

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"

Volume 8 Number 5

September-October 2015



DENMAR APIARIES

ITALIAN

Prices effective from 1 July 2012

UNTESTED

1-10 \$24.55 each

11-49 \$18.50 each

50+ \$16.00 each



ISOLATED MATED BREEDERS \$280.00 EACH

TERMS 7 DAYS

Late Payments - Add \$2 Per Queen

PAYMENT BY: Cheque or Direct Debit

Details on ordering

QUEEN BEES

PO Box 99 WONDAL Queensland 4606

Phone: (07) 4168 6005 Fax: (07) 4169 0966

International Ph: +61 7 4168 6005 Fax: +61 7 4169 0966

Email: ausbee4@hotmail.com



John or Stephen Covey

Email: sales@coveybees.com.au

Ph: 0427 046 966

PO Box 72 Jimboomba QLD 4280

Specialising in

Caucasian Queen Bees

1 - 9	.....	\$26 ea
10 - 49	.....	\$22 ea
50 - 199	.....	\$19.50 ea
200 and over per season	.....	Discounts apply
Queen Cells	.....	\$6 ea - collect only

Post and Handling \$15 per dispatch under 50 qty.

Prices include GST

Valid September 2015 to March 2016

Breeder Queens - \$550

Naturally mated on a remote island

Terms: Payment 10 days prior to dispatch

HONEY Down Under

Lloyd & Dawn Smith

Committed to maximising returns to beekeepers

Honey & Beeswax for sale?

Call us for a quote

Phone 07 3271 2830 Fax 07 3376 0017

Mobile 0418 786 158

136 Mica Street, Carole Park Qld 4300

Email: hdunder@bigpond.net.au



Stop By and Visit Our New Shop

18 East Street, Barton Highway
Murrumbateman NSW 2582

P: 02 6226 8866 M: 0408 260 164

E: sales2@bindaree.com.au W: www.bindaree.com.au



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

The official Journal of the NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) www.nswaa.com.au

Published Bi-Monthly Email: honeybeenews@bigpond.com ISSN 1835 6621

CONTENTS

Executive & Industry Contacts	Page 4	Research Project - Leptospermum Honey	Page 18
President's Report	Page 5	Letter to the Editor	Page 19
Marcus Oldham Leadership Program	Page 6	Nick's News - <i>What Packers see are the main issues</i>	Page 20
Honeybees Return to Government House	Page 6	SA Hobby Beekeepers beeing proactive	Page 21
New Members	Page 8	Tribute to Elaine Rogers - RAS	Page 27
VALE - Bob Perkins	Page 8	SICK BEES - Part 18F2 <i>Synthetic Pesticides</i>	Page 30
457 Visa Training Committment	Page 8	Blue Bees - <i>Advertorial</i>	Page 38
Bee Biosecurity Officer - Position Vacant	Page 12	AHBIC News	Page 39
Doug's Column - <i>Rules & Regulations</i>	Page 14	Classifieds/ Beekeeping Journals	Page 44
Frost Report - <i>Education in Australia & Vietnam</i>	Page 16	Advertisers	Page 46

COVER: His Excellency The Hon David Hurley, Governor of NSW and 'Beekeeper by Appointment' Bruce White OAM inspecting hives at the Illawarra ABA Branch at Sutherland PHOTO: Emmanuel Farrugia

Copy Deadline for Next Issue of *Australia's Honeybee News* - 20 November 2015

Pre-Paid Advertising Rates

	FULL PAGE		HALF PAGE		QUARTER PAGE		EIGHTH PAGE	
	<i>B & W</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>B & W</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>B & W</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>B & W</i>	<i>Colour</i>
6 Issues	\$1180.00	\$1950.00	\$680.00	\$1100.00	\$440.00	\$595.00	\$250.00	\$355.00
3 Issues	\$710.00	\$1100.00	\$420.00	\$590.00	\$265.00	\$325.00	\$160.00	\$200.00
1 Issue	\$290.00	\$430.00	\$160.00	\$240.00	\$120.00	\$160.00	\$85.00	\$110.00

Classified Ads up to 5 lines - \$40.00 (Free to Members)

Australia's Honeybee News goes free of charge to NSWAA members. Subscriptions are welcome - within Australia \$45.00, Overseas (airmail) AUS\$65.00 - Payable to NSWAA, PO Box 833 Mudgee 2850 Australia Email: info@nswaa.com.au

The opinions expressed in articles published in *Australia's Honeybee News* are those of the authors and do not imply the endorsement of the NSWAA for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

Editor: Margaret Blunden PO Box 352 Leichhardt NSW 2040 - Phone: 02 9798 6240
Advertising Enquiries: Mobile: 0411 662 014 Fax: 02 9797 8061 Email: honeybeenews@bigpond.com

Printer: Farrell Printers PO Box 253 Croydon NSW 2132
 Phone: (02) 9550 4055 Fax: 02 9550 3403 Email: rob@farrellprinters.com.au

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Association Membership year runs from: 1 March to 28 February

Affiliated/Retired/Student	\$65.00	1 vote
0 to 10 hives	\$65.00	1 vote
11 to 200 hives	\$120.00	2 votes
201 to 400 hives	\$180.00	4 votes
401 to 700 hives	\$230.00	6 votes
701 to 1000 hives	\$300.00	8 votes
1001 to 1500 hives	\$340.00	10 votes
Over 1500 hives	\$400.00	12 votes

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Provide a means for the commercial apiarists of NSW to be represented through a common organisation
- Lobby to maintain access to essential floral resources
- Help to secure your Industry's future
- Provide strong representation to Government
- Membership Badge
- Copy of Code of Practice for Keeping Bees on Forested Lands
- Annual subscription to *Australia's Honeybee News* the NSWAA bi-monthly Journal and free classified advertisement in Journal
- Annual State Conference & Trade/Field Days
- Support beekeepers in all regions through 9 NSWAA Branches
- Provide opportunities to meet other beekeepers and NSW DPI representatives at meetings, workshops and conferences
- AUSURE Insurance Brokers (5% Discount on all policies) Leigh Laydon Ph: 02 4822 1322 E: leigh.layden@ausure.com.au
- WFI - Insurance for Rural Business, Business & Strata - 1300 934 934. WFI provides commission to NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) to help member benefits. Please let your local Area Manager know that you are a member to receive this benefit for the Association. - Ms Jane Hayes Mob: 0417 943 451 E: jane.hayes@wfi.com.au
- SCHUTZ (Australia) Pty Ltd - IBCs special members' rate

NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Casey Cooper, Kate McGilvray, Stephen Targett, Shona Blair, Neil Bingley, Rob Michie

PRESIDENT: Neil Bingley 101 Woodfield Rd Sutton 2620 M: 0428 487 105 Email: beez101@bigpond.net.au
VICE PRESIDENT: Casey Cooper Darby's Road Tingha 2369 M: 0428 233 551 Email: cooperbees@bigpond.com.au
COUNCILLORS:
 Rob Michie 127 Stirling Rd Moore Creek 2340 Ph: 02 6767 1066 Email: robraem@westnet.com.au
 Dr Shona Blair 13 Lambert St Erskineville 2043 Ph: 0422 977 510 Email: shonaebclair@gmail.com
 Stephen Targett PO Box 325 Narrandera NSW 2700 Ph: 0428 649 321 Email: wally56@hotmail.com
SECRETARY/TREASURER: Kate McGilvray PO Box 833 Mudgee 2850 Ph: 02 6373 1435
 Email: info@nswaa.com.au Website: www.nswaa.com.au

BRANCHES

Central Tablelands
 Hunter Valley
 North Coast
 Northern Tablelands
 Riverina
 Southern Tablelands
 Sydney
 Tamworth
 Western Plains

PRESIDENTS

Mal Porter 02 6337 5383
 Col Wilson 02 4930 4950
 Barry Watts 02 6689 5359
 Brian Woolfe 02 6732 3168
 David Mumford 02 6959 2519
 James Kershaw 0400 370 481
 Paul Drew 02 9887 1175
 Ray Hull 02 6760 3634
 Bryn Jones 02 6887 2638

SECRETARIES

Debbie Porter 02 6337 5383
 TBA
 Col Maloney 02 6663 7051
 Allyssa Staggs 02 6723 1361
 John Smith 02 6926 2227
 Tara Er 0414 527 481
 Tanya Ananin 0414 501 198
 Norm Maher 0447 603 245
 Lisa Mumford 02 6887 2638

AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (AHBIC)

Chairman: Ian Zadow Mob: 0429 433 125
 PO Box 339, Tintinara SA 5266
 Ph: 08 8757 2435 Email: immjzad@bigpond.com

Executive Director: Trevor Weatherhead Ph: 07 5467 2265
 Mailing address: PO Box 4253, Raceview QLD 4305
 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au

HONEY BEE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (HBRDC)

Ms Margie Heath, Project Manager, RIRDC PO Box 4776, Kingston ACT 2604 Ph: 02 6271 4145
 Email: Margaret.Heath@rirdc.gov.au Website: www.rirdc.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (AQBBA)

Secretary: Mrs Paula Dewar, 157 Lake Moogerah Road Kalbar QLD 4309 Ph: 07 5463 5633 Email: aqbba@bigpond.com

CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION (CPA)

Secretary: Mr Stephen Targett, PO Box 325 Narrandera NSW 2700 Ph: 0428 649 321 Email: wally.56@hotmail.com

HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

Secretary: Mr Ross Christiansen Email: ross@superbee.com.au



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



RESOURCES

- It is extremely disheartening not to have received any responses to my requests for members to inform your Association of any sites lost to the industry due to land tenure change in recent years. I have had numerous reports of such cases but as yet no responses have been forthcoming, so my position on your Industry Resource Committee is hindered when negotiating with the relevant government agencies, but I will continue to argue for a sustainable and equitable system of bee site allocation and fee structures as well as advocate the necessity to allow new sites where appropriate and re-issue of lost bee sites as a matter of priority.
- Vice President, Casey Cooper, and I met with Minister Speakman, Minister for the Environment, on 22 September and had discussions as to industries concerns over non recognition of private lands bee sites that are incorporated into new National Parks. We communicated to the Minister that any loss of resource was an impediment to being able to supply hives to service pollination requirements. No solution was forthcoming. We will continue to work with policy personnel at the Office of the Environment and Heritage aiming at developing an acceptable outcome.
- There has been progression on our aim to have a whole of government approach to Apiary Policy across all government agencies, with the formation of a working group consisting of representatives from all relevant government agencies and myself as NSWAA representative, is now being formed. Our first meeting is due to be held sometime in October.
- FCNSW has advised that until a new policy is formulated:
 - New permits will be issued to 31 March 2016, including Western Region;
 - Existing permits will be renewed for one year until 31 March 2017;
 - Hive numbers on sites will be limited to 200.If members have any queries on these or other FCNSW matters please contact Richard Rienstra: richard.reinstra@FCNSW.com.au or 02 6586 9733.
- The process of gaining consensus across all government agencies will in my opinion be a lengthy process but must be pursued to enable our industry to grow and prosper. Currently we have to deal with individual agencies, all with varying ideals and policies which creates many problems for individual beekeepers and industry as a whole as we strive to ensure, we as beekeepers can meet future demands for pollination services and food security to NSW.

DPI

- Tim Burfitt officially retires from NSW DPI on 2 October. Tim has been a real asset to the NSWAA executive during his time as manager Intensive Livestock. His replacement has been announced and we were fortunate to meet Alex Russell at our recent executive meeting. Alex is based at Dubbo and has 19 years experience in the department in the sheep industry. Alex comes to us highly recommended by those who know him. The executive were able to relate to Alex the main issues affecting the beekeeping industry and we hope he will work as strongly and tirelessly as Tim for our cause.
- Industry still awaits the arrival of Elizabeth Frost into Australia. As mentioned in my last report Elizabeth will be joining the DPI team to be based at Tocal College. She

has also been appointed as NSWAA's representative on the AHBIC education committee. As Elizabeth's visa has still not been approved, I have sent a letter to the Federal Immigration Minister emphasising that Elizabeth's position in the role of industry education is of vital importance and as such could her visa application be expedited as a matter of urgency.

TOP BEEKEEPER

The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation [RIRDC] is looking to create a series of video case studies featuring leading beekeepers to help others learn best practice techniques. The nominated beekeeper must be willing to star in a short video on RIRDC's YouTube channel. One nominee will be selected from all nominated nationally to receive a RIRDC funded travel award. The selected nominee must be willing to travel and convey their experiences to the industry. Any member wishing to be considered by your executive as NSW's nominee please advise secretary Kate McGilvray info@nswaa.com.au

CONFERENCE

Next year's conference will be held in Albury on 12- 13 May 2016. Your executive is well into discussions over speaker content and we will advise as soon as details become available.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

The next executive meeting will be held in Dubbo on Monday 7 December 2015.

GOVERNANCE

At conference in July a motion was carried to substantially increase membership fees. The reason behind this move was to allow for the possible employment of an Executive Officer or a combination of increased use of outsourcing of relevant expertise on current issues and increased secretarial hours. After discussions at our executive meeting it was resolved to use expertise on an as needs basis until such time as our Association has sufficient financial backing to enable further deliberations as to whether we pursue a full or part time executive officer position. If you as members believe your Association is approaching the issue of resource security in an acceptable manner, I urge you to continue your financial support. Without your support your Association will be unable to put time and resources into the extremely important resource issue. Your executive is in the final stages of developing a business plan, which has as priority One, Resource. Further information on this plan will be advised when available.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

NSWAA has been notified that Certificate III in beekeeping has been added to the NSW skills list. What this means to industry I am not quite sure other than some funding will be available to employers to assist training of new employees.

We can expect more information in the area of vocational training once Elizabeth Frost assumes her position at Tocal College.

BEE VIGILANT

As Canola crops wane some growers are considering pesticide use, please make sure your contact details are readily available to persons wishing to spray, hopefully avoiding serious bee losses.

State President

Neil Bingley

MARCUS OLDHAM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Thanks to the NSWAA committee I had the pleasure of attending the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership Program in late June of 2015. The seven day course has three coordinators: Fiona Chambers of Fernleigh Free-Range, Mike Stephens from Meridian Agriculture, and Neil Inall (former ABC Rural Reporter) from day one the coordinators were loading us up with useful tips and insights into rural leadership. From social media, to emotional intelligence, the Program was extremely informative and I would highly recommend it to anyone working in agriculture.

We stayed at the Marcus Oldham Campus, on the outskirts of Geelong. It was like being in a fishbowl, cut off from the outside world. Each day was a solid 10 hours of learning, followed by formal dinners with industry leaders including John Hughes, Chairman of National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council Limited, and Dr Dawn Casey who spoke about leadership and innovation.

The program really was focused on fine tuning leadership skills such as communication skills like negotiation and working with the media. We also looked at ourselves and learnt about how we can understand others by understanding ourselves. At times it even got pretty emotional for some of the participants.

One of the most important ideas I took away from the program was the need for a succession plan. As we know commercial beekeeping is usually a family affair. In fact agriculture tends to be a family affair, and sometimes we don't give succession planning as much consideration as it deserves. The plan might be that in three years one of the children is going to take over. But how is that actually going to happen? Should we sell the farm to them? Or maybe we should sign the business over to them. Sometimes these questions aren't thought about until crunch time, and then it can get very stressful and messy.

The importance of a planned succession really struck me as a young member of the family who may be taking over a family business one day. I remember thinking that as I get older and take on more responsibility I really want things to be as smooth and fair as possible.

Overall, attending the Marcus Oldham Rural leadership Program was an incredible week for me. I learnt so much about myself, how to work successfully with others and ways to work towards a better world for bees and beekeepers. I'm extremely grateful to the NSW Apiarist Association by helping me to become a better beekeeper and I hope I can use these skills to make difference in our industry.

Mitchell Pearce

**DALRYMPLE
VIEW** APIARY SUPPLIES

**Neil, Sharon and
Cameron Masters**
Manufacturers and
Suppliers of all your
Beekeeping Needs

Dalrymple View Pty Ltd
65 Forde Street
Allora Q 4362
Phone/Fax 07 4666 3635
Mobile 0407 762 847
Email nma66500@bigpond.net.au

HONEYBEES RETURN TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE

His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retired), Governor of NSW has installed two hives at Government House. He had previously approached Bruce White at the *Honeyland* stand at the Sydney Show expressing an interest in keeping bees and has also visited the Bee Garden at Sutherland operated by the Illawarra Amateur Beekeepers.

On Friday 4 September a privileged group of representatives from the beekeeping Industry were invited to morning tea with the Governor and Mrs Hurley at Government House.

We were greeted by Estate Manager Mr Dayn Cooper who showed us the Governor's Apiary and we inspected the bees that had been delivered by Bruce White (*Beekeeper by Appointment!*) the previous Friday. The bees appeared to be settling in well, enjoying their new home and the vast array of flowers in the neighbouring Royal Botanic Gardens.

After a very tasty morning tea and a chat we were given a tour of the house and an informative insight into the life of Governors of NSW – past and present.

Note: The very first honeybees that arrived in Australia in 1822 went to the Governor's residence which at that time was situated in Parramatta.



The Governor having a close look



Bruce sharing his knowledge



At Government House

Photos: Emmanuel Farrugia



Bee smarter

See us at the NSWAA Bee Trade Show
at Penrith Panthers 2 & 3rd July, 2015



Get Sorted quickly and efficiently with a utility multi-purpose loader from Avant Equipment Pty Ltd.

We supply and support **AVANT** and **AUSA** range of Compact Loaders, Telehandlers and Rough Terrain Forklifts.

Manufactured in Europe to the highest specifications, these machines are rugged, reliable and well designed for access, safety and ease of maintenance. Work smarter not harder.



