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Volume 9 Number 3
May-June 2016

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COVER: The remains of a previously productive Apiary Site on the NSW South Coast

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Note: New Rates from 1 March 2016

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- 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
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Thank you to all that attended this year's Conference in Albury, it was extremely pleasing to see so many members take the time out of their busy schedules to make our Conference a successful event.

Many would have attended to hear Minister Blair's address, with most holding grave concerns for the future of their industry and livelihoods.

I sincerely believe our industry has the ear of a Minister that is supportive of apiculture, but much work needs to be done to ensure we as an essential industry are given a fair and equitable outcome. Negotiations with both government and their agencies are ongoing.

Since Conference Greg Roberts and I have attended yet another meeting with the Apiary Site Working Group in Sydney.

NSWAA and other agencies have been asked by Minister Blair to provide a submission to the group Chair by 8 June 2016. My hope is that this request may expedite the process of giving a favourable outcome to our industry. Wishful thinking? I hope not, as the future of an industry that not only produces some of the best quality honeys in the world, but also provides pollination services to both our horticultural and agricultural industries will be severely compromised. The submission to the Apiary Sites Working Group is published in this edition.

As I see it our biggest obstacle is getting the bureaucrats, that make these decisions, to fully understand the complexities involved in maintaining a viable apiary operation.

The Demise of our Resource

Some sixty-odd years ago my father started beekeeping on public lands with the then Forestry Commission of NSW. Those sites and others acquired since have been utilised by our family ever since, our business grew over the years as did our portfolio of apiary sites that are required to maintain our operation.

In recent years it has become more difficult to predict potential flowering events and probable nectar yield as extreme climate conditions (fires, droughts & floods) have had adverse effects on the ability of native trees such as eucalypt, corymbia and angophora species, to provide a supply of nectar or pollen.

In my opinion the greatest cause of loss of reliability of eucalypt species to produce pollen and especially nectar has been the change in timber harvesting activities that have extensively changed both the available species mix and tree maturity, smaller trees don't have the same sugar content in their nectar, as indicated by Brad Laws research, and as has been shown this season on the South Coast, Spotted Gum nectar secretion in many heavily logged areas is severely limited, even the Flying Foxes are leaving the area.

Other Resource Issues

Your association is currently compiling a submission to the NSW Biodiversity Legislation Review, which is due 23 June.

I have had numerous reports from members stating that they have either been advised not to locate or requested to move hives from sites on areas to be harvested on the South Coast.

I have received a letter from Forestry Corp NSW (FCNSW) that states that an alternate location within your permit area would be available. Please refer to FCNSW letter published in this edition.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

Those that were successful in the recent ballot to return sites to industry have been notified and your response was required by April 29. Due to staffing problems within NPWS offices there have been delays in progressing apiary licences. I will be corresponding with NPWS soon to try to expedite the issuing of these licenses.

Governance

Welcome to Mark Page who joins your new executive along with the re-elected councillors, Casey Cooper who was re-elected as vice president and myself re-elected as president. Members continuing for rest of their term, Shona Blair and Steve Targett.

We as your Association representatives will work to gain workable outcomes and address issues as they arise.

Thanks to you Rob Mitchie for all your years of service to your Association; your input and dedication was much appreciated.

Thanks to our Secretary Kate McGilvray for the efficient organisation of our day-to-day running and special thanks for organising such a well run Conference. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the coming year.

Thanks must go to Therese Kershaw for her organisation of both the trade show and the wine and cheese night, excellent job and I hope you are able to continue to be engaged in these roles.

The next Executive meeting will be held in Orange on 15 August. Branches that have any items of business please pass on to Secretary Kate McGilvray well prior to meeting date.

Conference 2017 is proposed to be held mid-May on the North Coast, venue yet to be confirmed.

Bee Poisonings

Last April 200 hives located on a private property in the Northern Tablelands were poisoned by several EPA identified chemicals.

All members are reminded to report all suspected chemical bee kills to the EPA by Phoning 131 555. If not reported there is no record of these incidents.

Sponsors

Without the generous support of the many businesses that continue to support your Association, the ability to provide great venues and reasonable registration fees would be severely restricted, sponsorship also allows funds raised in excess of costs to be reinvested back into effectively running your Association.

Thank you to all sponsors and I urge members to support their businesses where possible.

Neil Bingley
State President

2016 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2016/1

MOVED: C Cooper SECONDED: R Michie
 'That the proposed amendments to the Association's constitution (Clause 7h, Clause 9b, Clause 9b, Clause 10h and Clause Section 17g) as advised to members and copied below be accepted by the members.'

(These amendments were published in Australia's Honeybee News and displayed at Conference)

RESOLUTION 2016/2

MOVED: R Michie SECONDED: S Targett
 'That the 0-10 hive category in Section 9b and Section 10h of the Association constitution be amended to read 1-10 hives.'

RESOLUTION 2016/3

MOVED: B Weiss SECONDED: J Knox
 'That the Northern tablelands branch of the NSWAA would like to commend the apiary site working group and especially Neil Bingley for the hard work with regards to bee sites on forested land.'

RESOLUTION 2016/5

MOVED: S McGrath SECONDED: M Porter
 'That the NSWAA opposes all auctioning or tendering of bee sites on all public lands.'

RESOLUTION 2016/6

MOVED: S McGrath SECONDED: M Porter
 'That the NSWAA seek a single desk process for all bee sites.'

RESOLUTION 2016/7

MOVED: C Pearce-Brown SECONDED: L Kay
 'That the NSWAA ask AHBIC to meet with Australia Post with a view to developing a fit for purpose method of delivering live queen bees to customers that allows the customer to choose the safe drop point for the package, and that this procedure be implemented nationally for use by queen bee breeders, and that AHBIC review the procedure, via seeking feedback from beekeepers & breeders after 12 months.'

RESOLUTION 2016/8

MOVED: G Manning SECONDED: B Weiss
 'That beekeepers should not promote diseases management practices that are illegal or not approved by the Bee Biosecurity Code.'

RESOLUTION 2016/9

MOVED: C Cooper SECONDED: G Roberts
 'That NSWAA request AHBIC to approach PHA with the aim of gaining funding to enable the training of state response teams.'

RESOLUTION 2016/10

MOVED: B Jones SECONDED: E Whitby
 'That NSWAA organise a survey to obtain information from beekeepers on damage or losses to bees from chemicals in NSW over the last 15 years for industry use.'

RESOLUTION 2016/11

MOVED: G Roberts SECONDED: S McGrath
 'That the NSWAA approach AHBIC to identify the issues of chemical use that affects honeybees.'

RESOLUTION 2016/12

MOVED: C Cooper SECONDED: R Michie
 'That all public land sites remain renewable and are allocated in perpetuity subject to reasonable fees.'

RESOLUTION 2016/13

MOVED: G Roberts SECONDED: S McGrath
 'That the NSWAA look into setting up a business succession plan for existing and new comers into the industry.'

RESOLUTION 2016/14

MOVED: S McGrath SECONDED: G Roberts
 'That Forestry Corporation and NPWS consult with beekeepers on hazard reduction burns on highly sensitive sites eg red banksia/tea trees.'

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members

Hartley Anderson	Neutral Bay
Bridget Andrews	Inglewood QLD
Ian Apps	Young
Wayne Ashfield	Dubbo
Doug Baker	Maldon VIC
Tracey Bradbery	Tamworth
Lucas Caines-Zaicew	Young
Lindsay Callaway	Maldon VIC
Kerrie & Matthew Denson	Tumut
Nathan Domanski	Maldon VIC
Stephen Donohue	North Shore
Leon Elliott	Dimboola VIC
Peter Fitzgerald	North Avoca
Ken Fletcher	Fingal Bay
Samuel Giggins	Raymond Terrace
Goldfields Honey	Vittoria
Ben Grace	Eungella
Marcus Joy	Grose Vale
Grant Kershaw	Gundaroo
Erica Manns	Tumblong
Lee Nagle	Tumbarumba
Takashi Ochi	Kingston Beach TAS
John O'Sullivan	West Tamworth
Stevie Rose	Avalon
Janine Ruder	Grafton
Richard Sims	Murwillumbah
Adrian Smith	Maldon VIC
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BEE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

1 June 2016

Dear Beekeeper

My name is Hayley Pragert and I have recently been appointed as the Bee Biosecurity Officer for New South Wales. I am passionate about bees, having hives of my own and managing a large number of them for research purposes. I have also worked with commercial beekeepers in New Zealand, and I have completed my Masters research on control options for the parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor*.

My role as the Bee Biosecurity Officer for New South Wales was created as part of the National Bee Biosecurity Program. This program is an initiative to improve how beekeepers manage established bee pests, as well as aims to increase awareness, surveillance and preparedness for threats to our industry. The program is based upon the Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice, a set of guidelines which describes outcomes that a beekeeper must achieve for effective control and prevention of pests and diseases.

In my role as the NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer, I will be promoting the importance of biosecurity for maintaining bee health, productivity and profitability. I will also be working with beekeepers to incorporate the Biosecurity Code of Practice for bees into the management of their own hives. In the event of a serious bee threat, I will also be responsible for providing support to industry and carrying out response measures under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed.

In summary, activities that I will be involved in include:

- Promoting the Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice, to highlight ways beekeepers can minimise risks and follow best practice management.
- Attending regular industry and agricultural events, where I will be available to discuss bee biosecurity related issues.
- Providing biosecurity training and resources, tailored for both commercial and amateur beekeepers.
- Strengthening surveillance and reporting in place for high priority exotic bee pests.
- Working with our national network of Bee Biosecurity Officers, to protect Australia's honeybee industry and pollinator-reliant crop industries as a whole.

Regular updates of the National Bee Biosecurity Program and other events can be found at the BeeAware website: <http://beeaware.org.au/> where you can also subscribe to the newsletter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0438 677 195 or hayley.pragert@dpi.nsw.gov.au should you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Pragert
Bee Biosecurity Officer
Biosecurity and Food Safety
New South Wales Department of Primary Industries

NSWAA CONFERENCE - MEDIA RELEASE

Fri 13 May 2016

Value of NSW beekeeping industry “more than just dollars”, says Minister Blair

NSW Minister for Primary Industries Mr Niall Blair won a round of applause from 200 of Australia's leading beekeepers today with a speech that highlighted the value of beekeeping to the state.

“The beekeeping industry delivers benefits and productivity to NSW that can't be simply measured in dollars,” he declared, speaking at the annual conference of the NSW Apiarists' Association in Albury. “We're not just talking about honey production or profits on a spreadsheet here. The pollination services beekeepers provide underpin our state's food security and potential future competitiveness as an agricultural powerhouse.”

While the beekeeping industry is relatively small, it plays a crucial role in NSW's agricultural sector. Two-thirds of Australia's enormous agricultural output benefits from pollination services delivered by honey bees.

“In the past, this value has perhaps not been widely understood in government and there have been some problems with how various government agencies allocated resources to beekeepers and engaged with the industry,” he said. “I feel we now have a unique opportunity to resolve some of these issues.”

President of the NSW Apiarists' Association Mr Neil Bingley welcomed the Minister's remarks. “To know that we have such strong support and recognition at the highest level, that's a real shot in the arm for us,” he commented.

“Some of Australia's most rapidly-expanding horticultural producers have been here at our meeting today – companies that grow almonds and blueberries, for example – worried that there aren't going to be enough bees to pollinate their crops this season, let alone in the coming years,” Mr Bingley said. “Cutting some of the government red tape that is inadvertently making beekeeping businesses unviable is really vital for the future success of all of these enterprises.”

“We look forward to continuing to engage with Minister Blair through the Apiary Sites Working Group and other processes towards an outcome that is fair for beekeepers and lets us get on with the business of delivering value for NSW,” he concluded.

For more information:

Mr Neil Bingley, NSWAA President 0428 487 105
Mr Casey Cooper, NSWAA Vice-President 0428 233 551
Suzanne Long (general media enquiries) 0429 600 746

About the NSWAA Annual Conference: <http://nswaa.com.au/news-and-events/annual-conference/>



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THE POLLEN STORY

Not all pollen is equal - fact one.

