did that process take you from first contact with the Department until receiving a positive or negative response?*

11) *If you have contacted the Department in relation to site maintenance or other general enquiries about sites within the last 5 years, how long did it take you to receive a response?*

Responses to these questions were varied, with the predominant time for responses regarding:

a) new licenced site applications being between 6 months and 1 year (45%); and

b) general queries about sites being less than 3 months (27%).

In particular, sub-paragraph (b) above excludes responses of “not applicable”. Additionally respondents commented that the response time and process varied greatly between regions.

Comments also highlighted difficulties they had with the process, notwithstanding responses received within a timeframe of less than 3 months.

One respondent commented as follows with regards to applications for new sites:

“Varies, but ALWAYS has been above the 45 days quoted in Apiculture on Public Land policy/Procedure. It has never been under 6 months and we have recently managed to get some applications moving again after being stalled for close to 4 years.”

Another respondent, in response to the question about general queries, commented:

“most every time it is never happens and nothing is ever done. I have issues ive been trying to have addressed for 30 plus years now and still nothing has happened, but threats have been given if I was to remove timber for the sites or cut trees down.”

E. How To Improve Bushfire and Natural Disaster Resilience for Beekeepers

There was no clear consensus amongst the responses as to what the most important measure or policy would be to improve bushfire and natural disaster resilience for beekeepers in Victoria.

The priorities were improved access to forests and sites and/or improved and more transparent site application processes. The next most important measure thereafter was improved lines of communication with government, regional planned burn officers and forest managers.

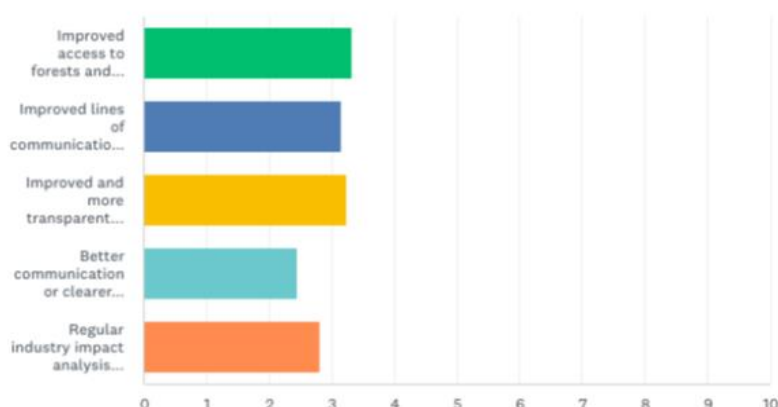
F. Conclusion

The results of the CVAA survey highlight significant and ongoing challenges faced by commercial beekeepers in Victoria, particularly regarding site access, bushfire impact, and communication with government authorities. Beekeepers report widespread concerns over deteriorating road conditions, limited access to public land, and the long-term effects of fire events on floral resources. Additionally, frustrations with slow and inconsistent responses from relevant departments suggest a need for greater transparency and efficiency in site management and licensing processes.

To support the industry's resilience, key areas for improvement include better road and infrastructure maintenance, more collaborative approaches to

What measures or policies do you think would improve bushfire and other natural disaster resilience for beekeepers in Victoria? (Please use the arrows to move the comments up or down, with comments at the top being the most important to you)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



planned burns, and a streamlined, more responsive licensing and communication system. Addressing these issues will be critical to ensuring the sustainability of beekeeping in Victoria, especially in the face of increasing environmental and regulatory pressures. An earlier version of this report was presented at the VAA Resources Subcommittee meeting in March 2025, where State government representatives were also in attendance. The CVAA will continue to advocate for these necessary changes and work with stakeholders to find practical solutions that benefit both beekeepers and the broader ecosystem.



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Website: [Honey bees | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](http://Honey%20bees%20|%20Livestock%20and%20animals%20|%20Agriculture%20Victoria)
Website:
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/honey-bees

To report a suspect exotic please call: Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881
For enquiries and endemic disease notification please use:
Ph: 136 186
Email honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Varroa project team can also be contacted at the above email.
For enquiries related to permits and movement restrictions:
Email honeybee.permits@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For beekeeper registration please log onto BeeMAX
www.bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au

or call the Bee Registration Helpline 1800 356 761

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Karyn Di Florio

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

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

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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,
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E: landadmin.hume@deeca.vic.gov.au
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Loddon Mallee

Justin Hoy (primary contact) –
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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,
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Ph: 136 186
E: customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au

Statewide Transaction Centre (Seymour based)

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president.cpaa.us@gmail.com
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Secretary: Janet Clyde
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Collingwood Childrens' Farm Apiary

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collingwoodbees@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/collingwoodbees

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

Information/ Education Meetings:
from 7:30 pm the last Thursday
of each month except December
Location: Church of Christ,
1 The Avenue, Surry Hills.

Sunraysia Branch:

Naomi Forbes-Wilson

Ph: 0407 243 313

billabonghoney@yahoo.com

VAA Inc. Library Trust

Secretary: Russell Goodman,
Ph 03 9735 3836

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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

Phone: 0400 667 125 (Secretary)

Postal Address: PO Box 87., 84

Bulla Rd., Bulla, VIC 3428

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: wbfsm@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
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](mailto:secretary@melbournebeekeepersclub.org.au)

Northwestern Bee Club Inc.

President: Roger Mitchell

Mob. 0407 427 431

northwesternbeeclub@gmail.com

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

Mornington Peninsula Beekeepers Association :

P.O. Box 186, Mornington, 3931

Ph: 0401 965 558

E: admin@mpba.org.au

Monthly MPBA Club Meeting -
4th Wednesday of every month
at 7pm Mornington Park Pavilion,
9 Flinders Drive, Mornington

Moonee Valley Beekeepers Club Inc. (MVBC Inc.)

Secretary: Paul Kucera

mvbeekeepersclub@gmail.com

Meets at 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

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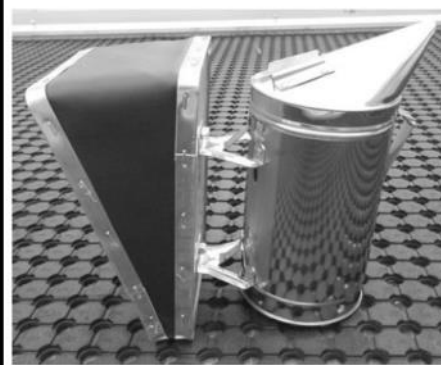
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August Beekeeper Events: Commercial Beekeeping Focus



Thursday 21 August

1:00pm - 3:00pm | Beekeeping Forum

Queen Breeding for a Varroa Tolerance Research Apiary

- The how and why of setting up a research apiary.
- Benefits to the apiculture sector.

3:00pm - 5:00pm | Commercial Beekeeper Social

- VAA Commercial Subcommittee invites you to a social catch-up in between the beekeeper forums.

5:00pm - 7:00pm | Beekeeping Forum

IPM Options and Non-Synthetic Chemicals

- Non-synthetic chemicals from a commercial organic perspective.
- Greece's culture of IPM in their beekeeping industry.
- Implementing cultural change within the Victorian beekeeping industry.

Friday 22 August

9:30am - 5:30pm | CVAA Annual Conference

- Frank Lindsay (NZ) - Varroa management
- 60 years of the CVAA
- National Centre for Farmers' Health
- Trade Stalls
- Partners and families welcome.

Conference Registrations

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1432740>

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