- + Easy to use
- + High clearance, all wheel drive
- + Lightweight and compact
- + Easy transport / storage
- + 100+ attachments
- + Backed by a family firm in business for 36 years



ACT NOW

It will be the
best addition
to your
business

Free Call - 1800 686 411
or Ph- 02 42726853

www.avantequipment.com
email - sales@avantequipment.com

- + Easy finance options
- + Models also available for lease
- + Excellent finance rates and payments customised to suit your seasonal income
- + Prompt delivery anywhere in Australia

**Avant Equipment
Pty Ltd**



NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Graham Baker	Glen Innes
Nadine Chapman	Penrith
Nicholai Drake	North Nowra
Tim Gardner	Cudgen
Nathan Greber	Casino
Nathan Joy	Bungendore
Frank Malfroy	
& Jenny Douglas	Lyndhurst
James Millar	Hartley
Ross Robson	Cessnock
Greg Staker	Broken Hill
Janet Stephens	Wentworth Falls

VALE BOB PERKINS

It is with sadness that we inform our members of the death of our member Bob Perkins on the 19 September.

Bob was a member of both the NSWAA Sydney branch and also the Illawarra amateurs. Bob was a kind and knowledgeable, soft spoken man who was revered for his knowledge of bees and his willingness to share his knowledge.

Our sincere condolences to Bob's family and friends.

Manufacturers of
Wire Queen Excluders
Tobin Escape Board Corners
Gal Lid Covers
Metal Vents
Tobin Hive Tools
Gal Cut to Size

COTTESBROOK HONEY

David and Tracey Parker
Fitzgeralds Mt Blayney 2799
Ph: 02 6368 5889
Fax: 02 6368 5989
Email: cotbrook7@bigpond.com

*This business was previously
owned by EC Tobin and Son*

457 VISA TRAINING COMMITMENT

The NSW Department of Primary Industries, through its Registered Training Organisation, Tocal College has established and administers an industry training account for the purpose outlined in this article.

This account is to fund training and retraining of Australian residents in agriculture. It is the responsibility of the contributor to deposit the correct amount according to its obligations. Contributors to this fund should be aware that the NSW Department of Primary Industries will cooperate with the relevant federal agencies/authorities that need to audit the accounts to ensure compliance with the intent of the Industry Training Fund.

Payments should be made to the NSW Department of Primary Industries, c/o Manager Education Delivery, 815 Tocal Road, Tocal College, Paterson NSW 2421.

The following details need to be provided by contributors to this fund:

- full name of business owner
- Name/names of partners
- Company/partnership name
- ABN
- Contact address, business phone, email and mobile phone number.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) cannot accept electronic deposits, but can receive cheques or take credit card payment over the phone.

Tocal College, NSW DPI will issue a letter regarding confirmation of payment, and will email the official receipt once payment is received. The Tocal College national provider number is 91166.

To organise payments directly you can make contact with my colleague Leanne Jago on 02 4939 8879.

Darren Bayley

Manager Education Delivery Tocal College
NSW Department of Primary Industries Paterson
NSW 2421 W: www.tocal.nsw.edu.au
T: 02 4939 8810 F: 02 4939 8919 M: 0447 486 760 E:
darren.bayley@dpi.nsw.gov.au

PROTECT YOUR BEEHIVES WITH WAX!

Paraffin + Microcrystalline wax

Hot dipping with a 50/50 mix of paraffin and microcrystalline is an efficient steriliser and protector against rot.

bulk wax at wholesale prices!!

View the full product range on-line

*WAX *moulds *wicks *tea light cups *wicks and more...

www.candlemaking.com.au
02 9653 3600

Personal shoppers welcome
at our warehouse in Arcadia, in Sydney's rural north.
Always interested in purchasing local beeswax.





Visit our new website
www.hummerbee.com
to learn about all of our
other available models:

Rough Terrain Forklifts

XRT

XL

XT_{2WD}

The proven beekeeping
rough terrain forklift...

TURBO

Move your hives faster and more reliably with the Hummerbee Turbo. With over a 900 kg rated lift capacity and compact design, the Hummerbee is the perfect addition to your bee business. Its overall length is only 2438 mm, so it can fit sideways on your truck for ease of transport. Also, with a weight of under 1900 kg, it is easy on your axles too. There are a variety of options available to tailor the machine to your needs.

**A & O
FORKLIFT**

www.hummerbee.com

800 - 943 - 8677





Laurie and Paula T/as DEWAR APIARIES

2157 Lake Moogerah Rd Kalbar Q 4309

Phone 07 54635633

Email: beebuild@optusnet.com.au dewarqueens@optusnet.com.au

www.dewarcorp.com.au www.beebuild.com.au

ABN 69 758 923 328



Bee Build

Complete Pollen Replacement

DUE to increased demand Bee Build now has
Irradiated Pollen included.

Available in 10 Kg 20 kg 25kg bags
\$91* \$176* \$220*

(Discounts apply to bulk orders)

Bee Build without Pollen upon request only.

Bee Boost

A Probiotic especially formulated for honeybees

\$ 44 * (500gms)

1-2 teaspoons per hive depending on hive strength

Bee Build Protein Sausages

High Protein Pattie containing Bee Build and
Pollen packed in a Sausage Case.

We recommend that you only use patties if SHB is
under control. If not - use Bee Build powder dry.
Protein Sausages come in 500gm and 1 kg packs.

500gms \$ 12 * 1kg \$ 23 * 3kg \$ 60*

Discounts apply for bulk orders.

Also available from good Beekeeping Suppliers

AI Breeder Queens

All Queens tested for Rapid Response
Cleaning Gene Hygienic Behaviour
Price on application

Queen Bees: 1-10 \$ 25 * 11-49 \$ 20 * 50+ \$ 18 * Queen Cells: \$ 6 * ea

Queens reared from 100% Hygienic stock

**Please note: postage/freight additional. GST included*

As of 1 July 2015 10% of **all** sales will go to Bees Downunder-for Varroa Preparedness Research

EZYLoader

Ezyloader 125 - 125kgs Suits light trucks

Ezyloader 200 - 200kgs Suits medium to large trucks

Ezyloader 300 - 300kgs Truck mounted

Suits medium to large trucks

- Manufactured in Australia
- Unique levelling feature for ease of load handling
- Boom brake system – ease of under-supering and requeening
- Split boom for load positioning
- 6 Different models – remote control option
- Lifting capacity up to 500kg
- Small footprint—no wasted valuable load space
- Fully self contained and low maintenance
- One man operation with controls at the load
- Special range of attachments

All enquiries please contact Mark
SALES | SERVICE | REFURBISHMENT

M & K STAFFORD ENGINEERING PTY LTD

3/204 Southern Cross Drive, Ballina NSW 2478

B 02 6686 9736 | F 02 6686 9736 | M 0412 426 132

www.ezyloader.com | mail@ezyloader.com



New Zealand Made - Over 30 years of experience manufacturing leading load restraint products!



Name Woven - Have your company name permanently woven into the webbing at no extra cost!



UV Rated Webbing - Perfect for Australia & New Zealand's severe weather conditions



Customisation - Webbing Length & tensioning device can easily be changed to suit your requirements.



Large Range of Colours - Webbing colours include green, red, black, orange, yellow, blue & white



Safety Standards - All of Aerofast's products exceed strict Australian & NZ safety standards AS/NZS4380:2001



Trusted by Leading Apiaries - Manuka Health, Comvita, Tweedale Apiaries, The True Honey Company, Midlands Apiaries, Kintail Honey, Wingsbury, SouthCoast Apiaries & many more!



"YOUR NAME HERE"



Journal Pricing Specials

(Offer runs until 31/12/2015)

4 Metre Hive Straps (AUD)	Normal Price	50-200	201-500	501+
BeeRatchet (500Kg Break Strength)	\$ 9.99	\$ 8.90	\$ 7.90	\$7.20
BeeCamlock (300Kg Break Strength)	\$ 9.60	\$ 8.70	\$ 7.65	\$6.95
Additional Length \$ 0.80/m		<small>*All prices exclude GST. For further pricing options on rural locations Contact us at tiedowns@aerofast.co.nz or ring +64 3 3764028</small>		

*** Pricing includes delivery to major eastern metropolitan areas.**



BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER

Organisation/Entity:	Department of Primary Industries
Job Category:	Regulatory and Compliance
Job Location:	Regional NSW / Bathurst & Central West NSW
Job Reference Number:	00003VE8
Work Type:	Full-Time
Number of Positions:	1
Total Remuneration Package:	Total remuneration package up to \$124,378 pa, includes salary (\$58,687 - \$112,713 range pa), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.
Contact:	(02) 6391 3747 - Kathy Gott
Closing Date:	18/10/2015 - 11:59 PM

Department of Primary Industries

Biosecurity

- Location: Orange, NSW
- Professional Officer Grade 1-4 Total remuneration package up to \$124,378 p a, includes salary (\$58,687 - \$112,713 range pa), employer's contribution to superannuation and annual leave loading.
- This is a temporary full time role up to two (2) years.

About the Role

Deliver the NSW component of the National Bee Biosecurity Program, involving increasing the awareness and knowledge of bee biosecurity and priority pest threats to the bee industry among bee keepers and other industry participants and promoting and facilitating biosecurity best practice.

The Requirements

- A degree in Agricultural Science, Horticultural Science, Science or an equivalent qualification
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of honey bee biosecurity issues and the industry in NSW
- A valid driver's licence and willingness to travel

To be the successful candidate within this role you will possess or have the ability to demonstrate the key accountabilities of the role including:

- Developing and presenting training activities in the provision of biosecurity information and specific advice to improve bee biosecurity and promote best practice.
- Preparing and delivering resource materials to assist bee industry adoption of biosecurity best practice and increase knowledge of emergency plant pests and reporting procedures.
- Identifying opportunities and developing and providing technical advice and support for collecting and recording surveillance data for high priority exotic pests of the honey bee industry.
- Training in state and national policies and strategies for responding to emergency plant pest incursions and to actively participate in emergency plant pest responses, complying with state and national obligations.

About the Department

The NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development (known as the NSW Department of Industry) leads the state government's contribution to making NSW:

- a fertile place to invest and to produce goods and services, and thereby
- create jobs and opportunities for our citizens

We support all areas of economic activity where NSW has competitive strengths. We also have responsibilities for:

- skill formation and development to match industry demand
- partnering with stakeholders in stewardship and sustainable use of the state's natural resources
- supporting economic growth in the regions

Our strategies are built on close relationships to understand industry's needs. We deliver a wide range of training and specialist advisory services; and we help to secure efficient and dependable government decision-making that contributes to business confidence.

We measure our success by the:

- growth in quantity of employment and the value of output
- competitiveness and sustainability of industries in NSW

NSW Primary Industries (NSW DPI) within NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development supports the development of profitable primary industries that create a more prosperous NSW and contributes to a better environment through the sustainable use of natural resources.

Applying for the Role

Applicants must address their suitability by responding to the following targeted question in a cover letter [maximum two pages] as well as supplying an updated copy of their resume with relevant skills and experience and how these relate to the capabilities and key accountabilities of the role outlined in the role description.

1. Describe a situation when you had to engage with beekeepers on a contentious issue and evaluate your effectiveness in creating attitude or practise change.
2. What do you see as key biosecurity risks in this industry and describe strategies you will use to promote biosecurity among beekeepers.

Additional Information

Applications must be lodged electronically on www.jobs.nsw.gov.au Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.

Part of the assessment process may include additional online capability testing, skills testing or work samples in accordance with the new Government Sector Employment Act 2013; therefore you may be contacted to participate. For more information regarding capability based assessment techniques, please read the article: Capability-Based Assessments for Merit-Based Employment

Closing Date: 18 October 2015 - Enquiries: Kathy Gott on (02) 6391 3747



Check your bees from any internet enabled device



hive acoustics : brood temperature : hive humidity
: hive weight : apiary weather conditions

- Remotely monitor spring build up, brood state and queen status
- Receive an alert if a colony becomes queenless or when a new queen starts laying
- Track forager activity, accurately map nectar flow, receive alerts when its time to add or remove honey boxes
- Compare trends in hive performance over time and make hive to hive and site to site comparisons
- Analyse weather conditions at your apiary and directly compare with hive data.
- Check if winter stores are low or if bees need feeding
- Packagers available for every beekeeper, large or small or hobbyist.

Hive monitors and scales can be purchase independently, all users receive free updates and features as they are release, so your system never becomes out of date.

Anti theft tracking Device. *Secure your sites now with this specially designed Beehive GPS unit.* Due to its small size (1.2 x 6.5 x 14 cm), it can placed on the inside of the hive. Every time someone tries to move a hive from its current position, the Anti-Theft tracking device enables and sends two "help" messages directly to your mobile phone. Once you receive the help message you can track the position and speed, or the movement and follow its position through a goggle maps link. Plus it has other features where you can call it for updates on position and battery life, or to turn the device off.



**Please email Custommade@Vodafone.co.nz or call + 64 3 5445690 Cell: 021 224 9857
for a free information package, and get your special trial offer
www.arnia.co.uk**

DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville

Technical Specialist, Apiculture - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn
doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Not the most exciting topic, but one I was asked to speak about at a beekeepers' field day organized by the Tamworth branch of the NSW Apiarists' Association in September. When I was first asked to talk on this subject, I was tempted to give it a miss since I have not been an inspector under the Apiaries Act since the early 1990s.

Up to the early 1990s inspecting bee hives for American foulbrood disease was a major component of the Apiary section's duties. At the time there were six dedicated 'Apiary Officers' (inspectors) with the NSW Department of Agriculture, with their major focus on AFB.

Time was also allocated to education, extension and research, but these areas were by and large a lot smaller component across the group. From the early 1990s onwards regulatory activities conducted by the department, such as apiary inspections, health certificates, abandoned and neglected beehives and nuisance beehives became the responsibility of the Compliance Section of the department.

Mick Rankmore scored the job of being the manager of all these functions across the state. Mick's title is Regulatory Specialist Honey Bees. Mick has access to a network of multi-skilled inspectors across the state. These inspectors also conduct compliance work in a range of other primary industries including plant and animal fields.

This group of people is not employed to provide education, training, advice or to be actively involved in research. That is the domain of the two 'apiary officers' remaining in the system – i.e. Nick Annand (Bathurst) and myself, based at Goulburn.

I have talked about the government approach to AFB and hive inspections in past Honey Bee News articles. Suffice to say that there is a lot more emphasis on beekeepers sorting out their own problems with this disease. The Compliance Section is there to sort out recalcitrants or laggards in the industry. Put simply, they are not there to hold your hand and give you advice.

Bruce Christie the Chief Biosecurity Officer for NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), has attended a number of the NSW Apiarists' Association conferences over the past ten years or so. His message has been consistent and clear – unless the industry steps up and collectively takes responsibility for biosecurity, particularly endemic issues such as AFB, then the government has little incentive to stay engaged in this activity.

Along came "Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice" compiled by a small band of dedicated beekeepers under the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council umbrella. The development of the code was ably assisted by Sam Malfroy from Plant Health Australia. The code Version 1 (April 2015) is available on the AHBIC web site www.honeybee.org.au

This code was voted on by the beekeeping industry at this year's round of state beekeeping conferences around Australia. The code was endorsed by the beekeeping industry, but not without considerable debate. I intentionally did not get involved in the discussion, but I was contacted by a number of beekeepers concerned about these new 'rules and regulations'. Needless to say, I spent many hours discussing the merits of the components of the code that created the most concern to these individuals.

What I avoided (where possible) was to enter into discussions where 'emotions' were dominating the discussion. What many failed to comprehend was the fact that much of the code was already in legislation within NSW. If anything, the code was about ensuring that other state governments maintained a presence in the management of endemic diseases of honey bees. Also there are always new entrants into the world of beekeeping. Having an industry endorsed code is certainly a worthwhile document to assist these new players in the beekeeping industry.

A quick search of the internet reveals the basic definition of a code of practice- "a code of practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in a particular profession should behave". A code brings a range of groups, including industry and government, onto the same page. The code as voted on this past winter, is now the "national" approach to bee biosecurity.

So what changes or additions are likely to occur in NSW? My view is, possibly very few. What the code of practise hopefully does is slow or stop the decline of government resources in the area of bee biosecurity within NSW. The code's objectives in brief are stated as:

- Improve the general level of pest and disease control
- Assist beekeepers in recognising exotic pests and diseases
- Encourage beekeepers to conduct regular surveillance
- With particular emphasis on AFB
- Facilitate cross-border movements of beehives.

Nothing startling at all about these objectives, all quite defensible. In the document, training and education is discussed, a no-brainer, but it does amaze me how some long-term beekeepers are clueless in relation to the key pests and diseases that impact on their bees.

Nick Annand and myself conducted a number of Pests and Disease courses over recent years, primarily aimed at commercial beekeepers. I was personally very pleased with the strong response we received from the beekeeping industry. This course is now on-line and available as an e-learning course. We also generated a book from the notes we accumulated when conducting this course titled "Healthy Bees" – www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications

The code goes on to suggest that regular inspections of brood nests of beehives are important. The word 'regular' is a bit open-ended but a thorough brood inspection in early spring and another in the autumn is certainly a minimum, from my experience. Inspecting non-performing beehives at other times of the year is also a good idea. Is the hive not performing because of disease, or has the queen failed? Either way, this is vital information for the management of beehives.

I had a number of conversations about the code, suggesting that beekeepers should adopt a 'barrier system'. Well I do know one beekeeper who practises that at the extreme and extracted boxes (combs and all) go back to the same hive. Top marks to this beekeeper. This beekeeper is a full-time commercial beekeeper. The most common barrier system in the industry is where supers go back to the same load of bees. Each apiary is treated as a separate operational group or unit.

While many beekeepers don't practise either of these systems I ask the question "would you incorporate any beehive material given to you or recently purchased second-hand"? Generally the answer is 'no' and, in my estimation, keeping such equipment separate from your existing apiaries for at least 12 months makes a lot of sense. Most agree that this is a wise move and as such do practise a type of barrier system.

But I have come across beekeepers who have immediately incorporated beehive boxes etc. into their existing apiaries without any withholding period and others who clearly have not inspected brood nests for at least one to two years. This is a recipe for a disaster and in both cases it was not pretty. Maybe an industry code would have helped these guys focus on what I regard as basic beekeeping common sense.

Much of the rest of the industry code is already law and has been in one form or another for decades. Take registration of beehives, for example. Many states already have a beekeeping registration system. Unfortunately the ACT does not, but as a result of the 'code' there is a lot of pressure on the ACT government to implement one.