No pollen and the colony dies - fact two.

There is no such thing as a 'complete' pollen substitute - fact three.

Nectar flows or feeding sugar syrup to colonies promotes greater levels of pollen gathering by the colony - fact four.

Pollen is essentially the male gamete or sperm cell of flowering plants. The pollen grains themselves have a hard exterior coating and come in many different shapes and sizes, specific to the individual plant species. The detail of pollen grains needs to be viewed under a microscope to gain a true appreciation of the differences. Some pollen is light in weight and easily spread by the wind, e.g. pollen from grasses and conifers. Most flowering plants have a heavier pollen grain that requires a pollination agent to transfer the pollen from one flower to the next or simply from the male part of the flower to the female part of the flower, in some cases on the same flower.

Agents of flower pollination include birds, mammals and insects. In the process of spreading pollen many of these creatures consume pollen as part of their diet about. Honey bees are the classic pollination agent. An individual field bee, on the majority of field trips from its hive, will visit many hundreds of flowers of the same species. This is whether they are collecting nectar or pollen. Honey bees purposely collect pollen grains from specific flowering species and transport this pollen, in pollen baskets attached to their back legs back, to the hive.

These pollen pellets are stashed by the house bees in empty brood cells in and around the brood nest. The stored pollen undergoes a lactic acid fermentation process which converts it to 'bee bread'. This lactic acid fermentation process helps break down the hard to digest pollen grain exterior.

Nurse bees feed this pollen to young developing larvae in the form of worker or royal jelly. This all seems straightforward, but not all pollens are equal in relation to their nutrient values. Pollen nutritional properties can be divided into proteins, amino acids, lipids/fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

Fact one – not all pollen is equal.

The essential test to classify pollen as high value or low value for honey bees is the crude protein content. A bee researcher of note, Graham Kleinschmidt, highlighted this point of difference. He found that for every 10 grams of protein required by a colony of honey bees, it was necessary for the colony to consume 48 grams of pollen containing 30% crude protein. If the protein content was only 20%, then a colony would need to consume 72 grams of pollen. Thus, a colony would need to collect 3kg of pollen at 20% crude protein to be equal to 2kg of pollen at 30% crude protein, a substantial savings to the colony in foraging activity.

Research I conducted on 62 floral species showed that the crude protein (CP) content of pollen varied quite dramatically. The lowest level was flat weed at 9.2% CP and the highest was Paterson's curse at 37.4% CP. The mean CP% for all pollen samples in this research was 25.9% CP.

Paterson's curse was the most valuable plant to commercial beekeepers in Australia. I emphasise *was* as this species has

now become a plant of only minor value to beekeepers due to the highly successful biological control programs that were targeted against this once extremely valuable bee plant.

So, how do we determine if the nutrient intake of protein is adequate in the field?

Generally, if the bees are storing multi-coloured pollens, i.e. from more than one floral species, then any imbalance in a single species will be equalised. Quantity of pollen collected and stored is also a visual cue to note in relation to pollen management in beehives. Thus, if you have a number of sources of pollen being collected from a range of floral species, then your colony should not have any problem. This observation is also taking into account the volume of pollen collected and stored.

When the volume of pollen collected is limited, or the hive is collecting pollen from only one species of flowering plant, then the CP% of that pollen becomes very useful information in determining if the colony will be suffering any nutrient deficiency.

The amino acid story of our understanding of honey bee nutrition adds to the complexity of the protein story. Amino acids are, in fact, components of the protein molecule. A Frenchman (DeGroot) in 1953 identified 10 essential amino acids required by honey bees and the levels required by bees. This was not reported in a quantity format, rather as a percentage ratio of the protein.

An amino acid commonly deficient in Australian eucalypts is Isoleucine. Bee requirements for this amino acid were stated by DeGroot as being 4g/16N. Nitrogen (N) is in essence a measure of the total protein for the sake of this discussion.

A medium to high CP%, say 25 to 30%, in pollen with a deficiency in Isoleucine will reduce the overall nutrient value of pollen. A lower CP% pollen source could be more valuable if all the amino acids are above the levels established by DeGroot. This is compared to pollen with a higher CP% but deficient in one or more amino acids.

This is another reason to be concerned if your bees are only collecting and storing single species pollen.

Fat refers to lipids, fatty acids, sterols and phospholipids. These compounds play a major role in the structural integrity and function of cellular membranes of insects. They also have a major role to play in the insect's ability to produce pheromones. The role of 'fat' to honey bees is not fully appreciated and is yet to be fully explored. Rob Manning in Western Australia identified 73 different fatty acids in pollens. He further went on to identify that five consistently occurred in most pollens collected by honey bees including palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic and linolenic. Two of these he quantified, stating that the upper limits for linoleic acid were 6% and oleic acid were 2%.

The naturally occurring level of fat varies considerably. In another research paper 172 pollen samples were tested for lipid extracts. They ranged from 0% to 11.2%. The average level of fat was 2.52%. Interestingly, the pollen sample which tested the highest level of fat was flat weed – the same species of plant that produced the lowest CP level in pollen stated earlier in another research report.

The vitamin content of pollen has not been well researched and the vitamin requirements of honey bees are unknown. We do know that many insects require vitamin B complex. Pollen does contain good amounts of this vitamin. Vitamin A and K have been linked to the development of the hypo pharyngeal glands and brood rearing.

Bees are likely to be able to synthesise some vitamins through their gut bacteria. Many vitamins are unstable and as such, this makes them difficult to study and also contributes to the reasons why old pollen (12+ months) is likely to have a reduced food value to honey bees.

Again, similar to vitamins, the mineral requirements of honey bees is poorly understood. Insects generally require potassium, phosphate and magnesium. That said excessive amounts of any mineral intake are likely to have a detrimental impact on honey bee colonies. The mineral content of pollen varies considerably. In a study on the mineral content of pollens, potassium was found to vary from 2,200mg/kg to 38,000mg/kg. The mean level was 5,530mg/kg. The pollen sample with 38,000mg/kg originated from onion weed.

The next highest figure to onion weed was that from almond at 8,200mg/kg. Onion weed belongs to the Asparagales order of plants, as does the onion used in our kitchens. Onion blossom can be very difficult to attract bees to for pollination purposes. Nectar produced by onion blossom has been shown to be high in potassium and this has been implicated in repelling field bees. Thus the point is that bees will, without doubt, require minerals in their diet, but if supplied in excessive amounts may have a deleterious impact on the colony.

Fact two – no pollen = death of colony. So, how much pollen does a colony need?

Hopefully you have ‘digested’ the content of the story so far. While various commentators provide figures of 25 to 55kg per colony, a conversation with Graham Kleinschmidt many years ago suggested that it could be twice this amount. My common response to many questions is ‘that it all depends’. Yet again I’ll start with ‘it all depends’ on the size of the colony (number of mouths to feed) and the ‘quality’ of the pollen.

If a colony is not transported around the country on a regular basis, or the queen is old, then the colony will have less need for pollen. A colony that is headed by a young vigorous queen, regularly stimulated with available fresh nectar, particularly when the brood nest combs are manipulated ie placing empty combs in the brood chamber, the demand for pollen from the colony will be high.

I started this article giving the sample of a colony of bees needing to consume 3kg of pollen at 20%CP to be the equivalent of 2kg of pollen at 30%CP. This is assuming that the pollen is balanced in its other nutrients required by bees.

Fact three – there is no such thing as a ‘complete’ pollen substitute.

While beekeeping magazines seem to be awash with ads for the latest greatest ‘ideal’ supplement or substitute, I remind the reader to go back to the beginning of this article and start reading again. The bottom line is there is still plenty we do not know about honey bee nutrition. So how can we justify statements such as ‘complete’ or ‘ideal’? We can’t. Even so, there is plenty of evidence to show that bees will benefit from beekeepers providing extra food.

The words ‘supplement’ and ‘substitute’ are not interchangeable. Supplement suggests that bee colonies have access to naturally occurring pollen in the field. This pollen may be limited in quantity or quality and thus the need to ‘supplement’ the colony with extra protein.

Substitute, on the other hand, suggests that no (or little to no) pollen is being collected by bees. Historically, many recipes contained one form or another of soy flour. Many beekeepers

added yeast. Lots of other additives have been included over time and it still amazes me what gets put into some of these recipes.

Why should I be amazed? Because of what I’ve already covered, it is highly likely that what is suitable for us nutritionally maybe toxic to bees. Horse vitamin and mineral supplement is regularly added to recipes. Sorry, but I cannot see any similarities between horses and bees.

The basis of the success of many of these recipes is that the bees consume it! Well, OK, given bees are not really big on a large chunk of pattie being jammed into their hive, then maybe some hygienic behavior activity accounts for its removal. Likewise in many, many cases sugar syrup or honey (hopefully gamma irradiated) has been added to the recipe. Are the bees really after the protein, or are they attracted to the carbohydrate (sugar)? For this reason I like the idea of allowing bees to free fly to gather pollen supplement.



Pattie on the left, sugar on right

Back to Graham Kleinschmidt: I remember a statement he made that two generations of bees bred on pollen substitute was possible, but after this it was common for a colony to collapse unless the recipe contained bee collected pollen.

It appears that the greater the portion of bee collected pollen in the recipe, the greater the positive impact and sustainability of supplementary feeding as a management strategy by the beekeeper. I have no doubt that all the pollen supplements/substitutes on the market will sustain bees, but the question is are they going to do the job and are they economically a sensible strategy? In many cases the answer is yes, but that is for you to work out, given your own set of circumstances.

A couple of points worth focusing on under this heading are:

- the greater the portion of bee collected pollen in the mix, the better the outcome for the bees
- increasing starch levels in the mix equates to increasing toxicity to bees

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- increasing salt levels in the mix also equates to increasing toxicity to bees
- diets with very high protein level of 50% may be toxic to bees
- fresh ingredients are a must. Would you eat it? (Fats oxidise, proteins degrade, vitamins become unstable)

Fact four – feeding sugar syrup promotes brood rearing which stimulates pollen foraging.

Beekeepers who work mugga ironbark will be all too familiar with this tree and its impact on honey bee management. The nectar is usually freely available and plentiful. This stimulates the queen to lay eggs and the nurse bees to produce lots of worker jelly to feed the developing brood. This requires substantial quantities of pollen.

Bingo! The chain collapses, as this tree does not yield any pollen that bees find attractive. In fact, little or no pollen sources are naturally occurring when mugga is flowering. It is possible for the colony to breed itself to death. Eventually the brood nest disappears and the whole colony becomes full of honey. Ultimately all the field bees die off and you have a few boxes of honey with no bees. Scary but true. Nothing sinister – simply no pollen to support the rearing of brood and production of replacement bees.

This stimulating effect of nectar on brood production and increased demand for pollen is used to great effect in New Zealand. Kiwifruit blossom is not particularly attractive to bees. Also pollen foragers are substantially more efficient pollinators of flowers than nectar gathers. To increase the number of pollen gatherers visiting kiwifruit blossom, bee hives are provided small amounts of sugar syrup once or twice a week. The sugar syrup acts as a stimulant on the queen and colony, promoting brood rearing. This in turn increases the number of bees foraging for pollen in the field. The process effectively enhances the impact of a colony of bees in relation to the pollination success rates within kiwifruit orchards.

Bees require nectar (sugar) first, before pollen (protein). Observations of pollen patties mixed with sugar or honey always spark the question 'are the bees primarily stimulated to eat the patty due to the carbohydrate (sugar) or the pollen?'

Protein supplement on its own is verging on a waste of time unless you are also working with the carbohydrate requirements of the hive. Much of what I've written is not new, but it doesn't hurt to revise it from time to time.

Treat your bees kindly by providing good nutrition and they will repay you ten-fold.

