

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"
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Volume 12 Number 1
January - February 2019



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See page 31***

***2019 NSWAA Conference Information
See page 22***

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*COVER: Yellow Box - Eucalyptus Melliodora
Photograph: Neil Bingley*



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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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 Jones Mob: 0417 943 451 E: jane.jones@wfi.com.au
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HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY 2019

SEASON

The prolonged period of above average temperatures has continued through most of January. This hot weather has increased evaporation levels resulting in diminished water sources for our bee colonies. Remember bee colonies can utilise around one litre of water per day and lack of, or too far a distance from it will cause colony stress, or in some instances meltdown and death. It is your responsibility to ensure livestock under your control have access to adequate water. We don't want our bees to be non-productive or impact on others by being a nuisance around inappropriate water sources.

Production across the State has been a mixed bag, with some regions experiencing reasonable production while others little to none.

Prospects for Autumn are minimal although if not adversely affected by the current hot spell Red Stringybark may supply some surplus. Bloodwood on the coast is reasonably budded for those game enough to work it. Good general rains from late Autumn through Winter are required to at least have some prospects for Spring.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (DPI)

Doug Somerville has been on extended leave since July last year. There appears to be no movement to fill his position during his absence. This is disappointing given previous assurances that apiary positions would be maintained as the old guard retire.

Staffing levels must be at current or improved levels especially now that DPI are embarking on a multimillion dollar queen breeding program.

BEE SITES

Bee site on public lands policy was initiated way back in September 2015. We have progressed albeit extremely slowly.

It has been almost 12 months since Nick Geoghegan was appointed. There has been a trial of The EOI process, with mixed results. The EOI process is important for National Park sites but should not be applied to long term vacant sites on other tenures. Long term vacant first in first served sites seem to have disappeared from existence and we still await a system to identify vacant sites online. I believe Nick has been hamstrung by some

agencies lack of cooperation. The time has come for the public lands bee site policy and associated online applications to be available the apiary industry. This cannot be allowed to drag on any longer, the new system was supposed to make the process more workable NOT more bureaucratic.

OUR PRODUCE NEEDS SUPPORT

Various conversations with consumers lead me to the conclusion that the general public's opinion of supermarket is that it is not all natural. This has been compounded by recent adverse media last year. The commonwealth department of agriculture and the ACCC put out press releases stating that there was no substance to the fake honey claims but the mainstream media didn't pick up on this so the public remain in the dark and confused. Given a large portion of the Australian honey crop is sold through supermarkets, this has become a major public relations problem. It is up to all beekeepers to be strong advocates for their product and the retail outlets.

The returns to you depend on it.

PUBLIC LANDS FEE WAIVER

A repeat of an earlier report, but the efforts of your association in securing a waiver of apiary site fees across all public land tenures needs to be restated. Many apiarists have done it tough through this season and the savings made by this alone have been substantial.

The NSW Government has been extremely generous at a time when drought conditions are affecting most beekeepers.

FUTURE INDUSTRY LEADERS

Serious thought needs to be given to nominations to fill at least one position that will become vacant at our AGM this year. After many years representing you, Casey Cooper will be retiring from executive duties. Steve Targett is also retiring member but is standing for another term.

If you wish to nominate for a executive council role, then please complete a nomination form and return to our secretary as soon as possible. Forms are available on our website or in this edition of Honeybee news.

HONEYLAND

Our Honeyland committee are progressing well with preparations for this year's show.

Volunteers are still required for several days ,

so if you are available please contact our show coordinator Debbie Porter. Email for Debbie is : debbie.porter3@hotmail.com

CONFERENCE

Preparations for this year's conference at Panthers Bathurst on May 16 & 17 are on almost complete. Registration details will soon be available on our website

The trade show is progressing well thanks to the efforts of Therese Kershaw.

Thank you to all the Conference partners that have come on board, your contributions allow us to keep costs to members down and to invite informative speakers.

MEMBERSHIP

I invite all members to continue supporting your association. We need strong membership to have our voice heard. Much has been achieved during this past year and your continued membership will enable much more to be done during 2019.

Membership renewals are due as of February 28, renewals can be completed online via our website.

NEXT MEETING

Our next executive meeting will be held in Dubbo on February 22.

Neil Bingley
President



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2019 NSWAA Conference Sponsorship Packages

Some sponsorship packages are still available. At the time of going to print the following sponsorships are still available: The Dinner sponsor, Speaker Dinner, one Morning Tea Partner and also Emerging Researchers sponsorship.

For any sponsorship package please contact: **Therese Kershaw 0428857634.**

The executive committee is keen to see the Emerging Researchers sponsorship package to be taken up. The NSW Apiary industry has been blessed to have researchers who are passionate about bees and also about the survival of our industry. These researchers include Dr Hornisky and Prof Oldroyd. These researchers are still passionate about bees after all their years of research for our industry, however they are towards the end of their careers. The NSWAA executive is keen to facilitate young researchers in our industry attend our Conference and give a 10minute presentation on their current research but also to:

Network with beekeepers,
Obtain a better understanding of the beekeeping industry,
Feel the passion of beekeepers for our industry,
Maybe get to understand areas in our industry where more research is required, and
Hopefully develop a passion for bees which will help them become an advocate for our industry.

From the executive please consider a sponsorship package for our 2019 conference and in particular the Emerging Researchers sponsorship.



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2019/20 MEMBERSHIP

Memberships will be due as of 1 March 2019.

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www.nswaa.com.au**

**Payments can be made online from the website where
you will also be able to update your details if necessary.**

**For those of you who wish to send your membership by
Australia Post, please ensure that you send it to the new
postal address:**

**NSW Apiarists' Association,
P O Box 267, Manilla NSW 2346.**

2019 Royal Easter Show

The 2019 Royal Easter Show is just around the corner and the Honeyland theme this year is to showcase your honey and your industry.

We're going to educate the public and promote the story of our honey, but we can't do it without you! We are making a 'Show Special' blend specifically for the 2019 Royal Easter Show in addition to selling other varieties donated by members.

All honey donations are gratefully accepted. All varieties are welcome. All quantities are welcome

If you haven't donated yet there's still time, get in touch today.

Debbie Porter - Coordinator debbie.porter3@hotmail.com

Tanya Ananin - Secretary 0414 501 198 or tanya.ananin@hotmail.com

On behalf of the Honeyland Committee we thank all members who have generously donated their honey

NOMINATION FORM - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NOMINEE (Person you are nominating)

Name:
(please insert nominee name)

Member No:
(insert nominee member no.)

I hereby accept this nomination.

Signed:

NOMINATOR

I
(print your name)

Member No:
(insert your membership number)

hereby nominate the person listed above as the Nominee for a position on the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Executive Council.

Signed:

SECONDER

Name:
(please insert nominee name)

Member No:
(insert your membership number)

hereby second the nomination of the person listed above as the Nominee for a position on the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Executive Council.

Signed:

DATE

- 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.
- 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.

Return:

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This form to be submitted no later than three weeks (3) prior to the AGM.

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DOUG'S COLUMN

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



What's in a name?

The use of scientific names or common names is how we identify one plant (animal) from another. The idea is that scientific names stay constant and common names, well, in some cases, are not that common. Some plants have several common names, while the use of a common name could be used to describe several plants. Two individual people may use alternative common names for the same plant.

In some cases there is no confusion, yellow box is a classic. Search the internet and you consistently get *Eucalyptus melliodora*.

Whereas a tree(s) called grey box may be *E.bosistoana* (coast grey box), *E.microcarpa* (western grey box or brown box), *E.moluccana* (gum-topped box) or *E.pilligaensis* (Pilliga box). All are frequently referred to as just 'grey box'. That is not to say there are not other trees that individuals may (and often do) refer to names such as grey box.

