

AUSTRALIA'S

# HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"  
[www.nswaa.com.au](http://www.nswaa.com.au)

Volume 13 Number 1  
January - February 2020



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# DENMAR APIARIES

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**COVER: Resilience of the Bush, South Coast NSW**  
**Photograph: Jodi Van de Ven**



# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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

## CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION (CPA)

**Secretary:** Mrs Debbie Porter, 135 Eusdale Road Yetholme NSW 2795 Ph: 02 6337 5383 Email: debbie.porter3@hotmail.com

## HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## President's Report

Fire Fire Fire - the bane of most beekeepers over the summer period. The Batemans Bay area fire burnt out a huge area and then we had the Tarcutta area fire that travelled 150km in three days. Over 6000 hives have been burnt and at least 50,000 hives have lost their field bees due to fire/smoke in NSW. Satellite photos show 5 million ha have been burnt. Some on private property but by far the majority was in National Parks and State Forests. A lot of the burnt areas were high honey producing forests. A lot of the areas burnt were good autumn country that bred great bees for winter with quality pollen and nectar. A resource lost to industry for years to come.

As beekeepers we are devastated with the loss of hives and resource. Spare a thought for those that have lost their homes. Two of our members (that I know of) lost their homes in the Mogo/Batemans Bay fires.

Beekeepers in the south of the state have reaped the benefits of experience gained by DPI during the northern fires back in October. DPI responded very quickly to the southern fires. DPI have done a great job providing sugar and/or sugar syrup to beekeepers that had apiaries damaged by fire. DPI efforts have been appreciated by industry. This is fire support as opposed to drought support and only beekeepers who had hives damaged by fires are eligible for this support.

Given that there are minimal unburnt autumn flora remaining the executive has been lobbying for sugar syrup and pollen subsidies to maintain quality bees going into winter. Primarily so our industry can support the almond industry in August.

If you have been effected by bushfires please email the secretary with your hive losses and also the number of bee sites wiped out by fires. We are collating figures so that we have facts when we meet with government.

The executive did a press release reference the devastating effect these bushfires will have on our industry in the short and long term. From this the executive had a teleconference with the Deputy Premiers department seeking temporary National Park access and the pollen and sugar syrup subsidies. We received a good hearing. There is a follow up teleconference this week.

We feel for those beekeepers that have been affected by fire. If you have issues please do not hesitate to call any of the executive and discuss. There is a \$15,000 grant available from DPI, details are on our website. The

federal government has announced up to a \$75,000 grant is available. AHBIC has ensured that the wording for this grant will be such that beekeepers will be able to access. The details for this should be released prior to printing.

There have been very few donations of honey to Honeyland which is understandable given the season. Honeyland will be buying honey from a packer for sale this year. Debbie Porter is doing a great job coordinating Honeyland.

Conference planning is continuing. **Please consider coming to the conference this year.** Therese is doing a great job with sponsorship and the trade show. Sponsorships already taken are in this issue. Hopefully everyone has kept some honey to enter in the honey show on world bee day in Tamworth. Thank you to Suellen Cooper.

The executive have been continuing with the production of the Apiary Sites on Public Lands and the NSWAA Biosecurity documents. These will be finished very soon.

The Bee Biosecurity Officers (BBO) role is purely educational. They are not regulatory and only get involved when education is required when compliance identify lack of knowledge is the main issue for the biosecurity issue.

A BIG thank you to Dr Doug Somerville who has written his last article for the Honeybee News. A fantastic effort to regularly write informative and sometimes thought provoking articles. Articles that were informative for the newcomer to the industry as well as the experienced beekeeper. After retiring from DPI I am sure Doug will remain involved with the industry in some form.

Mick Rankmore has been on long service leave, now Mick has set a retirement date. Mick has a few hives and will stay in contact with the industry. Thank you for your efforts over many years Mick. Most people in the industry appreciated your professionalism.

NSWAA Website - the rebuild of this is continuing. Membership renewals and conference registrations will be done on the website. An EBee will go out to inform members when the website is available for renewals/registrations.

NSWAA membership renewals will be out late Feb. The executive know that the season has been tough. Please renew your membership. The executive are working hard on your behalf. While the executive are volunteers most things we do cost money. Be sure that the executive

review carefully all expenditures and ensure they are in line with our business plan.

A couple of snapshots. In Oct The Fullers lost 800 hives to fires. In January they had 150mm of water go through three apiaries. A land of contrasts. A beekeeper rang up DPI to get sugar syrup for 40 hives that were in a fire ground. The beekeeper hung up when he was asked were the hives registered?

We have lost a lot of resource and so have the logging industry. Some common sense will be required when the logging industry and our industry have to share a greatly reduced resource. Communication will be important. Loggers will continue to log but we should be able to share the forests together. Talk to the logging contractors and hopefully come to a mutually acceptable agreement where you can place your hives while they log the coup/s.

It is likely that NSW will have considerably less bees available for almond pollination. I know of one commercial almond pollination contract for \$150 + GST for the upcoming flowering event.

Honey prices in the \$6.00/kg region may make some beekeepers reconsider going to almonds if the average almond price does not increase considerably.

The executive is setting up a Facebook page just for these bushfires. The intent is to catch all the comments/discussions on the fires and the losses that beekeepers have suffered. This way everything is on the one Facebook page - not spread across many.