(Thanks to Vicki Saville for typing my notes and Annette Somerville for proof reading the final article)

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NOTICE OF CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION INC

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

(Meeting is open to all beekeepers, growers, pollination brokers and DPI Inspectors)

When: Tuesday 16 August 2016
Where: Mirrool Room 1
 Griffith Ex-Servicemen's Club Ltd
 Jondaryan Avenue, Griffith
Time: 8.30am Registration
 9.00am AGM/Conference commences
 4.00pm AGM/Conference ends.
Cost: \$65-00 pre-register (includes lunch)
 \$70-00 registering on the day

Accommodation - Some rooms have been reserved at Econo Lodge

Bus Tour of nearby crops and places of interest organised for 17 August 2016 at cost

Please remit to the CPA Secretary no later than 9 August 2016 for pre-registration making it easier for your committee

Many items are listed for discussion including pollination contacts, all weather fast hive inspections, labelling changes and misuse of chemicals, reporting bee losses for investigation, a field visit to a local Almond crop in bloom and the work behind the scenes by the CPA committee to help you the members and the work behind the scenes by the CPA committee to help you the members.

Please visit our website for current updates & Conference registration form: www.aussiepollination.com.au

All enquiries to: Eric Whitby, CPA Secretary
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SERIOUS BEE LOSSES ACROSS USA

Courtesy: Catch the Buzz

Summer losses rival winter losses for the second year running.

Beekeepers across the United States lost 44 percent of their honey bee colonies during the year spanning April 2015 to April 2016, according to the latest preliminary results of an annual nationwide survey. Rates of both winter loss and summer loss—and consequently, total annual losses—worsened compared with last year. This marks the second consecutive survey year that summer loss rates rivaled winter loss rates.

The survey, which asks both commercial and small-scale beekeepers to track the health and survival rates of their honey bee colonies, is conducted each year by the Bee Informed Partnership in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America, with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Survey results for this year and all previous years are publicly available on the Bee Informed website.

“We’re now in the second year of high rates of summer loss, which is cause for serious concern,” said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at the University of Maryland and project director for the Bee Informed Partnership. “Some winter losses are normal and expected. But the fact that beekeepers are losing bees in the summer, when bees should be at their healthiest, is quite alarming.”

Beekeepers who responded to the survey lost a total of 44.1 percent of their colonies over the course of the year. This marks an increase of 3.5 percent over the previous study year (2014-15), when loss rates were found to be 40.6 percent. Winter loss rates increased from 22.3 percent in the previous winter to 28.1 percent this past winter, while summer loss rates increased from 25.3 percent to 28.1 percent.

The researchers note that many factors are contributing to colony losses. A clear culprit is the varroa mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Pesticides and malnutrition caused by changing land use patterns are also likely taking a toll, especially among commercial beekeepers.

A recent study, published online in the journal *Apidologie* on April 20, 2016, provided the first multi-year assessment of honey bee parasites and disease in both commercial and backyard beekeeping operations. Among other findings (summarized in a recent University of Maryland press release) that study found that the varroa mite is far more abundant than previous estimates indicate and is closely linked to several damaging viruses.

Varroa is a particularly challenging problem among backyard beekeepers (defined as those who manage fewer than 50 colonies).

“Many backyard beekeepers don’t have any varroa control strategies in place. We think this results in colonies collapsing and spreading mites to neighboring colonies that are otherwise well-managed for mites,” said Nathalie Steinhauer, a graduate student in the UMD Department of Entomology who leads the data collection efforts for the annual survey. “We are seeing more evidence to suggest that good beekeepers who take the right steps to control mites are losing colonies in this way, through no fault of their own.”

This is the tenth year of the winter loss survey, and the sixth year to include summer and annual losses in addition to winter loss data. More than 5,700 beekeepers from 48 states responded to this year’s survey. All told, these beekeepers are responsible for about 15 percent of the nation’s estimated 2.66 million managed honey bee colonies.

The survey is part of a larger research effort to understand why honey bee colonies are in such poor health, and what can be done to manage the situation. Some crops, such as almonds, depend entirely on honey bees for pollination. Estimates of the total economic value of honey bee pollination services range between \$10 billion and \$15 billion annually.

“The high rate of loss over the entire year means that beekeepers are working overtime to constantly replace their losses,” said Jeffery Pettis, a senior entomologist at the USDA and a co-coordinator of the survey. “These losses cost the beekeeper time and money. More importantly, the industry needs these bees to meet the growing demand for pollination services. We urgently need solutions to slow the rate of both winter and summer colony losses.”

This survey was conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership, which receives a majority of its funding from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Award No. 2011-67007-20017). The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the views of the USDA.

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YOU BETTER BEELIEVE YOUR HONEY IS WANTED

Media Release - 13 May 2016

Preliminary results from a massive five-year research project show that some types of Australian honey promise to be every bit as good as New Zealand's manuka honey, when it comes to fighting bacteria.

Scientists involved in the study are calling on beekeepers from every corner of the country to continue providing honey samples from bees visiting *Leptospermum* plants, and they have launched a website to provide regular updates.



Honey Bee & Pollination R&D Program spokesman James Kershaw is calling on beekeepers from all over Australia to visit the new Oz Honey Project website.

The research is being led by the ithree institute at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). It is funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), Capilano Honey Ltd and Comvita Ltd under the Honey Bee & Pollination R&D Program, which is jointly funded by RIRDC and Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited.

Beekeeper and spokesman for the Program, James Kershaw, said it's important that beekeepers don't assume their honey's not wanted.

"We've heard that some people think the *Leptospermum* in their area doesn't have the right qualities – but the team collecting the samples wants to be the judge of that!" Mr Kershaw said.

"If someone has access to *Leptospermum* honey, they're encouraged to send in 200-500g, some information about the collection location, and plant samples.

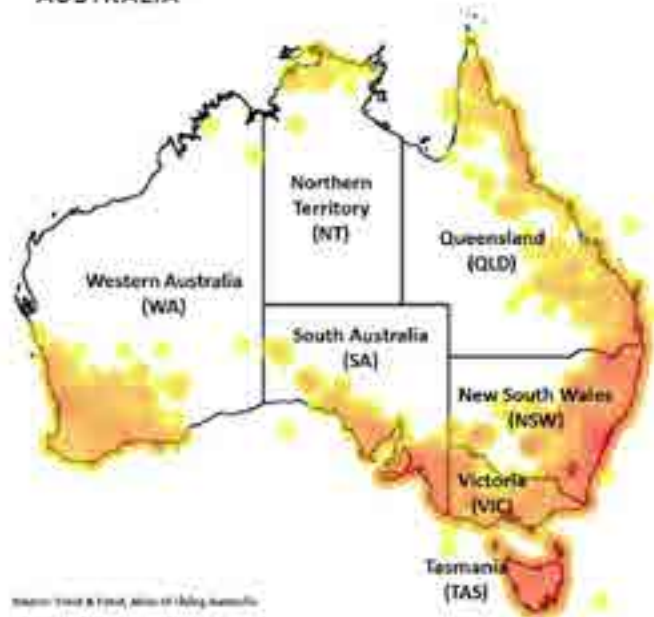
"From there, researchers can identify the different properties in different species and establish what's good in particular areas."

The new website (<https://ozhoneyproject.wordpress.com>) provides background and updates on the project, tracks results, and outlines how beekeepers can get involved by sending in samples or hosting researchers doing fieldwork.

With increasing microbial resistance to antibiotics worldwide, including the so called 'last-line' drugs, greater focus is now being given to the antimicrobial qualities of *Leptospermum* honey, and honey dressings are increasingly being used in hospitals and clinics to treat wound infections.

There is concern that New Zealand manuka honey production will be insufficient to meet global demand and great opportunities exist for the Australian honey industry to capitalise on the growing market for medicinal honey.

OCCURRENCE OF LEPTOSPERMUM IN AUSTRALIA



Australia is home to 83 species of Leptospermum and each state and territory has at least one endemic species. (Source: Forst & Forst, Atlas of Living Australia).

Beekeepers with access to *Leptospermum* honeys are encouraged to visit: <https://ozhoneyproject.wordpress.com> for more information on the project and how to get involved, including submitting samples.

For more information about the Program, go to www.rirdc.gov.au/honeybee-pollination

Media contact: Kaaren Latham 02 8204 3852

17/05/2016
Ref No.: F2014/00594

Mr N. Bingley - President NSW Apiarists Association
101 Woodfield Road
SUTTON NSW 2620

beez101@bigpond.net.au

Dear Neil,

Spotted Gum Harvesting Program – South Coast

Apologies for the late written response to your email enquiry to the Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) Batemans Bay office in February 2016. The following will serve to augment the position I have previously put to you verbally.

It is acknowledged that Spotted Gum forests are a significant and valuable element in the apiary industry on the South Coast of NSW, both from a nectar and pollination perspective. It is recognised that this is particularly so in periods that can be described as “good budding” seasons.

FCNSW’ Spotted Gum forests are also a significant and valuable component of our timber business on the South Coast. A summary of the Spotted Gum sector of our timber harvesting is as follows:

- Total of 176,300 ha of State forest broken up into 646 compartments.
- Spotted Gum and mixed Spotted Gum forest types account for 55,700 ha and occur in 361 compartments.
- In this same area there are 923 apiary ranges, of which 485 contain Spotted Gum forest types.
- In the period March to August 2016, FCNSW is planning to be operating in 12 of these compartments having a gross area of 3,700 ha and Spotted Gum forest type area of 2,500 ha. (4% of potentially available Spotted Gum area.)
- All of the Spotted Gum harvesting operations planned for 2016 are “single tree selection” (STS) operations which will see an estimated average of 45% of trees removed across the area harvested. This is in addition to areas within compartments excluded from logging for threatened species and drainage line protection, etc.
- Within the planned compartments there are approximately 48 bee ranges that contain Spotted Gum forest types.
- Over the last four years from 2012 to 2015 FCNSW has harvested in 24, 16, 15 and 12 Spotted Gum forest type compartments.

The above profile shows that while there will be some impact on Spotted Gum forest types, it is relatively insignificant in proportion to the resource as a whole.

FCNSW is obliged to meet its contractual supply commitments to the local sawmilling industry or suffer significant commercial penalties. The supply as scheduled of coastal timber including Spotted Gum is one of the most important and non-negotiable elements of these contractual obligations and as such, FCNSW is not in a position to vary current harvest schedules.

Apiarists who are impacted by logging on all apiary ranges, including Spotted Gum carrying ranges, will still be able to access their ranges. They will need to talk to FCNSW’ Harvesting Coordinators to determine where they can and can’t leave their hives.

FCNSW will continue to talk to apiarists in respect to how best to manage the placement of their hives in all State forest areas subject to harvesting, in conjunction with ensuring FCNSW contractual commitments for the supply of timber to our customers continue to be met.

Yours sincerely



Richard Rienstra
Senior Land Administrator | Forests Stewardship



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NICK'S NEWS from DPI NSW

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IS PATERSON'S CURSE A THING OF THE PAST?

Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*); also known as Salvation Jane is a winter growing annual herb that is well known by the majority of beekeepers. Its two main common names provide clear evidence of the widely viewed perceived value of this plant to different agricultural regions and activities. It was one of the few more reliable yearly nectar/pollen supplies available to beekeepers in the southern states of Australia. Both seasonal conditions and farming activities could significantly impact the plant population densities between areas. Paterson's curse is considered extremely useful by beekeepers for building hive strength in spring. Its pollen crude protein levels are around 30-35% (Floral resource database for NSW Apiary Industry, Somerville 2001) providing excellent nutrition, while also producing a box or two of honey. During the past 11 years while I have been doing this job I have seen what appears to be the demise of Paterson's curse as a major bee food. What are the factors that are impacting on Paterson's curse survival? Are they just seasonal or is Paterson's curse a thing of the past and is the decline of Paterson's curse a blessing given the pyrrolizidine alkaloids issue associated with the plant?

P. curse originated from Mediterranean Europe and northern Africa. The first recorded infestation of Paterson's curse in Australia was in 1843 in the garden of wool breeding pioneers, the Macarthur family, at their property Camden Park, Camden, NSW. By 1890 the plant had reached Albury and it was here that it gained its most widely used common name, escaping from the garden of the Paterson family. They lived near a busy stock route, but the curse also spread in contaminated seed. By the 1890's it was showing evidence of wide spread establishment and as such considered a major weed (Landline, Lee 2005). Paterson's curse is very tolerant to a wide range of climates and soils allowing it to grow almost anywhere in Australia. Hence it occurs in all states and territories but is more dominant in the southern half of the country where winter rainfall patterns occur. Ten or more years ago it was a common occurrence to see purple paddocks while driving in south west NSW in spring. These days it is rare to see any major patches of purple.