In NSW, beekeeper registration has been compulsory for decades, whether you own one hive or 1,000. The system was recently changed to three categories – business, recreational and pensioner/senior. The business registration fee is \$100, or \$90 on-line; recreational is \$60, or \$54 on-line and pensioners \$40, or \$36 on-line. If you are a pensioner or have a senior card and carry out a beekeeping business you are required to register as a business.

For interstate movement of beehives (e.g. going to almonds in Victoria) you are required to obtain a health certificate from a NSW Inspector. If a Queensland based beekeeper moves hives into NSW they do not need to be registered in NSW if their beehives are in NSW for less than three months in any 12 month period.

Forms for health certificates, change of details of registration, notice of disposal of beehives, vendor declarations, reporting abandoned and neglected hive material and reporting nuisance bees can be downloaded from the NSW DPI website – www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees

In NSW you are required to brand or identify all your brood boxes with your beekeeping registration number. If you are commercial and placing your beehives on government land tenure sites or remote private property sites, it is a no-brainer to brand your beehives. Many beekeepers fire brand every component of their beehives to deter theft and to facilitate recovery of stolen material. In my mind this is a must do exercise, even if it wasn't legally required. Note: you should strike out previous brands on beehive material, but they must remain legible.

Keeping records of hive movements is also useful to the beekeeper. The code suggests three years' worth of records should be kept, whereas the NSW Apiaries Act indicates five years. Basic records including date hives were moved, location moved to and any hives lost/stolen/destroyed. This information need only be written in a diary to comply.

In NSW AFB has historically been a major focus of legislation and government activity. While the activities have changed AFB remains as a significant focus. Remember AFB is a fatal brood disease of honey bees. You are required to notify the presence of AFB to a NSW Inspector within 24 hours of becoming aware of the presence of the disease. The beekeeper must take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of this disease. Restricting the robbing of honey and ensuring hives do not die out from the disease are two vital activities.

There is a vast range of information on AFB. Videos and printed information sheets can be found on the NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees

Night parking with a load of beehives is an offence if the truck is parked within a residential area or within 200 metres of a street light.

While this article is of a general nature, it does not cover all aspects of the NSW Apiaries Act or other legislation covering beekeeping in NSW. It highlights some of the key points beekeepers should focus on. It is also important that you take the time to at least read and become familiar with your industry biosecurity code of practice.

In the event you are visited by a NSW DPI Apiary Inspector and you are not compliant with the relevant legislation, what can you expect? If the offence is minor or maybe a first offence, then you may receive a warning letter indicating the components of any legislation you failed to meet and possibly suggesting what you need to rectify. You may receive an order, either written or verbal, to make good a situation an inspector believes to be inadequate or has room for improvement. This will relate directly to a component of the relevant legislation.

If the offence is deemed significant you may be issued a penalty notice. These notices will indicate the offence(s) and the fine for each of these. Penalty notices start at \$150 and range to \$550, depending on the offence. A list of penalty notice offences can be viewed on the NSW DPI website. If there is a history of previous breaches of the Apiaries Act and other legislation, then a court attendance notice may be issued.

Remember, I have not been an Apiary Inspector since the early 1990s. Any regulatory enquiry should be first directed to Mick Rankmore, NSW DPI Regulatory Specialist Honey Bees (michael.rankmore@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phone: 02 6741 8374). Being ignorant of legislation is not a defense against being fined or receiving a warning letter.

(Acknowledgements: typed by Vicki Savile, edited by Annette Somerville)

BEE ENGINEERING

MANUFACTURERS OF



NEW PRODUCTS

HONEY & CAPPINGS STAINLESS STEEL

VANE PUMPS 50mm & 65mm
VARIABLE SPEED

DEBOXER

HEAVY DUTY HANDS FREE

PLUS UNCAPPING MACHINES
7 DIFFERENT MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM

Phone (08) 9259 0676

Email: bee@bee-engineering.com

**PO Box 126 Parkwood
Western Australia 6147**

THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost
E. Frost Apicultural Services
frost.elizabeth.a@gmail.com



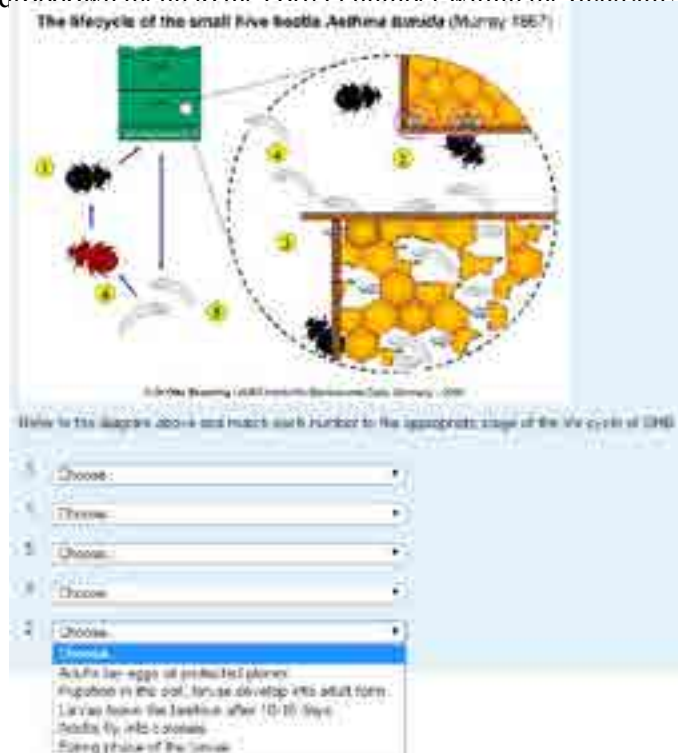
EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA AND VIETNAM

To follow is an updated account of honey bee education I'm involved in through my current role as an independent contractor.

PROGRESS REPORT AT HOME: PESTS & DISEASES ONLINE COURSE

The Pests and Diseases of Honey Bees Online Course offered by NSW DPI and Tocal College currently boasts enrollment of course participants from New South Wales, Victoria, and the Northern Territory. Participants' current colony numbers range from 0 colonies to 500 and their beekeeping experience ranges from 0 years to 30 years. Completed assessments are coming in slowly but surely as expected given the six month time frame participants are allowed to complete the course. The lengthy time frame is necessary considering the assessments that require participants to inspect a bee hive and take a larval smear sample. Many beekeepers wouldn't consider breaking open their hives mid-winter and I don't blame them! There's no point in disrupting the winter cluster when the participant has ample time to complete the hive inspection and larval smear assessments once temperatures warm up.

The following picture provides a stickybeak at an assessment task which asks the applicant to identify specific stages of the small hive beetle (SHB) lifecycle. Can you match the SHB life stage and activity listed in the dropdown menu to the correct number within the diagram?



The seven assessment tasks included in this course involve short answer responses, multiple choice and matching on a variety of subjects, photography of the participant's

hive inspection, and the preparation of a larval smear sample which the participant then ships to the NSW State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for confirmation of correct sampling technique. The assessments are titled:

- ASSESSMENT TASK 1: Hive Inspection
- ASSESSMENT TASK 2: Disease Identification
- ASSESSMENT TASK 3: American Foulbrood (AFB) Disease
- ASSESSMENT TASK 4: Pests and Diseases
- ASSESSMENT TASK 5: Small Hive Beetle
- ASSESSMENT TASK 6: SHB Management Options
- ASSESSMENT TASK 7: Prepare a Larval Smear

It should be noted that the NSW State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, involved in Assessment Task 7 above, provides a free honey bee disease diagnosis service for NSW registered beekeepers. The diagnostic service is free to online course participants regardless of their state or territory, however, any future samples should be sent to the registered beekeeper's state or territory diagnostic lab. Registered NSW beekeepers may take advantage of this helpful service by following the sampling and shipping guidelines in Doug Somerville's report on the subject: http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/117089/samples-for-bee-disease-diagnosis.pdf

For more information on the course contact one of Tocal College's education advisors by phone: 1800 025 520 or email: profarm@tocal.com. Online registration is available at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/profarm/courses/bees-pests-and-diseases-of-honey-bees-online

PROGRESS REPORT ABROAD: VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE

At the end of my temporary employment with NSW DPI as a Honey Bee Development Officer I had the opportunity to work with the Research Center for Tropical Bees and Beekeeping (RCTBB) at Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA). Dr. Pham Hong Thai, director of the Research Centre for Tropical Bees and Beekeeping at VNUA, and Katrina Klett, University of Minnesota student and Fulbright Scholar, facilitated this collaboration which allowed me to provide three training courses in artificial insemination of queen bees. Dr. Pham Hong Thai proved an excellent host with his conscientious lab set-up about 30 paces from the queen yard, just a short walk to queen banks and drone source colonies. Course participants included Ms. Klett, RCTBB technicians Phan Thanh Ngoc and Nguyễn Thành Duy and commercial beekeepers Nguyễn Đăng Thơ and Đỗ Xuân Đoàn.



FIGURE 1: Fulbright Scholar Katrina Klett and Dr. Pham Hong Thai deliberate in the research apiary.

I started each training course, held over 2-3 days, with a presentation in the morning on why insemination of queen bees is an important tool for complete control over mating and selective breeding efforts, what equipment and apiary management is necessary for successful preparation of drones and virgin queens and introduction of inseminated queens, and examples of closed breeding population programs. Ms. Klett also gave an insightful presentation outlining the management practices of her family's migratory queen breeding business which operates in Texas in the spring and sells queen cells to Texas beekeepers. The practical component of each course involved equipment hygiene and set-up, saline solution mixing, drone eversion, semen collection, and queen insemination. Since teaching these courses for 9 days in March 2015, Ms. Klett and RCTBB technician Nguyễn Thành Duy have continued honing their queen bee artificial insemination technique and Dr. Pham Hong Thai has gained more than 100 additional hives to increase the breeding pool available at VNUA.

Stay tuned to the Frost Report for more information on my recent artificial insemination and queen work with California queen breeders, Development Alternatives Incorporated and USAgency for International Development in Lebanon and further online education brought to you by Tocal College.



FIGURE 2: Class picture (Left to right): Nguyễn Đăng Thor, Elizabeth Frost, Katrina Klett, Đỗ Xuân Đoàn, Phan Thanh Ngọc. Missing from the picture is course participant and RCTBB beekeeper and VNUA student Nguyễn Thành Duy who was moving hives to Longan for honey production.

SA HOBBY BEEKEEPERS BEEING PROACTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE - 7 September 2015

One of the biggest risks when an exotic pest reaches Australia is that no-one notices, allowing it to spread and making it harder to eradicate once it is detected.

In Adelaide, hobby beekeepers are joining forces with government and industry to take a frontline role in surveillance to keep the honey and pollination industry safe and protect our food production.

They're becoming an integral part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPS), boosting the effectiveness of efforts to detect bee pests such as Varroa mite far beyond what could be achieved through government funding alone.

NBPS facilitator Sam Malfroy, of Plant Health Australia (PHA), says it's an essential partnership.

"We know that ports present a significant risk of being an entry point for bee pests and pest bees, but we simply don't have the resources to have government apiary officers at every port conducting surveillance 24/7; and there are many other potential entry points as well," Mr Malfroy said.

"By working with hobby (and professional) beekeepers we can cover a lot more ground, and ensure that many more hives are regularly checked for signs of unwanted visitors.

"Varroa has the potential to wipe out a significant proportion of both managed bee colonies and feral European honey bees which provide free pollination services to agriculture and horticulture, so it's a key focus for our volunteers."

Trials were successfully carried out in Melbourne and Geelong, where beekeepers are still providing assistance, and South Australia is the first state to sign up as the system is rolled out around the country.

The Adelaide Bee Sanctuary is amongst those involved, with convenor Sandra Ullrich and ambassador, chef Simon Bryant, recognising the importance of bees to the community and food production.

"We now have three hives as part of the surveillance program, after going through the training sessions on how to check for Varroa and other pests," Ms Ullrich said.

"We conduct surveillance on our hives at frequent intervals - every couple of months - and then send the information to the Department of Primary Industries about what we find.

"I've heard that Varroa was in New Zealand for years before it was first discovered, which made it too late for industry and government to try and eradicate the pest. I'd hate for that to happen here as we all need to understand the value of bees in both urban and rural communities, and protect them wherever we can."

Mr Malfroy said biosecurity is everyone's responsibility - government, agricultural industries and the community. This program is a perfect example of a partnership approach amongst all sectors to keep exotic pests, such as Varroa, out of Australia.

For details on the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, visit nbps.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Media contact: Kaaren Latham 02 8204 3852

RESEARCH PROJECT

MEDICINAL AUSTRALIAN *LEPTOSPERMUM* (JELLY BUSH) HONEY

The University of Technology Sydney is leading a research project looking for more sources of medicinal Australian *Leptospermum* honey (aka jelly bush, or Australian manuka). The research team includes Dr Peter Brooks and Simon Williams (University of Sunshine Coast), Professor Dee Carter (University of Sydney), as well as Dr Shona Blair, Professor Liz Harry and Nural Cokcetin (University of Technology Sydney). The project is being funded by RIRDC, with support from Capilano and Comvita, and will run over the next three years (until 2018).

We are asking beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* (jelly bush / manuka) honeys from anywhere in the country to provide samples to include in this research project. We will test these honeys for antimicrobial activity and investigate the relationship between the activity and the plant source.

Providing honey samples for testing

If you have access to *Leptospermum* honeys and would like to include them in our survey, please get in touch with us. We'll be asking for 200 - 500 g, and some information about the location it was collected, as well as samples from the plants the bees visited to produce the honey. We will provide a sample information sheet containing clear instructions, an address to send your samples to and other important information for our study.

We will keep the results confidential, but we will provide anyone supplying samples with a report on the results from the testing of their honeys.

If you would like to provide samples, please contact:

Nural Cokcetin | Project Coordinator | 0405 284 718 | Nural.Cokcetin@uts.edu.au

Prof Liz Harry | Principle Investigator | 0404 643 181 or 02 9810 6461 | Elizabeth.Harry@uts.edu.au

FIELDWORK TO IDENTIFY LEPTOSPERMUM SPECIES AND COLLECT NECTAR SAMPLES

Simon Williams, PhD student under Dr Peter Brooks at the University of Sunshine Coast is beginning to plan the fieldwork phase of the project. Simon will be traveling and meeting beekeepers to aid in identification of *Leptospermum* species and collecting nectar samples from trees to determine the potential non peroxide activity (NPA) of the various *Leptospermum* species.

Simon is planning to visit NSW from November onwards. The time period will be dependent on weather, flowering of *Leptospermum* and the availability and feedback from beekeepers. If you would like Simon to visit your sites to identify and sample trees, please contact Simon with the information below.

Simon Williams | PhD student | 0459 336 779 | Simon.Williams@research.usc.edu.au

- The sites you would like us to test and their rough location
- If you would be happy for an aerial map to be taken of your sites for determining species distribution
- If known, the suspected *Leptospermum* species at the site

- An approximate flowering period if known, so we know when to plan to visit
- If you are able to provide any logistical help in terms of accommodation and transport
- Any restrictions on your time, e.g. if you're only free to show sites on the weekends.

Why are we doing this?

Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) honey from NZ is world famous, and it is sold at a much higher price than other honeys. However, although Australia is home to the largest diversity of *Leptospermum* plants in the world (we have more than 80 species compared to NZ's two!), most of our honeys do not enjoy the high prices of their NZ equivalents.

We already know that a handful of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys have similar levels of antibacterial activity to NZ manuka, but most of the other 80 plus Australian varieties have not been tested. We want to find more sources of active honey, which will help the Australian beekeeping industry by increasing the amount and value of medicinal Australian honey being produced.

The feedback we have received from the beekeepers so far has been great we thank you all for your support.

BEEPLAS

Australia

Plastic Beehive Components
Made in Australia by Max Cane Apiaries

FULL DEPTH FOUNDATION SHEETS

- Made in Australia for Australian conditions
- Top quality food grade high impact polystyrene
- Excellent tensile strength and impact resistance
- Natural cell size
- Mitred bottom corners
- 6mm engagement tongue

Std colour Black, Natural, Beige and Red
Other colours available with large orders (5000+)

Also available:
Beetek Plastic Frames (Made in NZ)
FD & WSP Black and White

Contact:
MAX CANE APIARIES
9 McGibbony Crt, Ararat, Vic, Australia
Ph 03 53 522 995 Mob 0427 501 551





At Ausure Insurance Brokers Goulburn we understand the issues that Apiarists face in their day to day business.

We are able to offer covers that protect your business including Australia Wide theft and vandalism cover for your hives including honey and bees along with all other insurances including property, business interruption, liability, transit and motor vehicles.

As an exclusive offer to NSW Apiarists' Association members we can offer a 5% discount on all policies.

Please call Leigh Layden on 02 4822 1320
leigh.layden@ausure.com.au

Leigh Layden & Blue Oval Insurance Pty Ltd T/As Ausure Insurance Brokers Goulburn are Authorised Representatives of Ausure Pty Ltd T/As Ausure Insurance Brokers AFSL: 238433

Clayton Plastics

AU Kingsun Pty Ltd

221-223 Dundas Street
 Preston Vic 3072
 TEL: 03 9480 0611 03 9480 0945
 FAX: 03 9416 9984
 Email: sales@claytonplastics.com.au

Affordable quality honey pails

Non-Tamper evident range

500 gram
 1.0kg
 1.5kg
 3.0kg
 5.0kg

Tamper evident range

1.0kg
 1.5kg
 3.0kg
 5.0kg



- Under new management
- 40 years servicing the honey industry
- Melbourne based manufacturing

www.claytonplastics.com.au

Call 03 9480 0611

NICK'S NEWS

Nick Annand, Livestock Officer (Bees),
NSW Department of Primary Industries, Bathurst
Ph: 02 6332 8034
Email: nicholas.annand@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Being stumped for what to write for this article, I decided to call for some help. So calls were made around some of the honey packers asking them a few general questions. The aim was to get an idea from the packers what they see are the main issues, either positive or negative, in relation to the apiary industry and their businesses. Also seeking to find out changes in market focus and what potentials may lay ahead.