As I write this there has been good rain across a lot of the

eastern part of our state. This rain may help some trees survive the fires. Much more rain is required to break the drought strangling the state. While the start to the year has been stressful hopefully the rest of 2020 will be wetter and better.

Stephen Targett

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## Contributions

Do you have something you would like published in Australia's Honeybee News?

Perhaps a favourite recipe or an update from your Branch, then email it to the editor  
honeybeenews@icloud.com

# NSWAA Executive Responsibilities

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# Ministerial Reply

From: Ministerial Correspondence Mailbox [Ministerial.Correspondence@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Ministerial.Correspondence@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Sent: Wednesday, 11 December 2019 3:27 PM  
To: Secetariat | NSWAA [info@nswaa.com.au](mailto:info@nswaa.com.au)  
Subject: A reply to your correspondence to the Minister for Energy and Environment – MD19/5995

Dear Mr Targett

I refer to your letters to the Minister for Energy and Environment, the Hon Matt Kean MP, and the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, the Hon Melinda Pavey MP, about dam construction in NSW. Your correspondence was referred to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and I have been asked to reply. Please accept this as a response to all correspondence.

Thank you for highlighting the links between water infrastructure, healthy ecosystems and the apiary and food industries. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment aims to maintain and improve riverine ecosystem health while ensuring water security for NSW communities.

As you mention, dams can affect the health of riverine ecosystems through cold water pollution, causing variations in flow (pulsing), and hypoxic water risks. Where dams are necessarily built to regulate river flows, we agree that the latest science and learnings must be employed to mitigate their effect. We take an adaptive management approach with our Environmental Water program, so that new knowledge can be incorporated into future watering events across the state. Our Department has recently produced Long Term Water Plans for each NSW water planning area in the Murray Darling Basin. These plans outline the requirements of environmental assets present and provide guidance on mitigating the risks mentioned above.

Additionally, our Department agrees that any new dams or augmented infrastructure needs to take account of the latest science and incorporate design features that reduce impacts on our environment, while still enhancing water security for communities and businesses. The Department's Environment, Energy and Science Group will continue to liaise with WaterNSW to ensure that the latest knowledge about our natural systems can be accommodated by infrastructure design.

Further information about new dams for NSW can be found at [www.waternsw.com.au/projects/new-dams-for-nsw](http://www.waternsw.com.au/projects/new-dams-for-nsw)<<http://www.waternsw.com.au/projects/new-dams-for-nsw>>.

Further information about environmental water can be found at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)<<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au>>.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Justen Simpson, Manager, Environmental Water Governance, on (02) 6229 7140 or at [justen.simpson@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:justen.simpson@environment.nsw.gov.au)<<mailto:justen.simpson@environment.nsw.gov.au>>.

derek rutherford  
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***Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code).***

A new condition will come into effect from 1 July 2020 requiring existing and new beekeepers registered in NSW to comply with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code).

NSW DPI recognises your association as a reputable source of information among beekeepers in NSW. We would therefore greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide to help us ensure that NSW beekeepers are appropriately informed of the upcoming changes to conditions of registration prior to 1 July 2020.

A virtual folder containing a number of electronic resources including newsletter articles, fact sheets and flyers can be accessed by [following this link](#). If you could please share some of the articles and any of the contained information via your communications channels it would greatly assist us to ensure we are reaching as many NSW beekeepers as possible to inform them of the upcoming changes to their registration.

NSW DPI hopes to work closely with industry over the coming months to support beekeepers prior to the change coming into effect. We will continue to communicate updates and resources as they are developed and they will continue to be made available on the NSW DPI registration webpage. If you can think of any communications materials you think would assist in this space please don't hesitate to let us know. We are more than happy to develop any materials that may assist beekeepers to accept and adopt the Code.

NSW thanks you sincerely for any assistance you can provide to help us get this important message to our beekeepers.

Yours sincerely,

Rebekah Pierce

Acting Leader Regional Pest Management



Department of  
Primary Industries

## New registration portal

The beekeeper registration process is now managed by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

Updating the registration portal allows beekeepers one place to:

- Register
- Renew
- Maintain records of hive movement
- Notify of bee diseases



To find out more about the changes, visit  
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# NSWAA TRADE SHOW

**20– 22 May 2020**



**West Tamworth League Club, TAMWORTH**

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**Australian Honeybee**

### **Emerging Honey Bee Partner**

**Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies**

*New South Wales Apiarists' Association appreciates your support*

## **World Bee Day**

**20th May 2020**

**Trade show open from 8.30 to 5pm**

*For further Partnership / Exhibitor Information*

*Contact Therese Kershaw—Email :- [tradeshow@nswaa.com.au](mailto:tradeshow@nswaa.com.au)*

*[www.nswaa.com.au](http://www.nswaa.com.au)*

## Mental health for beekeepers

Are you okay? Are your bees okay? Would you like someone to speak to about how you're going? When times get tough, it's normal to need support, from your family, social network, GP or mental health professional.



*CAPTION: As a beekeeper you often work remotely, but you are never alone.*

[Beyond Blue support service](#) suggests dealing with the emotional impact of a bushfire by:

spending time with people who care

give yourself time

find out about the impact of trauma and what to expect

try to keep a routine going

talk about how you feel about what happened when you are ready

do things that help you relax

set realistic goals that keep you motivated, but don't take on too much (most people in this situation talk of recovery as a journey not a sprint)

review and reward progress – notice even the small steps

be prepared for times when you feel you are making no progress, everyone experiences this

talk about the ups and downs of recovery with friends, family and the health professionals involved in your care

have a plan to maintain positive changes and plans to deal with times of stress or reminders of the trauma.