Days gone by with paddocks a wash with Paterson's curse

A single Paterson's curse plant can produce 5000 seeds with each flower capable of producing 4 seeds. The seed bank on the ground can be as high as 30 000 seeds/m² in ungrazed pasture and 13 000 seeds/m² in grazed pasture. Approximately 30 % of the seed germinates the following autumn after development and similarly 30% of the remaining seed germinates the next autumn and so on with some remaining dormant in the soil for over 5 years. The seed mainly germinates in autumn/winter and forms large basal rosettes of leaves, crowding out other pasture species. It germinates best on bare ground with

limited competition from other plants. So following dry summers where a lot of the competition has died out and you get autumn rains Paterson's curse is very fast at establishing and smothers out competing germinating plants. So curse has always been more prolific where annual pastures species are dominant. Paterson's curse tends to be far more sparse where well established perennial pasture exists. The summer autumn seasonal conditions previously used to have a major impact on the amount of curse the following spring. Erect stems elongate out of the rosettes in late winter to spring and flowers form from spring and into summer if moisture is available. The majority of plants die with the onset of hot weather but some may survive over summer and re shoot from the base in autumn. This is more common in the wetter cooler tableland areas.

Paterson's curse contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA's). The alkaloids can cause liver damage to animals grazing on curse for extended periods which can result in lost production and death. It appears the weed is the most toxic to livestock if grazed while it is flowering. Non-ruminant species such as horses, pigs and humans are more susceptible to these alkaloids than cattle, and sheep and goats are less susceptible than cattle. Fortunately we are not grazing these plants and only consume very small quantities of PA's via a range of foods (not just honey). For the apiary industry these pyrrolizidine alkaloids which mainly relate back to Paterson's curse honey have been an issue that has been brought to the attention of the public a few times in past couple of decades, ironically again at the beginning of this year when curse appears to be a honey crop of the past. The publicity arose from samples taken from supermarket shelves that had been taken between 2008 and July 2012 from Australia and Ireland (link to the scientific paper – <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19440049.2014.996789>). So the samples were quite old and came from a time when a lot more curse was still around. The PA's have been an annoyance in relation to the adverse publicity and had the potential to hinder market access of some of our honey to European countries if not dilute adequately with PA free honeys. So the decline of curse will only help in the marketing of our clean healthy honey to the rest of the world. But this does come with a big price tag with one or two boxes of honey lost as well as the loss of hive expansion due to great pollen that could see colonies in good health through to autumn. So for beekeeping in Australia I think the impact of the loss of curse overshadows the benefits of its demise considerably. But looking at the big picture, the benefits to the whole of agriculture in Australia, the advantages are substantial.

The decline of Paterson's curse can probably be attributed to a few different things including a variety of better farming methods but I believe the biggest impact by far has come about due to the introduction, establishment and wide spread dispersion of the biological controls. A lot of the following information was taken from the NSW DPI Primefact on Paterson's curse.

Biological control was first suggested for Paterson's curse back in 1928. It took over 40 years for the program to begin when CSIRO began surveying the western Mediterranean region for the plant's natural enemies 1972. The first agent, a small leaf-mining moth (*Dialectica scariella*), was released in 1980, but did not establish because of drought and grasshoppers. Shortly after the moths were released, two beekeepers and two graziers obtained an interim injunction from the High Court preventing further releases. An eight-year legal battle followed. The Biological Control Act 1984 was enacted on 22 November 1984. This prevents further legal problems for biological control programs where the majority good is circumvented by legal challenges. All state and territory governments passed complementary biological control legislation between 1986 and 1988. The above injunction was lifted on 17 November 1988. Of the many insect that attack Paterson's curse in Europe

seven were considered suitable and were approved by Plant Quarantine for release in Australia

A variety of insects attack the weed during all stages of growth at various locations on the plant. All of the insects introduced into Australia, except for the root hair flea beetle (*Longitarsus aeneus*), have successfully established in the field after release.

1. The leaf-mining moth (*Dialectica scalariella*) was released by NSW Agriculture between 1988 and 1991 at more than 900 sites throughout New South Wales. It is now widespread and common on Paterson's curse and Viper's bugloss. Larvae of the leaf-mining moth feed within the leaves to form mines. These mines turn to blisters as the larvae increase in size. Leaves are attacked from spring to autumn reducing the health and competitiveness of Paterson's curse when moths are present in high numbers.
2. The second agent released was the crown weevil (*Mogulones larvatus*) in 1992. Adult weevils emerge in spring and feed on leaves, producing circular-to-oval shaped holes before entering a summer inactive period. This inactive period is broken by decreasing number of daylight hours in late summer to early autumn. Feeding, mating and egg-laying soon commence and continue until spring. Young larvae initially feed inside leaf stalks, moving down into the root crown. Most damage is caused by larvae feeding in the crown during autumn, winter and spring. Plants under heavy attack may die before seeds can be produced.



Damage caused by larvae of the crown weevil is often apparent as black ooze.

- 3.
4. The root weevil (*Mogulones geographicus*) was first released in 1993. This weevil attacks Paterson's curse in a similar way to the crown weevil except that root weevil larvae feed more in the tap root than the root crown. It has a similar life cycle to the crown weevil.
5. Two flea beetle species have also been released. Adult *Longitarsus aeneus* feed on rosette leaves and larvae feed on root hairs. *L. aeneus* was released directly into the field but did not establish.
6. Adults of the other flea beetle (*Longitarsus echii*) emerge in winter. Adults feed on rosette leaves and larvae feed inside the main root.
7. Stem beetles (*Phytoecia coerulescens*) emerge in late spring and lay eggs that hatch a week later. Larvae feed inside larger stems and move to lower plant parts where they remain until the following spring. These beetles are cannibalistic with usually only one survivor emerging from each plant.
8. The pollen beetle (*Meligethes planiusculus*) was the last of the insects to be released into the field. Eggs are laid in the terminal flower buds in spring. Larvae quickly emerge and feed on flower buds, flowers and developing seeds. After flowering finishes, the adult pollen beetle remains fairly inactive through the remainder of summer, autumn and spring.

So next time you are out in the field you will be able to look at the curse growing and see that the plants generally are not as healthy and competitive as they used to be as a result of the biological controls. You may be able to see the damage the biological controls are causing to the plants.

Viper's bugloss also known as Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*) is closely related to curse and tends to be found in the cooler tableland regions. This plant is also very good for bees with good pollen and nectar and tends to flower later than curse through the summer. The same issue for PA's is present with Viper's bugloss. Even one of the biological controls, the leaf mining moth, crosses over from curse onto Viper's bugloss. However it has not appeared to have had much impact on Viper's bugloss. Distinguishing between the two becomes easy with experience of the two plants. Viper's bugloss tends to have single or less branched elongated stems, it has coarse prickly hairs on the leaves and stem and the rosette leaves are much narrower than those of Paterson's curse. The flowers of Paterson's curse have only two stamens (pollen bearing flower parts) protruding past the flower petals whereas the Viper's bugloss will have 4 stamens protruding out past the flower petals.



Paterson's curse



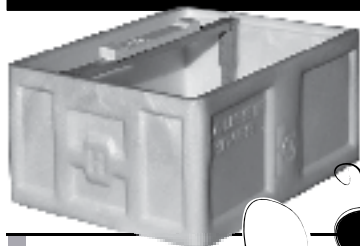
Viper's bugloss

There will always be Paterson's curse in Australia but at a much reduced amount to prior to the biological control releases. It has taken quite a few years for the biological control insects to spread from their release points across the country but I suspect we are now seeing the results of their widespread establishment in the past 5 to 6 years. The curse and biological controls are getting in balance with each other. The insects need the curse to survive and the curse numbers and health being impaired by the presence of the insects. Yes there will be pockets where curse is dominant on occasions depending on localized situations eg. fires etc. As beekeepers know doubt you will be keeping an eye out for such occurrences. But the days of purple paddock after purple paddock I suspect have gone forever.

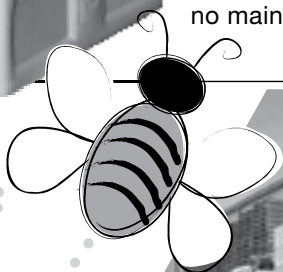
Happy beekeeping, thank you and good night.







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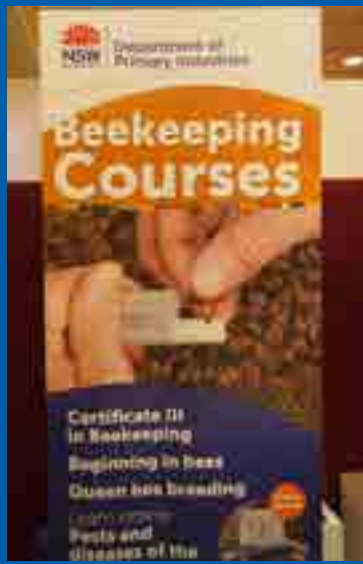
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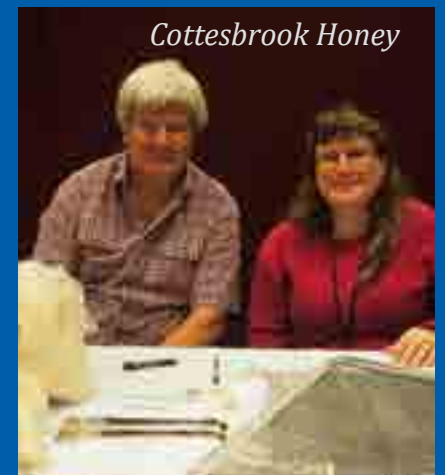


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APIARY SITES ON PUBLIC LANDS:

Submission to the Apiary Sites Working Group - June 2016

NSW Apiarists' Association

Executive Summary

Make no mistake - the current uncertainty around the secure access of beekeeping businesses to apiary sites on public lands is the most significant threat to commercial beekeeping in NSW for decades. An industry already facing many challenges is being pushed to the brink of collapse by the behavior of some agencies. This could mean the loss of many rural jobs in beekeeping and honey production, and potentially even more in horticultural industries. Secure access to floral resources (nectar and pollen) is as essential to the beekeeping industry as access to water for irrigation to farmers or fishing licenses to commercial fishing businesses.

The NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. (NSWAA) is the peak industry organisation representing commercial beekeeping interests in NSW. At our recent Annual General Meeting and State Conference (May 2016) the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

That the NSW Apiarists' Association opposes all auctioning or tendering of apiary sites on all public lands

That the NSW Apiarists' Association seeks a 'single desk' process for all apiary sites

That all public land sites remain renewable and are allocated in perpetuity subject to reasonable fees

Two Federal inquiries into the future of the Australian honey bee and pollination industries recognised that the industry relies heavily on native floral species, with much of these being on public lands. They also stated "*the humble honey bee is one of the most important contributors to the success of Australian agriculture*".

The NSWAA fundamentally rejects any process of managing apiary on public lands that involves grandfathering that is not in perpetuity, tendering or an auction system. To maintain the current structure of the NSW beekeeping industry, apiary on public lands must be renewable in perpetuity, subject to a reasonable fee structure.

The NSWAA strongly supports a 'single desk' to administer all apiary sites on public lands. The beekeeping industry has a strong preference for this agency to be the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), due to current positive relationships and the depth of knowledge about the nuances and challenges of commercial beekeeping held within this Department.

Apiary sites in Western Australia and Victoria are managed by one desk, and in both cases this is not with the relevant Forestry Corporations, which are organisations with a clear conflict of interest. The NSWAA has no faith in the NSW Forestry Corporation, as we have found them to be belligerent in our attempts to negotiate for a fair system for managing apiary sites on lands under their jurisdiction.