Thus the local or common name or names can be a bit 'hit and miss' in relation to accurately identifying a plant. All the same, a common name or local name may assist you in your investigation to identify a plant or plants. In many cases the common name can be extremely helpful in identifying a plant. Even so, most people requiring to identify plants on a regular or semi-regular basis should learn to use or refer to a plant by its scientific name. This by and large eliminates much of the confusion.



Broad-leaved tea tree, Broad-leaved paperbark, Belbowrie Punk tree, Paper bark tea tree or *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

Did I say eliminates? Sorry, my mistake – seriously reduces the confusion of naming, identifying and communicating information on plants.

The scientific classification system has various tiers:

Kingdom
Phylum
Class
Order
Family
Genus
Species

Principally we are concerned with the last three: Family, Genus, and Species.

The three major families of importance in the Australian bee world are:

Asteraceae: includes the daisies.

Fabaceae: includes legumes, peas and beans.

Myrtaceae: includes eucalypts, callistemon, tea-trees and paperbarks.

There are many other Families of plants that are of value to honey bees due to their nectar and/or pollen rewards.

All scientific plant names are in Latin.

There are two words used to describe individual plants; the first is the genus and the second the species. Some genus groups are very large. In the Australian context *Acacia* and *Eucalypts* are the two genera that pretty well dominate the Australian landscape.

In the mid 1990's taxonomists split off a group of eucalypts and termed them *Corymbias*. Another closely related group includes the *Angophoras*. *Eucalypts*, *Corymbia* and *Angophora* all share many similarities, but are distinguishable enough to be placed into identifiable groups. *Corymbias* have distinct buds, whereas *Angophora*'s have adult leaves opposite, as distinct from *eucalypts* and *corymbias* which have alternate leaves in adult foliage.

It is worth mentioning at this point, other distinct eucalypt groups including box, ironbark, stringybark, peppermints, ash, mahogany and gums. Mallee refers to a form, whereas the other loose categories refer to bark type.

As yet, these distinct bark types have not been split into separate genera. Even so, there is always a possibility that this could be initiated in the future.

In the taxonomy world there is what is loosely termed 'lumpers and splitters'. Lumpers are those

that prefer to clump like-species together and the splitters are those who see a better order of things in giving each distinguishable group a separate genus title. Ironbark's and box eucalypts are likely to share enough similarities to be placed together. The stringybark group of eucalypts are also sufficiently distinguishable from other eucalypts. Mallee, on the other hand, is likely to be split up amongst any re-classification of the Eucalyptus genus if that ever happens.

The species name is specific to an individual identifiable plant, where the features between are not of major significance and all members of the species are able to reproduce with each other. Species names may be derived from a feature of the plant, e.g. *E.longifolia* – meaning long leaf; or maybe by the location it was identified, *E.paramattensis* – Parramatta.



Black thistle, Spear thistle, Common thistle, Bull thistle, Scotch thistle or Cirsium vulgare

Increasingly, molecular biologists are assisting with the clarification of the groupings of different plants and identifying more than one species in a group of plants, all thought to be the same species or on the other hand, identifying that a group of species could be collectively named as a single species.

The observable variations within a single species may be due to the genetic variation within the plant (genotypic) or environmental factor (phenotypic) thus the on-going confusion with classification of plants.

Even so, the use of their scientific naming and classification creates a far more stable environment than the local use of common names. When investigating the identification of a specific plant, do not automatically conclude that the names in common use are what relates to the references or texts you are using. On the other hand, when referring to older references/texts, be mindful that the scientific names may have changed.

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

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Ever wondered what your cash flow will look like throughout next year or post a drought and if you'll have sufficient funds to operate? Your Rural Financial Counsellor can assist with developing an up to date cash flow budget which not only empowers you in bank negotiations but also allows for timely operations and maintains productivity. In short, pressure is reduced because you remain in control. They can assist you to determine your businesses viability and ultimately assess your enterprises potential to remain profitable or return to profit over the long term.

OUR SERVICE WILL DEVELOP A (FREE) PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT YOUR LIFESTYLE, FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND PROFITABILITY ISSUES.



CONTACT DETAILS

CONTACT

Any Member of our Team on:

1800 940 404

Fax 1800 950 951

www.rfcscr.com.au

Updated 15th January 2019

Location	Counsellor
Bathurst	Toby Jones
Bourke	June Saint
Broken Hill	Mark Fitzpatrick
Coonabarabran & Coonamble	Liz Tomlinson
Dubbo	John Edwards
Dubbo	Alistair Murphy
Forbes	Rob Muffet
Gilgandra	Phoebe Maroulis
Mudgee	Liz Brown
Nyngan	Victoria Boag
Orange	Andrew Turnbull
Parkes	Michael Hallahan
Tottenham & Condobolin	Susan Kelley
Walgett	Julie Casey
Weddin & Bland	John Beer

CEO Jeff Caldbeck 1800 940 404



The Rural Financial Counselling Service provides free, impartial and confidential financial counselling to assist farmers, fishers and agriculture dependent small businesses in their decision making



Potential or existing eligible clients can access our free and confidential financial counselling services by:

Telephone: 1800 940 404
Email: ceo@rfcscr.com.au
Website: www.rfcscr.com.au

Supported by:



ABOUT THE RFCS PROGRAM

RFCS provides high quality assistance to eligible clients through the provision of Financial Counselling Services designed to:

- Assist our clients to understand their financial position and the viability of their enterprise;
- Identify options to improve their financial position;
- Develop a plan to implement the options chosen by them, and implement their plan.
- Assist clients in their dealings with lending institutions in relation to applications and contracts, and processes relating to farm debt mediation;
- Provide information on and assisting clients to access programmes provided by government or industry, including client referrals to appropriate professionals;
- Assist our clients to identify the need for advice from and to prepare for meetings with professional service providers;
- Provide information to assist our clients to make decisions relating to their enterprise/s.

TRANSPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

A subsidy on the transport of stock is available to primary producers where animals are at significant risk in terms of animal welfare. A subsidy for the cost of transporting donated fodder, organised by community groups or other organisations, from within NSW to drought affected properties is also available.

Call your Rural Financial Counsellor for more details on NSW Government Assistance

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Succession Planning can often be a complex, time consuming and difficult process. Rural Financial Counsellors are able to assist with exploring options and determining priorities in a non-judgemental and free of cost environment. Referrals are then made to professional people for clarification and action.

Rural Financial Counselling Service New Regions - New South Wales

RFCS - Local Government Areas & Identified Rural Financial Counsellors servicing the LGAs.



RFCS Regions by Local Government Area

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE FUND

Funding by way of interest free loan of up to \$50,000 are available to eligible primary producers to assist in implementing systems and management practices that enhance the sustainability of their enterprise with: transport of fodder and/or water, water and fodder infrastructure, banking of reproductive genetic livestock material.

FARM INNOVATION FUND

Funding by way of a low interest, long term loan is available to meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works that address risks involved in farming enterprises, improving permanent farm infrastructure, ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use plus aiding in meeting changes to seasonal conditions.

Call your Rural Financial Counsellor for more details on NSW Government Assistance.

DROUGHT CONCESSIONAL LOANS

Drought Concessional Loans—Provided by the Australian Government for debt restructuring, operating expenses and drought recovery and preparedness activities.

INCOME ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS

The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is available now for farmers and their partners who are experiencing financial difficulty. The FHA is a fortnightly income support payment available Australia-wide, without the need for a drought declaration.