Beyond Blue outlines common reactions to drought and bushfire trauma and beyond common reactions for which you should seek help from a GP or mental health professional. Check the symptoms here: [www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/bushfires-and-mental-health/](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/bushfires-and-mental-health/)

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

For access to local mental health services, please contact the organisations listed below.

#### FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**headspace** - phone 1800 063 267

**Kids Helpline** – chat online or phone 1800 551 800. Anonymous and confidential telephone counselling anytime for everyone and for any reason.

**Parent Helpline** - phone 1300 364 100 Information and support on health, behaviour, development and parenting for parents and carers.

**Youth Beyond Blue** - chat online or phone 1300 224 636 Help with anxiety and depression.

#### FOR EVERYONE

**Mensline Australia** – chat online or telephone 1300 789, 24 hours a day, 7 day telephone counselling for men

**Beyond Blue** – depression support, advice, action hotline. Chat online or telephone 1300 224 636

**Lifeline Australia** – crisis support and suicide prevention. Chat online or telephone 13 11 14

**Australian Red Cross** – provides personal support during a disaster and an outreach service to affected households. Contact 1800 660 066

**Suicide call back service** – free professional counselling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week across Australia. Chat online or phone 1300 659 467

**Black Dog Institute** – Tel. 9382 4530

**Open Arms** – Support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential counselling, group treatment programs, suicide prevention training and our community and peer network to support mental health and wellbeing. Telephone 1800 011 046

## NSW-SPECIFIC SUPPORT SERVICES

**Healthdirect** is a national, government-funded service, not-for-profit organisation providing quality, approved health information and advice: [www.healthdirect.gov.au/](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/)

Through their website they provide a detailed overview of mental health services in each state:

**New South Wales:** [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

**NSW Department of Primary Industries support services** - [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/wellbeing](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/wellbeing)

### NSW Rural Resilience Program

The **NSW DPI Rural Resilience Program** has staff across NSW and can provide support by way of referrals, liaising with other services and delivering initiatives tailored to the particular need of the community and farming families. They work closely with other partners such as the NSW Rural Assistance Authority, Rural Financial Counsellors, the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) and the Local Lands Services to do this.

Web [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/rural-resilience-program](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/rural-resilience-program)



### NSW Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)

**RAMHP** provides a range of information services to individuals, communities and service providers to link rural and remote people to the help they need. This includes information on where to access services, common mental illnesses and how to keep mentally healthy, as well as the Glove Box Guide to Mental Health.

To find your nearest RAMHP Officer call **02 6363 8444** or go online: <https://www.ramhp.com.au/>

## HELP IS AVAILABLE THROUGH HiveAid

BEEKEEPER DROUGHT AND BUSHFIRE RELIEF

### ARE YOU A BEEKEEPER IMPACTED BY DROUGHT OR BUSHFIRE?

The recently launched Hive Aid campaign is working to raise funds and awareness for Australian beekeepers in need.

Managed by Rural Aid, one of Australia's largest rural charities, Hive Aid provides immediate financial assistance and practical support to beekeepers registered as primary producers who have been impacted by the ongoing drought and devastating bushfires.

### HOW TO REGISTER

Impacted professional beekeepers, Australia wide, are encouraged to register for assistance via: [www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you](http://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you)

When registering for assistance, please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper.

*All applications are treated with strict confidentiality by Rural Aid.*

Endorsed by  **Australian Honey Bee INDUSTRY COUNCIL**

## Helpful links for NSW businesses and people affected by the recent fires

A [guide](#) to recovering from disaster.  
A quick [guide](#) to making an insurance claim.

**Disaster Recovery Allowance** - Support for people who can show they lost income as a direct result of the bushfires in New South Wales in August 2019 through to January 2020 (conditions apply)

**Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** - If eligible you can get \$1000 per adult and \$400 per child younger than 16.

**Disaster Relief Loans** - Small businesses and primary producers who have been directly affected by the fires, may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000.

**Disaster Recovery Grants** - up to \$15,000

**Disaster Assistance** - Current LGA declarations are available.

**The ATO** has identified impacted postcodes and automatically granted deferrals for lodgements and payments due. If a business has been affected by this disaster and needs assistance, or the business is affected but is outside the listed postcodes, they can call the ATO Emergency Support Infoline on 1800 806 218.

**Service NSW** - Free Replacement of License and Permits

NSW emergency information and response [website](#)

**Commercial Refrigerator Rebates** - Eligible small businesses can get a NSW government rebate for new plug-in commercial fridges and freezers.

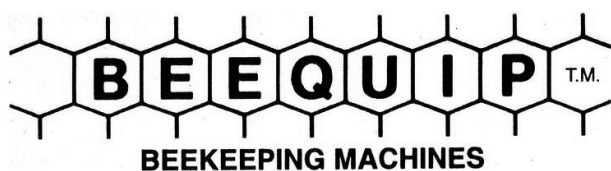
**Red Cross** - emergency grants if you have lost your primary place of residence

# BusinessConnect

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Email: [aqbe@bigpond.com](mailto:aqbe@bigpond.com) / Fax: 02 6368 3799

**Tamworth Branch  
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**23 MAY 2020 9AM – 4PM  
Following NSW State Conference 2020**



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BRITTEN ROAD,  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340**

**Gold Coin Entry  
Under 18's Free  
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# Beekkeeping Field Day



## **Guest Speakers**

**10AM: Allan Thomas**

Whats Happening Here ?