The NSWAA is willing to support an increase in site fees to facilitate a single desk for the administration of apiary sites on public lands, particularly if this includes

the creation of a website where vacant apiary sites can be readily identified (by new and existing commercial beekeepers).

The NSWAA strongly requests the creation of a single set of apiary site use permit conditions for all public land tenures and under a common NSW government policy on beekeeping.

Background

Secure access to apiary sites on public lands is essential for maintaining viable beekeeping businesses in NSW. A viable beekeeping industry is essential not just for the numerous commercial beekeepers, their families and employees in the State, but also for much of the horticultural industry, due to the essential pollination services provided by honey bees for many food crops.

Numerous apiary sites have been held for generations by rural family businesses. It takes many years to learn how to manage these sites in an ecologically sustainable manner, and this knowledge could be classed as intellectual property "owned" by these businesses.

Due to the flowering patterns of Australian native flora apiary sites are not continuously occupied and many, even most, will only be occupied for a few months every few years (many of the eucalypts useful to beekeepers flower every 2 to 4 to 10 years, depending on rainfall events and specific species characteristics). Consequently, commercial beekeepers need to be able to plan their business activities and investments around secure access to numerous apiary sites – enabling them to choose the best locations for producing a honey crop and/or growing up healthy honey bee numbers for pollination services. However, beekeeping resources in NSW are fast declining and clearly finite.

The other significant challenge to industry is the problems caused by the complex landscape of multiple government agencies managing apiary sites in different, and sometimes inconsistent, ways. These agencies include National Parks, Forestry Corporations and Local Land Services. These agencies also have significant other demands on their resources, beyond managing apiary sites, and few of their officers have the required understanding of commercial beekeeping to best fairly manage sites in their jurisdictions.

Trying to work for a sustainable industry

In February 2015 the NSWAA submitted a position paper on Apiary Sites on Public Lands, Stating six requests to government:

1. Provide an 'all of government' approach to dealing with apiary sites on government land tenure.
2. Provide a policy on beekeeping from each government agency managing lands traditionally utilised by beekeepers for apiary sites.

3. Provide a consistent set of apiary site use permit conditions across all government land tenures.
4. Grant access to any government lands for apiary sites where this does not cause public risk or undue damage to the area in the process of gaining access.
5. Recognise the “National Best Management Practice Guidelines for Beekeeping in the Australian Environment”.
6. Provide long term permits of 5 years or greater.

This was followed by the announcement by the Hon. Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, at the AGM and State Conference of the NSW Apiarists’ Association (Penrith, July 2015) that an “all of government approach to apiary sites on public lands was a ‘no brainer’”.

On 13 November 2015 the first meeting of the inter-government working group for apiary sites on public lands was held. This meeting quickly degenerated into a pricing tribunal for apiary sites, with the Forestry Corporation pushing very strongly for an auction system to maximise their returns, despite the extremely detrimental effect this would have on beekeeping businesses. The industry’s stated needs for secure access to apiary sites managed by a simplified ‘single desk’ approach were somewhat lost in the process.

The next meeting of this committee did not happen until a teleconference was convened on 10 March 2016. At this point the committee had a new chair, who had little to no knowledge of the subject being discussed, and the Terms of Reference had been drafted, but not agreed upon. Since then a further two meetings have been held (7 April; 18 May).

From the first meeting the lack of understanding from the other committee members of the impact of short-sighted decisions by public land managers on the sustainability and future of the beekeeping industry has been extremely frustrating for the NSWAA and our industry.

NSWAA continues to be extremely frustrated by the belligerence of various members of this committee, and the potentially devastating impact of their approach on the commercial beekeeping industry in NSW.

Key issues

1: Ongoing access to apiary sites

Long term (multi-generational) access to the floral resources on public lands is paramount for continued investment and growth in regional beekeeping businesses. Forestry Corporation would like to implement a 5 years permit system with tendering or auctions at the termination of each period. This scenario would be devastating to the NSW beekeeping industry. A network of apiary sites is built up over generations, and investments are often made over generations.

The limitation of apiary sites for nectar and pollen is like the resources of water in agriculture and licences/leases to the fishing industry. Without long-term security to water (irrigation) for horticulture, dairying or cropping, these primary industries would not be able to make the necessary investments in capital to maximise the potential of their businesses. Likewise with fish stocks (oysters, fish,

prawns, abalone etc.), these regional businesses could not be expected to make long-term investments or to provide secure regional employment.

Nectar and pollen are essential but limited beekeeping resources for the commercial beekeeping industry. A significant degree of knowledge (often build up over generations) is required to successfully work these resources for the best possible returns to regional beekeeping businesses and the horticultural industries they also underpin.

Apiary sites must be licensed to beekeepers for the duration of their interest in the site, and be tradable and transferable to create sustainability, growth and certainty for the future prosperity of the NSW beekeeping industry, and the production of many honey bee dependent crops.

2: A ‘single desk’ to manage apiary sites on NSW public land with a single NSW beekeeping policy

The NSWAA strongly advocates for a single NSW government agency as a point of contact for all public land apiary site administration, and for a simplified State-wide beekeeping on public lands policy. Currently, beekeepers have to navigate complex, often different and sometime contradictory, policies with numerous public land management agencies. And as is appropriate none of these agencies have beekeeping as their primary concern, so another ‘single desk’ administering this would free resources for them and contribute to internal cost savings, as well as increased transparency and fairness for commercial beekeepers in NSW.

Go back 15 years and the NSW Apiarists’ Association worked hard against a position taken at the time by National Parks, which resulted in the loss of apiary sites when lands were being gazetted as National Parks. This was stopped when it was agreed that with all existing apiary sites could be retained by the industry. The Association recently negotiated a new Policy for Beekeeping in National Parks, and is supportive of the open approach exhibited by National Parks.

The Association has been trying for some years to negotiate with the Forestry Corporation for a similar policy, without success. In fact, Forestry Corporation, by their actions in March 2015 of initiating a ‘trial’ auction of apiary sites in the South Coast area, proved beyond all doubt that they were not willing to listen to, or work with the NSW beekeeping industry.

NSW has seen the amalgamation of over 50 Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB) into 11 Local Land Services (LLS) regions, which manage Travelling Stock Routes and Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR’s) that beekeepers use as floral resources spread strategically throughout the State. The industry has close to 3,000 apiary sites on this land tenure. However, with the formation of 11 new LLS regions, difficulties of working with a whole new set of agencies have arisen. Many members of the beekeeping industry have expressed frustration and, at times experienced resistance to the use of TSRs for apiary sites, despite a long history of access and good management by industry. While the LLS structure and business approach is a work in progress, it continues to be very time consuming and frustrating for industry and representatives from our peak body to be constantly dealing with each region and the continually revolving number of new people for negotiations and management of apiary site matters.

The NSWAA has historically highlighted the loss of apiary sites and access by beekeepers to public lands. Water Board and the Roads and Maritime Services are two agencies with which the beekeeping industry have been unable to create a relationship to discuss the 'return' of access to specific apiary sites.

Other states, such as Victoria and Western Australia, have managed to develop unified policies for managing beekeeping on public lands. The NSW beekeeping industry needs a simplified landscape in which to work if it is to grow. This approach will also significantly reduce government overheads.

The creation of a 'single desk' for all apiary sites on public lands is a "no brainer" for government and will improve the transparency and efficiency of the beekeeping industry's utilisation of public lands. Which will enable industry stability and growth. It will also result in considerable savings for government as the costs associated with processes, administration and management won't need to be repeated again and again by numerous agencies as they currently are.

Note:

Apiary sites on the different land tenures are not the same. Generally, apiary sites on National Parks are more desirable due to the lack of logging pressure. Logging can have a severe impact on the value of a site for bees. Mature trees (20 years plus) flower for longer periods, with more blossoms per square kilometre than young regrowth forests, which take years to produce useful pollen and nectar resources. Also, it is not unusual for beekeepers to be instructed to move apiaries from forestry sites due to logging or other forestry management operations.

Apiary sites on TSRs are essentially a set down site. Most TSRs are only 10 to 100ha in size. In favourable weather foraging bees can fly 3 to 5 kilometres in any direction. Essentially a TSR allows access to the floral resources surrounding the TSR. The proportion of the floral resource located on the TSR is small in relation to the foraging area of the bees. TSRs are attractive apiary sites due to the position of the gates and factors such as the sites normally being well away from human activity, i.e. homesteads, stockyards, etc.

NSWAA response to Apiary Sites Working Group request for comment

At the last meeting of the Apiary Sites Working Group in May, the NSWAA was asked to address the following four topics:

1. Pricing
2. Site allocation
3. Permit term and renewals
4. Grandfathering arrangements

NSWAA submits that these topics do not reflect the Association's key concerns and issues, as we have constantly raised them via inquiry submissions, the Apiary Sites Working group and numerous other communications, and which we again state above.

However, the Association will present its view and position in relation to each topic as requested.

1. Pricing

The NSWAA is open to negotiating a reasonable increase from the current cost of apiary sites, and suggests that a fair value for an apiary site at present should range between the two figures below.

To calculate a 5% gross return, multiply \$1,793.72 by 0.05 = \$89.69.

To calculate a 10% gross return, multiply \$1,793.72 by 0.1 = \$179.37.

However, it should be noted that the returns a beekeeping business receives from access to any given site are highly variable, and on any given year it is more than likely that multiple sites will return no nectar yield at all.

2. Site allocation

The NSWAA categorically rejects any system that does not allow for long-term access to a public land apiary site for the life of the beekeeping business.

This includes intergenerational transfer of apiary sites and the full transferability of apiary sites on the sale of a beekeeping business.

At any given point in time, there are many unallocated Forestry and TSRs sites spread across the state. The NSWAA contests that these should be made available to beekeepers on a first come first served basis.

The NSWAA also acknowledges the reduced availability of apiary sites in National Parks due to the restrictive policy of no new apiary sites on this land tenure which is inhibiting growth within our industry.

There are currently different definitions of apiary sites with different public land managing agencies:

1. Sites on Forestry Corporation land tenure are defined as one-and-a-half kilometre square grids. Beekeepers may set their apiaries down, anywhere within this grid, access permitting.
2. National Park sites are defined by a set point apiary drop site.
3. TSRs are non-specific and, as long as the apiary is suitably placed away from gates, this is sufficient in most cases.

3. Permit term and renewals

The NSWAA has repeatedly stated our position for *long-term permits of 5 years or greater*.

Given the cost of administration for renewing apiary sites both from a government perspective and from a beekeepers position, it is a highly desirable goal to have common long-term permits issued for 5 years or greater for beekeepers who are interested in doing so.

All sites on public lands should be fully transferrable and renewable on the sale of a business or intergenerational changes within the business.

NSWAA believes that the following should be considered for permits:

1. Application fee
2. Transfer fee

3. Beekeeper registration with the NSW DPI with a business category
4. Appropriate public liability insurance

4. Grandfathering

The NSWAA rejects the concept of 'grandfathering'. Grandfathering in any form would not be required if NSWAA's request for sites to be renewable in perpetuity subject to reasonable fees is enacted.

If 'grandfathering' were to be utilised, the only form that would be entertained is in perpetuity, allowing existing enterprises to carry on uninterrupted. Continuity of access to public lands for the purpose of placing commercial apiaries is a fundamental essential for most commercial beekeeping businesses within NSW.

There is a significant body of knowledge that goes with the use of any apiary site, which is built up over many years. Apiary sites are accumulated over the years to support the number of hives owned and managed within the beekeeping business, which are utilised for honey production and/or to provide pollination services to horticultural businesses.

In order to gauge biosecurity threats, beekeepers also need to be conscious of other beekeepers utilising apiary sites within bee-flying distance of their apiaries (anything within a 10 km radius, at least). The NSW DPI advice to avoid regions where disease risk is high means that if the current site allocation system is fundamentally changed, it will potentially create a huge level of uncertainty around biosecurity risks. This will certainly become a risk if the pattern of beekeeper sites drop offs goes from consolidated areas to many more scattered businesses in close proximity to one and other.