Six honey packers were contacted and spoken to. All having differing markets and marketing strategies. A range of thoughts on their industry were expressed with some common to many, while others were not. I will endeavour to express what was said and I request forgiveness from the packers if my writing does not clearly represent the intent of what they had said. These are the ideas from many so they may or may not always align.

What are seen as positives to the industry?

- Most packers talked of the clean green image of honey and the fact that consumers see it as a natural healthy product. This has particularly come to the fore in the past 5 years as concerns with diet increase. The fact that Australian honey has very little chemical contamination is recognised worldwide and has resulted in Australian honey being held in high regard.
- Demand for Australian honey on the domestic market is strong.
- The fact that honey has come from Australia is used in branding as a selling point both here and overseas.
- China cannot get enough Australian honey with it currently being a trend food with great demand.
- Honey prices are significantly higher than a couple of years ago. There is also a push to have more stable pricing providing beekeepers with more stability and consistency allowing for better business management.
- Even with the higher prices honey sales remain good and the demand for Australian honey is currently greater than the supply.
- The fact that the majority of Australian honey is derived from eucalypts is considered a strength. Some species specific honeys are in high demand on the export markets.
- Export opportunities for Australian honey are large but current volume and reliability of honey supply makes entering these markets difficult to achieve as a regular supplier.
- Paradichlorobenzene (PDBs) contamination appears to be a thing of the past.
- Some packers spoke of the need and value of honest and trusting relationships with their suppliers. These good business relationships enabled reassurance of the quality of product being purchased and could help reduce the need for extensive testing thereby creating savings. The main concern is the use of the antibiotic Oxytetracycline (OTC).
- Honey has outperformed other spreads in regards to maintaining or expanding market share.

What are seen as negatives to the industry?

- The main concern raised by the packers was the reliability and consistency of supply which they say has declined over recent times. None seem to hold large stock

piles currently and they are apprehensive and nervous about the upcoming season. The inconsistent supply has made it difficult for packers to supply and maintain both domestic and export markets. Making business expansion very difficult.

- The significant decline in Patterson's curse in recent years, which once was one of Australia's most reliable honey sources and bee building resources, has probably been a major factor in the above point.
- Access to some markets is difficult as a result of the requirements that are placed on the honey. This includes many of the European countries including Germany who is a major honey importer. They have limits on genetically modified pollen (GMs) and pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) content which can inadvertently enter honeys. Testing for these is required for each shipment and is expensive leaving the packer potentially with honey that may be rejected and the costs of testing. This is a price the majority of packers are not prepared to take but it does restrict our potential export markets.
- Similarly other export market countries have low Maximum Residue Levels (MRL's) for antibiotic residues. This is considered the main risk when exporting. So if there is any risk of contamination packers put that honey onto the domestic market as the cost and risk of having a shipment rejected is too great.
- Heavy metal contamination particularly zinc from old galvanised drums etc. is something most packers are not prepared to accept honey in anymore. This honey will not enter the export market because of the risk of rejection. Australia does not have an MRL for zinc in honey but this may well change soon as we catch up with other countries, (these two points make it sound like we supply our domestic market with our left overs. It would be interesting if we placed tighter MRL's on antibiotics, which could always be on the cards as people concerns with diet increase)
- The higher retail prices have reduced the domestic demand a little. The retail price has absorbed some of the wholesale price rises but this may soon be adjusted and translated to higher prices in the shop which may cause further reduction in demand.
- This market pressure does open the door for cheaper imports to enter and fill the void of low priced honeys.
- There is concern of the quality of imported honeys into Australia, i.e. are they honey and what residues do they contain. The Australian Honey Standard is very light on compared to other countries allowing for a wide quality range of honey from good to bad to enter.
- Honey adulteration is becoming a major concern worldwide with it being one of two major issues raised at Apimondia 2015 (the other being bee health). This is a negative to the industry but there is quite a bit of work being done to finger print honey to verify authenticity which may help in identifying artificial honeys or honey that have been extended and sold under inaccurate labelling.
- Supermarkets continue to compete to have the lowest price which places a lot of pressure on the packers margins attempting to secure contracts to supply them. With fluctuating seasons and varying honey prices calculating and supplying for long term contracts can be difficult.

- There is always a lot of money outlaid in stock, and with declining supply meeting deadlines can be difficult.
- Some contracts require all honeys used to be residue tested. This means it is only viable for the packers to purchase from larger suppliers.
- Certification of packing plants can be a major expense.
- Accessing some markets is extremely difficult with many hurdles to jump. China is a good example of this with many packers deciding it is too difficult to access. There are ways that help facilitate access but are considered as nonstandard business practises here (ie. Some expect money to help the process work). If you sort these hurdles the opportunities are great.
- There is concern that a lot of Australian honey gets exported in bulk, but how is that product then sold to the consumers. Is some of that honey being extended with either honey from elsewhere or artificial honeys but still being sold under the premise of Australian honey?
- All packers said they currently do not have much honey in stock.
- Aging and declining number of skilled knowledgeable beekeepers. As told 'there is a lot of snow on the peaks' in the beekeeping industry.

What are possible future trends and possibilities?

- There was not much optimism for the honey crop for the upcoming season with yields of average at best being predicted.
- While Australian honey prices remain good this will leave the door open for continued importing to fill this void with cheaper imported honey.
- Demand from overseas for cut comb is high with a large gap still between supply and demand.
- World honey prices have declined by about a third in the past few months and looks like continuing to fall with Argentina still holding a lot of honey from last season. This suggests the local honey price is probably more likely to fall or remain flat in the near future than rise.
- Demand for Australian honey is strong from the domestic market for your basics like upside packs, jars etc. which is the backbone for the industry.
- Honey prices to remain steady and consistent into the future.
- Access to markets through small internet sales may be an alternate for places like China that are notoriously difficult to supply in bulk to.
- Blends are easier to supply than species specific honeys with inconsistent honey supplies and so might make up more of the export demand as it is easier to provide consistent supply.

Well there are a range of views and opinions expressed above but I hope you can get a bit of a feel of how the packers see the position of the beekeeping industry which they are a part of.

APIARY COTS

Manufacturers and Suppliers of Beekeeping equipment

PO Box 5, Mt Nebo Road, Mt Nebo QLD 4520

Buy Australian Made

Hoop Pine Woodware - Frames - Supers
Queen Cages etc

Or your special requirements

Phone: 07 3289 8181 Fax: 07 3289 8231

SA HOBBY BEEKEEPERS BEEING PROACTIVE

MEDIA RELEASE - 7 September 2015

One of the biggest risks when an exotic pest reaches Australia is that no-one notices, allowing it to spread and making it harder to eradicate once it is detected.

In Adelaide, hobby beekeepers are joining forces with government and industry to take a frontline role in surveillance to keep the honey and pollination industry safe and protect our food production.

They're becoming an integral part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPSP), boosting the effectiveness of efforts to detect bee pests such as Varroa mite far beyond what could be achieved through government funding alone.

NBPSP facilitator Sam Malfroy, of Plant Health Australia (PHA), says it's an essential partnership.

"We know that ports present a significant risk of being an entry point for bee pests and pest bees, but we simply don't have the resources to have government apiary officers at every port conducting surveillance 24/7; and there are many other potential entry points as well," Mr Malfroy said.

"By working with hobby (and professional) beekeepers we can cover a lot more ground, and ensure that many more hives are regularly checked for signs of unwanted visitors.

"Varroa has the potential to wipe out a significant proportion of both managed bee colonies and feral European honey bees which provide free pollination services to agriculture and horticulture, so it's a key focus for our volunteers."

Trials were successfully carried out in Melbourne and Geelong, where beekeepers are still providing assistance, and South Australia is the first state to sign up as the system is rolled out around the country.

The Adelaide Bee Sanctuary is amongst those involved, with convenor Sandra Ullrich and ambassador, chef Simon Bryant, recognising the importance of bees to the community and food production.

"We now have three hives as part of the surveillance program, after going through the training sessions on how to check for Varroa and other pests," Ms Ullrich said.

"We conduct surveillance on our hives at frequent intervals - every couple of months - and then send the information to the Department of Primary Industries about what we find.

"I've heard that Varroa was in New Zealand for years before it was first discovered, which made it too late for industry and government to try and eradicate the pest. I'd hate for that to happen here as we all need to understand the value of bees in both urban and rural communities, and protect them wherever we can."

Mr Malfroy said biosecurity is everyone's responsibility - government, agricultural industries and the community. This program is a perfect example of a partnership approach amongst all sectors to keep exotic pests, such as Varroa, out of Australia.

For details on the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program, visit nbpsp.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Media contact: Kaaren Latham 02 8204 3852



AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE LINE

ABN 63 181 851 647

21 Leewood Drive, Orange NSW 2800

1. Selling Italian and Carniolan Queens

1 - 10 -----	\$25.00 each plus postage
11 - 49 -----	\$22.00 each
50 - 99 -----	\$21.00 each
Over 100 (in total) ---	\$20.00 each
200 and over -----	discounts apply



Terms: Payment prior to dispatch

2. Buying Honeycomb in a frame - Please call for the price

For Orders or Enquiries contact Charlie & Brenda Casido / Mely

Ph: (02) 6369 0565 Fax: (02) 6369 0575 Mon-Fri 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Email: ozqueenbeeline@optusnet.com.au or australianqueenbeeline@yahoo.com.au

Web: www.australianqueenbeeline.com

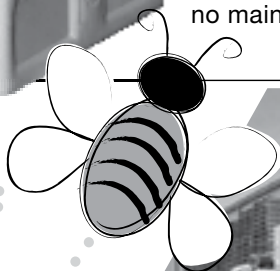
Before & After Office Hours: Mobile 0434 353 301







AUSSIE HIVES™

The better hive for higher production



The new Aussie Hive by Hasson's Hives Australia is robust yet light with excellent thermal insulation for healthier, stronger, more productive bees. It needs virtually no maintenance and will outlast any other hive on the market.



-  Food-grade polymer reduces hive disease and eliminates paint contamination
-  Polymer is water resistant for drier hives
-  Industry standard 10 frame
-  Strong, lightweight, no-maintenance construction
-  Insulated to control internal hive temperature, support brood development and reduce stress on bees
-  **Increases honey production**

Prove it for yourself! Place your order now to ensure delivery of your Aussie Hives by Spring.
And look forward to increased honey production!

T/F 03 5664 8382 E shayo@sympac.com.au W www.aussiehive.com.au





PLEASE IRRADIATE
OUR HIVES



PLEASE!!



PLEASE!!



PLEASE!!



PLEASE!!

Listen to Your Bees



Your bees are calling out to you!

Steritech has been providing Gamma Irradiation to the beekeeping industry for many years. In fact, the irradiation of bee equipment was pioneered in Australia!

Whether our service is used to eliminate current contamination or is used as a preventative measure, Steritech is always happy to help our beekeepers.

Thank you for considering our service and we look forward to assisting you with your Irradiation needs.

Steritech is a proud member of the NSWAA



www.steritech.com.au

Irradiation Eliminates:

American Foulbrood

European Foulbrood

Nosema Apis

Nosema Ceranae

All Insects and Pests

From 1st July 2015
Price per box is \$10.00 plus GST
(NSW Only)

STERITECH NSW

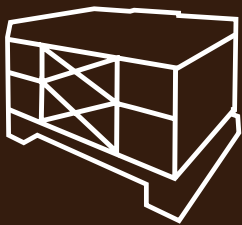
Jamie Crighton
National Business Development Manager
Tel: 02 8785 4400
Email: jcrighton@steritech.com.au

STERITECH QLD

Glenn Robertson
QLD General Manager
Tel: 07 3293 1566
Email: grobertson@steritech.com.au

STERITECH VIC

Raymond Bryden
VIC Sales Executive
Tel: 03 8726 5566
Email: rbryden@steritech.com.au



NUPLASTM

Plastic Bee Hives




Are you ready
for Spring?


Get your orders in quick
so you don't miss out!

Jump online and get your orders in now.

Keep your eye out for the Volume Discounts and Red Hot Deal icons.



When a product has the Volume Discount icon , see 'more info' to check out the price breaks on larger orders, this is automatically calculated in the shopping cart so you don't have to worry about it.

The Red Hot Deal Icon  indicates our best deals at the time, if you see that icon you know you're getting value for money.



Don't forget we have a flat rate delivery charge of \$30.00 per order, no matter the size!

Check out our website



Buy on-line and pay
only \$30 delivery!

www.nuplas.com.au

PayPalTM

NUPLAS PTY LTD - INJECTION MOULDERS

Tel 03 5032 9199 | Fax 03 5032 9399 | Email sales@nuplas.com.au



Frames, Foundation & Honey Containers

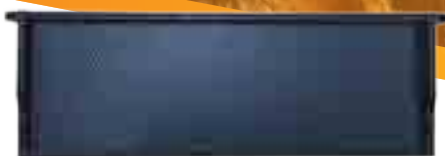
All Frames, Foundation and Honey containers are made from the highest quality food grade virgin plastics. Specifically designed and tailored for the Apiculture Industry by industry leaders.



Full Depth one piece plastic frame and foundation, to suit full depth boxes. No assembly required. Apply a thin layer of wax to both sides and you are ready to go.

\$4⁰⁰ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
108 UNITS



Ideal size one piece plastic frame and foundation, to suit ideal depth boxes. No assembly required. Apply a thin layer of wax to both sides and you are ready to go.

\$3⁰⁰ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
108 UNITS



Ideal size cut comb frame, to suit ideal depth boxes. Simply slide wax foundation through the top bar and you are ready to go. No wiring required. Ready to cut honey comb straight from the frame.

\$2⁵⁰ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
108 UNITS



Full depth foundation sheet, to suit full depth frames. Apply a film of wax to both sides, then simply insert into assembled timber frame and you're ready to go.

\$2⁰⁰ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
100 UNITS



Ideal depth foundation sheet, to suit ideal depth frames. Apply a film of wax to both sides, then simply insert into the assembled timber frame and you're ready to go.

\$1⁸⁵ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
210 UNITS

Matching honey containers

in 1kg, 1.5kg & 3kg with lid and handle.



1kg
90¢ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
100 UNITS



1.5kg
\$1¹⁵ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
100 UNITS



3kg
\$1³⁵ EACH

INCLUDES GST
MIN ORDER
60 UNITS



Dunc's Honey

100% Pure & Natural

ABN: 26351846764

Orders or Enquiries

Duncan or Sonia – PO Box 1203 Menai NSW 2234
Ph: 0403 850 767 - Email: Duncan@duncshoney.com.au

Top 'Quality' Ventilated Beekeeping Suit or Jacket

Ventilated Beekeeping suit, with or without leather gloves & your choice of veil.
Suits are great for the professional or hobbyist & outstanding for the hot Australian climate. The difference in heat exchange is remarkable when compared to the standard suit. Video of the suits via the link on:

Duncshoney.com.au



- Heavy duty cotton material
- Double stitching throughout
- Strong zippers
- Choice of an inter-changeable 'Flat or Round' veil or both
- Ventilated back, front and arms
- Drawstring
- Pockets
- Elastic hand and foot straps
- Your suit will also come in a convenient carry / storage bag
- Money back guarantee (within 7 Days of purchase)

Half size Jackets also available, same quality, same sizing guide – \$120.00

Ventilated suit with gloves -	\$160.00
Ventilated suit without gloves -	\$140.00
Gloves – S,M,L,XL,XXL -	\$20.00
Additional veil -	\$15.00

Small :	150cm – 170cm / 40kg – 65kg
Medium:	160cm – 170cm / 65kg – 85kg
Large - XL:	170cm – 200cm / 85kg – 110kgs
2XL – 7XL:	200cm plus / 110kg plus

Custom made suits can be arranged.

\$15.00 - Flat Rate Postage Australia wide .



MAKING HARD WORK EASIER



**COMPACT
HYDRAULIC CRANES**



**LIGHTWEIGHT
PORTABLE CRANES**



**MANUALLY OPERATED
TAILGATE LOADERS**

Healy Group - Manufacturers & Distributors
Tel (02) 9525 5522 - info@healygroup.com.au
www.healygroup.com.au

(HEALYGROUP)

A TRIBUTE TO ELAINE ROGERS

Royal Agricultural Society (RAS)

Bruce White OAM
Honey Judge & Honeyland Coordinator

Elaine Rogers has been the main contact for beekeepers wishing to exhibit honey and beeswax in the competitive section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for the last 7 years. As well she has been involved in Wine, Dairy and Fine Foods, a very challenging job dealing with so many primary producers in New South Wales and other states.

Elaine has been a major driving force, well supported by the Royal Agriculture Society (RAS) councillors she has worked with over the years, to oversee and increase entries and new classes to Apiculture. This has resulted in the Sydney RAS hosting the National Honey Show.

In recent times Elaine has provided the editor of *Australia's Honeybee News* with articles and photos of the competitive classes at the National Honey Show.

Elaine organised two honey judging tutorials to help train future judges with one of the aims to provide judges in the Apiculture classes at country shows. So important to the promotion of honey.

Elaine was keen to keep Agriculture a major theme of the show so was instrumental in organising live bee demonstrations. As a result the Sydney Branch NSWAA built a Beezeebo that is now promoted as one of the show's attractions. She was also keen to have a bee beard, so the brave President of the Association at the time, Craig Klingner, did a sterling job assisted by Brian Woolfe. The Royal visitors to the Sydney RAS the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in 2014 also stopped by the Beezeebo.

One of Elaine's major strengths was she that was always available to provide assistance, and I have on many occasions spoken to her after hours regarding the Honey Exhibits and the *Honeyland* Stand.

Elaine was extremely reliable at contacting exhibitors and solving problems. A good example was when the current Association President Neil Bingley asked me to find out the insurance liability when an out of control electric motor scooter ran into the Beezeebo and *Honeyland* at the last Easter Show. I contacted Elaine and the answer came back the same day.