A different look at inside the hive.

**11AM: Ask the Experts**

Bring your questions !

**12PM: Rod Bourke**

DPI Biosecurity Update



## **Meals & Refreshments**

Meals and  
refreshments are  
available all day from the  
Jockey Club  
Restaurant

**CWA Bake Sale for  
homemade sweets and  
cakes**



## **Expressions of Interest**

**Beekeeping Trade Exhibit  
Stands**

**4 x 4 Equipment**

**Truck & Ute Displays**

**Material Handling Stands**

**General Market Stalls**



**Department of  
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For Stall bookings please contact Justin Wall. 0437690393. [Justin\\_Wall@icloud.com](mailto:Justin_Wall@icloud.com)

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250gr & 500gr  
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500gr Squeeze  
(Honey Comb)



500gr Upside  
Down Squeeze



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### Pails



#### Non Tamper Proof Pails

500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg, 3kg, & 5kg Pail  
(500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg available in clear as well)



#### Tamper Proof Pails

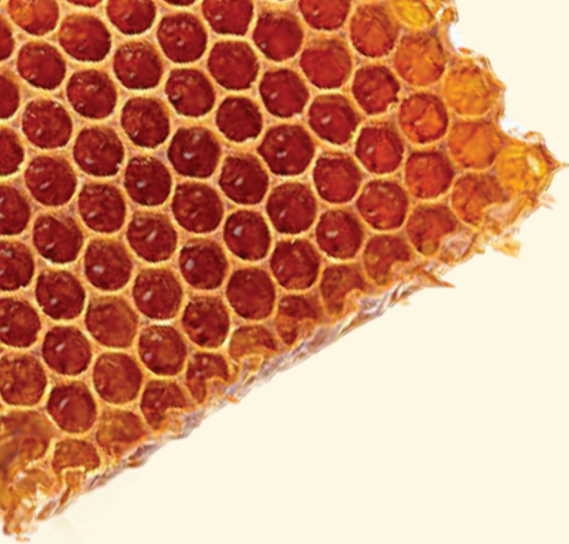
1kg, 1.5kg Honey Pails &  
2.2L, 5L Pails

10L, 15L, 20L Pails

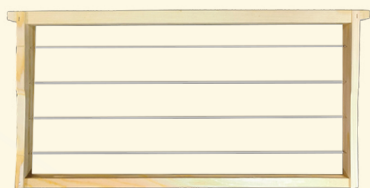
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**AU KINGSUN**

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[www.claytonplastics.com.au](http://www.claytonplastics.com.au)



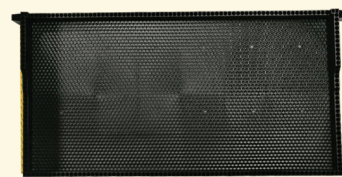
## Bee Frames - Wood and Plastic



Wood Frame Full Depth  
Assembled With Wire



Wood Frame Full Depth  
With Plastic Foundation  
(Not waxed)



Plastic Frame Full Depth

---

## Plastic Beehive

### Plastic Beehive with 10 Frames

Material: food grade polypropylene

Thickness: 30mm

Working life: 30 years

Packing dimension: 60x50x44cm 13.8/kg

#### Features:

- UV resistant
- Thermal insulated increasing honey production
- Light weight for easy lifting and carrying
- Antioxidant plastic material for longer life expectancy
- Holds standard and full depth frames
- Easily assembled
- Digital Thermometer
- Built in ventilation
- No painting required

#### What you get:

##### 2 box hive consisting of:

- 1 x ventilated top cover
- 1 x full size super
- 1 x Queen excluder
- 1 x brood box
- 1 x bottom board (including 2 feeders and pollen trap)
- 1 x Entrance reducer
- 4 x Lock, Latch connectors
- 1 x Temperature Gauge





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 Pollen Dryers  
 and much, much more....



# **BEE ON THE LOOKOUT!**

## **SCHEDULE & ENTRY FORMS OUT SOON**

Entries Open—Friday 3rd January 2020  
Closing Date for Entries—Friday 17th April 2020

Honey, Pollination & Apiary Related Products—Competition & Show  
In conjunction with NSWAA Annual Conference  
Tamworth—West Leagues Club—May 2020

Exhibits with labels attached will be accepted at the venue  
On Monday 18th May 2020 between 9am-6pm &  
Tuesday 19th May 2020 8am to 10am.