Farmers are urged not to self-assess their eligibility but to contact the Department of Human Services via the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 (8am – 8pm)

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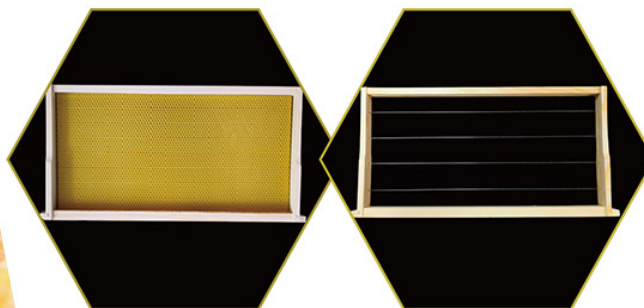
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THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost

Acting Technical Specialist, Honey Bees

Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries

T: 02 4939 8821 M: 0437 731 273 E: elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Cane toad sightings in Hunter Region

Two cane toads were sighted in the New South Hunter Region town of Metford, 7km southeast of Maitland in the week of 21 January 2019. As a voracious predator of insects including honey bees, it is important that we keep a lookout for this major pest, which is active at night during the warm months of the year, to gauge the extent of its spread and potentially halt its progress through early detection and eradication. Areas in NSW already infested with cane toads are Tweed, Byron, Lismore and Ballina Local Government Areas and eastern parts of Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Clarence Valley Local Government Areas.

If you spot an animal you think may be a cane toad, carefully contain it (but don't harm it) and take photos. The two cane toads found in Metford in January 2019 were positively identified by local veterinarians. Report the sighting to the NSW Department of Primary Industries here:

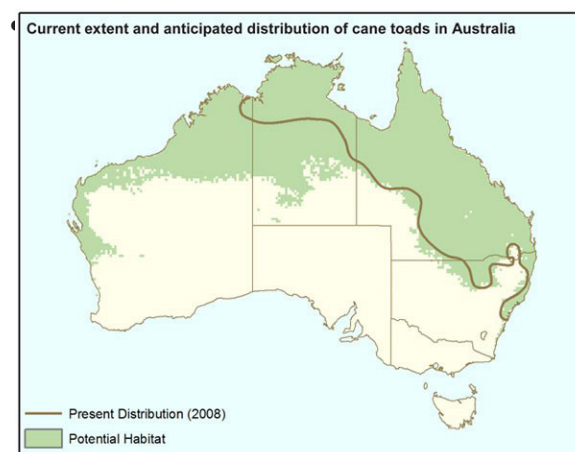
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/forms/report-an-unusual-animal-sighting



Cane toad found in Metford NSW January 2019. Photo Credit: Maitland Mercury

The cane toad was deliberately introduced to Australia in 1935 from Hawaii. The goal was for the toad to act as a biological control of French's and Greyback cane beetles plaguing sugar cane crops in Queensland. The consequences of the non-native toad's release didn't bring cane beetle numbers down as it had in Hawaii, however, for the following reasons:

- Sugar cane can reach 6 to 8 meters in height and Greyback beetles usually feed in the top of the sugar cane stalks. Toads can't fly or jump that high.
- Timing – the Greyback beetle tends to be out during the daytime and Cane toads feed at night.
- Not seasonally compatible, so are not in the same place at the same time of year.
- The Australian sugar cane fields are much dryer than those of the Cane toads' native habitat (South and Central America) and Hawaii. The toads need wet conditions to survive, so quickly moved from the sugar cane fields to moister areas.



Cane toad distribution as of 2008. Figure Credit: Kearney, M, Phillips, BL, Tracy, CR, Christian, KA, Betts, G & Porter, WP 2008, 'Modelling species distributions without using species distributions: the cane toad in Australia under current and future climates', *Ecography*, vol. 31, pp. 423–434.

Since its introduction in 1935 cane toads have expanded across northern Australia, crossing through the Northern Territory to Western Australia and down through Queensland into areas of New South Wales. According to the Australian Government, the cane toad has expanded westward from its original introduction point in Queensland at an estimated rate of 40 to 60 km per year. Beekeepers in these areas live with cane toad by either putting hives on stands (around 60cm high) or accepting losses from cane toads eating bees overnight from any hive entrance within reach.



Cane toads at a hive entrance at night. Photo credit: Renee Silvester, January 2016.

“Behavioural tactics used by invasive cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) to exploit apiaries in Australia” is an excellent study on this topic, conducted by Renee Silvester, Matthew Greenlees, Richards Shine and Benjamin Oldroyd of University of Sydney and published in *Austral Ecology* in 2018. To quote their discussion section, the researchers found “In this study, apiaries reduced the rate of movement of toads, with toads remaining close to this point source of food at night and over a period of weeks. [...] Commercial beehives not only attract cane toads, but also induce sedentary behaviour.” An even better argument for hive stands or better yet keeping cane toad out of your area and ensuring you’re not spreading it! For more, read Silvester’s full article here:

onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/aec.12668

Additional online reading:

NSW DPI cane toad facts and resources:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nia/new-incursions/cane-toad

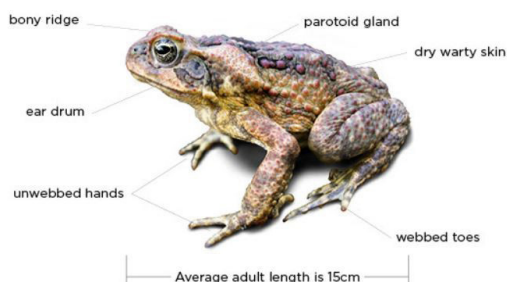
Biological Control Gone Bad! Story of the Cane Toad:

gen.uga.edu/documents/pest/Biological%20Control%20Gone%20Bad.pdf

Maitland Mercury 22/01/19 article:

www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/5864148/cane-toad-kills-metford-familys-pet/

Remember, if you see this toad outside its established area, catch it and report it here: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/forms/report-an-unusual-animal-sighting



Cane toad identifying features. Source: Office of Environment and Heritage

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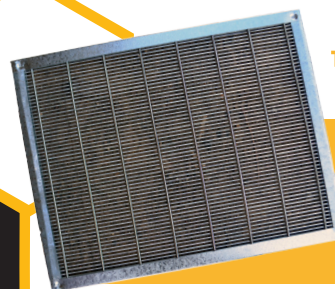
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NSW Department of Primary Industries Contact List: Honey Bees

Below is a useful list of key contact points within the NSW Department of Primary Industries for the honey bee industry. A central NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline has been established to streamline enquiries and ensure they are logged and tracked on a central database. This Helpline can be reached via the phone, email or by reporting or making an enquiry online. Reports made to the Helpline are tracked and callers will receive a reference number for follow up and tracking purposes. Reports are then triaged to the appropriate staff member or team within NSW DPI for response.

Biosecurity & Compliance

NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

Compliance enquiries and complaints, report notifiable bee pests like American foulbrood, and other issues relating to biosecurity matters

1800 680 244

quarantine@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/contact-us>

Report exotic bee pests like Varroa mite

1800 084 881

biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Beekeeper registrations

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeper-registration>

Apply for, renew or enquire about beekeeper registration

02 6552 3000

bfs.admin@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Interstate health certificates

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/116976/health-cert-apiary-products-movement.pdf

Health certificates for the interstate movement of apiary products, bee colonies, used appliances, queen bees, escorts, queen cells and package bees

1800 680 244

Send forms to:
quarantine@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Laboratory Services

NSW DPI Laboratory Services

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/labs>

Learn more about the diagnostic testing services available from NSW DPI Laboratory Services including samples to take for bee disease diagnosis

1800 675 623

laboratory.services@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Education

Tocal College

<https://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/>

Courses and education material tailored for the honey bee industry

1800 025 520

info@tocal.com

Advisory

Elizabeth Frost

Honey Bee Industry Development Officer (Tocal)

Advice on managing bees and beehives, nutrition, equipment, products, pesticides and queen breeding

elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Beekeeping on public land

Apiary sites on public lands

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land>

Learn more about the new management of apiary sites on public lands including State forests, travelling stock reserves and National Parks

apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Thursday 16TH & Friday 17TH May 2019
PANTHERS 132 Piper Street Bathurst NSW 2795

Delegate Registration Forms

Delegate Registration form will be posted out shortly and will also be available via our website www.nswaa.com.au.