Elaine was so well known for her love of bees at the RAS that when a thirsty swarm of bees set up a hive in the centre of a pallet of Crown Lager in the RAS loading dock the first thought was to kill them, someone quickly told Elaine and with her contacts she soon saved them from the Pest Destroyer.

It is to Elaine's credit the National Honey Show has run so smoothly as I know from experience every year new problems arose that Elaine has had to solve efficiently and quickly without getting flustered.

Elaine now has a new challenge as RAS Coordinator, Agricultural Competitions and Events. We wish her well in her new position.

Elaine's position at the RAS has been taken over by Fiona Masters who has a rural background and is looking forward to working with the beekeeping industry as the Coordinator, Wine, Dairy and Fine Food. Contact details: Phone: 02 9704 1199 Email: fmasters@rasnsw.com.au

**If it's stainless,
we can make it!**

Horizontal Extractors 36 - 192 frame

Wax Melters

Capping Spinners

Reducers & Conveyors

Large Radial Extractors

Centrifuge - Heat Exchange

We also custom build to your requirements

Prestige Stainless P/L
General Fabrication Lathe & Milling

PO Box 187, 1994 Finley Rd, TONGALA VIC 3621

Phone: 03 5859 1492 Fax 03 5859 1495

Mob 0407 547 346

www.prestigestainless.com.au



AUSTRALIAN

EXPORTERS

ABN 96 078 192 300

Prices include GST:

1 - 10	\$28.00 each
11 - 49	\$25.50 each
50 - 100.....	\$23.50 each
OVER 100 (in total)	\$23.00 each
200 and over -	Discounts apply

Package bees available September to March

Terms: Payment prior to delivery/pick-up

FOR ORDERS OR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:
WARREN & ROSE TAYLOR / ROWENA

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

IF UNANSWERED: (02) 6368 3788

Or write: 58 Marshalls Lane, Blayney, NSW 2799

Email: aqbe@bigpond.com / Fax: 02 6368 3799

Scales and Labels



- Laboratory Balances: 0.001g - 3kg
- Bench Scales: 3kg - 30kg
- Platform Scales: 30kg - 600kg
- Pallet Scales: 600kg - 6,000kg
- Trade Approved Scales
- Label Printing Scales



- Create brand awareness
- Cost-effective labels
- Create & print your own labels
- Ingredients & nutritional information
- Leading supplier of labels - Roll Labels, Sheet Labels, Gloss Labels, Matt Labels, Paper Labels or Poly Labels
- You name it, we make it!!



Wedderburn
SINCE 1896

www.wedderburn.com.au
grantw@wedderburn.com.au

29 Branches Australia and New Zealand wide
Call Grant or Adam
(02) 4954 6411
for your nearest branch



PENDERS

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

ABN 27 009 052 155

**72 Munibung Rd
Cardiff 2285 NSW
Australia**

**Suppliers of Beekeeping and
Honey Processing Equipment**

Boxes, Frames and all Woodware
Excluders - Welded Wire and Plastic

Stainless Steel Extractors
Honey Tanks and Pumps

Weathertex - Covers and Bottom Boards, Special sizes available

Veils, Gloves, Overalls, Bee Suits and Jackets, Hive Tools, Brushes
Hats, Smokers, Knives, Pails, Jars etc. all your beekeeping needs

We have a very extensive selection of books on all aspects of beekeeping

We buy and exchange wax for foundation. Good prices paid

MAIL ORDER IS OUR SPECIALITY - PHONE FOR A PRICE LIST

Ph: (02) 4956 6166 Fax: (02) 4956 6399

HUNTER VALLEY APIARIES

Col & Linda Wilson PO Box 180, KURRI KURRI NSW 2327 Ph/Fax: (02) 4930 4950

FOUNDATION

PLASTIC

The Best Plastic Foundation
You Can Buy
Dominates Sales in
USA and CANADA
Sizes, FD, WSP, Manly, Ideal

Full **PLASTIC FRAMES**
available

WAX

We can mill to the thickness
you require
Have your own wax milled or
exchanged for foundation in
stock

DRONE COMB FOUNDATION
available

Wax bought or exchanged for
bee goods

FRAMES Mahurangi NZ

Premium Quality

For Plastic and Wax Foundation

BEE BOXES

WEATHERTEX Lids & Bottom
Boards

QUEEN EXCLUDERS

FRAME FEEDERS

QUEEN CELLS

AFB

TEST KITS

Quick and easy to use
Results in just 3 minutes

SWARM ATTRACTANTS

APITHOR for Small Hive Beetle

NOZEVIT

HIVES CAN BE TREATED FOR LESS THAN \$1

Healthy bee colonies build brood faster in the
Spring, and will winter extremely well when
their intestinal integrity is intact. By using all
natural Nozevit as a food supplement for intestinal
cleansing for internal ailments.

i.e nosema

For All Your BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

Email: honeybee100@skymesh.com.au

Phone: 02 4930 4950

SICK BEES

Colony Collapse Revisited

PART 18F2

SYNTHETIC PESTICIDES

by Randy Oliver - ScientificBeekeeping.com



OK, I hope that since explaining that bees have always had to deal with natural plant toxins, and more recently, with human pollution, that I can finally move on to attempting to answer the original question, “To what extent are manmade pesticides related to colony morbidity, mortality, or sudden collapse?”

Synthetic Pesticides

Not being a toxicologist, I had always assumed that synthetic pesticides were chemically and biologically in a different class than the natural allelochemicals found in nature. How wrong I was!

Synthetic insecticides are essentially nothing more than chemically “tweaked” forms of natural substances, generally modified to make them cheaper, more effective, more or less stable, less toxic to humans, more targeted toward specific pests, and recently, more environmentally friendly. For a good summary of this subject, read John Tierney’s “Synthetic v. Natural Pesticides” [1].

Preadaptation

There is nothing new about honey bee exposure to pesticides—bees had by necessity been forced to develop detoxification mechanisms for these classes of chemicals long before humans invented modern pesticides! Prior to that (and still today), bees were exposed to naturally-occurring organochlorides from many natural sources [2], organophosphates produced by cyanobacteria in surface waters [3], carbamates as a natural fermentation byproduct of beebread [4], nicotine (as in neonicotinoids) in a number of plant species [5], pyrethrins (derived from chrysanthemums) [6], insect growth regulators (self-produced hormones), and a host of alkaloids and other toxins in pollen and nectar.

A term used by toxicologists is *preadaptation*. Honey bees are, by necessity, preadapted to deal with the major classes of synthetic pesticides; the toxicology and metabolism of synthetic insecticides is no different than that for natural toxins (although the synthetics may have a greater degree of toxicity). And despite the widely-cited paucity of detoxification genes in the honey bee genome, Hardstone [7] determined that compared to insects in general, honey bees are not particularly sensitive to insecticides overall, nor even to specific classes of insecticides!

If it hasn’t already occurred to you, think on this: there are any number of nectar/honeydew sources that bees concentrate into honey that may be acutely toxic to humans (rhododendron, mountain laurel, tutu, etc.), yet does not appear to affect the bees to any great extent. The toxins of those named plants (grayanotoxin and tutin) are poisonous to insects, yet bees are able to detoxify them better than humans can!

Cresswell [8] notes that some bees may be better preadapted to toxins than others. Remember that I mentioned earlier that tropical nectars tend to contain more alkaloids? Well, honey bees evolved in the tropics, and are apparently well preadapted to metabolize alkaloids, whereas bumblebees evolved in temperate regions in which there were fewer natural alkaloids in the nectars. It’s possible that honeybees may be better preadapted to detoxify alkaloids (such as neonicotinoids) than are bumblebees.

Have you noticed yet that this is a complex subject? And that is one reason why I feel that the single-minded focus by some folk on any one particular class of insecticides may be misguided. Lest I sound critical of my fellow environmentalists, I suspect that many remain under the misassumption that *all* pesticides bioaccumulate or biomagnify as do the “Persistent Organic Pollutants” (DDT, chlordane, PCB’s, etc) and heavy metals (mercury, lead). Gold [9] explains:

DDT is unusual with respect to bioconcentration, and because of its chlorine substituents it takes longer to degrade in nature than most chemicals; however, these are properties of relatively few synthetic chemicals. In addition, many thousands of chlorinated chemicals are produced in nature... Natural pesticides can also bioconcentrate if they are fat soluble. Potatoes, for example, naturally contain the fat-soluble neurotoxins solanine and chaconine, which can be detected in the bloodstream of all potato eaters.

Oh no—not only do French fries contain toxic acrylamide, but also additional neurotoxins that bioaccumulate in my body fat!

Reality check: our diet, as well as that of the bees, is chock full of natural plant toxins (many of which have been only recently been introduced into the human diet). The bee immune* system does not differentiate between natural toxins, environmental pollutants, or synthetic pesticides. They must all be taken into consideration when we discuss “chemicals” and bees. Rather than focusing on this pesticide or that, what we beekeepers should be assessing is the total toxin load to which colonies in any particular setting are exposed.

Update 4/27/2013: It’s been pointed out to me that I’ve used the term “immune” too loosely. I should have used the term “detoxification.”

Interactions Between Synthetic and Natural Toxins

Bees in agricultural landscapes, as well as in urban and suburban areas, are exposed to a wide variety of manmade toxicants above the background level of natural toxins. Surprisingly, previous exposure to plant allelochemicals may help them to deal with manmade toxicants!

Després [10] found that eating certain natural toxins in a plant may then make an insect more resistant to certain synthetic pesticides. Armyworms fed cowpeas became more tolerant to organophosphates. And those fed xanthotoxin from corn displayed higher tolerance to a pyrethroid insecticide—and appeared to be able to pass that immunity on to their offspring! Don’t you just love this stuff!

Biological note: we’ve barely investigated to what degree the exposure of the previous generation of bees to allelochemicals or pesticides results in trans-generational epigenetic effects.

On the other hand, Després also found that:

By contrast, exposure to particular plant chemicals can repress the expression of detoxification enzymes involved in insecticide resistance...Finally, it cannot be excluded that an enzyme conferring resistance to a phytotoxin can enhance the toxicity of an insecticide and vice versa. The striking complexity of the repression–induction patterns and substrate specificities of detoxification enzymes has so far represented a major difficulty in the understanding of cross-resistance mechanisms.

“Striking complexity”—well put! Even the type of honey that bees are eating enters into the picture. A study by Mao [11] found that allelochemicals in honey may affect their ability to metabolize pesticides. The researchers also speculate that the practice of wintering bees on sugar syrup may compromise their ability to process environmental toxins!

I hope you are starting to understand why I couldn’t just jump into answering the question as to whether pesticides cause CCD! There are a great many contributory variables when we start looking at toxicity, and we just don’t yet know that much about a lot of them! But there is one thing that we do know—that there was a major change in honey bee exposure to toxicants starting (in this country) in the 1990’s.

Toxicological Eras in Honey Bee Evolution

Let’s imagine what honey bee exposure to toxins would look like from an evolutionary perspective (Table 1):

Pre agriculture era	Early agricultural era	Botanical extract era	Synthetic pesticide discovery era	Environmental consciousness era	Early varroa era	The future/ agroecological era
← 8000 B.C. (~50 million yrs)	8000 B.C.–1700 A.D. (~10,000 yrs)	1700–1940 (~200 yrs)	1940–1970 (~30 yrs)	1970–1990 (~20 yrs)	1990–present (~20 yrs)	future→
Honey bees, due to their foraging on a wide range of plant species, were exposed to a broad diversity of natural phytochemicals in nectar, pollen, and propolis. They evolved detoxification mechanisms to deal with them.	Farmers used crude inorganic pesticides such as sulfur, arsenic, fluoride, and copper (which often resulted in the poisoning of the soil, applicators, and consumers). These pesticides were a disaster to bees.	Farmers started to use tobacco extracts in the late 1600’s, nicotine sulfate (1910), and then pyrethrum and rotenone (1800’s).	The discovery of the insecticidal properties of the organochlorine DDT in 1939 led to its widespread use during WWII to control mosquitoes and lice, and later to agriculture. Organophosphates quickly followed, having their heyday in the 1950’s. Pesticide use soared, and every sort of residue made it into bee hives.	Silent Spring was published in 1962 and kick started the environmental movement. The organochlorines fell out of favor, but were replaced by even more bee-toxic organophosphates and carbamates. Finally, things started looking better for bees as EPA started cleaning up our pesticide insult to the environment.	For the first time, beekeepers began to deliberately introduce pesticides into bee hives. The miticides fluvalinate, coumaphos, fenpyroximate, and 2,4-DMPF (from amitraz) soon contaminated beeswax in most apiaries. This was a huge step backward for the poor bees.	Agriculture is moving toward reduced risk pesticides, “biologicals,” selective breeding, and integrated pest management. Nature will eventually force us to return to crop rotation. This will be a big win for the bees!

Table 1. Note that honey bees had tens of millions of years to evolve detoxification mechanisms for plant allelochemicals and other natural toxins. They’ve had only an evolutionary eyeblink of about 70 years of dealing with added synthetic pesticides. But the biggest change has been in the past 20 years, as beekeepers inadvertently contaminated beeswax combs with miticide residues in their attempts to control parasitic mites.

The “Varroa Era”

After 50 million years of evolving effective detoxification mechanisms against natural chemicals, mankind has only recently (on the evolutionary scale) challenged the bee with additional doses of synthetic toxicants. But those exposures were normally inadvertent and only intermittent, allowing the colonies to recover.

The invasion of the parasitic mites ushered in a new era of toxicant exposure [12]. Beekeepers were largely unaware that the synthetic miticides that appeared to be their salvation would wind up contaminating their combs with unimaginably persistent residues. I’ve seen the analyses of many beekeepers’ combs. The miticide residues reflect a history of any product that they’d put into their hives in the past decade!

And although there is a great hue and cry about the neonicotinoids of late, Frazier [13] (**a must read**) points out:

Indeed, if a relative hazard to honey bees is calculated as the product of mean residue times frequency detected divided by the LD₅₀ the hazard due to pyrethroid residues is three-times greater than that of neonicotinoids detected in pollen samples.

The main pyrethroid in hives worldwide is tau-fluvalinate (Apistan, Mavrik), which accumulates in the combs, along with several other agricultural pyrethroids of additive toxicity. To make matters worse, the other common miticide residue, coumaphos (Checkmite+), then exhibits synergistic toxicity with those pyrethroids [14]. Surprisingly, both of these miticides are still sold in bee supply catalogs!

I’ve written at length about the synthetic miticides [15]. It’s hard to find combs today that aren’t contaminated with fluvalinate and coumaphos. Could this be a problem?

There was a significant reduction in adult bee longevity following exposure to 100 ppb of coumaphos in wax during the larval and pupal stages in worker honey bees. A 4-day reduction in summer bee lifespan was observed equaling 16 percent of the total lifespan of summer bees. Reduced adult longevity could impact honey production and/or overwintering ability [16].

Their conclusion is an understatement! I've plugged a 10% reduction in worker longevity into my bee population model-the result is striking (Fig. 1)!

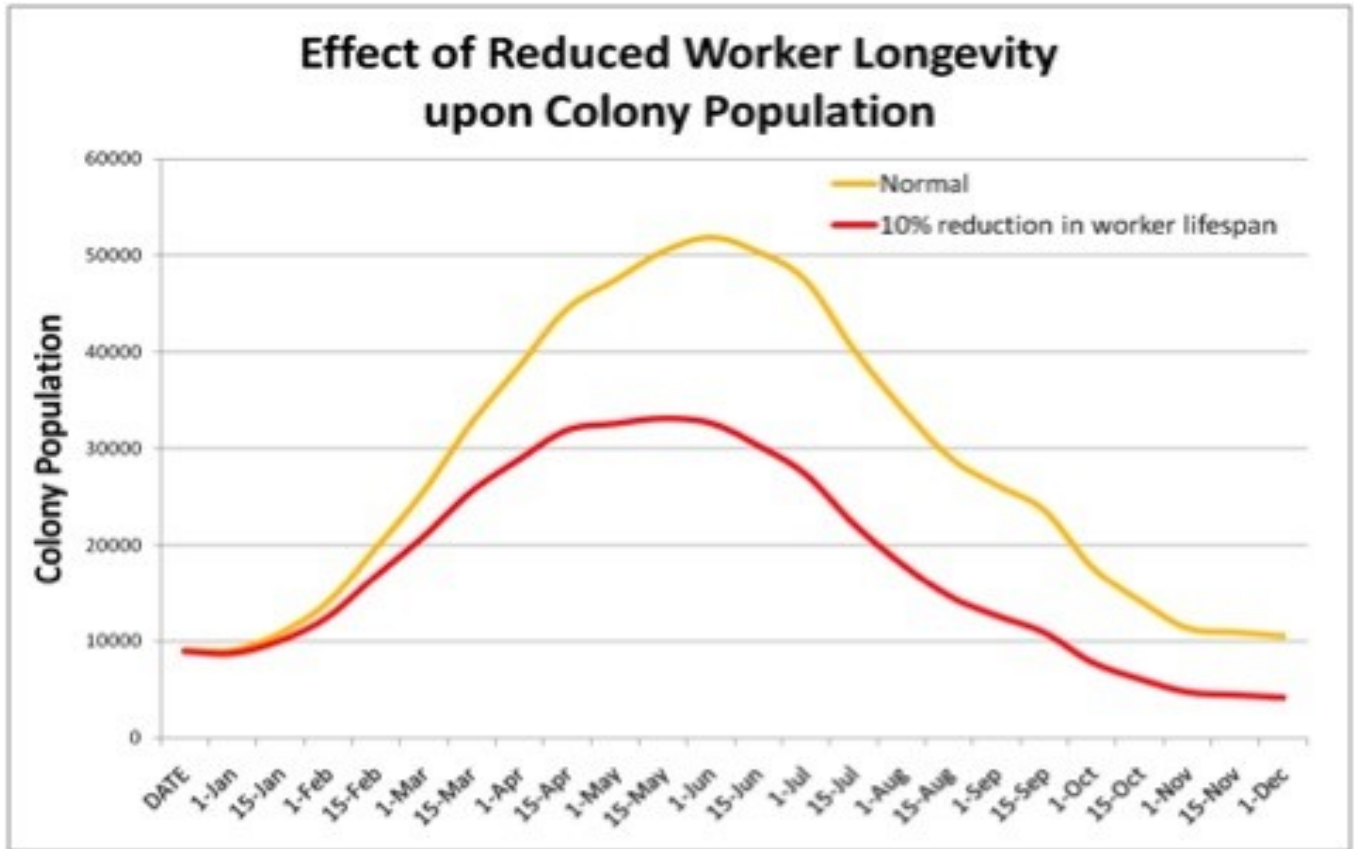


Figure 1. In this crude example, I reduced worker lifespan by 10% on the red plot, assuming a normal mean longevity in Feb-Oct of 35 days; and in Nov-Jan of 60 days. It is easy to see that even a slight reduction in worker longevity dramatically affects colony buildup and wintering ability!

