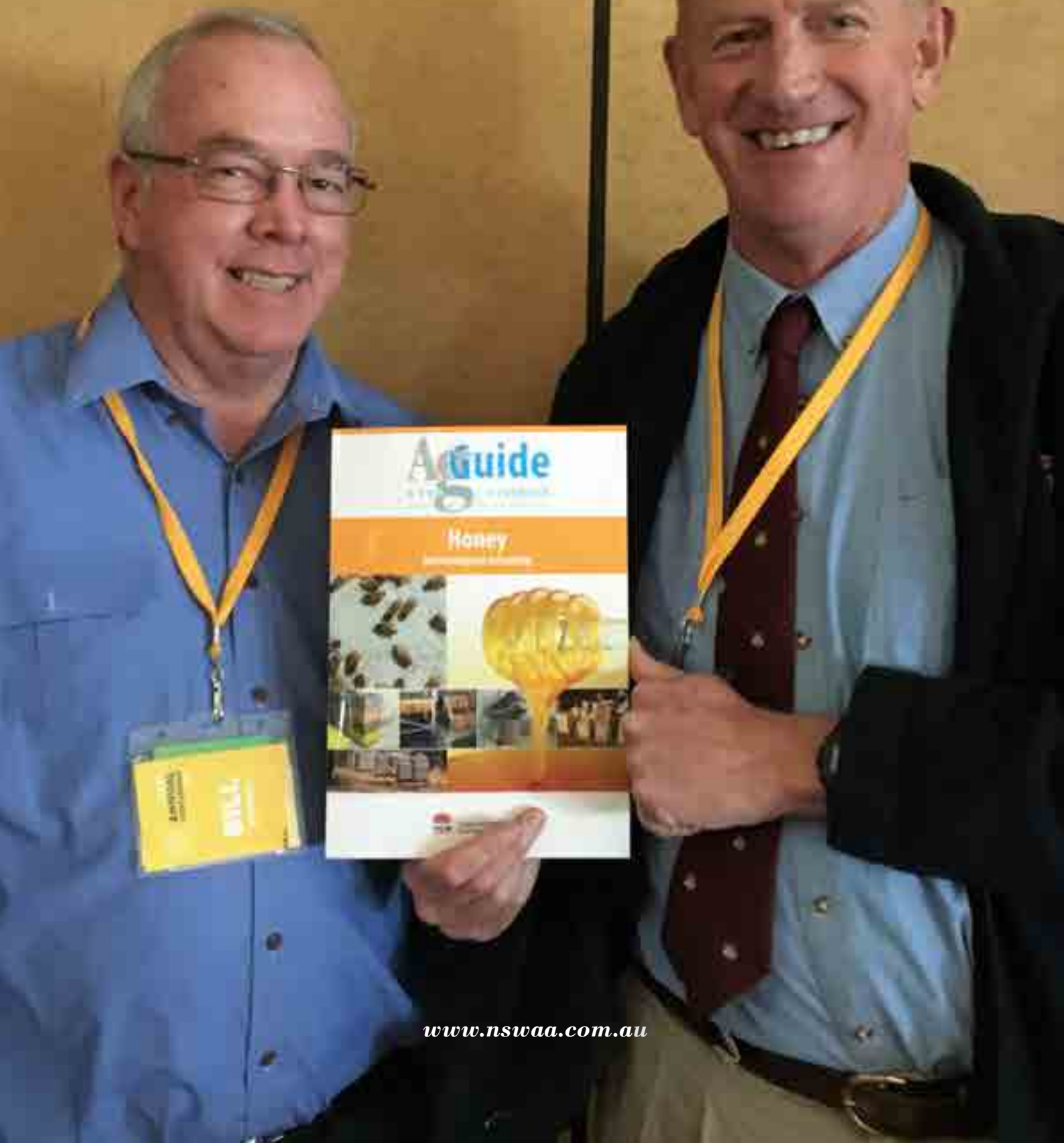


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"The Voice of the Beekeeper"

Volume 10 Number 3

May-June 2017



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COVER: Bill Winner & Dr Doug Somerville presenting "Honey Harvesting & Extracting" at the NSWAA 2017 State Conference in Ballina **PHOTO:** Elizabeth Frost

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our conference this year held at Ballina RSL was extremely well attended with close to 200 members and guests present. Thanks to all delegates, your presence has contributed to the success of our AGM. The reports I have received since indicate that all the preparation in providing our speaker line up was well worth the effort.

One of the highlights was the informative and entertaining presentation from Danie Vorster who spoke about his beekeeping enterprise in South Africa along with the challenges of having to deal with honey badgers.

Opening our conference was the Director General of DPI, Scott Hansen. Scott was asked about succession planning for current apiary staff and we were given assurances that positions would be maintained. Other points covered were around the establishment of the single desk for public lands bee sites, which delegates were told would continue to be progressed.

The recently released Ag Guide (Honey Harvesting and Extracting) book was launched. Delegates attending received a complimentary copy. Copies are available from DPI Total Book Shop.

Conference 2018

Three scenarios were put to delegates at conference:

1. That next year's AGM be held in conjunction with the Australian Bee Congress on the Gold Coast
2. A modified conference to be held in regional NSW
3. A normal two-day conference in NSW

Members in attendance gave overwhelming support for option one, to hold our AGM in 2018 in conjunction with the 3rd Australian Bee Congress to be held at the Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast.

It is envisaged that the NSW AGM be held on Tuesday 26 June followed by the Congress from Wednesday 27 June through to Saturday 30 June 2018.

For those wishing to attend, you can register your interest on the Congress website www.australianbeecongress.com.au

AHBIC

The proposal to rearrange the current statutory levy to increase the National Residue Survey (NRS) component back up to 0.3 cents/kg was voted on and carried by members attending the conference.

The second proposal to support the five-zone policy for hive movements post varroa being declared endemic was also carried.

I believe these outcomes were the obvious ones as industry needs to address in the first instance the shortfall in funding of the NRS to enable continued testing of honey, allowing continued access to European markets.

Secondly, the five-zone policy would enable beekeepers to continue to operate efficiently on the eastern seaboard, without having to contend with unnecessary border restrictions once it had been decided that varroa was not eradicable.

Membership and Executive

It was decided at this conference to cap membership fees at \$2,000.00 to make it more equitable to larger producers to join our association.

The increase in fees has allowed our financial reserves to rise to a level enabling your executive to employ outside assistance in preparing submissions and meeting briefs as required. We have engaged Tim Burfitt to carry out these tasks and he is currently working on four submissions due mid to end of June.

It remains a major concern that year on year we as an association which represents commercial beekeepers and their livelihoods, continue to struggle to get nominations for executive positions.

Your current executive have, and are working well together but some including myself, wish to step down next year and I agonise over the future of leadership roles and our Association's ability to attract members with leadership ambitions and capabilities.

The current executive remains unchanged as both Shona Blair and Steve Targett were returned unopposed. I was re-elected as President and Shona Blair was elected as Vice President. Congratulations Shona.

Thanks must go to Casey Cooper for his valued input as Vice President over the last two years. Casey Cooper, Steve Targett and Mark Page make up the remaining positions and I thank them for their continued support and input in their roles.

Shona Blair was presented with the Keith McIlvride Memorial Award at our annual dinner on Friday 19 May. This award recognises services to the NSWAA. Congratulations Shona well deserved.



Dr Shona Blair receiving the Keith McIlvride Award from President Neil Bingley

Resource

An update on where we are at with the Apiary sites on Public lands was presented at conference by Emma Marshall and Alex Russell from DPI. The proposed outcomes and fees are still going to require many more discussions between parties to eventually provide equitable outcomes. NSWAA's aim is to have a single desk administration of all Public land sites managed by a dedicated DPI position.

The following information is from DPI's website.

Have Your Say

All beekeepers are invited to have their say in the process by making a submission on the Discussion Paper (PDF, 498.73 KB). Submissions can be made online or by email.

Just a quick note to let you know we've obtained approval to extend the closing date for submissions until: Sunday 25 June 2017

Please ensure your submission addresses the questions listed in the Discussion Paper (PDF, 498.73 KB).

A Submission Template (DOCX, 49.42 KB) is available to assist with your submission.

Another issue which is constantly reoccurring on Forestry Corporation managed lands is the state in which apiary set down sites are left after logging operations. NSWAA had an undertaking from the then land managers Forests NSW, that apiary set down sites once GPS identified would be left in a manner at least as they were or better than prior to logging operations, this also included access. Somehow since Forestry Corporation has come to be, these set down locations have been lost or ignored. It is unacceptable to have a beekeeper arrive at their set down location only to be confronted with hours of remedial works to comply with making their workplace safe.

Letters are published in this edition from both a member and the response from FCNSW on page

On 7 June Shona Blair and I met with Minister Upton to discuss the Apiary sites on Public lands policy and our desired outcomes. We also discussed our continuing frustrations with the EPA and their indifference towards bee poisoning events.

Bee Biosecurity Officer [BBO]

Our recently appointed BBO Rod Bourke was in attendance at our conference where he was introduced to members. Rod commenced in his role on May 8 and once settled will be located at Tocal. One of Rod's early tasks will be to issue tokens to commercial apiarists requiring free access to the biosecurity BOLT course. The completion of this course will allow beekeepers to move toward complying with the minimum requirements of industries Biosecurity Code.