To take advantage of the **EARLY BIRD RATES** please ensure that your registration including payment is received by us prior to 31 March 2019.

Payments can be made online from the website or for those of you who wish to send your registration by Australia Post, please ensure that you send it to the new postal address: NSW Apiarists' Association, P O Box 267, Manilla NSW 2346.

2019 Partnerships

NSWAA is very pleased to announce the following Partners have been confirmed:

**Platinum – Lockwood Beekeeping/Goldfields
Apiary**

**Gold – Select Harvests
Gold – Lyson Beekeeping Supplies**

**Silver – Nuplas
Silver – My Apiary**

**Wine & Cheese Night – Ecrotek
Morning Tea – Dalrymple View**

**Satchel – Hivemind
Advertising – Schutz**

If you would like to become a Partner for 2019, the following Partnerships are still available:

Silver \$3500.00 – 2 opportunities available
Dinner \$3500.00 – 1 opportunity available
Dinner Speaker \$2500.00 – 1 opportunity available
Business Workshop \$2000.00– 1 opportunity available
Emerging Researchers \$2000.00– 1 opportunity available
Morning Tea \$1500.00 - 1 opportunity available

Would you like to promote your business by way of becoming a Satchel Partner @ \$250.00 and/or an Advertising Partner @ \$160.00? Please do not hesitate to contact Therese Kershaw 0428857634 or email tradeshaw@nswaa.com.au

Trade Show Exhibitors

Lockwood Beekeeping - Select Harvests - Lyson Beekeeping Supplies - Ecrotek -
Nuplas - Dalrymple View - My Apiary - Prestige Stainless - Steritech -
Hivemind - Avant Equipment Australia - Whirrakee Woodware -
Kelvin Trading Pty Ltd - M & K Stafford Engineering

Speakers

We are fortunate to be able to confirm that we have the following expertise of a great range of speakers covering a variety of subjects:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Michelle Taylor (New Zealand) | Gut Health – Bees |
| • Byron Taylor (New Zealand) | AFB & Varroa |
| • Nural Cokcetin | Honey – Benefit to Human Health |
| • Elizabeth Frost | Queen Breeding Project |
| • Danielle Lloyd-Pritchard | Education & Cert III in Beekeeping |
| • Cooper Schouten | Insights/Lessons from Papua New Guinea |
| • Jodie Gerdts | Chalkbrood |
| • Nick Geoghegan | Single Desk |
| • Rob Banks | Breeding Value of Honey Bees |
| • Simon Haberles | CSIRO Specialist |
| • Stuart Anderson | |

*** Subject to confirmation, further speakers may be added to this list.

Accommodation at Bathurst

- There are numerous types of accommodation available at Bathurst. For those of you who would like to secure your accommodation now, please see below a list of the closest motels as advised by the Bathurst Information Centre:

Bathurst Motor Inn, 87 Durham Street, 0263 312 222

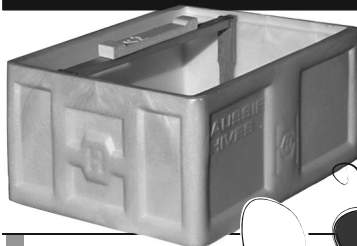
Panorama Motel, 51 Durham Street, 0263 312 666

Governor Macquarie, 19 Charlotte Street, 0263 631 221

- *Please note: Country Lodge Motor Inn at Bathurst has been reserved for conference speakers. There may be rooms available once all of the speakers have confirmed their requirements. In the event of there being rooms available for delegates we will endeavour to notify members via our website.*







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THE NATIONAL HONEY SHOW – BRITISH BEEKEEPING'S MAJOR ANNUAL EVENT

The UK's 87th annual National Honey Show was held at the Sandown Park Racecourse at Esher in Surrey over three days in late October.

It is a pretty good indicator of the Show's relevance when it attracted thousands of attendees over the three days.

There was also a monumental and possibly all-time record number of 2,065 entries from 261 entrants in the competition classes for extracted and comb honey, mead types, frames, wax, gifts, photography, microscopy, confectionery/cooking with junior classes included for the young.

I first attended a National Honey Show briefly on one day in 2012 when I was in the UK but pressed for time.

This year improved planning enabled me to better allocate my time totalling two days at the Show. In short with its size it is not a Show that you just breeze in and out of!

And the organising committee seem to recognise this with an uncomplicated, logical layout over the extensive spaces of a modern multi-storey racecourse grandstand.

What was I looking for? – well certainly any new beekeeping ideas, products or technology, evidence of value adding opportunities, as well as a general measure of the health of beekeeping in the UK particularly at the hobby or small enterprise scale. I can say I was happily satisfied on all three counts. But first I should be disclosing the Show format.

To begin there are the heavy lectures or advanced technical and research presentations and the Show offered about fifteen of these; so, if you were interested you can easily take in most of them over the three days.

I attended one on how in Wiltshire local community activity is opening up 'bee roadzz' with vegetation and plantings that facilitate bee flights across the countryside.

A second one was on the genetic makeup of the Irish black bee.

The lectures were complemented by a workshop program that totalled nineteen events on practical subjects as diverse as microscopy, candle making, hive potions and polishes, photography, sustainable plantings, even skep making and best of all a couple of hours on the final afternoon devoted to mead making and tasting.

On the Saturday, the final day of the three, there was a special lecture program to encourage newer beekeepers.

I managed to take in a selection of all the learning events, while paying attention to the results of the exhibit judging sessions, as well as cruising the trade show that ran in conjunction over the three days.

With fifty odd suppliers or manufacturers, even inventors of new products for the beekeeping industry, it was a real cornucopia of ideas and products.

The very first value-adding opportunity I encountered was the Northumberland Honey Company who featured 'from the bee to the bottle'. They told me they were initially mead makers but were working to switch 150 hives of their honey production progressively over to sparkling honey wine.

A lot of this honey is sourced from heather in Scotland.

They are employing the French *methode champenoise* method of fermentation in the bottle to produce several types of sparkling honey wine in various styles - sweet to dry and colours including a rose.

And with their advertised bottle prices at circa 35 pounds sterling (over \$A60) each I thought they could be on the right track.

They told me they had a targeted production of 10,000 bottles each honey vintage!

So far as equipment is concerned the displays were dominated by enormous stock presentations by Thorne and Maisemore Apiaries – both long established, over a century in Thorne's case – and they both tend to dominate the retail beekeeping supply market in the UK.

There were also presentations by leading bee suit makers including Sherriff, BB Wear and others

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including a new tailor from Pakistan.

An interesting new product was shown by UK company Thermosolar Beehives that it says uses heat from the sun to kill Varroa mites.

Their proposition is that Varroa mites cannot reproduce at temperatures over 40 degrees C while their conventional Langstroth hive employs two Thermosolar panels, one on the front and one on the top to capture heat from sunlight.

With insulated walls the heat is apparently kept in the hive where internal heat sinks ensure the heat is evenly distributed.

This was an exhibit that seemed to get a lot of interest albeit it seemed to be at the prototype stage.

They claimed also that bees will overwinter better in one of their hives with colonies building up ten to fourteen days earlier than conventional box hives. This could be a product to keep a watch on as it evolves.

I took interest in two of the workshop sessions; one running for a full day was on hand making skeps with straw.

It was well attended and although skeps have no relevance to beekeeping today it is one of those likely trades to be lost, hence their desire to retain it as a traditional skill.

The definite highlight was the mead making from start to drinking workshop delivered by a very experienced, dour but entertaining beekeeper Ron Hunter.

He went through the constituents of the various mead types including mellomel, cyser, metheglin, pyment and honey ale or beer.

Ron emphasised clean working in constant temperatures with many equipment items such as tubing, airlocks, bottling and corking aids etc. that can be purchased from home brew stores in the UK.

His accurate recipes included using high quality Gervin specialty yeasts from the Muntons company as well as a need for fairly long maturation.