**OPEN JUDGING FORMAT**  
**Judging commencing 12pm Tuesday 19th May 2020**

**Public exhibition — Celebrating World Bee Day**  
Wednesday 20th May 2020 9am to 8pm &  
Thursday 21st May 2020 9am to 2pm

**Something for everyone — classes in:**

Liquid Honey	Granulated Honey	Chunk Honey
Honeycomb	Beeswax	Candles
Native Bee—Sugarbag Honey	Mead	Gift Baskets
Cooking (run by CWA)	Handicrafts (run by CWA)	Photography

---

### **NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Honey, Pollination & Apiary Related Products Competition and Show - 2020**

Show Co-ordinator - Suellen Cooper PO Box 334 INVERELL NSW 2360  
email: [nswaa.honeyshow@gmail.com](mailto:nswaa.honeyshow@gmail.com) ph: 0423 671 263



website: [www.nswaahoneyshow.weebly.com](http://www.nswaahoneyshow.weebly.com)  
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# ‘Like sending bees to war’: the deadly truth behind your almond milk obsession

Annette McGivney in Flagstaff, Arizona



Dennis Arp stands for a portrait near a colony of honeybees outside Rye, Arizona. Photograph: Caitlin O'Hara/The Guardian

Bees are essential to the functioning of America's titanic almond industry – and billions are dying in the process. Dennis Arp was feeling optimistic last summer, which is unusual for a beekeeper these days.

Thanks to a record wet spring, his hundreds of hives, scattered across the central Arizona desert, produced a bounty of honey. Arp would have plenty to sell in stores, but more importantly, the bumper harvest would strengthen his bees for their biggest task of the coming year.

Like most commercial beekeepers in the US, at least half of Arp's revenue now comes from pollinating almonds. Selling honey is far less lucrative than renting out his colonies to mega-farms in California's fertile Central Valley, [home to 80%](#) of the world's almond supply.

But as winter approached, with Arp just months away from taking his hives to California, his bees started getting sick. By October, 150 of Arp's hives had been wiped out by mites, 12% of his inventory in just a few months. "My yard is currently filled with stacks of empty bee boxes that used to contain healthy hives," he says.

This shouldn't be happening to someone like Arp, a beekeeper with decades of experience. But his story is not unique. Commercial beekeepers who send their hives to the almond farms are seeing their bees die in record numbers, and nothing they do seems to stop the decline.



Adam Arp, Dennis's son, works outside Rye on 8 May 2019. Photograph: Caitlin O'Hara/The Guardian

A recent survey of commercial beekeepers showed that 50 billion bees – more than seven times the world's human population – were wiped out in a few months during winter 2018-19. This [is more than one-third](#) of commercial US bee colonies, the highest number since the annual survey started in the mid-2000s.

Beekeepers attributed the high mortality rate to pesticide exposure, diseases from parasites and habitat loss. However, environmentalists and organic beekeepers maintain that the real culprit is something more systemic: America's reliance on industrial agriculture methods, especially those used by the almond industry, which demands a large-scale mechanization of one of nature's most delicate natural processes.

Environmental advocates argue that the huge, commercially driven proliferation of the European honeybees used on almond farms is itself undermining the ecosystem for all bees. Honeybees out-compete diverse native bee species for forage, and threaten the endangered species that are already struggling to survive climate change. Environmentalists argue a better solution is to transform the way large-scale agriculture is carried out in the US.

Like all bees, honeybees thrive in a biodiverse landscape. But California's almond industry places them in a monoculture where growers expect the bees to be predictably productive year after year.

Commercial honeybees are considered livestock by the US Department of Agriculture because of the creature's vital role in food production. But no other class of livestock comes close to the scorched-earth circumstances that commercial honeybees face. More bees die every year in the US than all other fish and animals raised for slaughter combined.

"The high mortality rate creates a sad business model for beekeepers," says Nate Donley, a senior scientist for the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's like sending the bees to war. Many don't come back."



Beehives stand stacked along a blooming almond orchard near Shafter, California. The bees pollinate many crops, including almond trees in February, and are essential to the food chain. Photograph: Ann Johansson/Corbis via Getty Images

## Nuts for almonds

California's \$11bn (£8.4bn) almond industry has grown at an extraordinary rate. In 2000, almond orchards occupied 500,000 acres. By 2018 that had more than dou-

bled – almond groves in the Central Valley now blanket an area the size of Delaware, producing 2.3bn lb (1m tonnes) of almonds annually sold around the world.

The average American eats 2lb (900g) of almonds every year, more than in any other country. US almond milk sales have grown 250% over the past five years to reach \$1.2bn, over four times that of any other plant-based milk, [according to a 2018 Nielsen report](#).

“We don’t see a cap on growth at this point, especially with the incredible versatility of almonds in foods,” says Richard Waycott, president and CEO of the Almond Board of [California](#), a not-for-profit advocacy organization representing the majority of farmers.

But these enormous orchards can’t function without bees.

It wasn’t that long ago that beekeeping was mostly a boutique pursuit of the gentleman apiarist. When European immigrants introduced their own version of agriculture to North America, they also imported the art of beekeeping, along with boxes of *Apis mellifera*, the domesticated European honeybee.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, beekeepers earned a modest living selling beeswax and honey. But in the late 20th century there was a titanic shift, exemplified by the career of Dennis Arp.

Arp, 67, got into beekeeping nearly four decades ago when he established his Mountain Top Honey company in Flagstaff, Arizona. A commanding presence with biceps toned from hoisting heavy bee boxes, Arp is the sort of diligent beekeeper who spends his days driving between apiary sites, and his nights studying online forums, reading articles on the latest mite treatment.