For those wishing to receive their access tokens, contact details for Rod are:

Rod Bourke
NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Biosecurity NSW
Tocal Ag College Tocal Rd, Paterson NSW 2320
Ph: 02 4939 8946 Fax: 02 4939 8950
Mob: 0438 677 195
Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity

Thanks for your Support

My sincere thanks to all our partners and sponsors. Without your generous support, NSWAA's Conference would not be as successful as it would otherwise be. I ask all members to where possible; support those businesses that support your Association.

Thank you Therese Kershaw, for as in previous conferences organising yet another outstanding Trade Show.

Thank you to our Secretariat Ros and 2Rivers Pty Ltd for organising and executing such a successful Conference.

Thank you also to our photographer, Jack Schick a member of the NSWAA who travelled from Lord Howe Island to attend the Conference.

On behalf of members I wish to pass on our gratitude to Margaret Blunden for her continued commitment to produce our Honeybee News at such a high standard.

In this edition there is a full report on *Honeyland* at the Sydney Show. However I would like to take this opportunity to make a special mention of one of our loyal members who has volunteered ever since *Honeyland* began, 38 years ago. Congratulations and thank you to Wayne Hammond. WELL DONE WAYNE.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to my executive for their support and dedication to our Association, working toward ensuring positive outcomes for NSWAA and our members.

Upcoming Meeting

Our next executive meeting will be held in Orange on Friday 1 September.

Neil Bingley
State President

DISCIPLINARY LETTER

To: All Branches and Association Members,

The NSW Apiarists' Association Executive Committee reiterates to all members that it WILL NOT tolerate bullying, harassment or the abuse of any of its Executive Staff, Contractors or Employees.

Members are further advised that the Association has a duty of care towards the health, safety and welfare of all personnel morally and under Workplace Health and Safety and Fair Work Australia legislation. Under no circumstances will this unacceptable behaviour to be repeated without suitable recourse.

All complaints against any member of the Executive, Staff or Contractors should be directed in writing to President Neil Bingley or Casey Cooper who will take appropriate action, under no circumstances are complaints to be addressed to other individual Executive members, Staff, Contractors or employees.

Neil Bingley
President
20 May 2017

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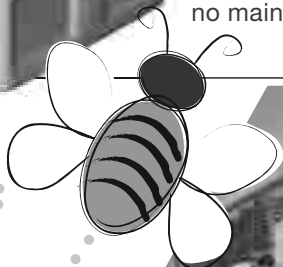
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STATE OF ROADS IN STATE FORESTS ON THE NORTH COAST

LETTER EMAILED BY WAYNE FULLER (BEE SERVICES CO) RE STATE OF ROADS AFTER HARVESTING

1 March 2017

Dear Sirs,

Re State of roads/tracks after harvesting

As an employer committed to work place health and safety we strive to provide a safe workplace as possible at all times. As such we spend considerable time and resources to ensure each site is safe and suitable for our operations.

Each year this business undertakes approximately \$20,000 worth of maintenance within **State Forests**. This ensures safe access is maintained and provides a safe working environment. The maintenance involved includes removing fallen trees over forestry roads and removing overgrown lantana and dumped rubbish and general cleaning up of set down sites. Also extensive cleaning of previous log dumps is required to ensure the set down sites are returned to the previous safe and manageable state. For example in Ramornie **State Forest** in December 2016 after current logging, a well maintained track off Ramornie Forest Rd to a level cleared area (a bee site which had previously been recorded to **SF**), was left in an unserviceable state and now needs excessive work to repair both the track and the site.

Your Health and Safety Policy P2015/01 states that *"Forestry Corporation of NSW (FCNSW) is committed to providing a safe workplace for all workers who are involved in or may be affected by FCNSW activities"* and *"This policy applies to all FCNSW workers including employees, contractors, visitors, labour hire and volunteers. The workplace includes any place of work where work is carried out for FCNSW or any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work."*

Whilst we understand that timber production is the core business for **Forestry Corp** it is unacceptable that **Forestry Corp** are unable or willing to leave our sites in the same condition as they were found before logging. Once logged, honey production is considerably lowered for some years and extensive works on our part are needed for restoration in spite of the fact that we pay an annual fee for these sites.

It is worth noting that in the past our recently used sites have been used as safe meeting points and refuge areas during times of bushfires – a frequent occurrence on the north coast of NSW. In Candole State Forest one of our larger apiary sites is now sign posted as a helicopter landing point in case of emergency.

Can you please look into this and contact us in regards to this matter.

RESPONSE

From Richard Rienstra **Senior Land Administrator | Forests Stewardship, Forestry Corporation of NSW | Hardwood Forests Division**

21 March 2017

Hi Wayne

Forestry Corporation (FCNSW) does focus its limited road maintenance resources towards works that will facilitate access for our core multi-million dollar timber harvesting

operations. Where possible such works are undertaken in a manner that will assist in maintaining and approving access to apiary site. This is not always possible but the current relatively low annual return per site for apiary limits the prioritising of specifically directing our limited road works funds towards apiary. Should these annual per site return rates increase, it would be more likely that FCNSW would be in a position to direct more resources towards servicing apiary site road access.

I accept that there are occasions when set-down sites are not in the same condition post a harvesting operation to what they were beforehand. In my experience, if a harvesting contractor is aware that a log dump is an apiary set-down site, they will return the site to a serviceable condition when harvesting use of the site is completed. The issue here is one of the set-down site not specifically being identified, either on the ground or in FCNSW database, which leads to the harvesting contractor not reinstating the specific site. If all apiarists complied with the conditions of their Forest Permit – Beekeeping, and advised FCNSW or the specific set-down site they have selected to use either by GPS coordinates or an emailed map, FCNSW could include this information and specifically identify the set-down site(s) in the Harvesting Plan accompanied by specific rehabilitation conditions for the harvesting contractor.

Additionally, the All Agency Review of Apiary Site Administration Workshop Group is considering the option of mandating all set-down sites should be signposted in the field to inform other potential users of the site (harvesting contractors, campers, helicopters, tourists, mountain bikers, horse riders) that an apiarist may turn up with a load of bees to put on the site at any time. A Forest Permit – Beekeeping does not afford an apiarist "exclusive" use to a site that may only be used for a relatively short period each year at best. If an old log dump is identified and documented as a set-down site, the likelihood of it being identified also as a helicopter emergency landing site is greatly reduced. If there are bees already on the site, I'm sure the helicopter will look for and be directed by FCNSW to an alternative landing site.

Hopefully, more thorough and practical identification of set-down sites will see less conflict in use and condition of established set-down sites.

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DEAD BEES

A rather dramatic heading for an article, but the world media seems to be awash with stories of disappearing and dead bees. Invariably, the focus becomes the use of agricultural chemicals in the landscape and their possible negative impacts.

I have received several enquiries in the last few years from mainstream professional beekeepers asking for advice, or simply to discuss, poor performing apiaries. Frequently, the bee populations are not building up numerically and as such, not reaching the populations necessary to be able to collect and harvest a surplus honey crop.

There are a range of possibilities for these symptoms or events within the apiary. They include:

- pesticides
- nutritional disorders
- disease (endemic)

World bee deaths

The average winter mortality in North America these days is around 30%. This is similar in Europe, while in Australia winter mortality of 5% would be of concern. The principal difference between Australian honey bees and the rest of the world is the absence of varroa mite or *varroa destructor*. This external parasite jumped from Asian bees (*Apis cerana*) to honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) approximately 60 years ago.

Since then, this mite has spread around the world, arriving in the North Island of New Zealand in 2000 and eventually the South Island in 2006. Varroa mites now infest all major honey bee populations in the world, except Australia.

Varroa mites feed on the bee pupae and adult bees. In this process they allow the entry of viruses into the developing bees or adult bees. These viruses then create all sorts of issues for the management of bees and ultimately lead to the death of the infected colony.

In most circumstances beekeepers around the world revert to treating honey bee colonies with a range of chemicals to suppress and control the mite populations. Chemicals can be classified as organic or synthetic; even so they all pose a sub lethal threat to the bees.

The idea of any treatment is that you kill the target without damaging the host. This is not always possible and sub lethal impacts of accumulated mite treatments are more than likely. Beeswax combs act as a sponge and are regarded as major reservoirs of miticide residues.

Thus, the world beekeeping fraternity is suffering from a combination of issues associated with varroa mites, which without doubt are having a major impact on the health status of honey bees. But varroa does not occur in Australia – yet!

So, the other possibilities of what is causing the death and

ill thrift of honey bee colonies in the Australian context need to be analysed. The topic of main conversation is the impact of pesticides.

Pesticides

Pesticides have the potential to negatively affect bee health at multiple levels. Directly, many pesticides are classified as dangerous to bees and lethal at various exposures. The toxicity of various agricultural chemicals is usually identifiable on the label with appropriate warnings; 'hazardous to bees' or 'do not apply to flowering plants' etc.

In this circumstance, beekeepers should remove apiaries from the area where the pesticides are to be applied. Of course, that is if the beekeeper is aware of the impending applications of these chemicals.

The problem that seems to be on the rise is the concern about the sub lethal effects of pesticides on bees, both adults and larvae. Increasing numbers of studies are identifying the potential for some chemicals to cause the adult bees to lose their ability to navigate in the field. Ultimately the field bees become lost, and perish away from the hive.

Another effect is the sub lethal impact on developing larvae where the chemicals reduce the fitness of the developing bees. This exposes the bees to greater likelihood of various diseases, having a significant impact on the viability of the colony's population.

A third observation by beekeepers is the premature supersedure of queen bees after a spray event. This appears to be happening after bees are exposed to flowering canola crops. The reasons for this are not clear, but pesticides are suspected, possibly the exposure to fungicides in pollen and nectar brought back to the hive.