The workshop which ran for a couple of hours was fully booked, cost nine pounds to participate and was a great primer for any likely mead maker.

Then there was the tasting of five meads – a couple brought by course members, two of Ron's own and a commercially produced Lime Bay Winery mead that he reckons is the best value mead type available in the UK today. I concurred with his view.

I hope to produce a couple more articles from the Show over the next couple of months.

One is sure to be about the steps the Beekeepers Association is taking to indenture and train young beekeepers and on several other relevant industry issues.

The National Honey Show obviously could not function without sponsorship of which the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers (founded before 1300 and owning its London property since 1501!) is a major one.

A huge volume of volunteer beekeepers staff the show so you don't step far before a new conversation starts.

While local provincial or district bee clubs also play important roles; for instance, one of the major trophies for the honey competition has been sponsored for over forty years by the same regional bee group.

The organisers tell me they would very much like to get some Australian entries into the honey competitions and there are no quarantine restrictions to the submission of Australian honey.

Other Australian involvement in the show was modest.

The Australian Manuka Honey Association was apparently represented by Michele Lancaster while a local school demonstrated the Flow Hive for their second year; I encountered neither.

Daily attendance at the Show costs twenty pounds sterling with the venue the Sandown Park Racecourse being easily accessible by train in under an hour from Waterloo station, albeit that it is a quite pleasant fifteen-minute walk to the racecourse after arriving at the Esher station.

The 88th Show dates in 2019 will be from Thursday 24 October to Saturday 26 October and anyone who can plan travel to the UK to include these dates and a stop over at this event won't be disappointed.

At worst you will walk away from the Show with several kilograms of informative reading matter!

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Or for more information see www.honeyshow.co.uk where the technical papers are progressively being added if you want to do some homework.



Photo Captions

1. With over 2,000 entries in the competitions, the major categories being for bottled honey and meads, the UK's National Honey Show is well organised with significant input over each of the three days from a roster of volunteer beekeepers.

The competition classes are always well supported and a very well organised. This year there were 2,065 entries.



2. Class 16 of the Competition is for a 'Decorative Exhibit to Display Honey with Pure Moulded Beeswax or Mead or Both'.

The winning entry took the theme of a memorial to the end of 100 years from World War 1 and was a team entry by the North Shropshire Beekeepers Association. The photo probably doesn't do it justice, but it stood over a metre tall.

By John Kennedy

Apimondia 2019 Invitation

The Canadian Honey Council and its industry partners are proud to invite you to join the 46th Apimondia Congress, which will be held in Montréal, Canada from September 8-12, 2019.

Apimondia 2019 Montréal proposes a theme outlining the importance of bees for our society:

"Working together within agriculture, Canada's answer to sustainable beekeeping"

Montréal is internationally renowned for its hospitality, great attractions and centrally located modern congress facilities with easy access to the Montréal Trudeau International Airport.

The Canadian Honey Council has a team that is working with the City of Montréal and the Palais des congrès de Montréal Convention Center to organize this grandiose event.

The Congress will cover a broad spectrum of beekeeping and apicultural sciences, including state of-the-art lectures, plenary sessions and various symposia within each of the Apimondia Standing Commissions.

The Montréal Congress will strive to be a showcase of world-wide advancements in the science of apiculture.

Emphasis will also be placed on presentations or discussions of topics that are of high prominence in the beekeeping community or that challenge our concepts of modern beekeeping, through roundtables and special interest group sessions.

The poster sessions, offering lively interaction between presenters and participants, are regarded by many as the heart of the Congress. We will also endeavour to use web-based streaming of all plenary sessions to allow participation of a new category of virtual registrants in aspects of the Congress.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Montréal in 2019!

Pierre Giovenazzo - President, Rod Scarlett - Executive Secretary, Stephen F Pernal - Coordinator

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Department of
Primary Industries

Apiary Sites Program Update

Nick Geoghegan, Apiculture Resource
Coordinator, NSW DPI

Next Expression of Interest sites release

Following completion of the EOI Pilot last year we identified a number of ways to improve the process. Technology upgrades have been completed and we are preparing for the next release of available sites under the Expression of Interest process on the 30th of January 2019. The release will include approximately 50 apiary sites on LLS Travelling Stock Routes and Reserves in the Central West, Northern Tablelands, Murray and South East regions. (We are working with the other agencies and regions to identify further sites for future EOI releases).

With such a broad geographical spread, interested parties are encouraged to use the full capability of the online maps to examine the sites. To make this easier we have provided instructions on how

to make the most of the zoom, satellite views and navigation capabilities of the online map. This may provide useful indicators of the site's value before visiting the site.

The available sites will be published and available to apply for a period of 1 month after which the applications will be assessed and permits allocated according to the EOI allocation process (visit the DPI website via this shortcut: <http://bit.ly/ApiaryEOI>.)

To receive notifications about new releases and updates on the Apiary Sites Programme send an email to apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au requesting to be added to our email list. Details of the EOI will be linked from the HoneyBee page on the DPI website: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>

Forestry regulations updated

Consistent terms and conditions for Apiary permits is a key part of the NSW Government's Apiaries on Public Land Policy. To ensure the explicit support in regulations for long-term permits with annual payments, amendments to the Forestry regulations were passed in November 2018. These amendments will give greater certainty of long-term tenure for permit holders. Similar changes to the LLS regulations are in progress and expected to be implemented in the next few months.

Lockwood Beekeeping Supplies / Goldfields Honey Australia.

We are a family run beekeeping operation located in the Central West of NSW.

Our late father Grant Lockwood started beekeeping in 1975 learning his skill with Orange Bee Farms. 1980 Grant purchased his first few hives and now Goldfield Australia operates 7000 plus beehives and 2000 queen rearing nucs.

Over the years we have diversified into many aspects of the beekeeping industry.

BEEKEEPING

Goldfield Honey Australia Pty Ltd produces fine quality Australian honey, pollinates commercial orchards and crops, produces pure Australian beeswax and honeycomb. Together with its sister companies operates an accredited honey bottling plant and runs a tourist and education facility called The Beekeepers Inn.

Goldfield Honey Australia has now diversified into nucleus beehive production and over the last two seasons we have produced over 6000 quality 5 frame nucleus beehives. We are producing for both the hobby and commercial sectors. This season after much demand we have returned to producing queen bees for sale offering a fine quality queens produced by our expert team.

MANUFACTURING

Lockwood Beekeeping Supplies have now been manufacturing quality timber hive ware for about 7 years now.

We are now supplying our hive ware throughout Australia. We can custom make to your requirements upon consultation. We are also the Mann Lake dealer for NSW and sole distributor of Mann Lakes Ultra bee feed, a pollen substitute that is producing great results. We are always expanding our range of quality beekeeping equipment.

We look forward to what the future holds with many more plans and opportunities.

Vicki, Jon and Sam Lockwood

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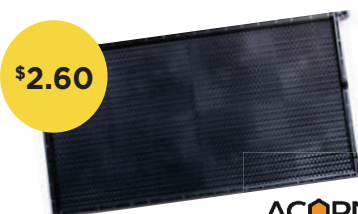
Minimum order quantity = 1000



\$1.65

Plastic Frame Full Depth:

Minimum order quantity = 1000



\$2.60

ACORN
BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

Plastic Foundation Made in USA:

Minimum order quantity = 2000



\$1.35

Box Full Depth 8/10-Frames. Finger Joints, screwed, wax dipped and painted:

Minimum order quantity = 150



\$33.00

\$20.00



Box Standard Grade Finger Joint 8/10-Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 150

Box Standard Grade Rebated 8/10-Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 150



\$17.00

Drone Comb Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 1000



\$2.85

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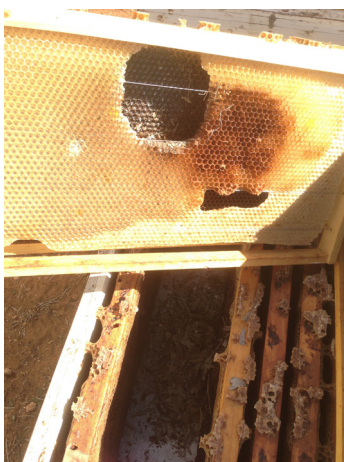
BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

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 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Managing your hives to avoid the spread of American foulbrood (and to breed bees)

One of the more enjoyable and profitable jobs for a lot of beekeepers is pulling off, extracting and selling honey. This job eventually puts some hard earned dollars into the bank. Some beekeepers prefer to only pull honey and are less inclined to look in the brood box. These beekeepers may only look if the terribly unimaginable has happened and the hive is no longer producing honey! Often by that time the hive is severely weakened, has serious disease issues or is already dead!