The NSWAA submits that apiary sites on public lands only be leased to another beekeeper when the original license/permit holder forfeits the sites.

Conclusion

NSWAA, once again, explicitly states that two key issues must urgently be addressed if our industry (and many dependent horticultural industries in NSW) is not to be put under significant strain, or even driven to collapse.

1. 1: Ongoing access to apiary sites
2. A 'single desk' to manage apiary sites on NSW public land with a single NSW beekeeping policy

These should not include points such as contributing to the cost of maintaining roads, as this is open ended and unknown. Normally beekeepers maintain their own access to apiary sites and set-down locations.

The NSWAA believes it is achievable to provide one set of conditions for apiary sites on public lands as this has been a stated desirable goal for NSW government. This will not only help to sustain the beekeeping industry, on which the much bigger horticultural industry relies in many instances, it will save significant government costs due to much more efficient use of their resources.

New entrants to commercial beekeeping face a daunting task to understand the range of existing permits and procedures for placing apiaries on public lands. If we had one agency, one website and one set of conditions - this would definitely benefit new and existing beekeepers alike,

and facilitate the efficient management of government lands for apiary site usage.

The most successful new entrants into the industry are those who initially work with an existing beekeeper (often an older beekeeper). Once he/she has learnt their trade, there is an opportunity to buy that business outright or through an agreed succession plan. There are many succession plans operating within the industry now, particularly amongst family businesses in regional areas. However, insecure access to resources on public lands will make most, if not all, of these businesses worthless, leading to job losses and people exiting the industry and possible necessitating a move for them and their families out of their communities.

We strongly reiterate - beekeeping floral resources are fast declining and finite. Many apiary sites have been held for generations by family businesses - up until now. It takes many years to learn how to manage apiary sites in an ecologically sustainable manner. Like commercial fishers and farmers who need to work their businesses around the licenses they have to fish or irrigate, beekeepers need to be able to manage and invest in their businesses within the essential security of access to floral resources.

Recognition of this by government will go a long way to ensuring that government agencies and decision makers develop and implement policies and procedures that enable a sustainable beekeeping industry in NSW. This will provide the crucial availability of managed honey bees for their major role in our economy as pollinators of a large number of economically important crops, production of honey and related products, as well as the growing interest and investment in medicinal honey.



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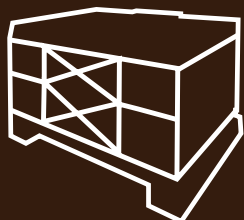
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Think bigger than yourself!

We all have issues that affect both our businesses and our personal lives. As beekeepers quite often your personal issues may be in direct relation to issues impacting your businesses, so it's natural to feel the need to vent your issues to those believed to be in positions with a title to take on your individual issues.

As a member of NSW Apiarist Assn, you have the right to bring your (bee) issues to the notice of the NSW AA Executive.

What I don't think you have the right to – is to continually keep haranguing members of the Executive with either that same issue, or other trivial (maybe not to you – but to the industry) issues, and here's my reasons!

You are one person (enterprise) within a nationwide industry. Your Executive is appointed to look out for the interests of the NSW Beekeeping industry as a whole.

Your issue may well be repeated by many other operators within the industry (locally, regionally, state-wide or nationally). By all means notify the Executive – ONCE – of your issue – and this after first bringing it to the attention of your local branch so they can collate how widespread locally a single issue is. Your branch association should then communicate with the Executive that this is a local/regional issue suffered by whatever percentage of their members. This may then mean that the Executive look to take on those issues at an industry-wide level.

Keep in mind that your Executive members have their own businesses to run – each with their own issues – which also may be similar to that which you have – but on top of this the Executive also have to deal with the hundreds of other phone calls, emails, texts, all expounding with the issues of you each individually. So the one or two issues that affects them individually cannot be attended to because they are each spending valuable time and resources in chasing everyone else's one or two issues whilst being distracted from their appointed role in the Association.

So next time you think that members of the Executive are not taking your issues seriously – stop for a moment or two and think outside your own enterprise – because that's what the Executive members have to do every single day! You feel you have the right to sit there and whinge to them that things are bad – but you have the time to go about your own business pursuits - play with your bees, pull off honey, lift supers, breed queens, check for disease and pests, move to the next flow, maintain and update your gear, prepare for pollination services etc. Spare a thought that the Executive members are likely to miss out on that one or two supers of a flow because they were away from their business for days at a time on a regular basis - all looking after YOUR interests – in that they are working for WHOLE INDUSTRY. Their own businesses suffer dramatically for the sake of yours.

How many of you who call on the Executive to sort out your problems, or criticise behind their back that they're not doing their job by some measure, have come forward to help a member of the Executive: To move their bees because they can't get out to them? How many have helped them extract their supers so they too can get some honey off? How many have offered re-queening/breeding, feeding, checking next seasons conditions, building or painting boxes, building new frames, plant & truck maintenance etc? My guess is not too many of you!

While everyone is seemingly too busy to do anything outside their own enterprise – the Executive members (mostly of single family operations with no employees to keep the wheels rolling at home) who are no less busy than all of you - are spending time away from their own businesses for YOUR BENEFIT. All too soon you will have an industry in pieces if you don't all start to think on a more WHOLE INDUSTRY level because you will have worn down the drive and passion for the industry that the members of the Executive still have. Take a look at what they've each sacrificed for the benefit of your industry, then for the majority to continue so narrow-minded and only think individually of their own little corner of the world. They (the Executive) may just be ready to throw their collective hands in the air and tell the industry members to “stuff it – it's too hard to deal with the negativity and complacency”.

This is a terrific industry, and one which needs to be protected, but it needs to be protected from the inside first – so instead of only bringing hassles to the Executive – think if that hassle is first borne by your own management (or let's be honest and perhaps call it mismanagement?).

What I see as the major issues in the beekeeping industry? Whose responsibility I believe it is to fix them!

Issue - Bees: Look at your management practices and run your business in the best interest of the bees; health, strength, production, breeding, genetics, conditions for next seasons set-up – be it honey or pollination or queens. Keep your bees in the best condition for the bees! Sometimes that may mean that next season not yield as much income but in the long run you're on a winner. Yes they make honey – but they don't need to be stripped bare just to make next months' quota, or starved on over-crowded sites waiting to move on pollination services.

Responsibility – You & members of your enterprise – not that of the Executive.

Issue – Resources- Private: Becoming more scarce as larger holdings are sub-divided and cleared. Don't crowd out the neighbouring apiary – show some respect for the bees and for the available resources area. Communicate with your land-owners regularly – at least annually – not just when you use the site. Build up and keep a good rapport with your land-owners. Communication and courtesy are vital.

If it's not been your land for sites before – DON'T go there!!! Dumping on another beekeepers country is just in bad taste! - But to the beekeeper who doesn't service his land-owners adequately, so deserves to lose that country to someone who will – and that doesn't mean by undermining the rights of the existing beekeeper or trying to buy your way in on those lands.

Responsibility – You & members of your enterprise – not that of the Executive.

Issue – Resources- Public: Becoming more scarce and becoming more expensive. Too many are bidding large dollars and then the government thinks that is the going rate for all future sites. Think of the wider industry when taking up public land sites and keep the rate sustainable and accessible for all users and the future of the industry. Check the condition of what sites you're applying for in ballot for. Know the country you want to work. Don't over-load site conditions.

If the public site you want to use is not yours – check with the relevant agency if it's available for lease – or who currently leases it and ASK them if you can use it. DON'T just go there!!! Dumping on another beekeepers country is just in bad taste!

Responsibility – Executive – Access and the rights of Beekeepers to use Public Lands Your Executive have been and are working tirelessly with authorities and government ministers to implement a consistent policy for public land resources for beekeeping with the WHOLE INDUSTRY in mind.

Responsibility – You & members of your enterprise – Responsible cost tendering and compliance to conditions and common courtesy

Issue - Disease – and here is the elephant in the room! Check check check – but check with diligence, not ignorance nor disregard for the Apiary Act and biosecurity generally. Respect the distance that disease outbreaks can travel and re-visit your management practices so that the whole industry can clean up. Keeping an apiary "clean" through biosecurity protocols and good management practices is no more labour and resource intensive than any other part of your beekeeping operation, but it's certainly much more costly to a business continually hampered by the clearing up and rebuilding exercises caused by repeated re-infections apparently occurring by neighbouring apiaries that are not so respectful of adhering to any such biosecurity measures.

Responsibility – Executive – Your Executive has worked with authorities to implement the Code of Practice for Beekeeping which supports the *existing Legislation in the NSW Apiaries Act 1985*.

Responsibility – Totally Yours (& members of your enterprise) – to clean up your practices and think outside your own enterprise - for the benefit of the WHOLE INDUSTRY.

Basically – I see that the Executive only has two current issues to continue work on;

- secure your rights to access public land resources, and
- continue to work with authorities to ensure Beekeeping Biosecurity and compliance with the NSW Apiaries Act 1985 is upheld throughout the whole industry.

The main issues in your beekeeping business are pretty much **your responsibility**. "Own your decisions/mistakes and work to fix them". If you don't like what's happening in your business – look at what you can do to change the way you manage your apiary - look at your own your practices and management decisions. Go back to basics of looking after your bees.

When you've got that all sorted out – then you can have your say at the Executive – but by then you'll have proven how it's done so you can step up and take some heat off them for a while can't you? Let these guys that have dealt with it over the years and had their own businesses suffer, have a chance to once again enjoy their own bees and relax just a little because you will have it all worked out – right???

Don't be like a cricket that keeps chirping from a distance but then shuts up as soon as someone approaches - feel free to have a say! Then be willing to stand up for your convictions without cowering in a corner with your tail between your legs when someone has a chop at you. Address a public forum like your branch meetings, NSWAA Q&A session prior to Conference, or request a special meeting with the Executive, (they are human after all and won't chew your head off like you're a praying mantis). Approach them in

a non-defensive and non-confrontational manner and I'm sure they'll happily speak of what their ideals are for the industry's future.

Thank those that have sacrificed a huge lot. Not just out-of-pocket expenses – but time away from their businesses resulting in loss of potential income, loss of effective operations in short and mid-term, mental anguish, fatigue; yet they still have the passion and dedication and foresight to work for the WHOLE INDUSTRY – they do this for YOU, so don't be like an ungrateful spoilt child - step up and thank the Executive for their efforts.

Even better would be step up and support them!!!! Don't be complacent on the issues surrounding the beekeeping industry, don't be so negative to the processes being implemented by YOUR Executive to preserve and sustain YOUR industry.

Help them let YOU be a participant in a worlds' best successful sustainable and wholesome industry.

As the partner of a beekeeper and daughter of another, I have seen firsthand the (sometimes near debilitating) effects at home over many years, that this Executive and countless other committees these proud men have served on (all to benefit the wider industry and community), has had on those who have devoted tireless hours to helping preserve and sustain their industry. These are not people who cave in easily or are mentally deranged (well – mostly not!!) where a lesser person may well be rocking in the corner in the face of the total disregard and apparent disrespect for their efforts from those that are benefitting from their efforts and time – YOU!

I write this proudly in support of the time and efforts that both my father and my partner, and the other members of the Executive (both former and current) - all passionate devotees of the beekeeping industry - put into trying to maintain and progress this terrific industry and I urge all members to bring back some respect, common decency and courtesy to beekeeping.

And to finish off with a play on words to back up my soap-box saga

***Bee sweet. Think bigger than yourself!
Let's all work together like the bees do –
for the benefit of the whole colony!***

Suellen Weiss

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HONEYLAND 2016 REPORT

Once again a wonderful group of volunteers helped make Honeyland a success, a blend of previous volunteers and first timer volunteers that made my job easier as the coordinator many volunteered for several days.

Volunteers do many jobs, price tag the products for sale, stock shelves, pack promotion bags, supervise honey tastings, promote the industry, do live bee demonstrations, keep the booth neat and tidy, sell the products.

Volunteers were from the New South Wales Apiarist Association, Amateur Beekeepers Association of New South Wales, North shore Beekeepers Association and a visitor from the Victorian Apiarist Association and friends of beekeepers.