When cheap imported honey began cutting into Arp’s profits in the 1980s, he decided to send some of his hives with a beekeeper friend to pollinate almonds in California. A decade later he struck up a deal of his own with an almond grower in California’s Kern county. With that strategic move, Arp joined the growing ranks of migratory beekeepers in the US who still sell honey but mostly travel the country from one pollination site to the next with stacks of bee boxes in tow.



Left: Dennis Arp works his hives outside Rye. Right: A colony of honeybees hard at work for Mountain Top Honey Company outside Rye.

In the early 1980s, when Arp was just selling honey, he would lose about 5% of his hives per year to disease or weather conditions. Around 2000, Arp’s bees started dying in greater numbers.

First, he experienced a nearly 100% loss of his hives from an infestation of tracheal mites. Then he had to cope with the intrusion of Africanized “killer” bees. And finally, what he still considers the bane of his business, a parasitic mite called *Varroa destructor* literally sucked the life out of his bees. The mite feeds on the bee’s plump body, destroying the insect’s immune system and other vital functions. If Arp doesn’t apply regular chemical treatments for the mites, his colonies will die.

Now Arp finds himself in a vicious circle: he is constantly battling to keep enough bees alive to meet the requirements of his almond contract. But if he was not pollinating almonds, maybe his bees would be healthier.

This year Arp’s bees, like more than two-thirds of the United States’ commercial honeybee population, will spend February in the [toxic chemical soup](#) of California’s Central Valley, fertilizing almonds one blossom at a time.

Pesticides are used for all kinds of crops across the state, but the almond, [at 35m lb a year](#), is doused with greater absolute quantities than any other. One of the most widely applied pesticides is the herbicide glyphosate (AKA Roundup), which is a staple of large-scale almond growers and has been shown to be lethal to bees as well as [cause cancer](#) in humans. (The maker, Bayer-owned Monsanto, denies the cancer link when people use Roundup at the prescribed dosage. So far this year three US courts have found in favour of glyphosate users who developed forms of lymphoma; thousands more cases are pending.)

On top of the threat of pesticides, almond pollination is uniquely demanding for bees because colonies are aroused from winter dormancy about one to two months earlier than is natural. The sheer quantity of hives required far exceeds that of other crops – apples, America’s second-largest pollination crop, use only one-tenth the number of bees. And the bees are concentrated in one geographic region at the same time, exponentially increasing the risk of spreading sickness.



An almond tree blooms near Visalia, in California. Photograph: Ann Johansson/Corbis via Getty Images

“Bees are exposed to all kinds of diseases in California,” says Arp. “There can be hundreds of thousands of hives from multiple beekeepers in one staging area. It is like letting your bees go into a singles bar and then they have unprotected sex.”

The almond business has been good to Arp – last February, for instance, he installed 1,500 of his hives in one grower’s orchard at \$200 per hive – so he is reluctant to make a direct connection between the constant health challenges with his bees and the time spent every spring in the almond groves. “The bees like working on the almonds,” says Arp. “But it obviously exposes them to risks.”

Now he routinely loses 30% or more of his bees a year, mirroring national statistics. In any other industry, the death of a third of your workforce would cause an international outcry – but this staggering loss is now considered the normal cost of doing business.

“The bees in the almond groves are being exploited and disrespected,” says Patrick Pynes, an organic beekeeper who teaches environmental studies at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. “They are in severe decline because our human relationship to them has become so destructive.”



Arp and his son Adam. Photograph: Caitlin O’Hara/The Guardian

### The high price of growth

When the phenomenon called [colony collapse disorder](#) was first identified in 2006, after a record number of honeybees mysteriously disappeared or died outside their hives, it was linked to a variety of factors including loss of habitat and climate change. But the primary culprit was pesticides. Researchers found that a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids was especially lethal to bees.

Last May, the EPA pulled a dozen “neonics” from the market [following a successful lawsuit](#) brought by beekeepers and environmental groups.

But there are many chemicals that are not labeled as bee toxic, even though they can make bees sick and weaken their immune systems. While bees may survive the pollination season, they may not last the winter or may take back substances that gradually poison the entire colony.

Those on the almond growers’ side acknowledge there is a huge problem. “The bee mortality rate is too high and is unacceptable,” says the entomologist Bob Curtis, a pollination consultant for the Almond Board of California. “It is only because of the hard work and creativity of beekeepers that [almond growers] have gotten the bees they need.”

The almond board’s [“best practice” guidelines](#) encourage beekeepers to spend as little time in California’s Central Valley as possible. Honeybees can travel up to three miles in search of varied forage, so even if the almond grower is doing everything right to protect a pollination investment, the cotton or grape farmer down the road may be spraying bee-toxic chemicals on crops.

Even as almond production has steadily ramped up for decades, the number of commercial hives in the US has remained at a [steady 2.7m colonies](#) since the early 2000s. With all the challenges beekeepers face, just maintaining the bare minimum is a struggle.



Left: Dennis Arp replaces queen bees in hives that rejected or were missing them outside Rye. Arp drove to California to purchase the new queens. Right: Honeybees working for Mountain Top Honey Company.

One coping strategy pursued by the almond industry has been to breed [almond varieties](#) that require only one hive per acre to pollinate, instead of two. And last January, a pollinator protection law went into effect in California as part of the state’s [“Bee Where” initiative](#). For this program, beekeepers are required to register the location of their hives with the county’s agricultural commissioner and farmers must notify the commissioner in advance of any plans to spray pesticides.