No bees in the brood box equals no honey, as mice don't work a honey flow! Griffith Almonds Aug 2018.



No mice in this hives' brood box, just copious numbers of newly hatched baby bees that will later draw out and fill boxes of plastic frames (coated with wax)!

Unfortunately there are a noticeable percentage of top-box beekeepers in the industry that somehow manage to stay afloat mostly by luck and sheer numbers of hives. It would be far better (for everybody) to run a sleek and well managed operation of high performing and healthy hives. Some beekeepers may feel happy with how they

are going, but could be unaware (or not understand/care) about the toll that their weak and dead hives are dealing out to the hives of others around them. Healthy hives are robbing the underperforming colonies and often coming down with AFB from the bounty of robbed honey taken home!

The occurrence of weak and dead hives in both loads of commercial bees and smaller apiaries collectively costs the rest of the industry millions of dollars yearly. There is a big personal cost to any individual cleaning up the AFB that they caught from beekeepers who are not on top of their game.



High risk...this hive had AFB and robber bees potentially encountered countless millions of AFB spores inside it.

Why do hives get AFB by robbing?

When a hive gets robbed out there is a chance that AFB can later be generated in one of the robber colonies, even if the robbed out hive was not showing AFB symptoms. Honey can contain significant numbers of AFB spores without clinical signs of the brood disease being present in the brood box (if you were looking!). Robbed hives that already have AFB also have AFB spores covering the internal surfaces of the hive and on their resident bees. These spores also get transmitted onto robber bees during their time in the hive.

Whenever bees consume honey (as opposed to fresh nectar etc.) and are feeding larval bees there can be a potential for AFB spores to be fed at a dose high enough to start AFB! If that honey came from another hive then the risk of encountering AFB is always high, as it came from somewhere else.

Prevention

It is therefore extremely important that EVERY beekeeper should minimise the risk of robbing by regularly inspecting the brood box, assessing health

and strength of the colony and then adequately managing small or weak colonies. You can consider combinations of the following management options;

- reduce entrance size if the colony cannot defend itself, and block up other “holes/gaps” in the hive that bees can get into. Also pull off extra boxes to keep colony snug
- add frames of healthy bees/brood (record which hive donated them) to build up the population
- swap the position of a strong healthy hive with a weaker (but still healthy) one to boost its colony size...following up soon after to inspect both
- re-queen
- feed sugar syrup or pollen (reduce hive to brood box first)
- move hive to a new location with better forage conditions
- remove/destroy colony if too diseased (or if any level of AFB detected)
- reduce colony to a nuc, or de-queen and later unite it with a strong nuc to become a hive (being mindful to not spread disease)

You should always be removing anything from the field that is likely to be robbable before the time of your next visit.



A clear sign of robbing. Only strong hives can protect such an opening.



Old boxes often get extra entrances...immediately repair or replace when this occurs.

The importance of preventing robbing

Preventing robbing is one of the most important pathways to reducing the incidence of AFB within

your own apiary (especially as your own bees rob it first) and around the district. In terms of spreading AFB robbing sits right behind randomly sharing hive equipment between different colonies. The highest risk of spreading AFB is in using AFB infected hives to propagate more colonies.

If other nearby hives rob your weak hive then yours may “return the favour” and rob them later if they get weak, so it becomes an ongoing cycle! To slow or stop this cycle you need to keep preventing the opportunity for robbing to ever occur. This requires brood box inspections and managing weak hives.

Risky behavior

You would not think that operators would use hives already infected with AFB to make up new hives, but some beekeepers use antibiotics that temporarily mask the symptoms of AFB. As a result, they cannot actually tell a clean healthy hive from one that has an AFB infection. These beekeepers literally breed AFB when they make splits from them.

Making healthy and productive hives

It is common sense that you should only make up new hives from healthy colonies, so to fully enable that to occur you should not mask disease by using antibiotics. Otherwise you will be making a lot of mistakes (unhealthy hives), wasting a lot of time and costing yourself a lot of money in dealing with and destroying those underperforming/infected hives! You don't intentionally make up splits from hives that have EFB, Nosema or more than a minimal Chalkbrood issue, so why would it ever be any different for hives that have AFB?

Why you should manage colonies to prevent robbing.

Robbing conditions are often when the amount of floral nectar resource is low (not on a good honey flow), so generally bees will put any robbed honey straight into the brood nest. This honey will get fed directly to larval bees, as opposed to safely putting it up top in the honey super as normally happens on a honey flow. At times, this robbed honey will get capped off (and become old honey) as the brood nest is diminishing due to seasonal conditions or ability of the hive and queen to maintain brood production. So it is possible that honey containing AFB spores will be “safely packed away” in parts of the brood frame for months or even many years (if you don't regularly pull out older brood frames). At some stage down the track that AFB honey could get chewed out to help kick-start brood rearing in a harsh spring. This could be the time when that previously robbed honey and AFB spores get their opportunity to ruin your hive.

Effective brood box management

One of the main strategies to minimise the opportunity for this old brood honey to potentially cause an AFB outbreak is to regularly remove old

BEEKEEPER FIELD DAY

“Getting Ready for Winter in the Apiary”

9.00am Saturday, 16 March 2019, Tamworth Agricultural Institute (DPI)

4 Marsden Park Road, Tamworth NSW 2340

Presented by

TAMWORTH BRANCH, NSW APIARISTS ASSOCIATION INC.

If you have an interest in beekeeping you are very welcome to attend.

Entry \$5 for adults. BBQ Lunch will be available - Gold coin Donation

Program – Subject to Change

Presenters: Rod Bourke – DPI, Elisabeth Frost - DPI Casey Cooper, Allan Thomas, Ray Hull, Norm Maher.

Inside Sessions

9.00 – 9.15 Introduction and Welcome Norm Maher and Ray Hull

9.15 - 9.45 Biosecurity Update and Code of Practice Rod Bourke

9.45 -10.15 Pre-Winter Inspection Overview

Evaluate queen / Numerical Strength

Disease status

Location and site of the Apiary

Ventilation / Hive entrance

Supplementary Feeding / Stores – pollen and honey

10.15 - 10.45 Pre-Winter Disease check

European foulbrood, American foulbrood, sac brood, chalkbrood.

10.45 –11.15 Morning Tea

Outside Session

Bring your own protective gear. Participants will divide up into two - three groups depending on attendance.

11.15 - 12.30 Inside the Hive

Autumn / Pre-Winter Inspection Process.

12.30 - 1.30 LUNCH BBQ - Gold Coin Donation and Raffle Draw

Inside Sessions

1.30 - 3.00 A look at local flora and its importance to bees.

Nectar, pollen, protein levels etc

3.00 - 3.30 Roundtable discussion and questions with Ray Hull and Norm Maher

Coffee and Head Home.

Enquiries: Contact Ray Hull on 0407 469 176

To confirm your attendance email Norm Maher, normmaher@hotmail.com

frames from the brood box. You can add clean gear, be that new frames and foundation, extracted honey frames from the same hives' top box or good quality irradiated frames if it comes from a different hive.



Getting rid of old frames in spring has many benefits.