This year Honeyland was not in School Holidays so by far the busiest days were the four days over Easter.

Visitors

The NSW Minister of Primary Industries and Minister for Land and Water The Honourable Niall Blair MLC visited Honeyland and was hosted by Shona Blair as did the State Governor of NSW His Excellency The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd); both have become keen beekeepers, with the Governor exhibiting honey in the RAS National Honey Show. The Governor was introduced to Brian Woolfe and Glen Mc Connell the President and Secretary of the Northern Tablelands branch and were able to discuss industry issues with the Governor and he was interested in how they operated their businesses.

Entertainers Keith Urban and Nicole Kidman and their children purchased honey produced by the Association President.

Media

During the show I was invited to promote the industry, the show and Honeyland, by doing two interviews for the ABC Country Hour, show radio and appeared live on the Fox News Channel, the Paul Murray Show and on ABC 702 radio morning breakfast show with Robbie Buck.

A highlight of the show has always been the four live bee demonstrations per day. The hives are rotated with a temporary apiary established at the showground on the roof of the Dome building.

The hives were supplied by Mr Doyle Egelhoff who did an excellent job.

The following volunteers did live bee demonstrations a special thanks goes to these volunteers:

David Lord (3), Mal Porter (8), Wayne Hammond (2), Doyle Egelhoff (6), Bruce White (15), Doug Purdie (2), Edward Pennay (2), Mark Page (4), Lamorna Osborne (1), Brian Woolfe (3), Reg Marsh (2), Geoff Manning (10), Anthony Beattie (1), Michael Fogarty (1).

A highlight was Honeyland being awarded second prize for the Commercial exhibit in the dome. The theme was "Products of the hive" with the responsibility for decorating the stand going to Bruce and Margaret Blunden and Lynn White, a fantastic effort with a small budget compared to the commercial companies. The good looking enthusiastic volunteers also contributed to the award.

Honeyland generated 150 emails a special thanks goes to my wife Lynn who handed most of the emails.

Thanks to the other Honeyland Committee members Shona Blair and Rob Michie.

Casey Cooper and Neil Bingley for organizing Association branded honey a special thanks.

Promotion bags are also popular and this year we sold 700 a very special thanks goes to Capilano for all the product they donated for the Promotion Bags. We were well supported by Superbee, Beechworth, Beez Honey Ian and Shirley Stephens Tasmanian Leatherwood, without all the generous donations a Promotion Bag wouldn't be possible I would also like to thank Honey Life who approached me at the show and as a result of this donated over \$500.00 worth of honey to Honeyland, this was well received and they also indicated supporting next year's Promotion Bag.

A special thanks to the beekeepers who we purchased floral type honey from and the creamed honey and for the bottling and packing of the honey.

To the Secretary Kate McGilvray for doing all the contract work with the Royal Agricultural Society and the processing of all the invoices and supplying Albert the credit card machine facility.

Another special thanks the Ashfield Manor for providing the Accommodation for the country volunteers and being so easy to deal with.

With so many volunteers many bargains were discovered and new equipment especially a camera that fitted a mobile phone that takes fantastic photos of bees and brood.

Volunteers

Dylan Ball, Garrick Ball, Anthony Beattie, Liam Beattie, Tim Beattie, Neil Bingley, Shona Blair, Bruce Blunden, Margaret Blunden, Paul Blunden, Daniel Bouze, Kevin Dolan Brown, Mary Ellen Burke, Cate Burton, Alejandro Cassano, Karla Cassano, Judy Cioccioirelli, Liane Colwell, David Cowling, Robyn Crosland, Lyle Clinton, Nural Cokcetin, Seda Cokcetin, Ruth Collett, Casey Cooper, Dayn Cooper, Janice Conlan, Mick Conlan, John Davis, Juanita Di Angelo, Bill Dick, Paul Drew, Christine Dorrell, Nathan Dunne, Doyle Egelhoff, Emmanuel Farrugia, Poppy Fitzgerald, Sally Fitzgerald, Jarrod Friend, Gavin Gibson, Tony Gordge, Wayne Hammond, Jane Hayes, Michele Hillig, Ken Jackson, Lyndon Jones, Linda Kay, Rod Kay, David Kelly, Josh Kelly, John Kemp, David Lord, Adrienne Lyon, Geoff Manning, Tamara Mantchakidi, Meredith Martin, Reg Marsh, Raelene Michie, Rob Michie, Moss MacGibbon, Cecilia McDonald, Glen McConnell, Lamorna Osborne, Mark Page, Edward Pennay, Malcolm Porter, Doug Purdie, Martin Radcliff, Emily Remnant, Ted Sission, Vera Sistenich, Keith Steel, Shelia Stokes, Brendon Smith, Debbie Smith, Jeff Smith, Nicky Smith, Warrick Smith, John Smith, Barbara Sweeney, David Thompson, Lurline Turner, Christine Underhill, Sigrid Vesser, Georgina Walton, Michael Walton, Andrew Wight, Bruce White, Lynn White, Linda Willemsen, Brian Woolfe, (Hound), Emma Woolfe, Heidi Worsley.

Bruce White
Honeyland Coordinator



Mal Porter celebrating his Birthday during the Show



The National Honey Show was a big success - congratulations to all the winners

RAS - NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

At the opening ceremony of the 2016 Sydney Royal Easter Show His Excellency General, The Honourable David Hurley, made a speech not only as Governor of NSW or as Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), but also as a first-time competitor. The bees from the Government House hives, you see, had produced honey, having enjoyed plentiful pollen within the nearby Botanic Gardens. The Governor was thrilled to earn a place in the top ten of the 2016 Sydney Royal National Honey Show.

The Most Successful Exhibitor in open section Honey Classes (14 to 30) was Mr Neil Bingley who was also awarded Best Exhibit in Show. The Most Successful Exhibitor in Small Producers Classes (35 to 43) was awarded to Mr Norman and Dr Ashley Webb.

In the Commercial Section, three exhibitors were awarded a prestigious Sydney Royal Gold medal; Bartholomews Meadery, Canberra Urban Honey, and Pope's Honey. These, and in fact all, Commercial Section medallists are able to display the Sydney Royal seal on packaging and other marketing collateral, signalling to consumers that their product has been recognised as having reached a high level of achievement and is proudly Australian-made.

Pope's Honey went on to take out the highest honour of the competition, winning The Phillip Carter Memorial Annual Trophy for Champion Commercial Exhibit. This trophy commemorates over 20 years of service given to the National Honey Show by the late Mr Phillip Carter.

In all, the competition attracted over 360 entries from more than 76 Exhibitors Australia-wide and the best of the best were on display in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome for the duration of the 14 day event.

As well as being able to view the exhibits, the crowds at Sydney Showground could taste honey from the Honeyland stand every day of the Show. A popular attraction was the Bee-Zeebo where Showgoers could see live demonstrations and learn about the inner-workings of a hive, how an apiarist cares for bees and the role the queen bee and her colony play in agriculture.

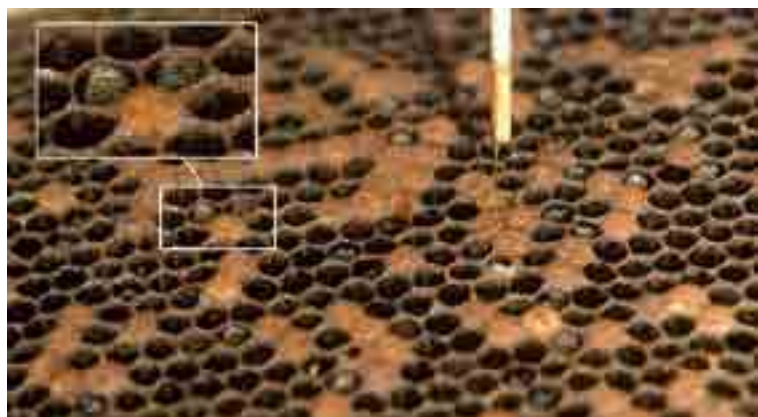
The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW would like to congratulate all of the Sydney Royal National Honey Exhibitors. To view a full listing of results visit:
www.sydneymarshall.com.au/honey

Next year's Sydney Royal Easter Show will take place 17 – 30 March.

If you are interested in entering the National Honey Show or would like more information contact the Honey Coordinator on 02 9704 1199 or email honey@rasnsw.com.au

Fiona Masters
Honey Coordinator

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Come and share your thoughts and ideas with us. You could hold the key to developing a new application that could alter the beekeeping industry forever.



Please contact us about any inspirational ideas you have



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THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost
Honey Bee Education Officer
Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries
T: 02 4939 8821 M: 0437 731 273 E: elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au



QUEEN BEE BREEDING AGGUIDE

The Queen Bee Breeding AgGuide, a practical handbook, is now available for purchase from Tocal College, NSW DPI in hard copy and as an eBook. The definitive publication on queen bee breeding and production in Australia, this AgGuide includes step-by-step instructions, full-colour photographs, record sheets, and diagrams to help guide you in rearing thousands of quality queens or just a few for sale or use in your own hives.



Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair opened the NSWAA Conference in Albury this year

The book is a course resource provided to beekeepers enrolled in the nationally accredited NSW DPI PROfarm course Rear Queen Bees. It can be purchased online at www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications or over the phone at 1800 025 520 (international 61 2 49398888) for \$35.00 (inc. GST). The hard copy is 180 full-colour A4 pages. This publication will also be available as an e-book and multi-touch book later in the year.

Table of contents:

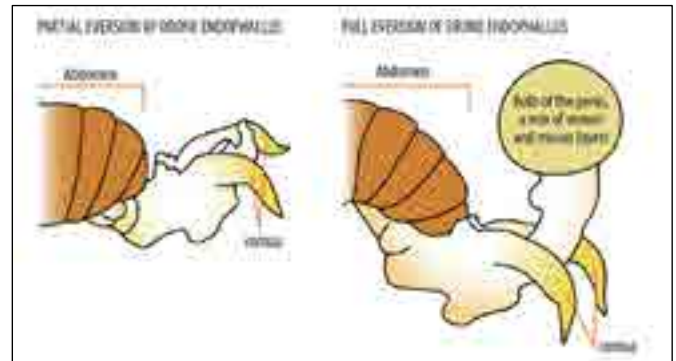
- Introduction
- Queen cell production
- Grafting



A nine day old queen pupa

Queen cells must be carefully handled at this stage when the queen's wing buds are still developing and easily damaged

- Nutrition
- Diseases and pests
- Reproductive biology



An illustration of the partial and full eversion of the drone reproductive organs which become external on mating with a queen bee. This organ detaches after mating and is known as the "mating sign" when it remains in the queen bee.

- Honey bee subspecies
- Breeding stock evaluation and maintenance: fundamentals of selective breeding
- Genetics and the honey bee
- Selective breeding programs
- Drone mother colony management
- Nucleus colonies and mating apiaries
- Catching, caging and shipping queen bees
- Queen banking
- Queen introduction
- Queen markets, interstate movements and levies
- Controlled mating
- Calendar of operations
- Package bees



Diagram of historical and current queen bee export traffic from Australia to destinations worldwide

- Glossary
- History of artificial insemination of honey bees
- Method of artificial insemination of honey bees
- Effects of queen age on introduction, early performance and satisfactory performance success rates



An example of a complete artificial insemination setup with dissecting microscope, Schley insemination device and large capacity Harbo syringe for semen collection.

New course dates across NSW

Check out www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/courses/bees Total College's new bee-centric webpage for updated course offerings around NSW next spring and summer. Here you'll find quick links in one convenient location for the following items of interest and much more:

- Nationally accredited course info and dates
- Certificate III in Beekeeping
- Beekeeper Traineeship
- Hard copy and digital publications
- Beekeeper registration
- NSW DPI Factsheets



Total College's bee-centric homepage: www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/courses/bees



Scroll down for information on hard copy and digital AgGuides.

Save the Date!