If you, as a beekeeper, suspect bee poisoning, then the appropriate body to report this to is the **Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), phone 13 15 55**. This should be done as soon as possible after the suspect bee poisoning.

Points to remember:

- pesticides decay with age
- increasing temperatures will break down chemicals
- under instruction from the EPA, collect samples of dead bees, place in freezer wrapped in foil
- take photos of dead bees, record times, dates, locations and quantity of dead bees.

NOTE: A build-up of dead bees at the entrance of a colony is a classic sign of bee poisoning. Usually the dead bees at the entrance of a hive represent 10%–20% of the total number of dead bees, most dying in the field.

Endemic disease (Nosema)

While pesticide and chemical poisoning for non-performing colonies of bees is often the focus for beekeepers, frequently the impact of nosema disease is not considered. This is a major oversight by the industry generally. Why?

Because various studies suggest that nosema is everywhere, but its impact is variable and often unnoticed. More often than not, the symptoms of bees with nosema disease are simply that the colony fails to build up in population. In extreme circumstances an infected colony may dwindle in population. This may be associated with dead bees accumulating at the entrance.

Beekeepers associate dysentery of field bees with nosema disease, but when investigated they are not strongly correlated. Nosema does not automatically lead to dysentery of bees and vice versa. If bees have dysentery it does not automatically equate to a nosema disease infection of the hive.

Historically, Australian beekeepers had to contend with one nosema disease, caused by *Nosema apis*. In the past decade plus, a second infectious organism has been identified, *Nosema ceranae*. *Nosema apis* was to some extent predictable, causing issues for over wintering bees and a fairly common problem in early spring.

The warmer the weather *Nosema apis* infections reduced and the disease was not regarded as a major problem in late spring or through summer.

Nosema ceranae on the other hand, appears to be more prevalent in the warmer periods of the year. Both nosema bugs have similar symptoms, i.e. cause the premature deaths of adult bees which ultimately equate to colonies of bees that fail to build up in populations.

This observation has wrongly been attributed to pesticides. This becomes obvious when the beekeeper experiencing such events has not had their hives within any cropping area where their bees may be exposed to pesticides.

To determine if nosema is the cause of early bee deaths or the failure of colonies of bees to expand, the NSW Department of Primary Industries Veterinary Laboratory has the ability to examine samples of adult bees for nosema spores. Refer to Primefact Nosema disease (No. 699) and Nosema diagnosis (No. 901) for details on sample preparation and more information on nosema in general.

Despite the amount of research conducted in Australia highlighting the prevalence and impact on honey bees from nosema disease, there remains a degree of denial from many beekeepers that their poor performing bees may be associated with nosema infections.

A three year survey of commercial apiaries on almond orchards demonstrated that nosema was present in 100% of the apiaries. The levels of infection varied substantially from tens of thousands of spores per bee, to many millions of spores per bee. The higher infection rate is likely to have a greater influence on the mortality rate of the adult bees, but not always (RIRDC publication 08/006).

The 'not always' comment leads into the next part of this article, being a discussion on the role of nutrition.

Nutrition

Dead bees and the link with nutrition can be obvious or subtle. The obvious connection is when colonies run out of stored honey and starve.

Having handfuls of dead bees in a hive associated with no

stored honey is a classic case of starvation. The symptoms are dead adult bees head first into the cells, plus a cluster of dead adult bees, usually still located within the hive. The dead bees in this case are not found on the outside of the hive at the entrance.

The pollen sources available to bees on the other hand, can have very subtle impacts on the health and wellbeing of a colony. If a colony is restricted to low volumes of nutritionally poor quality pollen, then the longevity of the adult bees will be significantly reduced.

This aspect of managing nutritional inputs in large scale beekeeping operations can, and often is, a major cause for colonies of honey bees to remain as small populations. Combine nutritionally poor quality or limiting quantities of pollen intake into a hive, plus either a sub lethal impact of a pesticide or a nosema infection, then the perfect storm may arise.

The problem of diagnosing the reasons why colonies don't perform can be a combination of factors and each one may vary between apiaries influencing colony populations.

Well-fed bees on a high nutritional diet will invariably be able to withstand low level pesticide exposures and low level disease infections. A highly nutritious diet is composed of pollens with high crude protein levels with all amino acid requirements met, with vitamin, mineral and fatty acid requirements met.

An accumulation of dead bees or poor performing colonies may be due to pesticides or nosema or nutritional issues - or all three!

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

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HONEYLAND REPORT

23 March - 3 April 2017

We had another busy year at *Honeyland*, and it is more apparent than ever that this mammoth task is only possible due to the hard work of a relatively small number of very generous members of our Association, along with other volunteers (mostly from the Sydney region amateur groups), and of course the donations of products and services from honey producers and packers. The other key player is Bruce White, who has continually worked above and beyond the call of duty in his role as Show Coordinator. We are sad to announce that Bruce has told us he is stepping down from the role, and we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Bruce for his years of service in this role.

The phenomenal amount of work that goes into *Honeyland* does provide an opportunity for us to raise the profile of beekeeping in NSW, and through all the volunteer work and donated product we are able to raise some money for the Association. While the Association's key priorities are ensuring access to floral resources and biosecurity, generating public interest in beekeeping and the challenges we face helps by increasing public support, which in turn provides us with some more leverage when talking to government. However, our resources as an Association are limited and *Honeyland* draws significant time from the Executive and Secretary, who also need to work on the Association's top priorities and other activities such as organising Conference.

So - to all involved a huge thankyou from the NSWAA Executive, on behalf of all our members.

First and foremost, special thanks must go to Bruce White, who as our Show Coordinator always puts in a huge effort for *Honeyland*. While he has been our seemingly tireless Show Coordinator, Bruce's hard work has enabled *Honeyland* to run successfully during the last several years while he has held this role. Thank you very much, Bruce.



Bruce White at the Honeyland Stand

We must also thank Lynn White who has also been a tremendous support over the years, assisting directly on the *Honeyland* stand and also helping enormously with correspondence, printing signs and other "admin" assisting Bruce in his role.

Our new Secretary, Ros Riggs, was wonderful in helping with the complicated organising structure that supports *Honeyland*. With our long history at the Show, and so much procedural knowledge only stored in people's heads and not written down anywhere, it was a great deal to get on top of, while new to the position and also organising Conference, membership renewals and many other tasks focusing on the Association's main priorities.

Thanks to the Show Committee, particularly Mark Page (Chair) and Rob Michie who did a great deal of the organising, with some help from Shona Blair.

And Malcolm Porter has done a great job in taking the reins from the Bingley's many years of service in helping to set up and pack down *Honeyland*, and who transported everything back and forth to Sydney, as well as stored it securely for us between Shows.

Margaret and Bruce Blunden, along with Lynn White, did a fantastic job of setting up such wonderful displays for *Honeyland*. Many members of the public commented on them and spent a great deal of time looking at and enjoying the displays.

The Beezeebo continues to be a popular attraction that brings crowds to *Honeyland*. Thanks to the NSWAA Sydney Branch who supplied the Beezeebo, and Paul Drew for supplying the bees. Thanks also to Paul, Martin Radcliff, Ted Pennay and Doyle Eglehoff, who managed the Beezeebo set up and hive rotations throughout the Show. And special thanks to the beekeepers who spent time in there and demonstrated the wonders of live bees throughout the Show, including Wayne Hammond, Geoff Manning, Paul Drew, Bruce White, Brian Woolfe, Kurt McEachman, Mark Page, Casey Cooper, Lamorna Osborne, Brendon Smith, Doug Purdie, David Lord, Malcolm Porter, Ian Phillips and Doyle Eglehoff.

Huge thanks to all of the wonderful people who volunteered to work on the stand – without these people, *Honeyland* would be impossible. Our volunteers priced product, stocked the shelves, prepared the show bags, helped keep things tidy, sold our products and did a wonderful job of engaging with the public, talking about all things honey and bees. Thank you all so much!

Of course other than all of our people who helped set up and run *Honeyland*, it is the generous donations of product that is the other key component crucial for making *Honeyland* viable. As always, Capilano, Beechworth, Superbee, Stephens Leatherwood Honey and Sunderland Apiaries provided honey that enabled us to have our ever-popular honey sample bags. Thank you to NSWAA Sydney Branch who donated honey this year, as did Honey Life. Thanks also to Jody Burey & Kieren Sunderland for packing the Association branded honey.

**The Executive Council of the NSW Apiarists' Association
May 2017**

THANK YOU

TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AT
HONEYLAND AND BEHIND THE SCENES -
THANK YOU ALL!

Anthony Beattie	Barbara Elkins
Barbara Nudd	Barbara Sweeny
Boris Yagound	Brendon Smith
Brian Woolfe	Brook Lancaster
Bruce Blunden	Bruce White
Carolyn Sonter	Casey Cooper
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Dani Lloyd Pritchard	Daniel Bouzo
Daryl Ryan	David Cowling
David Lord	David Reid
David Scarlett	Dayn Cooper
Debbie Porter	Doug Purdie
Doyle Eglehoff	Elizabeth Frost
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Georgina Walton	Glenys Newbitt
Grace Jerrett	Graham Woods
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Stephen Targett	Tamara Mantchakidi
Tanya Dollan Brown	Ted Pennay
Ted Sissan	Tony Gordge
Uri Ananin	Vincent Schnyder
Warwick Smith	Wayne Hammond

HONEYLAND COORDINATOR SAYS FAREWELL

As this will be my last year as coordinator at *Honeyland* I personally wish to thank every volunteer, that has worked there over the past few years, for their dedication to the Industry. It has been a pleasure working with you and hope you have enjoyed the experience.