Making your hives stronger

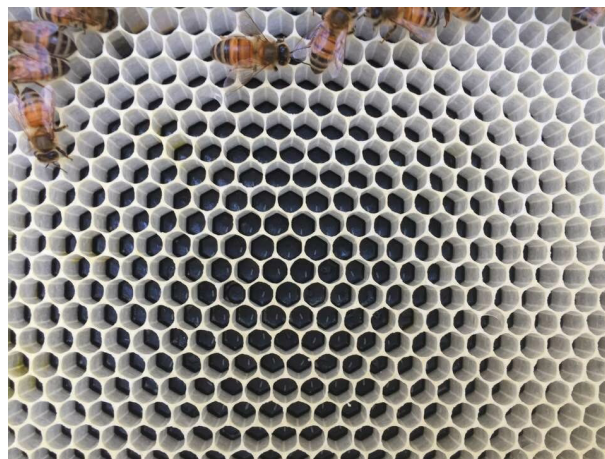
By adding in new frames, you can enable a surge in brood laying if conditions support it. Often the frame will be well over 90% filled with brood, which quickly bolsters a hive. Sometimes old brood frames struggle to fill with 20-30% brood as the rest is clogged with ancient pollen and honey, so this slows down new bee production and hinders that hives ability to be productive.



An efficiently used brood frame a few weeks after introduction as foundation in spring.



Not many unused cells in this frame.



Newly drawn cells are attractive to laying queens and produce good sized bees.

Breeding bees equals making money.

The most important thing a beekeeper can do is breed bees when they need to be bred, as a high bee population is often what is needed to get that box, boxes (or extra box) of honey that literally saves your day. Bees can build up the population needed to reach their fullest potential by the beekeeper providing additional laying space in the brood box in spring or the months prior to a big honey flow. This takes time and money, but easily pays for itself.



*Lots of bees equals lots of honey if they get onto a good flow.
Pic L Bourke 2019*

If you leave lots of old scarred frames in a brood nest you get far less brood production, far less working bees and far less honey and money. What you will get is a lot more lazy drones and a far higher chance that the hive will feel full (of old pollen and honey in the brood box) and swarm. The other outcome is that they will chew out all that old honey and possibly uncover a veritable treasure trove of ancient AFB spores to feed to their young and highly susceptible larva. This outcome is far worse than them swarming!

The obvious conclusion.

Therefore you should make it a priority to get right into your brood box regularly and inspect it for brood health, queen performance and strength. Ensure that you are adding new frames and removing old

ones at the right time of the season. The old ones are either ready to be extracted straight away or may need to be moved up to the middle of the honey box for a little while. This allows any brood to hatch and honey to ripen before being extracted. As these frames often contain a lot of pollen it is best to put them right in the strongest part of the honey box to minimize chances of Small Hive Beetle blowing them.

Doing brood work is just like getting your vehicle serviced regularly, as you keep it in good condition and allow it to do what it needs to do.



More bees equals more honey collecting ability. You also need more honey boxes per strong hive than for weak ones!

Almond hive management.

If you are sending hives to the Almonds in August then it is time to start thinking about getting these hives ready.

- if you are building nucs or uniting weak nucs to form a hive then this should not be left too long, as they need to be strong going into autumn-winter. Now is a good time to do it and put them on good building conditions or use sugar syrup/pollen to boost them.
- weak production hives should be re-queened now so that they will have a better bee population going in autumn/spring.
- make a decision now to either chase honey (if there is any) or build colony strength for almond pollination in August...don't try to do both if conditions don't support it. If your hives are going to almonds then don't wear them out on honey flows with poor pollens!
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY**.....don't leave things too late! Do it earlier to ensure best hive outcomes for winter and spring.
- A strong autumn hive will do far better in spring and will benefit from doing the almond pollination, whilst a weak hive will suffer and be unproductive on the spring honey flows...the weak ones are unprofitable, so start working on boosting them now.

BOLT course & change of details

For NSW registered commercial beekeepers (registered with 50 hives or more) who would like to do the Biosecurity for Beekeepers BOLT online

course but have not yet received a code from me (to do it at no cost) please send me an e-mail to rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au listing your brand, individual or company name and I will get this out to you.

For all beekeepers use the following link to access the course. <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>

Barrier Systems & AFB management

Any NSW registered commercial beekeepers who would like assistance in setting up a barrier system within their operation or whom have AFB issues that they would like help in minimizing it please contact me at rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au or call 0438 677 195. Don't feel embarrassed or ashamed about contacting me...I will not judge you on the past and am here to help you with your beekeeping future. I look forward hearing from you.

NSWAA Professional Development Session

**Presenter is: Jillian Hamilton
owner of Manage Damage
(managedamage.com)**

**Subject: The responsibilities
including legal responsibilities of a
Director. This information applies
to Directors of Companies, Family
Trusts and all directorships.**

Date: 15 May 2019

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Venue: Bathurst Panthers Club

**Cost: \$50.00 per person on conference
registration form**

Welcome to New Members

**Kevin Tracy - Largs NSW
Nicole Staggard - Mullumbimby
NSW**



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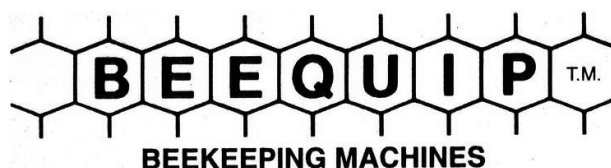
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CATCH THE BUZZ

Make Sure the Workers are Fed, and They'll Take Care of the Queen.



Researchers at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois used specially developed 3D-printed plastic honey combs that mimic the hive environment, in order to monitor queen egg-laying behaviors.

Credit: Bee Research Facility, University of Illinois

More than a decade after the identification of colony collapse disorder, a phenomenon marked by widespread loss of honey bee colonies, scientists are still working to untangle the ecologically complex problem of how to mitigate ongoing losses of honey bees and other pollinating species. One much-needed aid in this effort is more efficient ways to track specific impacts on bee health. To address this need, a group of Illinois researchers has established a laboratory-based method for tracking the fertility of honey bee queens.

Co-first authors Julia Fine and Hagai Shpigler, both postdoctoral researchers at the University of Illinois, worked with others in the laboratory of Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology Director and Swanlund Professor of Entomology Gene Robinson to establish a laboratory set-up that would mimic the key aspects of the hive environment and allow detection of egg-laying by honey bee queens living with small groups of worker bees. The resulting system, described in PLOS ONE, allowed them to explore the relationship between worker nutrition and queen fertility.

"The idea that honey bee nutrition influences colony level metrics of reproduction has been demonstrated before, but here, we examined an old story using new tools," Fine said. "We were able to get a clearer picture of how nutrition can affect the relationship between honey bee workers and queens and how this can impact the queen's egg production."

Populations of many pollinator species have been declining in the US and worldwide. Studies of factors influencing wild and managed honey bee hives have identified four main factors influencing health: parasites, pathogens, pesticides, and poor nutrition. These factors can influence one another.

For example, parasites may spread pathogens, much as fleas do on people, while poor nutrition might increase the likelihood of foraging on contaminated food sources.

Egg production is a vital aspect of honey bee colony function. Queens lay eggs that hatch into the thousands of worker bees that keep the colony running, as well as males and young queens to allow the colony to propagate. But in the dark, bustling interior of a standard hive, it is challenging to monitor egg laying or to evaluate the impacts of environmental factors.

"Egg laying occurs in the darkness of a hive occupied by thousands of workers and is therefore hard to track," Shpigler said. "Queen egg laying was never studied outside of the colony; the biggest challenge was to give the queens the right conditions for continuous egg laying outside of natural conditions."

To move queen productivity successfully into the lab, the researchers focused on the essentials of their natural environment. They developed a 3-D-printed plastic honey comb that they refined to mimic what a queen would experience in the hive, which ensured that the cage environment could be carefully controlled and kept pesticide free.