FREE Total Beekeepers' Field Day 29 October

- WHO:** Future and existing beekeepers
WHAT: Total Beekeepers' Field Day
WHEN: 29 October, 8:45am to 4:00pm
WHERE: Total College, 815 Total Road, Paterson 2421
WHY: Did I mention it's free?
 Filled with lectures by technical experts and hive demonstrations

Lectures throughout the day will cover topics including biosecurity by NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer Hayley Pragert, quality assurance for handling honey from the hive to the consumer by Bill Winner (Beekeeper Services at Capilano Ltd), the "Three Pillars of Beekeeping" by Doug Somerville (Technical Specialist, Honey Bees) and much more.



Taking a larval smear sample to send for lab diagnosis of hypothetical AFB/EFB infection at a Beginning in Bees course in Wellington

Hive demonstrations through the day will include how to open a hive for beginners, honey extraction and two sessions on how to inspect a hive for disease, field test for AFB and take a larval smear sample for suspected American foulbrood or European foulbrood. Keep an eye out for an updated schedule in the ABK and next Honey Bee News. I hope to see you there!



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

AHBIC Award of Excellence – Sam Malfroy

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council is pleased to present the 2016 AHBIC Award of Excellence to Sam Malfroy.

Sam worked for 4 years as a project officer at Plant Health Australia. During this time he was the main person working on bee projects at PHA and he has led and coordinated many projects for our industry.

Some of these projects were:

- Management and coordination of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program

Since PHA took over the management of this program in 2011, sentinel hive numbers have increased from around 25, to now over 160 nationally. Other improvements include surveillance for regionalised pests, as well as incorporation of other surveillance methods such as floral sweep netting, hobby beekeeper involvement and new technologies such as the remote surveillance hive, which was recently profiled on a “60 Minutes” episode with Sam featuring as a movie star.

Sam has also facilitated the program moving from a fully funded program by the Department of Agriculture, to a cost shared funding model, with financial contributions for the program now coming from the honey bee industry, horticultural pollinator-reliant industries along with continued investment by the Department of Agriculture.

- Sam Chaired the Department of Agriculture’s National Varroa Strategy and led many follow up projects with industry and R&D agencies.

- Sam led the development of the BeeAware website (www.beeaware.org.au). This website is now the national hub of information for beekeepers and growers about honey bee biosecurity and pollination of agricultural and horticultural crops. The site contains an extensive range of information about exotic and established pests and diseases of honey bees, and helps beekeepers to identify and respond to these pest threats. It also contains information about the pollination of crops and how beekeepers and growers can work together to provide and receive best practice pollination services. It contains a monthly newsletter service, now with over 700 subscribers. Google analytic reports demonstrate that this website is receiving many thousands of sessions every month.

- Sam led the development of the honey bee biosecurity manual which was produced in 2012 and coordinated the printing of over 13,000 manuals and postage to every registered beekeeper in Australia. Sam also led the review of this document at the end of last year with another 11,000 copies printed for distribution.

- One of the major initiatives over the past 3 years has been the development of the Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice and National Bee Biosecurity Program. Sam has been a member of the Industry Working Group for the development of this code and program and has

worked closely with government and industry through its development and has been a key driver to its establishment.

During Sam’s time working at PHA he has put a huge amount of time and effort into projects for our industry. Through his work, Sam developed a large network of contacts throughout industry and government and was always up to date with issues affecting our industry and knew where to go when he needed information or assistance with his work. Sam has also attended many beekeeping conferences to present information on projects he has been working on.

Sam left PHA in February and this award is presented in appreciation of the effort Sam put into his job above his call of duty.

APIS FLOREA INTERCEPTION

On 11 May 2016 a nest of *Apis florea* was detected on a container which had been unloaded in Brisbane. The bees were destroyed and checks showed no mites present.

Another good find.

HONEY EXPORTS TO SAUDI ARABIA

AHBIC has been advised that Saudi Arabia has stopped the importation of honey from countries which have small hive beetle. AHBIC has been in conversation with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on this and their staff are following this up.

Saudi Arabia is an important market for Australian honey so it is crucial that access for Australian honey be maintained.

LIVE BEE EXPORTS TO THE USA

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has written to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service with information on the findings of the 2013 report on the disease status of *A. cerana* in the Cairns region and the 2013-15 survey of honey bee pathogens in *A. mellifera* across the country.

These two reports address issues raised by the US and would show that there is now no reason for the US to maintain their ban on imports of live bees from Australia.

We await the response from the US.

TRANSFER OF NON-PRESCRIBED GOODS

I have received the following information:

The Non-Prescribed Good Program has recently published two template ‘transfer certificates’ on the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources web site:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/non-prescribed-goods/transfer-certificatesnpg>

A ‘transfer certificate’ is a document which is completed by an establishment who is despatching product to another establishment within Australia, possibly for further processing. A completed transfer certificate ensures that information about the product being transferred is

maintained throughout the export chain, and provides evidence to the receiving establishment, and assurance to international trading partners, that importing country requirements have been met.

Some importing countries require very precise traceability and assurances, for certain animal by products.

The department has created two templates which can be used to trace the transfer of products from one establishment to another. One is a general transfer certificate which can be used for any non-prescribed good or animal by-product, the other has been created more specifically for the transfer of blood serum.

These templates can be used as they are, or modified to best meet the needs of a particular business (including additional declarations for other specific markets, as required).

If you have any queries, please contact the NPG team.

EDIBLE BEE PRODUCT EXPORTS TO NEW CALEDONIA

I have received the following information from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources re export of edible bee products to New Caledonia.

At the request of French Polynesian authorities, the Department has developed certification for honey and other products into French Polynesia. The link below to our MICoR website sets out the certification requirements. http://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Eggs/Pages/french_polynesia/french_polynesia.aspx

THE INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN FOOD AWARDS TO LAUNCH IN 2016

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) has announced a new opportunity for Australian food producers with the launch of the Australian Food Awards. Commencing in 2016, the Australian Food Awards celebrates excellence and recognises the best producers of fine food in Australia.

In the Pantry class there is a specific class for honey.

Entries for the 2016 Australian Food Awards will open on Tuesday, 24 May, with producers encouraged to enter online via <http://food.rasv.com.au>.

For more information about Australian Food Awards, please visit <http://food.rasv.com.au>.

KOREAN MARKET ACCESS ADVICE

I have received a market access advice from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources from the Republic of Korea – Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management – new food safety requirements for exported Australian agricultural products. It includes honey.

If you want a copy please let me know and I will forward it to you.

AHBIC AGM IN TOWNSVILLE

As has been previously advised the AHBIC AGM is being held in Townsville on Friday 15 July 2016. Observers are welcomed at the AHBIC AGM.

You will need to register as we have to give numbers for catering purposes beforehand. (Contact the AHBIC Office for a Registration Form)

It is usual for AHBIC delegates to attend the State conference in which State the AHBIC AGM is being held. This way it allows AHBIC delegates to see what happens in that State and also for the State beekeepers to be able to talk with their interstate counterparts.

The registration form and details for the QBA conference are now available on the QBA website: <http://qbabees.org.au/events/coming-events/> All AHBIC delegates who will be attending the Queensland conference need to fill this out.

Please note that this has to be in by **30 June, 2016** to obtain the early bird registration. Also note that the dinner on the Thursday night needs to be pre booked by Thursday 7 July. Registering at conference will mean you will miss out on the dinner.

Accommodation for conference can be made with the Mercure direct. Phone 07 4759 4900. It is \$129 per room per night which includes a buffet breakfast. Booking reference number to quote is **BEE070716**.

CHALKBROOD IN NT

Chalkbrood has now been found at Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. Where it came from is not known at this time. There was a report that it came via potting mix but that is incorrect.

As there is little interaction between beekeepers in Alice Springs and the beekeepers further north in the NT, those beekeepers further north should be able to remain free of chalkbrood.

NEW INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY

Dr Helen Scott-Orr PSM has been appointed as the new Inspector-General of Biosecurity. She replaces Dr Mike Bond who had been the Interim Inspector-General.

Helen is an Australian veterinarian and epidemiologist. She is a former Chief Veterinary Officer of New South Wales and Executive Director within the NSW Department of Primary Industries. She retired in 2009. She was appointed as a Director on the Animal Health Australia Board (AHA) in 2010.

Mike Bond was previously the CEO at AHA and our industry had a good working relationship with Mike at AHA and in his role as interim Inspector-General. We wish Mike all the best for the future.

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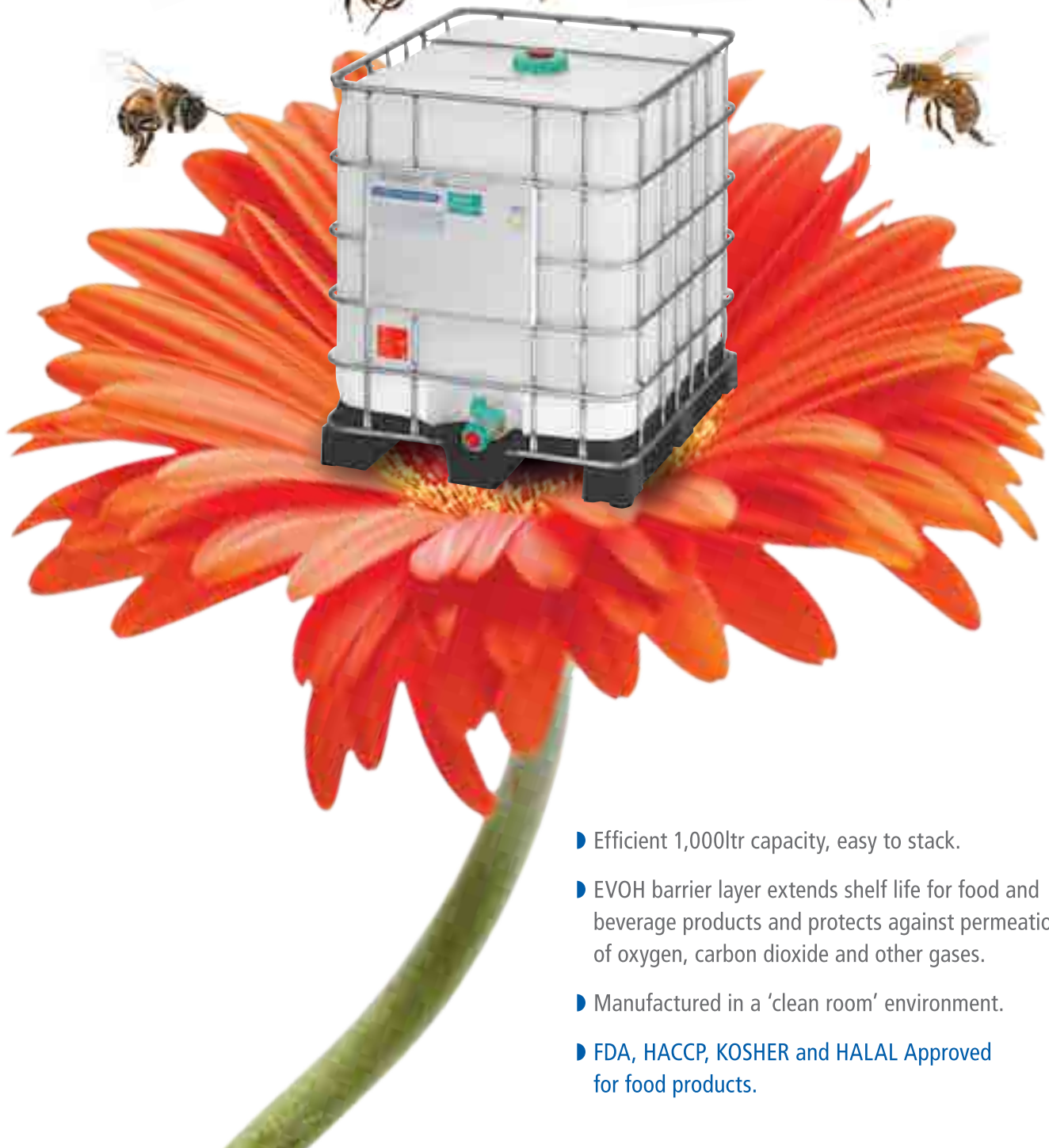
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