Even so, the costs beekeepers incur trying to keep their bees alive are constantly rising. Arp has spent approximately \$50,000 in the past year buying new hives to compensate for the 35% colony loss he experienced last year. He also spends at least \$50,000 a year on mite treatments, not to mention other more aggressive measures the industry is taking just to maintain the status quo. These include splitting robust hives in half, introducing mail-order queens to new hives and fattening bees on corn syrup or on simulated pollen substances called “pollen patties”.

Experts say that simply working around the pesticide problem isn’t enough and that farming itself must be changed from the ground up.



A smoker deters bees while Adam and Dennis Arp work on the hives. Photograph: Caitlin O’Hara/The Guardian



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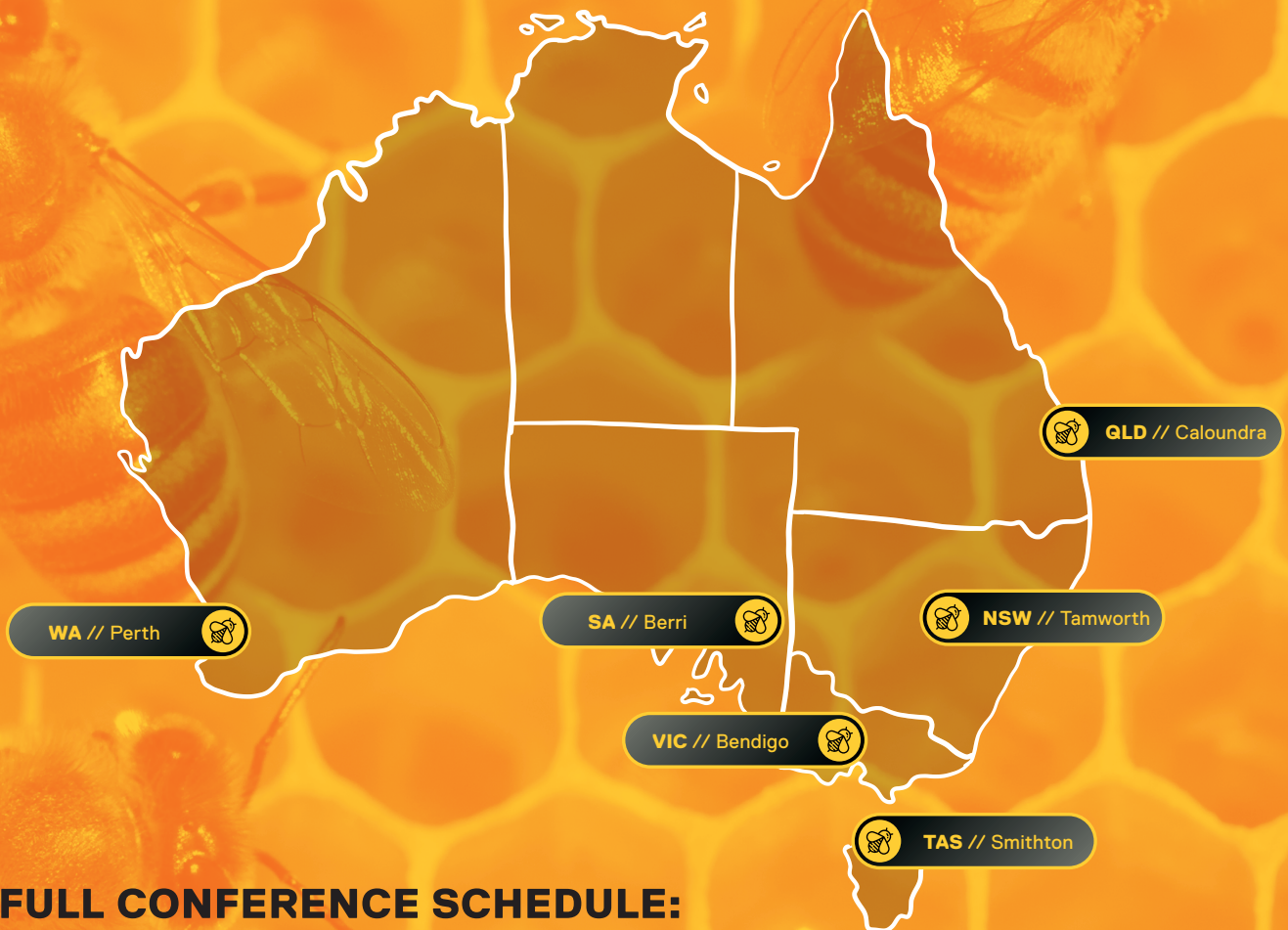
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SA	Berri Hotel, Berri	Thursday 11th – Friday 12th June
QLD	The Oaks Oasis Resort, Caloundra	Friday 12th – Saturday 13th June
VIC	All Seasons Resort Hotel, Bendigo	Wednesday 1st – Saturday 4th July

The search for a solution

Hope is being found in a new certification program that, similar to “organic” or “fair trade” labels, will help consumers choose products that have been made with bee-friendly methods.

The [“Bee Better” certification program](#), launched in 2017 by the not-for-profit Xerces Society, introduces biodiversity into almond groves to naturally control pests and nourish honey bees. Xerces is working with almond growers to plant California wildflowers, mustard and clover in between the rows of trees and native flowering hedges along the perimeter of the orchard – a kind of eco-friendly fence to keep bees in the orchard.