They also provided each queen with a small group of worker bees to feed and support the queen; this element became the inspiration for their first experiments with the new system.

"Honey bee queens only ingest food in the form of glandular secretions provided to them by their worker caretakers, and queens are not known to lay eggs without the support of their worker bees," Fine said. "The more we worked in this system, the more it became apparent that the easiest way to influence the queen was to first influence the worker bees that care for her. Once we identified this strategy, designing effective experiments became easier."

Fine, Shpigler, and their coauthors provided each group of caged bees with honey, water, and sucrose solution, but varied the source of fat and protein: some bees were fed with a paste of honey and either a low or a high amount of floral pollen, while others were fed with bee bread, a mixture of pollen, honey, and secretions produced by worker honey bees that preserve and ferment the pollen.

The researchers monitored how queen egg laying behavior was influenced by the type of diet fed to

the workers caring for her.

They found that when a group of workers was fed pollen paste, the queen they attended was likely to increase her egg laying more slowly in the laboratory environment than a queen attended by bee bread-fed workers. This difference was most noticeable when the lower-percentage pollen paste was used, but persisted even in bees fed the richer pollen paste.

The results affirmed the importance of nutrition to queen productivity, as well as demonstrating the potential utility of the laboratory set-up for investigating other factors affecting queen behavior and health.

"The effect of the nutrition . . . was our first successful use of the system, giving us hope for more success in the future," Shpigler said. "The results show very nicely how the honey bee colony functions as one body, with shared digestive and reproductive systems. The workers are the ones

that eat the food and the effect is on the queen egg laying—the superorganism in action!"

"It's been exciting to see the kind of quantitative data that we can generate with this system using fewer resources relative to studies that use full size honey bee colonies," Fine said. "Eventually, we hope that this system can be adapted as a risk assessment tool to identify other factors that positively and negatively influence honey bee reproduction . . . there is an immediate need for a laboratory system that can be used to quantitatively assess risks to honey bee queen health and reproduction."

More information: Julia D. Fine et al, Quantifying the effects of pollen nutrition on honey bee queen egg laying with a new laboratory system, PLOS ONE (2018). DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0203444

Journal reference: PLoS ONE

Provided by: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Read more at: <https://phys.org/news/2018-12-laboratory-probe-secret-queen-bees.html#jCp>



"Dear apiarists,

I am pleased to announce that the January EOI sites have now been published on the DPI website and is live to apply for until the 27th of February.

To view the sites on a map and apply visit this page on the DPI website: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land/expressions-of-interest-process-for-apiary-sites-on-public-land/eoi-pilot-map-and-application-form>

You will see a link there to our "Map Tips" page to help you make the most of the online map.

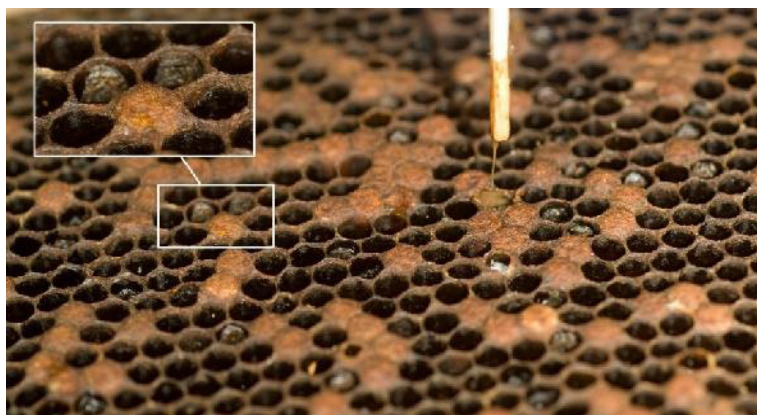
To understand more about the EOI process visit this page: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land/expressions-of-interest-process-for-apiary-sites-on-public-land>

Please don't hesitate to drop me an email if you have any questions about the map, forms or process.

Best regards,
Nick

Nick Geoghegan | Program Coordinator, Apiary Sites
Intensive Livestock
NSW Department of Primary Industries | Agriculture
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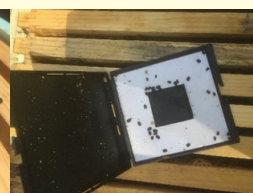
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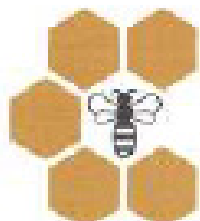


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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

Full newsletter available from <http://honeybee.org.au>

NOTE FROM CEO, SARAH PARADICE

I commenced as CEO of AHBIC on 2nd January and would like to say at the outset that I couldn't have asked for a more thorough handover from industry stalwart Trevor Weatherhead and his trusty offsider Marion Weatherhead. It has been brilliant, thank you Trevor and Marion. That's not to say it may take me a while to get up to speed with all the issues and learn all the honeybee industry acronyms! I'm mindful I have very big shoes to fill with Trevor's retirement and I'm hoping I can keep him in the fray, his knowledge of the industry is enormous. I'd also like to thank AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald and the Executive for their support while I've settled in, its greatly appreciated. Thanks to all stakeholders, members and beekeepers who have sent messages of welcome too; I'm feeling very lucky to be so warmly welcomed into the industry. I have spent the last four years working in forestry for the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Australian Forest Growers and am excited to be joining the honey bee industry. I'm hoping that some of my contacts within forestry may help us improve access to floral resources, amongst other things. I live on a small farm about 35km from Canberra where I run beef cattle with my husband Jim who works in Canberra for the Department of Agriculture. I've set up a home office so AHBIC has new contact details as outlined on the first page of this news bulletin; please update your records if you haven't already done so.

Please feel free to call me or email anytime to introduce yourself; thanks to those who have already done so. I'll also try to contact you as well. I very much look forward to working with you all in 2019 and beyond

IAN ZADOW AWARD

Congratulations to Ian Zadow who, in the Syngenta Australia 2018 Growth Award winners, was a Regional Winner in the Community and People section.

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

This pest is one that beekeepers have probably not heard much about. However if you look at what crops it could affected then you see that, if it did become established in Australia, there will be a lot of spraying necessary and hence a threat to our honey bees.

More details can be found at <https://portal.biosecurityportal.org.au/Pages/BMSB-Landing.aspx>

CERTIFICATE III IN BEEKEEPING

The revised Certificate III in Beekeeping has now been approved as from the 19 December, 2018.

Details can be found at <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHC31818#>

EXERCISE BEE PREPARED

December 19, 2018

Australian governments and the beekeeping industry participated in Exercise Bee Prepared this year to improve their readiness to respond to a detection of varroa mite (Varroa destructor). For the exercise, Plant Health Australia facilitated a series of activities and discussion workshops to test the response to a detection of this serious pest of honey bees.

The enthusiasm of the 275 participants helped make the exercise a success.

Between March and October 2018, the Australian Government and each state and territory government hosted an Exercise Bee Prepared activity to test varroa response arrangements and availability of resources.

Participants worked together on a fictional scenario to develop a response strategy to eradicate varroa mite from a peri-urban environment.

Several aspects in the response were identified that consistently posed challenges to the groups.

The Chief Plant Health Managers and Australian Honey Bee Industry Council representatives assessed these elements at a national workshop to decide on an appropriate response.

A consolidated report on the outcomes of Exercise Bee Prepared is expected to be released in early 2019.

AUSSIE FARMS REPOSITORY MAP

As you may be aware, a new website was launched in January this year called [Aussie Farms Repository](#).

The website includes an interactive map of 'factory farms, slaughterhouses and other animal exploitation facilities across Australia' and includes beekeeping operations. There has been widespread outrage from the agricultural industry and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council joins other agricultural industries in voicing serious concern about the website.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) strongly urges its members to follow [National Farmers Federation](#) guidelines.

More information can be found on AHBIC website

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