2017 was again another great year for *Honeyland*. As usual the volunteers were wonderful - always turning up on time and working with a smile. Thanks to the Executive members that took time out of their busy week to help at *Honeyland* it was appreciated.

A special thanks to Wayne Hammond for volunteering at *Honeyland* every year from the start 38 years ago. This year Wayne volunteered for six days, travelling from Woodstock, a round trip of 600km.

Bruce White
Coordinator - Honeyland 2017

SYMPATHY

On behalf of the Executive and Members we offer our our sincere condolences to Grant Lockwood's family and friends. Grant passed away on 5 June after a short illness.

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PESTICIDE KILLS - BEES

North Coast & EPA

Beekeepers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for their failure to act on and take bee kills seriously, and stop fobbing off these events.

Historically there have been a number of examples where beekeepers have experienced significant bee kills or deaths of field bees and whole colonies due to unknown or suspected misuse of pesticides.

Under the Pesticides Act 1999, the NSW EPA has a responsibility to investigate the misuse or inappropriate use of pesticides. Unexplained bee kills are such events, but it has been the experience of professional beekeepers when contacting the EPA hotline (131555) that they are told otherwise.

Recently (12/5/17) Matthew Gray, a commercial beekeeper based on the North Coast of NSW, reported a major bee kill within one of his apiaries to the EPA. He was informed that it wasn't their problem.

Matthew noticed 200-300 dead and dying bees outside of affected hives. The dead bees had their tongues protruding. These are classic signs of pesticide poisoning, not any bee disease issue.

Despite this the EPA told Matthew to contact the NSW DPI. This agency does not have the power or responsibility to investigate bee poisonings.

This sort of "buck passing" has occurred in the past with bee kills experienced by professional beekeepers.

The beekeeping industry is encouraged to:

- report all bee kills to the EPA
- inform the NSW Apiarists' Association executive of the details of these reports
- report to the NSW Apiarists' Association executive the level of response from the EPA
- take plenty of photos and, if needs be, contact the media to inform them of the event

The NSW Apiarists' Association Executive are soon to have an audience with the Minister for National Parks (which includes EPA). At this meeting the lack of action by the EPA on Matthew's bee kill matter will be discussed along with the systemic poor attitude to investigating bee kills by this state government entity.

Neil Bingley
President
NSW Apiarists' Association

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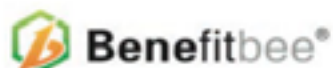
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CENTRAL TABLELANDS BRANCH REPORT

We held our Branch AGM in July 2016 the meeting was very well attended we elected our office bearers they are. President Mal Porter, Secretary Linda M'Crystal, Treasure Robert Porter.

In August our Branch had its first part of beginning in bees, there were 11 new people taking part, it is a two day course. The first day of the course is introducing them to bees and pest and diseases as well as Biosecurity.

Due to very poor conditions here in the Central West and Tablelands there wasn't very much honey produced by our members.

In February our Branch put on a field trip to Joe Horner's queen breeding operation at Rylstone. The members who attended were very well informed about how Joe breeds and selects his breeding queens. After morning tea and lots of questions to Joe we moved to the Rylstone pub for lunch, after that we returned to Bathurst.

In March our Branch held the second part of the beginning in bees course. This was held at Yetholme where we put on four different courses about working bees, opening brood nest looking for queen and disease, than to show how to put an empty super on a hive of bees and take a full box of honey off, show how to extract the full box of honey using a hot knife and a two frame extractor, and then to show the group what AFB is and how to identify it in a live hive (which has been reported to the DPI), and at the end of the day I showed them my commercial extracting operation.

In March our Branch held its annual dinner in Bathurst we had 26 people attend, all had a good time Debbie Porter put on a trivia night which wasn't all about bees which made it interesting to everyone.

Some of our members helped out at *Honeyland* by setting up, working during the show and packing up after the show. After Sydney Show Bathurst holds its Show and our Branch has two stands there, one with honey for sale and the Beezeebo and another stand where we demonstrate how to extract honey.

Our branch would like to take this time to thank the Executive for all the time that they put into Industry matters which takes a lot of their personal time away from their business.

Mal Porter
Branch President

The above report was sent by the Secretary to the printer for inclusion in the 2017 Annual Conference papers, but unfortunately was left out.

Sincere apologies for its omission from the Secretary and Printfresh.

NEW GUIDE TO ASSIST BEEKEEPERS HARVEST AND EXTRACT HONEY

DPI Media Release
23 May 2017

Beekeepers can get practical information on harvesting and extracting honey with a new publication, produced by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Tocal College, launched at the NSW Apiarists' Association Conference last week.

DPI Technical Specialist Honey Bees and co-author Dr Doug Somerville said the guide *Honey harvesting and extracting* informs beekeepers of the best management practices to harvest and extract honey to ensure they get the highest quality product.

"This practical guide will assist beekeepers whether they are small-scale recreational or commercial operators," Dr Somerville said.

"Important information on the best way to handle honey, including food quality, food safety and compliance with legislation are covered in the guide.

"Beekeepers are advised of the best way to remove honey from the hive so that it retains its natural goodness and the highest quality product is produced.

"With care, honey can be removed with minimal or no contamination."

Dr Somerville said the guide outlines the best practice for transporting honey from the hive to the extracting facility, and includes the key principles for the design, construction and cleanliness of the premises.

"There is also a section on mobile extracting plants, as many of the requirements for central extracting plants also apply to mobile plants," Dr Somerville said.

"Beekeepers are reminded that all food products and ingredients should be stored under adequate facilities and conditions to ensure product safety and to minimise the potential for contamination or microbial growth.

"The guide underpins the Australian Beekeeping Industry Quality Assurance Program and assists beekeepers to ensure they are able to control and maintain honey quality in a safe and hygienic way."

Tocal College offers a range of short courses in beekeeping skills as well as the Certificate III in Beekeeping.

The *Honey harvesting and extracting AgGuide* is available in hard copy, online or mail order from Tocal College www.tocal.nsw.edu.au or as an ebook through iTunes.

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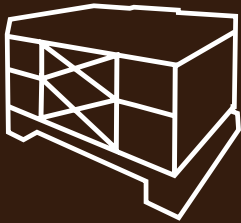
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NEW BIOSECURITY OFFICER PROTECTS NSW BEE INDUSTRY

DPI Media Release
24 May 2017

The NSW bee industry will be further protected to minimise the impact of pests and diseases with the appointment of a new Bee Biosecurity Officer based at the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Tocal College at Paterson.

DPI's Manager of Plant Biosecurity Prevention and Preparedness, Dr Chris Anderson said the new appointment of Rod Bourke as Bee Biosecurity Officer will strengthen the protection of the state's beekeeping industry to ensure its future sustainability and viability.



Rod Bourke NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer ready for work!

"The main responsibility of the Bee Biosecurity Officer is to improve awareness of the National Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice (The Code) and the new Biosecurity Act in NSW to all beekeepers across the state and to encourage best-practice biosecurity," Dr Anderson said.

"Mr Bourke will work with apiarists to increase awareness of the Code and to raise the management standards for beekeepers.

"The Code has been developed by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council through years of consultation with all state beekeeping bodies and is designed to be the minimum standard for beekeepers to achieve good pest and disease prevention and control.

"The Code allows each state to impose additional standards or exemptions and in NSW our aim is to strengthen the detection and control of the serious endemic disease, American Foulbrood Disease (AFB).

"DPI conducts regular biosecurity compliance operations to identify and eradicate any neglected and abandoned hives as they are a major threat to the health of managed beehives and can be responsible for the spread of AFB."

Beekeepers are reminded they must notify, within 24 hours, the presence or suspected presence of AFB disease to the emergency animal disease watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

Dr Anderson said that Mr Bourke will also interact extensively with biosecurity, research, education and enforcement personnel in NSW, also Bee Biosecurity Officers in other states and Plant Health Australia.

"Mr Bourke comes from a commercial beekeeping family and has been interacting with bees in one way or another all of his life. He currently maintains 20 beehives with his wife and family," Dr Anderson said.

"He has worked for the past twenty years in Queensland or the Pacific Islands. He has undertaken a number of different roles that have given him the skills and expertise for his new role."

The Bee Biosecurity Officer position is funded by a voluntary levy in place for honey sales by commercial beekeepers, so this position is predominantly working with commercial beekeepers, but will also play a role within the ever growing amateur beekeeping community, which has in excess of 1500 members.

Media contact: Anne Brook (02) 6763 1163 or 0477 358 305

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CRAFT BREWERIES USING LEATHERWOOD & MANUKA HONEY

Three of Tasmania's craft breweries scored silver medals at the recent Australian International Beer Awards.

Moo Brew from the south of the state won for their Hefeweizen wheat beer, whilst in the north Launceston's Morrison's Brewery won for their Pale Ale and Taverner's Brewery with their Honey Porter using their own Leatherwood honey.

Tim Penton, from Taverner's Brewery, was proud of the company's achievement with not only the silver but also a bronze for their Strong Honey Ale. He said:

"Given that of the 11 entries from 7 different countries in the Honey Beer category there were only three medals awarded of which we won two including the highest, we are extremely proud."

Taverner's Brewery is owned by Australian Honey Products and uses the honey it farms from around Tasmania in its award winning series of Ales.

"We use the knowledge of all the different types of honey Tasmania produces to allow us to match a variety of different malts and hops we use in our brews" He said.