Practical application: Miticide residues (or environmental pollutants) in the combs can affect both larval survival and worker longevity. It doesn't take much of a reduction in either to demonstrably affect colony buildup or winter survival! And this is before adding any agricultural pesticides!

Some miticide residues don't go away—they leach out of the wax and into the beebread for years! Add their negative impact on brood and adult bee survival to that of other environmental toxins and plant allelochemicals, and today's colonies may already be in toxicological trouble even before they are exposed to any additional pesticides.

Practical application: honey bees have suffered from a “triple whammy” due to the recent invasion of the parasitic mites:

1. The mites directly impact the health of bees by sucking their blood, and by suppressing their immune systems.
2. Varroa changed the entire virus dynamics in the bee population, especially by acting as a novel and effective vector of some viruses.
3. Bees in many operations now must deal with an elevated background exposure to the toxic beekeeper-applied miticides, 24/7, 365 days a year.
4. This background exposure may increase larval mortality, adult bee longevity, and bee immunological resistance to mites, viruses, and nosema [17].

Since the invention of fat-soluble synthetic insecticides, for the first time in their evolutionary history, bees must deal with constant exposure to toxins not only from outside, but also leaching back out of the combs! Johnson, et al [18] found:

Overall, pyrethroids and organophosphates dominated total wax and bee residues followed by fungicides, systemics, carbamates, and herbicides, whereas fungicides prevailed in pollen followed by organophosphates, systemics, pyrethroids, carbamates, and herbicides. Externally-derived, highly toxic pyrethroids were the most frequent and dominant class of insecticides samples... Beekeepers searching for the primary source of pesticides contaminating bee hives need only to look in a mirror.

Such constant exposure to these elevated levels of toxicants keeps the detoxification crew bailing all the time in order to keep the bee boat afloat! Boncristiani [19] suggests that:

Since honey bees are constantly exposed to different compounds in nature, the activation of detoxification pathways probably do not necessarily represent negative effect to the colony. However, overloading these detoxifying cascades by exposing bees to large quantities of pesticides, such as miticide application to colonies, potentially harms colonies by diminishing their ability to detoxify other natural or synthetic compounds.

Practical application: the key word here is “overload.” Toxin overload can occur from a single pesticide or poisonous pollen, or can be the result of the sum of the additive effects and synergies from any number of plant allelochemicals, pollutants, and miticides.

Complicating things is that it’s not just one mode of miticide toxicological action that the bees are forced to deal with—fluvalinate is a pyrethroid, coumaphos is an organophosphate, fenpyroximate is a pyrazole, amitraz is an amidine, and the essential oils have entirely different modes of action (Fig. 2).

		tau-fluvalinate					mode of action	
		control	19.8	31.2	6.65	3.66		55.1
		1 µl acetone	16.3-22.4	22.2-49.6	4.00-12.0	2.26-5.56	42.1-70.0	
acaricides	tau-fluvalinate		6.50 ^{ab}	5.54	4.87	16.1 ^a	sodium channel modulator [33]	
			4.98-8.57	3.13-12.8	2.38-8.31	11.2-21.4		
	coumaphos	0.78 ^a		2.03 ^a	2.73	20.4 ^a	acetylcholinesterase inhibitor [33]	
		0.13-3.05		1.31-4.46	1.82-3.73	10.4-38.0		
	fenpyroximate	2.40 ^a	4.12 ^a		4.57	34.9	mitochondrial complex I electron transport inhibitor [33]	
		1.45-3.65	3.35-5.06		2.78-6.48	23.9-47.9		
	amitraz	3.74 ^a	9.20 ^a	1.80 ^a		43.2	octopamine receptor agonist [33]	
	2.14-7.08	1.12-25.1	1.61-2.04		25.3-61.0			
fungicides	thymol	10.2 ^a	23.1	3.69	3.91		modulator of GABA receptor [27]	
		7.85-14.0	14.7-34.5	2.83-4.98	2.98-5.52			
	oxalic acid	7.05 ^a	14.7	1.50 ^a	14.6 ^a	30.7 ^a	unknown [28]	
		5.67-8.98	10.8-22.1	0.77-3.06	8.66-38.7	23.4-39.9		
	pyraclostrobin + boscalid	5.95 ^{ab}	25.9	3.16	4.04	31.9	mitochondrial complex III ubiquinol oxidase inhibitor [32]	
		4.48-8.09	19.9-34.6	2.62-3.92	2.25-10.4	16.9-44.7		
	pyraclostrobin	4.43 ^a	-	2.09 ^a	1.64	28.2	mitochondrial complex II succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor [32]	
	0.67-61.4		0.48-4.24	0.899-2.51	4.96-57.9			
inhibitors of detoxification	boscalid	11.6	22.6	5.64	4.82	47.1	multi-site contact activity [32]	
		7.43-19.9	15.3-32.4	2.89-17.2	2.83-6.74	35.4-62.1		
	chlorothalonil	7.24 ^a	16.6	6.41	3.34	29.8 ^a	sterol biosynthesis (P450) inhibitor [32]	
		3.96-12.9	6.77-85.6	5.62-7.36	1.48-8.89	21.1-39.9		
	prochloraz	0.01 ^a	0.44 ^a	0.25 ^a	2.48	39.0 ^b		
		0.006-0.017	0.38-0.50	0.17-0.34	1.45-3.74	33.2-45.1		
	DEM	8.26 [†]	19.9 [†]	4.38	2.30	64.0	glutathione-S-transferase inhibitor [29]	
	7.57-9.03	10.5-53.5	1.90-8.80	0.306-4.24	42.6-91.6			
model	DEF	1.96 [†]	7.29 [†]	1.26 ^a	2.17	35.1	carboxylesterase inhibitor [29]	
		0.83-4.17	4.88-9.22	0.10-15.2	1.63-2.87	21.9-52.0		
	PBO	0.01 [†]	5.04 [†]	0.27 ^a	2.41	32.4	cytochrome P450 inhibitor [29]	
	0.006-0.015	3.34-7.01	0.12-0.75	0.917-6.35	19.8-49.6			
LD ₅₀ fold-change relative to control		<1	1	2	5	20	50	100

Figure 2. Synergism (amplification of toxicity beyond additive effects [20]) of common in-hive miticides with each other and with fungicides. From Johnson, et al (2013) [21].

Conclusion

Back to my leaky boat analogy, the colony has always been challenged by some baseline level of natural toxins, which require some degree of constant bailing. Since the Industrial Revolution, bees have also had to deal with manmade pollution. And in some localities and in some years, those toxins might prove to be too much to deal with, and sink the boat. This occurred long before the invention of synthetic pesticides, and will always be the case.

Once farmers started using insecticides (whether botanical or synthetic), they created “storms” of toxin exposure that would flood the boat, again sometimes overwhelming the hard-working detox/bailing crew [22].

Since the 1940’s the crew has had to deal with the additional toxin/leaks due to the now ubiquitous synthetic insecticides. Each new residue constitutes one more leak in the boat. Not only that, but some classes of pesticides (including miticides and plant allelochemicals) may synergize, meaning that the leaks don’t just add up, but suddenly start gushing dramatically!

And once beekeepers started pouring varroa treatments into their hives, an entirely new baseline of toxin/bailing became necessary. Every bee in the hive was now exposed from birth to death with background residues of miticides, sometimes at levels high enough to sterilize drones and kill developing queens.

Our original question was whether pesticides were responsible for CCD. I couldn’t address that question immediately, since we first had to determine the background level of toxins to which colonies are exposed. Perhaps we can now start to formulate an answer, from the perspective that today’s honey bee colonies are first burdened with the need to first detoxify the vast array of toxic plant allelochemicals in their diet, as well as any environmental pollutants, plus the additional insult of the beekeeper-applied miticides—all

prior to their exposure to any additional agricultural pesticides! Only from that perspective can we realistically measure the impact of “pesticides.” I’ll continue next month...

Addendum: The Beekeepers’ Responsibility

One of the sticking points in the beekeeper’s arguments to the EPA against the misuse of agricultural pesticides is that the majority of commercial beekeepers are themselves guilty of exactly such illegal misapplication of pesticides themselves! This embarrassing fact is frequently brought up by both the EPA and state regulators, and severely weakens our legitimate arguments.

The problem stems from the fact that we have a regulatory system that makes it very expensive to bring legal mite treatments to market. The first major varroacide, Apistan, was much more expensive than Mavrik[®] (the off-the-shelf agricultural formulation of the same active ingredient). Although many commercial beekeepers did the right thing and used the expensive strips, most became pesticide scofflaws, and used the illegal treatment to save a few dollars per hive. The same occurred with the next miticide, Checkmite⁺O, but in this case, a number of beekeepers inadvertently poisoned their hives by “off label” use of the cheaper agricultural product.

And then when mites (rapidly) became resistant to *that* treatment, the beekeeping industry essentially got “thrown to the wolves”—for a time there were simply no effective legal miticides available to commercial beekeepers, forcing them to break the law if they wanted to keep their bees alive! Most of them turned to homebrew treatments based upon various agricultural formulations of amitraz.

The EPA and state regulators generally recognized the fix that we were in, and turned a blind eye to the obvious packets and dabs of chemicals on the top bars, and to the “detects” of DMPF (the degradation residue from illegal amitraz use) in virtually every pesticide residue analysis of commercial combs. Eventually, EPA fired a warning shot across the bow of the beekeeping industry, setting a “zero tolerance level” for amitraz in honey, essentially threatening punitive enforcement action, but had the decency to not follow up.

The situation was resolved this March, when Arysta LifeScience was awarded conditional Section 3 registration of Apivar in the U.S. Such registration now sets a tolerance limit for amitraz in honey, giving commercial (and small-scale) beekeepers two options:

1. To do the right thing and use the registered product. Such support of the registrant will allow them to recoup the serious investment that it takes to get a needed product to our industry (the registration process for Apivar has already cost close to **a million dollars**, and will eventually be more than double that figure! (Even then, it’s a gamble—for example, Hivastan lost), or
2. To continue to use cheaper off label homebrews, and then try to wriggle off the hook of potential enforcement action if amitraz residues are found in their honey by claiming that the residues came from the registered product (just in case you’re not sure, this is patently dishonest).

Practical application: If we don’t support the chemical companies when they invest serious money to bring a registered miticide to market (by “cheating” and using the same active ingredient of an agricultural product off label), they will simply abandon us as a market not worth serving in the future!

Keep in mind that Apivar is clearly a better way to use amitraz for mite control than homebrews of agricultural formulations, which contain adjuvants that are toxic to bees. I’ve spoken with Dr. Benoit Siefert of Vêto-pharma about the fine points of amitraz and varroa. He explains that the most effective use of amitraz is to partially paralyze the mites, rather than to kill them outright. Such a sublethal effect prevents them from reproducing, which is why the strips must be left in for the full duration (42-56 days). The slow release of the small amount of amitraz keeps residues in the combs and honey to a minimum, and reduces the selective pressure for mites to develop resistance to the active ingredient.

Practical application: Apivar is likely best applied at least two months *before* you put on honey supers, or the same day that you pull them off.

The flip side is that beekeepers NOW HAVE NO EXCUSE for using “off label” synthetic miticides in their hives. There are now (in addition to the unreliably effective Apistan) four other legal treatments for varroa—Hopguard[®], Apivar[®], thymol (Apiguard[®], Apilife VAR[®]), and formic acid (MAQS). The latter three all are reliably efficacious at reducing mites to safe levels.

Unfortunately, as Johnson [23] points out:

The regulatory system governing the veterinary use of pesticides in bee hives in the USA may be perversely contributing to the problem. ... A change in the regulatory system needs to occur to make effective and safe veterinary pesticides available to beekeepers and to spur research into the effects of candidate compounds on honey bee health.

Call to action: there is yet one more safe, natural, and effective miticide that needs to be registered—oxalic acid. I strongly feel that our industry should put pressure on the EPA to follow its registration in Canada.

The availability of a spectrum of legal treatments nowadays means that the only possible rationalization for not using registered miticides is that the illegal treatments are ‘cheaper’ than the legal treatments. If this is an argument for intentionally breaking the law, it simply doesn’t hold water. Not surprisingly, it fails to sway the EPA, which, if it allowed all farmers to use the same argument, might as well throw its hands up in the air (what farmer wouldn’t want to make his own rules and save money?!)

OK, it seems as though I have a predilection for saying the unpopular thing in public, but I’m going to stick my foot in it again! ***The commercial beekeeping industry needs to start acting like responsible citizens.*** So long as we keep blatantly using illegal mite treatments, our pleas to regulators to crack down on misuse of agricultural pesticides by farmers are gutted from the get go—if we want to talk the talk, we gotta walk the walk.

Johnson, et al, give us an appropriate scolding:

...beekeepers need to realize that honey bee pests and parasites are community problems, as well as individual problems, and that pesticide labels are crafted to protect the sustainability of pesticides. The use of unregistered products is a serious threat to the beekeeping community and should not occur.

(I am fully aware of the argument that we are not hurting anyone else with what we put into our hives, but that is a deplorably weak excuse when we are producing a food product! Honey’s reputation as a pure and natural product stands to be tarnished by careless

beekeepers. I'm also aware that farmers have much more latitude in both choices of pest control products and in application methods. But I don't want to focus upon excuses—I want us to move forward. Since the off-label use of amitraz is rapidly leading to the development of resistant mites, now would be a good time to rethink the way we do things!)

Crying “Foul”

Commercial beekeepers reply with the argument that there is a lack of “affordable” registered miticides available to our industry. Somehow, I find that that argument falls flat, since I make my own living running a commercial beekeeping operation using only legal miticides (other than the aforementioned oxalic acid). I must compete for almond pollination and honey prices against those beekeepers who unfairly save money by using illegal treatments. That creates an un-level playing field, giving a competitive advantage to the lawbreakers. This is patently unfair, and I cry “foul”!

Doing the Impossible

I often hear that it would be “impossible” to do without the illegal off-label treatments. The reality is that anything seems “impossible” until you just start doing it! Out of frustration, curiosity, and concern about the detrimental effects of residues, I tried managing my operation without synthetic miticides over a decade ago, and never felt the need to go back (I'd use amitraz in a heartbeat if I ever felt the need, but simply haven't). Since then we've tripled the size of our operation to around a thousand hives, take strong colonies to almonds each year, and have sold hundreds of nucs every spring—so much for “impossible”! I'm not suggesting that others give up on synthetics—amitraz is clearly an effective and safe varroacide—but just start using the new legal strips (or at least make the effort to get your local vet to write you a prescription for the off-label use of another amitraz product—this would at least make you “legal”)! Our industry tells the EPA to make farmers do the right thing, even if it costs more, and then pass that cost on to the consumer. Our situation is no different.

CALL FOR ACTION: I call upon the leaders of our industry to set an example and do the right thing...once they do, our industry would no longer have anything to hide, and beekeepers could then start filing the adverse effects reports on pesticides that the EPA is begging for. And if we clean up our own act, we can then demand that farmers do the same!

Acknowledgments

As always, I'm indebted to Peter Borst for his assistance in research. And thanks to Jim and Maryann Frazier, Jerry Bromenshenk, Reed Johnson, Judy Wu, Marion Ellis, Roger Simonds, Diana Cox-Foster, Jennifer Berry, and others whom I'm sure I've neglected to mention, for their generosity in discussing these issues with me.

References

- [1] <http://tierneylab.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/06/06/synthetic-v-natural-pesticides/>
- [2] Gribble, GW (1996) The diversity of natural organochlorines in living organisms. *Pure & Appl Chem* 68(9): 1699-1712. <http://stage.iupac.org/publications/pac/1996/pdf/6809x1699.pdf>
- [3] Patocka, J, et al (2011) Anatoxin-a(s): natural organophosphorus anticholinesterase agent. *Mil. Med. Sci. Lett.* 80: 129-139. http://www.vojenskaskola.cz/school/ud/fmhs/research_development/Documents/MMSL_2011_3_5_WWW.pdf
- [4] <http://www.fda.gov/food/foodsafety/foodcontaminantsadulteration/chemicalcontaminants/ethylcarbamateurethane/ucm078546.htm>
- [5] Schmeltz, I (1970) Nicotine and other tobacco alkaloids. <http://wyndmoor.arserrc.gov/Page/1970/3450.pdf>
- [6] <http://plantwire.com/plants/Tanacetum/coccineum&img=524935792>
- [7] Hardstone, MC, and JG Scott (2010) Is *Apis mellifera* more sensitive to insecticides than other insects? *Pest Manag Sci* 66: 1171–1180. <http://entomology-lamp.cit.cornell.edu/scott/159.pdf>
- [8] Cresswell, JE, et al (2012) Differential sensitivity of honey bees and bumble bees to a dietary insecticide (imidacloprid). *Zoology* 115: 365–371.
- [9] Gold, LS, et al (2001) Pesticide residues in food and cancer risk: a critical analysis. In: *Handbook of Pesticide Toxicology*, Second Edition (R. Krieger, ed.), San Diego, CA: Academic Press, pp. 799-843 (2001). <http://potency.berkeley.edu/text/handbook.pesticide.toxicology.pdf> **I highly recommend this read!**
- [10] Després (2007) Op. cit.
- [11] Mao W, et al. (2009) Quercetin-metabolizing CYP6AS enzymes of the pollinator *Apis mellifera* (Hymenoptera: Apidae). *Comp Biochem Physiol B Biochem Mol Biol* 154: 427–434.
- [12] Mao, W, et al (2011) CYP9Q-mediated detoxification of acaricides in the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2011/07/20/1109535108.full.pdf+html>
- [13] Frazier, J, et al (2012) Pesticides and their involvement in colony collapse disorder. <http://www.extension.org/pages/60318/pesticides-and-their-involvement-in-colony-collapse-disorder> **A “must read”!**
- [14] Johnson, RM, et al (2010) Pesticides and honey bee toxicity – USA. *Apidologie* <http://entomology.unl.edu/faculty/ellispubs/Pesticides.pdf>
- [15] <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/the-arsenal-our-choice-of-chemical-weapons/>
- [16] Pettis, J & D vanEngelsdorp (2010) Reduced longevity of adult worker bees related to coumaphos exposure in wax during larval and pupal development. <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/ccd/ccdprogressreport2010.pdf>
- [17] Wu, Judy Y, et al (2012) Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) reared in brood combs containing high levels of pesticide residues exhibit increased susceptibility to *Nosema* (Microsporidia) infection. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* 109: 326–329.
- [18] Johnson, Reed M, Marion D. Ellis, Christopher A. Mullin, Maryann Frazier (2010) Pesticides and honey bee toxicity – USA. *Apidologie* 41: 312–331. Available online at: www.apidologie.org
- [19] Boncristiani, H, et al (2012) Direct effect of acaricides on pathogen loads and gene expression levels in honey bees *Apis mellifera*. *Journal of Insect Physiology* 58: 613–620.
- [20] See <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-7348.1939.tb06990.x/abstract>
- [21] Johnson (2010) Op. cit.
- [22] Butler, CG, et al (1943) Experiments on the poisoning of honeybees by insecticidal and fungicidal sprays used in orchards. *Annals of Applied Biology* 30(2): 143–150. “Losses of bees by poisoning have been greatly increased in recent years by the growing practice of applying insecticidal and fungicidal sprays to fruit trees... When arsenical sprays alone are applied to trees, particularly if to the open blossom as is sometimes the case with gooseberries and cherries, severe poisoning from the pollen may be expected.”
- [23] Johnson (2010) Op. cit

These articles were originally published in the American Bee Journal. All of Randy's bee articles be found at: www.Scientificbeekeeping.com. If you find these articles of use. Randy appreciates donations to fund his efforts.



Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies

For all your beekeeping needs

- ... Assembled boxes and frames
- ... Beetek plastic frames and top feeders*
- ... Beetle traps
- ... Books
- ... Boxes and frames (Alliance)
- ... Extractors (electric and manual)
- ... Foundation (plastic and wax)
- ... Hive Tools (10" and 12")
- ... Honey tanks and strainers
- ... Jenter rearing kits*
- ... Sherriff protective clothing*
- ... Smokers (Italian and Kelley)
- ... Wire and plastic queen excluders etc

Beetek *longer lasting* Full Depth
Frames and Foundation *sheets!!**

- ... Food grade resin
- ... Highest quality manufacture
- ... Strength and reliability
- ... 20 years of innovation
and service to the industry
- ... The choice of professional
beekeepers

BULK PRICES AVAILABLE!

* Exclusive rights of import in Australia



HORNSBY BRANCH

63-A Hunter Lane, Hornsby, NSW 2077
Tel: (02) 9477 5569, Fax: (02) 9477 7494

Trading hours

Mon – Fri 9am 'til 5pm, Sat 9am 'til 4pm

MT. DRUITT BRANCH

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Ave, Mt. Druitt, NSW 2770
Tel: (02) 9625 5424, Fax: (02) 9625 7589

Trading hours

Mon – Fri 10am 'til 6pm, Sat 10am 'til 5pm

You can also shop online at
www.hornsby-beekeeping.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Please find attached information and photos I have put together based on my recent beekeeping experience.



These photos are of the canola and dead bees which were in pupae stage which have been pulled from brood cells and have been thrown out. As you can see it is a beautiful crop of canola.

There are also Faba beans and Lupins on his farm that the bees were working.

While I was on the property taking off a load of honey, it was brought to my attention by the farmer that he would need to spray the canola crop for aphids. It was then that I asked the farmer what chemical he would be using to spray for aphids. He informed me that he would be using the chemical PIRIMOR a chemical that by label, if used correctly, is safe for honey bees. The chemicals label states that the chemical should be sprayed between dusk and dawn at a time when the bees are not out foraging amongst the canola.

Knowing this information I asked the farmer if the canola could be sprayed early in the morning or late in the afternoon when my bees would be less active. He said yes that would be ok. So I was shocked at MIDDAY when I saw the farmer spraying the canola crop with only a fence separating the sprayed crop and my load of bees. It was later, after I had spoken to the property owner that his son found me in the paddock and apologized for what had happened. The following day I noticed my bees had started to die. There were dead adult drones and young worker bees laying on the ground dying. This was due to the chemical being sprayed at the wrong time of the day. I made the decision to move my four loads of bees off the property, for fear of losing the entire load due to the spraying of this chemical.

As I am only able to move one load of bees at a time and also needing to find new properties to move them to, I returned the next day to start moving the last of the loads only to find the farmer again spraying the crop, this time at approximately 9.30am. I found this to be most frustrating as only the day before he had apologized for spraying the crop at the wrong time of the day, yet here he was again spraying mid-morning a clear defiance of what the label suggests.

I have been placing bees on this farm for 28years coinciding with the farmer and his crop production without any issues. Until now. It has only been since the farmer's son has taken over the property that I have noticed an increase in the amount of chemicals they are using on their crops. In doing so they have killed off all the good predators that help control the aphids, such as lady beetles and hober flies. These predators use to be in abundance when his father was farming and using fewer chemicals.

I feel that the chemical companies and agronomists are working together and pushing the use of chemicals on farmers as the most effective form of insect control. I fear that if the farmers don't change their attitude towards chemicals, not only will the beekeepers continue to have problems but the farmers will also see an increase in chemical build up and a resistance to all pests in their crops.

Regards,
Mal Porter

Claymyth Pty Ltd ABN 65 068 291 163

BURNETT BEE KEEPING SUPPLIES

MANUFACTURERS OF-
QUALITY HOOP PINE BOXES, FRAMES,
CLEARER BOARDS, LID RIM, RISERS,
FOUNDATION ETC - BULK ORDERS TAKEN

David Horton

Phone/Fax 07 4162 3606 Mobile 0429 130 167
www.burnettbeekeepingsupplies.com.au
bbeesupplies@bordnet.net.au
806 River Road, Kingaroy Qld 4610



HYDES CREEK

WOODWORKS

ALL AUSTRALIAN HOOP PINE

FRAMES	BOXES
FULL DEPTH	LIDS
WSP	CLEARER
IDEALS	BOARDS
HONEY COMB	BOTTOM
QUEEN CAGES	BOARDS
	RISERS & MORE

Contact: Phil Kethel
15 Crawford Close Bellingen NSW 2454
Ph/Fax: (02) 6655 1385
Mobile: 0428 960 917
Email: philkhydscreekww@bigpond.com

The REVOLUTIONARY SOLUTION BLUEBEES Brood Box Bottom Board Explained

“Prevention is better than cure”

- Modern beekeepers use traditional practices and equipment playing very important roles in beekeeping farming techniques and subsequent results. The current traditional equipment and practices have catastrophic impact to both the honey production and to the vital protection of the healthy environmental sustainability of the honeybee habitat when interloping parasites invade beehives.
- The ideal environment in which SHBs breed requires food (honey), warmth (inside honeybee hive), humidity (honeybee hive water condensation) and the traditional brood box bottom board.
- Construction of the traditional brood box includes a solid bottom board, a normal entrance and generally two ventilation holes in the lid of the hive.
- Traditional brood box design with its plain bottom board suppresses ventilation thereby allowing condensation and humidity to increase to a level, which optimises the SHB breeding conditions.
- Traditional brood box bottom board definitely creates the right environment for SHB breeding.
- Traditional brood box bottom board allows substantial amassed quantities of debris and detritus where the SHB hide and diseases incubate more readily.
- Should any hives be pest-colonised to the degree as shown **on YouTube** (Search "**Small Hive Beetle Infestation**") there is very little ability to salvage these hives.
- The solution lies only with prevention.
- Rather than trying to control the SHB after it has invaded honeybee colonies' hives which use the traditional brood box bottom board, a better solution is to discourage the SHB from colonising the beehive by radically changing the traditional beehive environment to the extent that SHB breeding simply becomes impossible. ○ The brood box bottom boards must remain clean at all times.
- The preventive solution already exists. When the brood box traditional bottom board is replaced by the Australian-made Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board, airflow within the beehive is increased. The humidity and condensation within the beehive will thus dramatically decrease, making the environment inhospitable for the SHB to breed. As one of the prime requirements for the SHB's breeding is humidity the SHB can no longer successfully breed in this dry and clean environment. The SHB will relocate to a more suitable breeding environment, leaving the beehive with optimal ventilation and beetle-free.
- The revolutionary Australian-made Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board allows optimal airflow thereby dramatically reducing the humidity created by the natural condensation generated by all healthy honeybee colonies.
- The inside brood and super boxes become dry and remain dry because the right amount of air-flow is allowed to go through the entire beehive.

Advertorial

- Additionally, the Australian-made Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board design allows and encourages the honeybees to eject any interloping pests including the dreaded Varroa Destructor along with any debris / detritus.
- Bees build wax burr on the mesh bottom boards (just like on plain bottom boards) which of course needs to be thoroughly cleaned regularly, otherwise the SHB will breed in the burrs.
- Preventive action is the correct answer to control interloping pests. Healthy and strong honeybee colonies have their beehive environmental sustainability maintained due of the technical characteristics of the Australian-made Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board. The Bluebees Brood Box Bottom Board empowers the honeybee colonies to adapt and learn to deal with any interloping pests efficiently.
- The need to use chemical applications to control pests is avoidable, because the honeybee colonies have now the means to efficiently manage the health and cleanliness of their beehive environment.

Beekeepers now have the *choice* between a dangerous polluting chemical applications or a totally safe mechanical application, with the Bluebees Bottom Board.

Protected worldwide by
The Australian Federal Government IP Design
14221/2010. Extended till October 2020



The Revolutionary Solution
BLUEBEES Brood Box Bottom Boards

for 8 to 10 Frame Hives

www.bluebees.com.au

“Prevention is Better Than Cure”

CHEMICAL FREE - Pests become resistant to pesticides, bees suffer, honey & wax are polluted. Bluebees Boards curtail chemical use, your honey remains natural!

- Suppresses humidity & deprives the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) breeding conditions in the hive
- Facilitates dry & clean hives with strong & healthy bees, best bottom board for pollination
- Empowers bees to hunt & eject interloping pests such as: SHB, Wax Moth & Varroa - (not yet in Australia), as well as debris from the hive



Made in Australia to Professional Beekeeper Standards
Winner 2012 - Bendigo Inventor Award for
Agriculture and Environment Sustainability

Contact: J-Pierre Mercader (Proprietor) **Phone:** 0412 451 060
Email: jpm@bluebees.com.au **Website:** www.bluebees.com.au

Protected by The Australian Federal Government IP Design 14221/2010 & 14222/2010. Extended till October 2020.



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Executive Director: Trevor Weatherhead Phone: 07 5467 2265

Mailing Address: PO Box 4253 Raceview QLD 4305 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au

FOR THE LATEST NEWS GO TO THE AHBIC WEBSITE: www.honeybee.org.au

BEEAWARE WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

I have brought this to your attention before but if you have not looked at the BeeAware website then you must.

See: <http://beeaware.org.au/>. Also there is a newsletter that you can subscribe to which gives updates on some of the latest news from the beekeeping sector from here and around the world.

LEVY RETURNS

I have been asked by several queen bee breeders about the queen levy return for 2014-15. The queen bee levy was set at zero on 1 August 2014 so you will need to submit a return for the one month ie July 2014. For most it will be nil. After that there will be no more returns.

EUREKA PRIZE FINALISTS

Dr Nadine Chapman and Professor Ben Oldroyd from the University of Sydney were finalists in the Australian Museum Rural Research and Development Corporation's Eureka Prize for Rural Innovation. Their nomination was in relation to their work on the fight against varroa mites. Whilst not the eventual winners, congratulations to Nadine and Ben on being finalists in such a prestigious award.

APP FOR PLANT RECOGNITION

The ABC Rural has a report on a researcher at Edith Cowan University developing an App for plant recognition using a single leaf. So far he has 30 plants in the database. Maybe something for the future for beekeepers. No need for honey flora books.

For more information See: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-08-21/plant-recognitiontechnology/6715766>

NORTHERN CANOLA GROWNOTE

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) has issued a northern canola GrowNote. This is to help growers increase yields in canola in New South Wales and Queensland. For more information See: http://getfarming.com.au/pages/farming/articles_view.php?fid=9200020150819165933&cld=4

WHY ARE QUEEN BEES AND WORKERS DIFFERENT

A newly published paper "A dietary phytochemical alters caste-associated gene expression in honey bees" Mao, Schuler, Berenbaum Sci. Adv. 1, e1500795 (2015) shows that a phytochemical is responsible for making the worker bee. See: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/7/e1500795.full-text.pdf>

CONSULTATION STARTS ON NEW BIOSECURITY REGULATION

Public consultation has commenced for the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015.

The Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture has released the first draft regulation under the new *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The release of the draft Biosecurity (Biosecurity Import Risk Analyses) Regulation 2015 (BIRA regulation) gives interested clients and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback on how biosecurity import risk analyses will be conducted when the new Act takes effect in **June 2016**.

The BIRA regulation sets out the key steps to the BIRA process. The BIRA regulation also includes specific timeframes, publications and consultation requirements, involvement of a scientific advisory group and the role of the Inspector-General of Biosecurity in the BIRA process.

The draft BIRA process under the new legislation was guided by the recommendations from the recently released examination of the import risk analysis (IRA) process report.

The exposure draft of the BIRA regulation has been published on the department's website for a three month consultation period and will close on **30 November 2015**.

More information, or to make a submission, please visit: www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecuritylegislation or contact the Biosecurity Legislation implementation Section at newbiosecuritylegislation@agriculture.gov.au or call us on 1800 040 629.

BEESWAX TO JAPAN

Under the free trade agreement with Japan there is a gradual reduction of tariffs on honey and beeswax.

AHBIC has been advised by Austrade in Japan that in recent times there has been beeswax exported from Australia that did not take advantage of the reduction in tariff. The current tariff is 10.5% down from 12.8 % pre the free trade agreement. The tariff gradually reduces over the coming years until 1 April 2024 when it will be zero.

For more information of the Free Trade Agreement with Japan See <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/jaepa/pages/japan-australia-economic-partnership-greement.aspx>

BIOSECURITY FARMER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lindsay Bourke who was named the Biosecurity Farmer of the Year (Plants). As reported last month this was the fourth year that Lindsay has been a finalist. Truly an amazing record.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY WINS AT APIMONDIA

Lindsay Bourke entered his leatherwood honey into the honey competition at Apimondia in Korea last month and won. Congratulations to Lindsay.

B-QUAL

Industry Owned Quality Assurance



- Train at home
- Audit every two years*
- Group Accreditation
- Practical quality assurance designed by beekeepers for beekeepers
- Industry trained auditors
- Free assistance hotline
- International recognition
- Packer premiums*
- * Conditions Apply

For all enquiries call **1800 630 890**
or go to www.bqual.com.au

Valley Bee Keeping Supplies

SUPPLYING ALLIANCE WOODWARE & FRAMES

SPECIALISING IN WIRED & EMBEDDED FRAMES

ASSEMBLED, TREATED & PAINTED BOXES
LIDS & BOTTOMS

A FULL RANGE OF BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT
FOR THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

HONEY EXTRACTION, STORAGE &
CONTAINERS

NSW AGENT FOR HIVEMIND NZ

MAIL ORDER WELCOME

OR

SHOP ONLINE

www.valley-industries.com.au



70 Whitbread Street, Taree NSW 2430

mark.page@valley-industries.com.au

Phone 6552 8888 Fax 6552 5941 Mobile 0458 522 240



Valley Industries Ltd

"Helping People to Help Themselves"

Steven and Jodie Goldsworthy

38 - 40 Hammersley Road

Corowa NSW 2646

Phone: (02) 6033 2322

Mobile: 0419 559 242

info@beechworthhoney.com.au



www.beechworthhoney.com.au

AGRICULTURAL EXPORT REGULATION REVIEW

There is a review of the agricultural export regulations for Australia. Details can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/helps/export-regulation-review>. AHBIC has been invited to a meeting and AHBIC will also be putting in a submission.

DRAFT POLICY REVIEW FOR IMPORTATION OF DRONE BEE SEMEN

Advice has been received from the Department of Agriculture that the draft policy review of The Importation of Drone Bee Semen is out for comment. It can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/riskanalysis/memos/ba2015-16>

Comments are due in by 1 December, 2015.



Collecting semen from a drone bee

TIRED OF REPLACING PLASTIC TRAPS?

Silver Bullet

BEETLE TRAPS

FOR SMALL HIVE BEETLES

BUILT TO LAST

Recommended for use with Diatomaceous earth

- Strong watertight folded aluminium construction.
- Secure spill resistant sliding lid sheds moisture keeping earth dry and working for extended periods.
- Easily cleaned and reused again and again.



For all enquiries contact John, Kerry and Sam Hawkins
TEL: 02 65671598

EMAIL: billybyang@bigpond.com.au

CHEMICAL FREE

AUSTRALIAN MADE

ABARES SURVEY

AHBIC has been in contact with ABARES re the survey that Minister Joyce put up money for. The actual survey questions have been decided and the survey will give us up to date information on our industry and where it is going.

The survey is due to commence early next year and will be a face to face survey. So if you are selected to be one of the selected participants, please help as much as you can so that we have accurate data on our industry.

B-QUAL

B-Qual met this month and Dr Nicholas Chantler from Tasmania has been appointed as a Director.