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CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2017

Welcome to the 25th Annual Crop Pollination Association. I would like to firstly thank our executive and public officer for their ongoing support throughout the year. My Report this year has a lot of ongoing issues that have been listed below.

Hive numbers required? 70k plus another 20k?

After attending a 2 day workshop with Horticulture Innovation Australia it is apparent there will be big moves happening within horticulture and they are spending a lot on pollination. Figures bouncing around are 200 million dollars investing in sustainability, creating and improving pollination for their industry. (This includes native pollinators). There were 3 people representing the bee industry in attendance, they were Jodie Goldsworthy, Max Whitten and myself.

There was a brainstorming workshop identifying and discussing all areas of problems, barriers and opportunities. I must say the European Honey Bee was the most used but there are a great number of other industries using both native and honey bees or just using native pollinators. The Almond industry with their large investments will require large numbers, as do other industries and this is changing the requirements of our industry. It was explained our industry had sustainable limits and big problems ahead. So if some of that money was used to benefit the bee industry to fix some of these problems they would have more bees available.

Some of the problems mentioned were education of new beekeepers /aging industry members, access to floral resources, Genetics and Varroa preparedness. I also suggested including a section on training agronomists in the use of chemicals where honey bees/native pollinators are required in the region for pollination. It was supported and one grower/agronomist from Victoria said three days of their course was on chemicals entering the Great Barrier Reef so why can't there be education on pollination.

My reason for mentioning this is because agronomists are very good at knowing what is recommended by the chemical companies on the label for killing which pest or disease, but they don't have an understanding of beneficial pollinating insects including bees. Many of these chemicals remain in the soil and trees for two years. When you have fungicides that are that good at disrupting cell growth etc than they are a pesticide in their own right:

- mixing of chemicals/synergism effects
- sub lethal effects not given on label
- systemic chemicals now dominating the market present in pollen and nectar
- crop protection system requiring heavy chemicals whether needed or not

One example of this is cotton where they have an integrated pest management system and look after all the beneficial things then go in with fipronil and wipe everything out!

So basically out of the brain storming session they put up the most effective or important ideas for funding. Then industries like almonds or citrus might have 12 million to invest in future for pollination. They can then choose

where they want their money to be spent. Maybe 2 million on varroa preparedness then 4 million on bee health or even breeding self-pollinating trees.

There is also funding coming in from universities however I noticed that the chemical companies weren't on the list of contributors and I had it explained that there was a large amount of funding entering universities, so money was probably coming in that way but I don't know how much.

LETS HOPE WE CAN HELP HORTICULTURE TO PERFORM

Two other meetings that I was not able to attend were the Victorian meeting where they discussed allowing 300 hives on sites to fit in with requirements for large number of bees for almonds. This is not sustainable for those looking at producing honey close to these sites.

The other meeting I was not able to attend was the NSW DPI pollination course at Yanco where there was discussion by agronomists and beekeepers about the expectation on price for pollination services. There was some very experienced and professional pollinators in the room that I talked to after and I know that they are aware of the real price of carrying out these tasks.

Below is an average taken from an assessment task Contract Almond pollination agreement. Information taken from Vol 10 number 2 *Australia's Honeybee News* and is in the Frost report.

	<u>Fee per hive</u>	<u>Drop Size</u>	<u>Fee per hive/move for pest control Activity</u>
Beekeeper	\$175	92 Hives	\$43
Agonomist	\$89	48 Hives	\$11

There is some concern that industry or leading brokers where not contacted for comment when the course was being written as to what really happens and the problems faced in supplying large numbers of bees and the mixing of different apiaries. The course also touches on most areas with what should happen or be agreed too.

At the NSWAA Riverina Meeting it was noted that there would be more large scale expansion of almonds in the Griffith/Hillston areas in the future.

There was also a meeting with beekeepers doing almonds for OLAM where price was discussed - estimated 75 thousand hives represented. Almond growers said if they paid more they wanted better bees. It was apparent forgoing autumn or winter honey flows to produce those bees was not going to be in the price. There was questions from younger beekeepers on water quality and chemicals used. \$120r per hive was suggested this year and \$150 in five years. Seems \$100 is a price they are willing to pay and as Neil Bingley said it is a very mediocre price with the work and risks involved. (COMMENTS Taken from NSWAA *Honeybee News* President's Report).

APVMA

Outstanding issue: will they or won't they move to Armidale? Meanwhile no progress on the Roadmap for Insect pollinator risk assessment on when this will be published. This requires new research for chemical registration in line with the rest of the world. Many people have made contact on this issue. We have been patiently

waiting for over 12 months and it has been suggested that we stop bowling underarm and bowl a bit of pace aimed at the head.

Guest speaker at this year CPA conference is Michelle Colopy from Pollinator Stewardship Council Inc. Michelle is program Director of the Pollinator Stewardship Council and its mission is to defend managed and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply from the adverse impact of pesticides.

I had heard of this organisation and what they were doing in the US and that they realise that no other beekeeping association or insect group should have to redo all the work to get where they are. Through help the other organisations should be able to pick up from where they are at and push on or at least recognise and avoid moving in wrong direction. She is here for a good reason as OUR INDUSTRY NEEDS HELP IN THIS AREA.

Mud flaps are still available while stocks last.

A suggestion of sticker design/colouring competition for CPA. Work in progress.

2018 Bee Congress has a pollination theme - possible Horticulture Innovation Australia money supporting this as Horticulture need more bees.

Tasmanian Pollination Association still active and when they were told our price for pollination on the mainland one bloke called it unsustainable. They receive up to \$180 per hive down in Tazzy.

I took my hives to almonds then used those bees for hybrid seed production 1100km north. Then split between onion, cherries, cauliflower, watermelon and pumpkin production and now only one Lucerne project at Griffith. Some of the loads of bees did 5 jobs for the year but on average only 4.

I am pleased with the work that has been done particularly with chemical labelling by our Association over the last 6 years but I am a bit frustrated with the system, there is still no further progress in Australia to recognise the damage to not only the managed bee hive population but to the total environment that has occurred over the past 20 plus years. The current work on nicotoids is now indicating the need for the removal of a large number of the heavy systemic from agriculture and the environment including reefs and river systems. I hope we are not too late.

Many of the problems we are facing and trying to fix will in fact benefit the whole of the beekeeping industry and not just the Crop Pollination Association members. A special thanks must be given to past and present APVMA staff for their help when they can. A lot of the previous progress that has been made on this has been greatly affected by the Barnaby Joyce relocation exercise.

"A SAFE PASSAGE FOR THE BEES THROUGH THE FLOWERING CROP" this is what we are talking about, and are aiming for.

One more important issue to me is to thank my wife Lisa and family for putting up with family time spent on industry work that many of us are so passionate about.

Crop Pollination Association Inc
President
Bryn Jones

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THERE'S A BUZZ ABOUT HOSTAHIVE

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Seeing the need to connect the community of beekeepers, bee enthusiasts, bee product sellers and consumers, the trusted team behind popular swarmpatrol.com - with over 2000 member beekeepers globally - launched the site in early 2017.

Hostahive is a specialised online marketplace, providing opportunities for beekeepers to sell products and services through their own e-store on a centralised site. Hostahive is now available to all English speaking countries around the world.

Built by beekeepers, for beekeepers, the e-store categories have been chosen to cater to the different needs of beekeepers and potential customers with functionality for a single store to sell both products and services.

Popular products include everything from healthy, locally harvested, raw, unadulterated organic honey to queen bees, bee health supplements like royal jelly, cosmetics, beehives and other beekeeping equipment.

Top searched services range from hive inspections, hive rental or leasing to pollination, mentoring, training or setting up and periodically maintaining the popular Flow Hives. The best part - all service requests have price setting flexibility so beekeepers can adjust their rates based on distance from the client.

Founder Andrew Guzowski says, "As a fellow beekeeper, I wanted to create a platform that connects and introduces people to local communities of beekeepers - the services on offer and innovative products to buy. To make this happen, we knew we needed to make it easy and reliable for beekeepers - a goal we think we've achieved after 18 months of development.

"We've been chuffed with the strong response from the beekeeping community so far and encouraged by traffic to the site from customers. We're looking forward to seeing more great local e-stores join the site."

Hostahive provides the latest fully secure e-commerce gateways, which means you don't need to have credit card merchant facilities and the proceeds of any sale go into the beekeeper's account the same or next day depending on the time the purchase was made. The credit card and gateway fees are picked up by Hostahive, within a sales commission.

To celebrate the launch, Hostahive is offering 6 months free membership to founding beekeepers. Plus, sign now to take advantage of the planned promotional activity through local beekeeping clubs, associations, publicity and consumer affiliate sites - there's no cost to beekeepers joining now.

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member of the team will get back to you.***

2017 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

(Other than those of a routine nature)

Resolution 2017/1 - CARRIED

MOVED: Stephen Targett

SECONDED: Casey Cooper

‘That the proposed amendments to the Association’s constitution as advised below be accepted by the members.’