Following the AGM the Board is:

Barry Pobke – Chairman

Ian Zadow

Wayne Fuller

Dr Nicholas Chantler

Trevor Weatherhead (Secretary)

Tony Fuchs (Public Officer)

PASSING OF PETER MOLAN

Peter Molan passed away peacefully at his home on 16 September, 2015 aged 71 years.

Peter will be remembered for his great work in bringing manuka honey to the fore in New Zealand. Australia was able to identify that we also have jellybush honey as well as manuka both of which have the same properties.

CATEGORISATION

The categorisation process is underway for four of the exotic mites, *Varroa destructor*, *V. jacobsoni*, *Tropilaelaps clareae* and *T. mercedesae*. There is no outcome as yet.

ALLERGIES

I came across this PowerPoint on allergies which may be of interest to you. It was given in 2011 by a member of the group who is an anaesthetist. See <http://www.stratfordbeekeepers.org.uk/Newsletters/AllergyAndAnaphylaxis.ppt>

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

For the financial year ended 30 June, 2015 Australia exported 4,189 tonnes of honey. The top five (5) destinations were China, Malaysia, Philippines, United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

During the same period Australia imported 8,813 tonnes of honey with the top five (5) countries being China, New Zealand, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil.

BEECONNECTED

Matthew Cossey, CEO of CropLife Australia has sent AHBIC a letter outlining the success so far of BeeConnected. I would hope that beekeepers are using this as it is a very useful tool in helping avoid accidental spraying of bees.

It is great to see the award BeeConnected has received and the fact that it is now to be launched in three countries and five different languages. AHBIC is pleased to have been a part of this program but, as I have said, it is there to be used.

“BeeConnected was launched one year ago on the 25th of September to enable easy and private communication between farmers and beekeepers, helping them to protect bees. In the year since its launch, BeeConnected has seen

significant user uptake, received positive reviews, won a prestigious international award, is being rolled out in three countries and, most importantly, is helping to keep Australia’s honeybee colonies the healthiest in the world.

BeeConnected is an award-winning example of what the Australian plant science and agriculture industry, in partnership with the Honey Bee Industry, is doing to keep it this way.

Recently, BeeConnected, as part of CropLife Australia’s Pollinator Protector Initiative, was awarded the Best Stewardship Programme at the prestigious international Agrow Awards in London.

Receiving this award is recognition of the global leadership in industry stewardship by CropLife’s members and the significant support of our official supporters.

Australian farmers, contractors and beekeepers are using the application to communicate and collaborate with other users to ensure best-practice pollinator protection. Users receive real-time information about nearby beekeeper presence or crop protection application activity and are able to instantly message other users to help keep Australia’s honeybees healthy while also maintaining their privacy, all from their smartphone device or computer. Without the promotion and support of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council, the success of BeeConnected would not be possible.

After the success of BeeConnected in Australia, CropLife Australia is launching BeeConnected in countries in three continents, in five different languages, for a number of our international sister organisations and industry alliances. BeeConnected will soon be connecting farmers and beekeepers globally, helping to protect the health of honeybees around the world.”

EL NINO AHEAD?

Weather Bureau issues Climate Outlook for September to November 2015

The outlook for the next three months indicates:

A wetter-than-average spring is more likely in western and central Australia.

Warmer nights likely for most of Australia, with warmer days are likely along the east coast and far southwest Western Australia.

Climate influences include El Niño in the Pacific and record warm sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean.

Updated each month, Climate Outlooks provide a key service for many Australian sectors that need to look at the months and season ahead for their planning, such as the resources, agriculture and rural sectors, as well as emergency services.

Climate Outlooks indicate likely temperature and rainfall trends over monthly or seasonal timescales, and are driven by large-scale shifts in the climate such as El Niño or La Niña events.

By contrast, weather forecasts are currently produced out to seven days, and are used in short-term planning.

For more information, or to watch or share the video visit www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/

POLLEN



100% PURE NATURAL POLLEN

Just as the bees collect it
for themselves!

We have irradiated pollen
as per AQIS standard

Just the right thing

to get a broodnest started for almond
pollination

Pollen available in 5kgs bags

1 x 5 kg bag		\$15/kg
4 x 5kg bags	1 Box	\$13/kg
20 x 5kg bags	5 Boxes	\$12/kg

Plus freight

Contact: Browns Bees Australia
Terry Brown Ph: 02 6886 1448
Email: brownsbees@gmail.com

Honey Containers

Col Baker & Associates

ABN: 68 768 503 674



Clear plastic pails with tamper evident lid

Sizes available: 3kg, 1kg

1kg pails and Lids - \$0.90 each

3 kg pails and Lids - \$1.50 each

All prices include GST

Prices are ex Lismore - Northern NSW

Contact: Col Baker - 0409 580 298

Email: ck.baker@bigpond.com

AIR UP, AIR DOWN On the Run from the Cab

AIR CTI Saves You Time, Saves You Money

Truck go up impossible
sand dunes, and tow a
trailer. Its just remarkable
the difference AIR CTI
makes

Ian Oakley—Desert Country

AIR CTI is excellent in
sand, is great for traction,
and smooths out the rough
bits on rocky roads. Also
doesn't chop up the tracks
in National Parks. And No
Loss of Bees whilst Trans-
porting.

Allan Cotton—South Australia

Extra Traction

Opens up rougher tracks

Bees Less Stressed

Smoother Ride



**Aussie Tough
for Aussie Conditions**



AIR CTI

www.aircti.com

PH: 03 5127 6128

Sales: 0437 517 423



"That's what it does"



HEAT YOUR HONEY PLANT FOR LESS THAN \$30.00 A DAY!!!*



SELF CONTAINED HOT WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM

- Thermostatically Controlled
- Running at 98° +/-2°
- Wash down hose & gun included in package
- Diesel Fired, Economical to run, 2Litres per hour
- Simple & Reliable! 20 plus years of field service and counting!
- Under 3 amps power consumption**

ENQUIRIES TO:

495 GRAND JUNCTION RD, WINGFIELD SA 5013

P: (08) 8244 0110 F: (08) 8244 0156

Email: info@spitwatersa.com.au

130 GIPPS RD, SMITHFIELD NSW 2164

P: (02) 9725 4211 F: (02) 9725 2631

Email: info@spitwaternsw.com.au

*Based on a 10 hour working day ** In our field tests

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

200 - 10 Frame wire excluders - never used
Phone: 02 6845 3002 - Richard (night)

WANTED

Beekeeping photos - high resolution
Contact: The Editor - phone: 0411 662 014
or send to: honeybeenews@bigpond.com

Jz's Bz's QUEEN CAGES

- Money & Time Saver
- Improves Queen acceptance
- Quick & easy to place in hive

Banking Bars - Queen Cell Cups
Easy Fit Cell Protectors
Queen Candy



SUNDERLAND APIARIES

'GAMBOL PARK'
MINORE ROAD, MS6
DUBBO NSW 2830

PH: 02 6887 2202
FAX: 02 6887 2255

AUSTRALIAN DISTRIBUTORS

The Cost Effective Queen Shipping & Introduction System

SA BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

2 Gawler River Rd, Lewiston SA 5501

Food Grade Plastic Foundations

Full Depth - W.S.P - Manley

Mahurangi Frames to suit

8Fr & 10Fr W/Wire excluders

Beautifully made

Heavy Duty Hive-locks

Discount on pallet lots

Gary & Cynthia Brown

Ph/Fax: (08) 8380 9695

Mob: 0429 806 609

Email: beekeep2@bigpond.com.au

BEEKEEPING JOURNALS

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

For beekeeping information read the American Bee Journal
Editorial emphasis on practical-down-to-earth material,
including questions and answers.

1 year US\$50.00, 2 years US\$96.00, 3 years US\$138.00

Digital Edition price US\$16.00

Please inquire for airmail - VISA, MasterCard accepted

For more information or free sample copy, write to:

51 South 2nd Street, Hamilton, Illinois, 62341

Tel: (217) 847 3324 Fax: (217) 847 3660

Email: abj@dadant.com

Website: www.americanbeejournal.com

The American Bee Journal is the largest monthly
apiculture magazine in the world.

BEE CULTURE

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

Published Monthly

Free Calendar with Subscription

www.BeeCulture.com for details

AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc.

Published monthly

Annual subscription: \$78 Australia / \$120 overseas

For more information and a free sample copy

Contact: The Editor PO Box 42, Newstead VIC 3462

Email: abjeditors@yahoo.com

THE BUZZ!

South Australian Apiarists' Association Newsletter

Published 5 times annually

Included in annual membership subscription to SAAA

(minimum subs \$88.00)

For further information please contact:

The Secretary, SAAA

1 Parma Street, Pt. Broughton SA 5522

Phone: (08) 8635 2257 Email: secretary@saaa.org.au

THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

Bi-monthly newsletter for

THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

Editor: Robyn Alderton

Ph: 0401 897 730 Email: robyn.alderton@live.com.au

THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

Magazine of the National Beekeepers' Association
of New Zealand - www.nba.org.nz

Subscriptions: Jessica Williams

PO Box 10792 Wellington 6143 New Zealand

Phone: 04 471 6254 Fax: 04 499 0876

Email: secretary@nba.org.nz

Advertising: Leonie Young

Ph: 03 455 4486 Fax: 03 455 7286

Email: sales@southcityprint.co.nz



Supporting Aussie Beekeepers Since 1953



100%
Australian
Owned &
Grown

For more than 60 years Capilano Honey has grown from a small beekeeping cooperative into Australia's and one of the world's largest honey packing companies. Domestic and international demand for Capilano branded honey is very strong and we are actively seeking to expand our supplier network, sourcing quality honey and beeswax from new and existing beekeepers. Capilano Honey does not require suppliers to be shareholders in order to conduct business, so give us a call to discuss your interest in supplying Capilano.

Contact: Ben McKee
Managing Director
Phone: 1800 350 977
Fax: (07) 3712 8285
Email: b.mckee@capilano.com.au

Contact: Bill Winner
Beekeeper Services Manager
Phone: 1800 350 977
Fax: (07) 3712 8285
Email: b.winner@capilano.com.au

Contact: Michael Bellman
Branch Manager, Western Australia
Phone: 1800 350 977
Fax: (08) 9271 1025
Email: m.bellman@capilano.com.au

Australia's favourite honey, naturally!
www.capilano.com.au



Steam

**For decapping, extractors,
wax reducer & wash down**



Fully Automatic Electric Steam Boilers

**Model shown ranges
from 3kW to 30kW**

- **Steam output from
5.7 to 47.7kg/hr.**
- **Models range from
1/3 h.p. (3kW) to
48 h.p. (480kW).**

Advantages

- Fast steam raising
- Compactly packaged & self contained, no plant room required
- 99% Thermal efficiency
- Low capital & low installation costs
- No boiler attendant required
(State regulations may limit maximum capacity)
- Simple installation requires only connection of water & electricity
- No flue – no fire – no risk of explosion – no fumes or smell
- No oil storage tank – no oil deliveries
- Clean equipment & work area
- Can be installed adjacent to steam appliance in workspace
- Quiet & reliable operation – low maintenance cost
- Simple to operate & maintain – no sophisticated burner/ignition/ draft controls – no fire brick maintenance
- Corrosion resistant, no tubes, gussets or stays – no heat transfer surfaces
- Low heating element replacement cost
- All spare parts available ex stock
- Comprehensive operating & maintenance instructions, wiring & piping diagrams accompany each boiler

SIMONS BOILER CO.

Australian family owned company Est.1932

Unit 1/33 Maddox Street Alexandria NSW 2015 Australia

Ph: (02) 8338 8660

Fax: (02) 8338 8661

www.simonsboiler.com.au

ADVERTISERS

Aerofast Tiedowns	11
AIR CTI	42
Apiary Cots	21
Arnia remote hive monitoring	13
Aussie Hives	22
Australian Queen Bee Exporters	27
Australian Queen Bee Line	22
Ausure Insurance Brokers	19
Avant Equipment	7
Bee Engineering	15
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd	40
BeePlas Australia	18
Bindaree Bee Supplies	2
Blue Bees Producers	38
B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd	39
Browns Bees Australia	42
Burnett Bee Keeping Supplies	37
Capilano Honey Ltd	45
Clayton Plastics Pty Ltd	19
Col Baker - Honey Containers	42
Cottesbrook Honey	8
Covey Queens	2
Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies	6
Denmar Apiaries	2
Dewar Apiaries/Bee Build	10
Dunc's Honey	26
Ezyloader	10
Healy Group	26
Honey Down Under	2
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies	36
Hummerbee Forklifts	9
Hunter Valley Apiaries	29
Hydes Creek Woodworks	37
JZs BZs Queen Cages	44
NUPLAS - Plastic Hives	24/25
Penders Beekeeping Supplies	28
Prestige Stainless	27
SA Beekeeping Supplies	44
SCHÜTZ	48
<i>Silver Bullet</i> Beetle Traps	40
Simons Boiler Co	46
Spitwater	43
Steritech Pty Ltd	23
Superbee	47
Valley Industries Ltd	40
Wedderburn	23
www.candlemaking.com.au	8

As one of Australia's largest
packers of pure Australian honey,
Superbee Honey Factory is
LOOKING FOR SUPPLIERS
to support our increasing demand
for Australian Honey



CONTACT US TO REQUEST A QUOTE OR BOOK A DELIVERY T. 02 6851 1155

KARLA HUDSON M. 0421 620 419 - E. karla@superbee.com.au

BEN SMITH M. 0427 524 151 - E. ben@superbee.com.au

WE HAVE NEW IBC'S FOR SALE TO OUR SUPPLIERS AT \$325 (INCL).

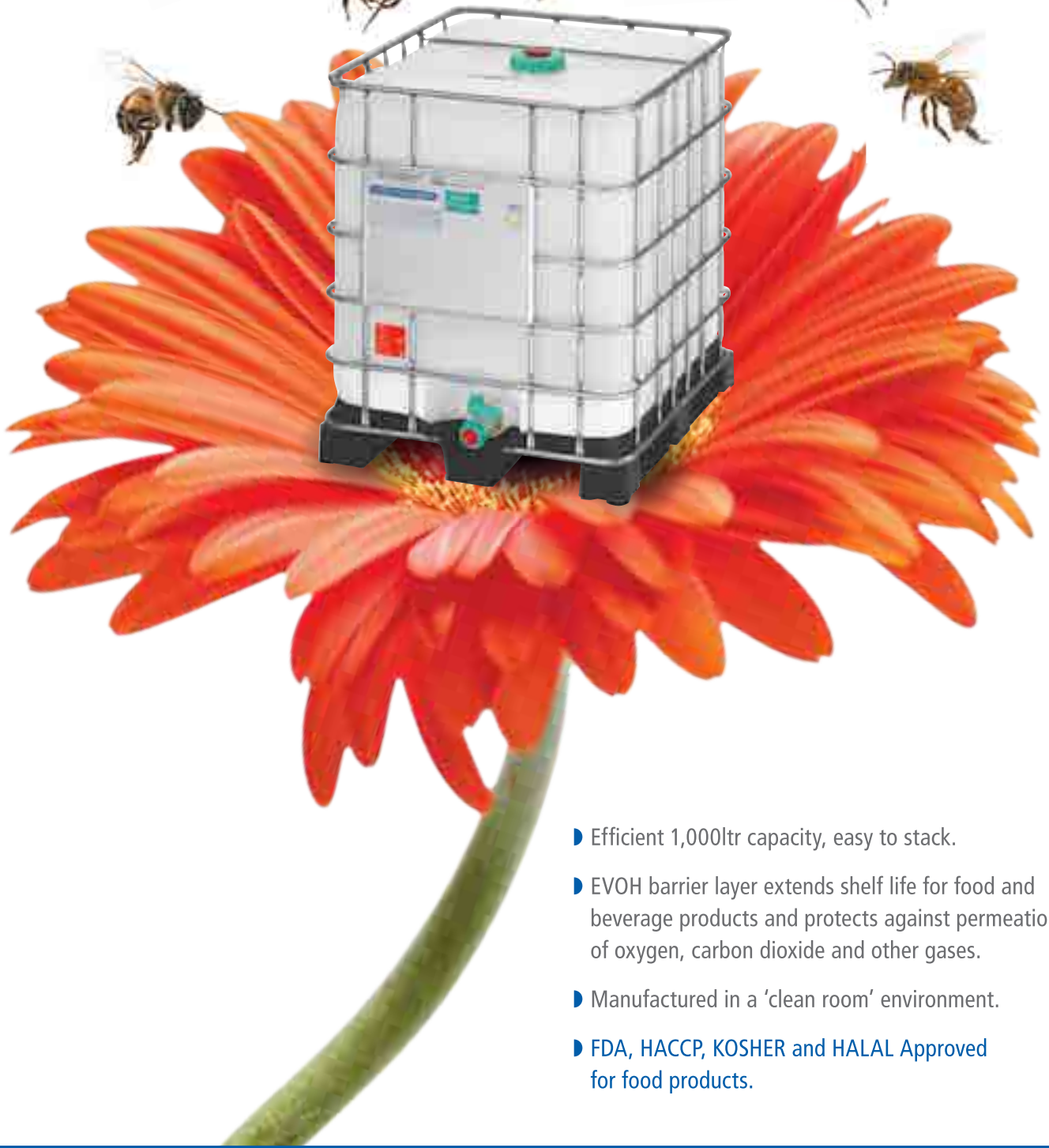
*We can deduct the price directly from your honey delivery,
so you can take them home when you drop off the honey!*

PAYMENT IN 30 DAYS OR LESS



Bee Wonderful Pty Ltd
ABN. 37 113 160 571
Cnr Newell Hwy & Landrace Rd
Forbes NSW 2871
T. (02) 6851 1155
F. (02) 6851 1177
www.superbee.com.au

Why is the honey industry attracted to SCHÜTZ IBCs?



- ▶ Efficient 1,000ltr capacity, easy to stack.
- ▶ EVOH barrier layer extends shelf life for food and beverage products and protects against permeation of oxygen, carbon dioxide and other gases.
- ▶ Manufactured in a 'clean room' environment.
- ▶ FDA, HACCP, KOSHER and HALAL Approved for food products.