CURRENT	PROPOSED
<p>7. MANAGEMENT</p> <p>a. The Association shall elect, at its first Annual Conference, a Council consisting of five Members.</p> <p>No Member of the Association shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council unless they reside in NSW or the ACT and has been a Financial Member for at least two successive years immediately prior to the date of the holding of the Annual Conference at which Nominations, for election, are received.</p> <p>Each member shall be elected for a 2 year term and must retire from office at the Annual Conference held at the end of such 2 year term, but if eligible, may seek reappointment.</p> <p>At each Annual Conference the number of members of the Executive Council that must retire will be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> at the Annual Conference held in 2013, two members must retire; at the Annual Conference held in 2014, three members must retire <p>This two year pattern will repeat thereafter.</p> <p>The members who must retire are those who have held office the longest since last being elected or appointed. If 2 or more members have been in office for the same period, those members may agree which of them will retire. If they do not agree, they must draw lots to decide which of them must retire.</p> <p>b. The Executive Council elected by Conference shall itself elect its President and Vice-President and the full Council shall then consist of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> President Vice-President Three (3) Councillors <p>Subject to this Constitution, the management and control of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council who may make regulations to govern any matters not directly dealt with in these Rules. No member of the Executive</p>	<p>7. MANAGEMENT</p> <p>a. The Association shall elect, at its first Annual Conference, a Council consisting of five Members.</p> <p>No Member of the Association shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council unless they reside in NSW or the ACT and has been a Financial Member for at least two successive years immediately prior to the date of the holding of the Annual Conference at which Nominations, for election, are received.</p> <p>Nominations for Executive Council Nominations to be submitted to the Secretary no later than 21 days prior to Annual Conference, and they must include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name and signature of nominee Names and signatures of nominator and seconder (both must be financial members of the Association) Information outlining the nominee’s industry background – with the exception of retiring councillors who have served their current term and are seeking re-election <p>Nominations for vacancies will be accepted from the floor at Annual Conference.</p> <p>Each member shall be elected for a 2 year term and must retire from office at the Annual Conference held at the end of such 2 year term, but if eligible, may seek reappointment.</p> <p>At each Annual Conference the number of members of the Executive Council that must retire will be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> at the Annual Conference held in 2013, two members must retire; at the Annual Conference held in 2014, three members must retire <p>This two year pattern will repeat thereafter.</p> <p>The members who must retire are those who have held office the longest since last being elected or appointed. If 2 or more members have been in office for the same period, those</p>

Council shall serve more than 5 consecutive years as the President.	<p>members may agree which of them will retire. If they do not agree, they must draw lots to decide which of them must retire.</p> <p>b. The Executive Council elected by Conference shall itself elect its President and Vice-President and the full Council shall then consist of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President 2. Vice-President 3. Three (3) Councillors <p>Subject to this Constitution, the management and control of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council who may make regulations to govern any matters not directly dealt with in these Rules. No member of the Executive Council shall serve more than 5 consecutive years as the President.</p>
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Extension of Resolution 2017/1 - CARRIED

MOVED: Malcolm Porter

SECONDED: Geoff Porter

That the nominated person be able to attend Executive Meetings to see the insight how our state body is working before being elected at the Annual General Meeting Conference.

Motion 2017/2 – Deferred to Ballot

MOVED: Paul Drew

SECONDED: Michael Fogarty

‘That the proposed amendments to the Association’s constitution as advised below be accepted by the members.’

Current	Proposed
<p>Section 17 part d.</p> <p>Each branch shall have the right to be represented by one of its members at any regular meeting of the Executive Council of the Association provided that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is not already represented by an elected Executive Council members 	<p>The Sydney Metropolitan Branch proposes that section 17 part d.1 be deleted</p>

MOVED: Casey Cooper

SECONDED: Neil Bingley

‘That with the support of 12 Members the motion goes to ballot.’

Resolution 2017/2 – Result of Ballot - CARRIED

Resolution 2017/3 - CARRIED

MOVED: Robert Michie

SECONDED: Malcolm Porter

‘That the membership fee for NSWAA be capped at \$2000.00.’

Motion 2017/4

MOVED: Stephen Targett

SECONDED: Mark Page

‘That AHBIC investigate the potential for a mandatory levy on Manuka honey to fund AHBIC.’

Amendment to Resolution 2017/4 - CARRIED

MOVED: Michael Fogarty

SECONDED: Geoff Manning

‘That the words Manuka Honey be removed.’

Resolution 2017/4 – CARRIED

‘That AHBIC investigate the potential for a mandatory levy to fund AHBIC’.

Resolution 2017/5 – CARRIED

MOVED: Malcolm Porter

SECONDED: David Lord

‘That the Royal Sydney Show Co-ordinator is to have full control and management over the Volunteers who are assisting for the show. This hereby includes tickets and accommodation.’

Resolution 2017/6 – CARRIED

MOVED: Casey Cooper

SECONDED: Craig Klingner

‘That NSWAA conference rearrange the current levy to allow for the increase in NRS levy but not increase the overall levy.

Resolution 2017/7 – CARRIED

MOVED: Craig Klingner

SECONDED: Casey Cooper

That NSWAA endorses the 5 Zone policy as recommended by AHBIC for post Varroa hive movements.

THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost
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Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries
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EDUCATION AROUND AUSTRALIA

I'm taking the liberty in this Frost Report of donning my Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) Education Committee Chairperson hat. The following 2017 AHBIC Education Committee Report reflects the hard work and networking within NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA to educate new and existing beekeepers, students and the general public about honey bees and the beekeeping industry. I'd like to sincerely thank Committee Members Marion Weatherhead (QLD), Kylie Pitt (SA), Barry Cooper (VIC), and Leilani Leyland (WA) for championing beekeeping education in their respective states. Who knows what future commercial beekeepers may come out of the past years' crop of learners!

2017 AHBIC Education Committee Report

Chairperson: Elizabeth Frost (NSW)
Committee Members: Marion Weatherhead (QLD), Kylie Pitt (SA), Barry Cooper (VIC), Leilani Leyland (WA)

During the period of May 2016 through May 2017 nationally accredited course delivery aligned to the Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32010) and non-accredited course delivery in beekeeping skills and education initiatives were undertaken by committee members in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

NSW Report, Elizabeth Frost

Unquantified, non-accredited training and field days were delivered throughout the state through the initiative of the NSW Apiarists' Association Branches and Amateur Beekeepers' Association Branches (ABA). This season marked the first NSW ABA Beekeeping Field Day, held at Pittwater High School in 9 October 2016. The longest running beekeeping field day in Australia, Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day was held 29 October 2016 and drew approximately 600 visitors. Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day is organized by the Hunter Valley ABA branch and the NSWAA Hunter Valley Branch.

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Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32010) Delivery

Nationally accredited training mapped to the Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32010) was delivered by NSW DPI Tocal College (Registered Training Organisation #91166) and its contractors. Face to face delivery is offered in NSW and online delivery is offered nationwide. NSW DPI Tocal College also offers a Beekeeping Traineeship for fulltime employees of beekeepers at a cost of \$1,000, highly subsidised as a result of the Certificate III in Beekeeping gaining listing within NSW Smart and Skilled. Two additional Elective Units of Competency were developed and delivered in 2016/17 by Doug Somerville and Elizabeth Frost. These units are:

- AHCBEK404A - Provide bee pollination services
- AHCBEK402A - Perform queen bee artificial insemination

Tocal College had its first four graduates in Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32010) on 24 March 2016. At time of writing Tocal College has 45 students enrolled in the Certificate III in Beekeeping (AHC32010) for projected completion by December 2017. Enrolment in the updated (AHC32016) qualification as a non-traineeship will open January 2018.

NSW AgriFood Industry Advisory Training Body was successful in its bid for school based traineeship delivery of the Cert III in Beekeeping. While supportive of the concept and the efforts in this area, unfortunately Tocal College is not in a position to deliver school based traineeships. It takes considerable planning to deliver a quality traineeship and we are already fully committed in meeting the demand for our current beekeeping programs. There are particular challenges that come with school based traineeships that require additional planning, and training and assessment resources. Hopefully a Cert III Beekeeping delivery pathway for a new NSW RTO to consider focusing on.

Industry Collaboration: I contribute an article to the bi-monthly Honey Bee News NSWAA magazine, collaborate with the NSWAA Hunter Branch and Hunter ABA Branch to develop the Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day, and along with NSW DPI colleagues Danielle Lloyd-Prichard and Doug Somerville, am actively developing, delivering and coordinating delivery of units of competency for the Certificate III in Beekeeping with industry and training experts. Tocal College trainers come from NSW DPI, NSWAA, NSW ABA backgrounds.

Interstate collaboration involved supporting the Victorian Program to "Improve honeybee biosecurity through the training of beekeepers" through delivering the online course "Pests and Diseases of Honey Bees" to nominated 19 biosecurity officers from various VIC clubs. For additional information on this and other courses and qualifications, please visit NSW DPI/Tocal College's bee-centric website: www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/courses/bees.

QLD Report, Marion Weatherhead

Expanding Interest in Beekeeping

The interest in beekeeping is continually increasing, evident by the increase in membership to the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) and especially in the ever expanding Bee Clubs throughout the State. These groups spend much time in education for the public who live in their communities and for their Members, new and not so new to beekeeping. Mentoring programmes, practical days and well attended Field Days are proving successful educational tools for this ever increasing number of new beekeepers.

With Certificate 111 in Beekeeping being accepted as a Traineeship in Queensland since July 2013, it is rewarding to see a few more begin the Traineeship in Queensland this past year.

Local Agricultural Shows and Royal Brisbane Show (10 days in August)

Beekeeping as well as the value and importance of honey bees was promoted at many of Queensland's Regional Agricultural Shows. Beekeepers and Bee Clubs supported this through Apiculture Competitions, educational displays and demonstrations and the sale of honey and beekeeping products.

Over 10 days in August, many dedicated beekeepers from around the State assisted at QBA's Honey Court at the Ekka (Royal Brisbane Show) showcasing the States honey and beekeeping industry. This was through the display of the "Best of the State" in the Apiculture Competition, giving live bee displays, free honey tasting and the sale of a wide range of honey, bee products and Honey Mead. QBA partnered with gardening and cooking events at the Ekka, giving a variety of beekeeping talks. These were valuable opportunities to reach many in the audience who may not specifically choose to visit the Honey Court or learn about honey bees.

School Education Days

In partnership with AgForce QLD and the RNA (Brisbane Show) QBA participated in several agricultural days for primary and secondary school students with the focus on where our food and fibre comes from and career possibilities in beekeeping. Hundreds to over a thousand students attend each of these events with talented beekeepers volunteering their time to give class sized groups presentations and interactive activities to 140 to 180 students each day. Each event was well received by enthusiastic students. For one group, watching a bee emerge from a cell was the highlight of the day which they shared with delight with everyone they could!

Honey Month

This year there was no one event organized, but throughout the State a number of Beekeeping Clubs and Members participating in a variety of educational events. Many communities have seen beekeepers attend with displays and presentations.

Beekeeping Information Leaflets

QBA has again reprinted the Beekeeping Information leaflets. Gratefully, with three States combining their requirements, a larger number were printed thus lowering the unit cost for all. These are now available within these States for promotion, education and beekeeping events.

Thank You

To all who has shared your knowledge and the joys of honey bees, thank you. The growing public awareness of honey bees in our ecosystem and their importance and value is largely due to your generosity to share your time, knowledge and expertise when opportunities arise.

VIC Report, Barry Cooper

Delivering beekeeping education through beekeeping organization and clubs

Victoria has one peak beekeeping organization (the Victorian Apiarists' Association) at least twenty-five beekeeping clubs and organisations. Local beekeeping clubs continue to be instrumental in delivering beekeeping education, particularly to new beekeepers, through such activities as monthly meetings, newsletters and magazines, beekeeping courses, mentoring programs, field days, conferences and on-line support.

Royal Melbourne Show Stand

Once again this year, the Victorian Apiarists' Association managed a substantial stand in the Foods Pavilion at the Royal Melbourne Show. Not only did this stand promote the economic value of the apicultural industry but it also educated the public about bees and beekeeping and, of course, the quality, range and deliciousness of our honeys.

Delivery of beekeeper training courses in Victoria

Throughout the last year at least forty non-accredited beekeeping courses were delivered by various clubs, groups and individuals. These were mostly focused on introducing beekeeping to new or prospective beekeepers. The continued demand for such courses is a reflection of the continued interest in beekeeping by the general public.

Program to "Improve honeybee biosecurity through the training of beekeepers"

The purpose of this program is to support bee biosecurity education in beekeeping clubs by supporting selected bee biosecurity officers from these clubs. It was funded, upon the recommendation of Victorian "Apicultural Advisory Committee", from the Victorian "Honey Bee Compensation Industry Development Fund". Its leaders were myself and Prof J-P Scheerlinck, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

The first stage of a program has now been completed. Nineteen bee biosecurity officers from fourteen clubs successfully completed the NSW Tocal College on-line course, "Pests and diseases of honeybees". The program funds paid the course fee for each biosecurity officer.

The second stage of the program is now underway. During this calendar year, each bee biosecurity officer will be undertaking activities at their club to increase their members' understanding of bee pests and diseases and biosecurity practices.

To assist them to do this, a one-day workshop was organised earlier this year. The delivery of the workshop was facilitated by the Victorian Apiary Officers, the Victorian Bee Biosecurity Officer and hive inspections at the Collingwood Children's Farm apiary. As well as considering bee biosecurity understanding and practice, the workshop also emphasised the use of effective teaching practices in delivering biosecurity education.

Program participants will receive continued support through an on-line discussion forum.

Eventually each officer will report on the effectiveness of their bee biosecurity educational program. Funding application for a similar program for 2018-19 will be considered.

Development of an introductory beekeeping course

The Victorian Apiarists' Association (VAA) Melbourne Section beekeeping club developed and conducted a four-day course for beginner beekeepers. This course was based upon the performance criteria, performance evidence and knowledge evidence of various certificate III Beekeeping units but was not accredited by an RTO (although in the future it may be). The course was delivered at the Collingwood Children's Farm apiary and the adjoining Abbotsford Convent.

Collingwood Children's Farm Apiary

VAA Melbourne Section continues to manage the Collingwood Children's Farm apiary. It is located within a "city farm" about 5km from Melbourne's CBD.

The apiary aims to educate the public about bees and beekeeping, as well as providing beekeeping advice and practice to current and prospective beekeepers. The apiary is open twice a month except for winter when it is only open once a month.

During winter, one-day workshops were conducted during which participants made items such as a frame wiring jig and a wax foundation embedder.

In late 2015 a box Flow Frames was installed in one of the apiary's hives. This has enabled the apiary managers to investigate how Flow Frames can be used in a bee hive and thus enable them to provide advice to other beekeepers about the use of Flow Frames. Over the last year I have presented a report of our Flow Frame investigations at six meetings of beekeeping clubs and organizations.

The apiary's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/collingwood.bees provides an overview of its activities over the last year.

SA Report, Kylie Pitt

September 2016 Royal Adelaide Show

The stand in The Golden Grains pavilion at the Royal Adelaide Show once again received great interest. Many school trips passed by and enthusiastically searched for the queen in the display hive. The Pollination game was enjoyed and the beekeeper mannequin sent wisps of vapour from his smoker which was met with either joy by many. Unfortunately we did not have the volunteers to be able to man the stand for the complete show. We are currently looking at solutions to this issue for the upcoming show in September 2017.

December 2016 – Kick the Tyres Field Day

Members of the association gathered on the banks of the mighty Murray River with trucks, machines and gadgets on a scorching day. Attendees enjoyed each other's company over a bbq lunch. It was a great opportunity to

have a look at the equipment that other beekeepers use and many conversations were had.

April 2017 - Bee Keepers Incursion Training

A member of the executive kindly hosted a PIRSA incursion training at this shed which was followed by a field day showcasing different types of hive equipment. The training covered:

- The makeup of an incursion response team
- Our role as bee keepers
- Restrictions that could be put in place
- Practical component included the performing of sugar shake and alcohol wash

April 2017 - Field Day

The field day followed on from the Incursion Training and it was great to welcome and meet some members of the Beekeeping Society of South Australia and the Adelaide Urban Collective. We enjoyed perusing displays of hives of various material constructions and sizes. Homemade jigs, feeders and inventions were also on display.

WA Report, Leilani Leyland

Since May last year WAAS has experienced an amazing increase in people wanting to learn more about bees, get involved with bees and understand what is required for responsible beekeeping. This is evident in our membership numbers increasing substantially (currently 800 plus) and us having to relocate our monthly meetings to a bigger venue. We have also noticed the changing demographic of people interested—more females and younger people. Another interesting development is that while we have been called on several times to assist in convincing local shires to allow beekeeping, we have recently been approached by a local shire to put hives on their property. We now have regular support from sponsors to assist with our meeting overheads.

A summary of WAAS activities in the last year is as follows:

- Current membership of 800 plus.
- Had regular monthly meeting for members (avg. 150 attendees)
- Had regular monthly committee meetings. (avg. 8 attendees)
- Conducted eight "Introduction to Responsible Beekeeping Courses" (approx. 30 attendees each)
- Conducted three Queen Raising Workshops (approx. 12 attendees each)
- Had a 40 minute Beginners Corner Session before the start of each monthly meeting
- Had a 40 minute Advanced Beekeepers Session before the start of each monthly meeting
- Had various keynote speakers at our monthly meetings speaking on a various range of topics related to beekeeping (scientific research, marketing honey, Flow hive inventors, Bee friendly plants, various responsible beekeeping subjects, etc. etc).
- Recently assisted with establishing two chapters of WAAS in the South West of WA and both recording solid interest in membership.

- Assisted with Honey Festival celebrations – May 2017
- Working with Bee Training College of WA to introduce formal training into WA
- Gave presentations to 3x primary schools, 1 x Joey Scouts, 1x normal scouts and 2x community garden clubs.
- Current subscription to our newsletter “Smoke Signals” running at 1,225 subscribers- includes members and non-members. This newsletter has many regular educational articles on beekeeping and associated topics.

Royal Show October 2016

A collaboration with CIBER (Centre for Integrated Bee Research) for the past two years. We have a stall in the Farm2Food Pavilion to educate the public where their food comes from. A scientific display with microscopes and dead bees to show children all their intricacies. Live Display hive so they can look for the queen bee. Pollination display which is interactive and the children get to place sticky bees on various plants and flowers that require bees for pollination. Honey tasting for the experience of honey direct from the beekeeper (no honey sales allowed, but this year we are now allowed to sell©)

Honey Festival May

In its fifth year it has grown strength to strength with great interest from the public. Stall selling honey and bee related toys/headwear and t-shirts, Wescobee with Probiotic Honey and Jarrah honey to sell, Beekeeping equipment suppliers, interactive pollination activity (same as Royal Show) Activity sheet with questions and the children need to find the answers that are placed on signs around the festival. Nursery selling bee friendly plants. Beekeepers giving talks on various subjects. Honey bee book sales. Demonstrations of different trucks and loading systems (Ezyloader and Palfinger Crane this year) Beekeepers wear jackets that say I am a beekeeper ask me a question? This encourages the public to interact with the beekeepers. Bendigo Bank has an activity tent building native bee nests with the children as part of their sponsorship of the event.

Honey Month – May

As a follow on to the Festival various public events have been scheduled throughout May (these are listed on the AHBIC website) promoting the use of honey both topically and eating with chefs using honey from their own roof top hives to present various recipes.

Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day

Promotion to public on how to become a beekeeper, registration details advice on swarm removal and basically anything the public wants to know about bees. Live bee display on show and bee boxes to show how they all work.

WA Apiarist Society (www.waas.org.au)

This group has been actively promoting beekeeping at their monthly meetings where they have engaged one of our retired beekeepers to do a discussion session for half an hour where he talks on how he operated and answers questions. They also hold different beginning in beekeeping sessions in the other hall at the same time and then come together after for their main event. They also run training activities over the weekends in the appropriate seasons where they teach queen rearing, basic hive maintenance etc. for those beginning in bees, generally done in association with our University of WA (ex CIBER staff).

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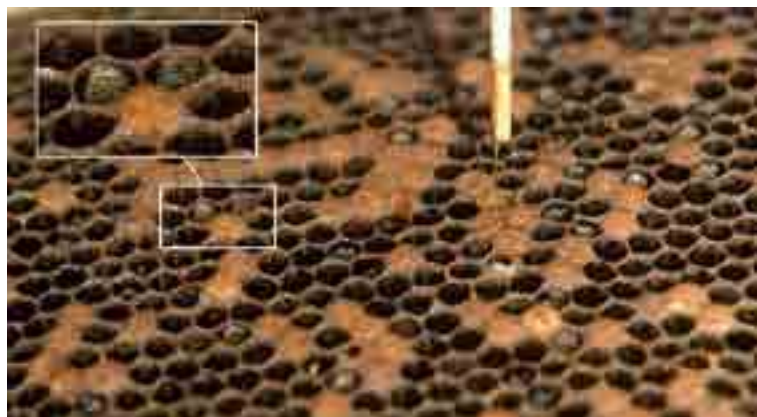
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AHBIC AGM PLUS SAAA CONFERENCE

The AHBIC AGM will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Adelaide on Saturday 8 July, 2017. The South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) Conference will be held on the preceding two days i.e. 6 & 7 July. Details for the Crowne Plaza are: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 16 Hindmarsh Square, ADELAIDE SA 5000

https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/adelaide-sa/adlch/hoteldetail/events-facilities?cm_mmc=bingMaps-_-CP-_-AUS-_-ADLCH#scmisc=nav_events-facilities_cp

AHBIC delegates are encouraged to attend the SAAA conference so as they can see what happens in South Australia and South Australian beekeepers can talk to delegates to find out what happens in the delegate's State.

Registration for AHBIC delegates this year will be via the SAAA registration form even if you are only coming for the AHBIC AGM.

Observers are welcome at the AHBIC AGM and the SAAA Conference registration form is towards the end of this newsletter along with information. Please note that registrations **MUST** be received beforehand and cannot be accepted on the day.

Accommodation bookings can be made online at - <https://aws.passkey.com/go/d0e65fa6>

If you have problems, contact the SAAA acting Secretary, Kylie Pitt at secretary@saaa.org.au ph: 0419 982 102.

CATEGORISATION OF *VARROA DESTRUCTOR*

On 15 May, 2017 Lindsay Bourke and I participated in a teleconference with Greg Fraser and Dr. Susanna Driessen from PHA re the PHA Board's decision on the categorisation of *Varroa destructor*.

The Board have put it as a category 3 i.e. 50/50 for Government and the affected parties. The Board is open to further conversations on this decision. The Board also will be reviewing the data supplied by ABARES to the parties for the categorisation process and consider why there was such disagreement with the figures provided.

PHA will now consider how to process the outstanding categorisation for the two *Tropilaelaps* and *V. jacobsoni*. At the present time the *V. jacobsoni* incursion in Townsville is being dealt with as the default category which is 3.

ADOPTION OF CODE OF PRACTICE IN VICTORIA

I have received the following information from Victoria. Congratulations to Victoria for being the first to incorporate the Code of Practice into their legislation. Hopefully other States can follow.

For information, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice is now embedded within Victorian LDCA 1994 legislation, specifically:

Under section 98 of the LDC Act we have the right

to impose conditions on registration as a beekeeper. Complying with any requirement of the COP is now a condition of registration as a beekeeper in Victoria.

Under section 100 of the LDC Act we can suspend or cancel someone's registration if they don't comply with the conditions we have imposed on their registration as a beekeeper.

EXPORTS TO CHINA

A delegation from China was in Australia recently carrying out audits on several commodities. Honey was one of these.

Information from Canberra indicated that the Chinese were happy with the information that had been supplied by Canberra. China had supplied a long list of questions and requests for information about our industry here in Australia. AHBIC was able to help the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources with answers to some of the questions asked.

China has indicated that they will want exporting establishments to be registered with them to guarantee the source the honey. As information comes to hand it will be passed on.

FUNDING GRANTS FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across Australia's agriculture sector.

The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs.

The leadership development programs are part-time and delivered nationally via WLA's blended learning model. Scholarship funding is strictly limited and has to be allocated prior to the end of this financial year (June 30).

Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to June 16, 2017: <http://www.wla.edu.au/assoc-june17.html>

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Dewar Apiaries/Bee Build	41
Ezyloader	18
FeedBee	26
Gustare	33
Honey Down Under	2
Honey Wanted	36
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies	45
Hummerbee Forklifts	9
Hunter Valley Apiaries	19
Hydes Creek Woodworks	32
JZs BZs Queen Cages	10
NUPLAS - Plastic Hives	24/25
Penders Beekeeping Supplies	18
Prestige Stainless	26
Printfresh	21
SA Beekeeping Supplies	12
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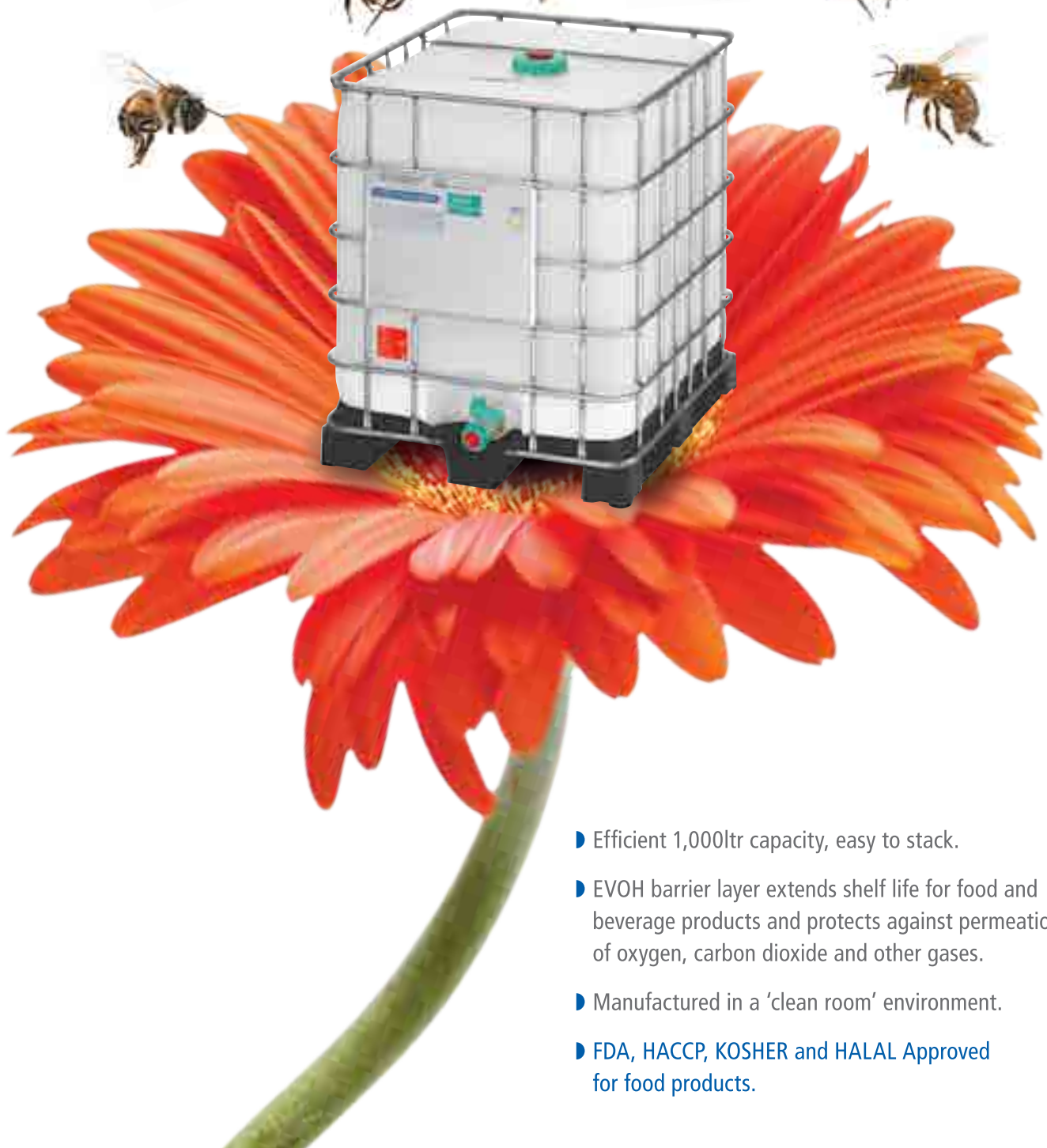
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Why is the honey industry attracted to SCHÜTZ IBCs?



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- ▶ Manufactured in a 'clean room' environment.
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