The program scored a victory when [Häagen-Dazs ice cream](#) became the first food company to carry products with the Bee Better seal. The company’s bee-friendly vanilla milk chocolate almond bar was rolled out in December at Costco, Sam’s Club and BJ’s Wholesale Club, with three more bee-friendly almond ice cream flavors to be available in early 2020.

Letting nature take its course is nothing new for 81-year old Glenn Anderson. He is the first and still one of the few organic almond growers in California’s San Joaquin Valley. His 40-year-old orchard is small – just 20 acres – and has always been chemical free.

“We don’t have pests; we have biodiversity,” says Anderson, who primarily sells directly to individual customers through his Anderson Almonds company. Unlike large industrial almond farms that strip the orchard ground bare to more efficiently treat for insects and fungi, Anderson allows a rich understory to grow, which naturally nourishes the soil and strengthens the trees.

Anderson hires a “beekeeper hobbyist” from northern California every spring to install about 20 hives in his orchard. “We have the opposite of colony collapse at my farm,” says Anderson. “My beekeeper brings weak hives down that he wants to recharge on my property.”

Anderson says the tradeoff for not using pesticides is that his annual crop yield is lower – typically about 10,000 pounds – and he keeps his orchard small in order to manage its wildness. “I’m averse to an expansion model,” he says. “It doesn’t suit me much.”

And as for industrial-grown almonds? “They taste like cardboard,” he says.

Back in Arizona, Dennis Arp and his son Adam are just trying to make it through the next few months with as many healthy bees as possible.

There are days when the costs seem overwhelming, and Arp wonders if he should hang up his honey-stained bee suit. But beekeeping is what he knows best, and he wants to pass the business on to his son.

“I don’t know how we will pull it off yet,” he says. “But we will make it work.”

• This article was amended on 8 and 10 January 2020 to clarify how the almond industry is breeding nuts that require fewer hives-per-acre to pollinate. The piece has also been updated to include Monsanto’s stance on glyphosate and cancer, and to note that commercially driven proliferation of the European honeybees is itself undermining diversity among US bee species.

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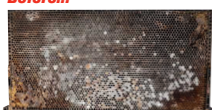
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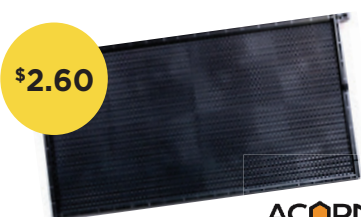
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## NSW Bushfire and Drought Assistance Part II

As of 20 January 2020, 3,961 hives have been reported to the NSW DPI Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline as destroyed by bushfires since November 2019. If you haven't reported your hives which have either been destroyed by bushfire or survived bushfire, I urge you to do so as soon as possible to the hotline below: **1800 814 647**. This is the official hotline with which to request assistance for your hives which have survived bushfire. The more accurate numbers state and federal governments have related to negative effects of bushfire to the beekeeping industry, the better these agencies can plan for industry recovery.

Bushfire affected landholders who need emergency fodder or water, or livestock care or assessment can call the Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline

**1800 814 647**

NSW GOVERNMENT

In my last article (Volume 13, Number 6, November – December 2019) I included contact details for Rural Financial Counsellors in the Northern Region. Given the extensive fires in central and southern NSW, in addition to northern NSW, I include a review of what this service is and contact details for the Central and Southern Regions below. I urge you to get in touch with your closest Rural Financial Counselling Service contact to discuss drought and bushfire assistance you may be eligible for, available through:

- NSW DPI DroughtHub: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/drought-assistance](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub/drought-assistance)
- NSW Rural Assistance Authority: [www.raa.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/)

### Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

The RFCS provides free and impartial rural financial counselling to eligible primary producers, fishers and small rural businesses. Rural Financial Counsellors can:

- help identify your financial and business options

- help negotiate with your lenders
- help you develop an action plan
- help support you to access the Farm Household Allowance (FHA)
- give you information about government and other assistance schemes

### RFCS Southern Region Contacts

#### Albury

Graham Christie

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Fax: 02 6454 4420

Email: [ahoskins@rfcsnsw-sr.com.au](mailto:ahoskins@rfcsnsw-sr.com.au)

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#### Deniliquin

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### Wagga Wagga

TBC

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### Yass

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### Broken Hill

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Before & after office hours mobile: 0434 353 301

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There are many resources available to assist you in these trying times. Please make contact with a Rural Financial Counsellor and use the mental health resources in the "Mental Health for Beekeepers" article in this magazine to talk through any toll drought and bushfire is having on you, your business, your family, etc. These resources are available to you any time and are not a last resort. Make the call.







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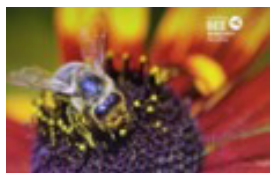
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# BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT



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Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: [rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



## When the going gets tough get tough with your Bee Biosecurity!

The end of 2019 and start of 2020 have been extremely tough for many beekeepers, along with thousands of others on the land and in fire ravaged areas. It is a hard time and obviously a lot of people need some extra help. The NSW government provides assistance to primary producers affected by drought and bushfire conditions, including beekeepers. Producers are encouraged to call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline - 1800 814 647 to report damage and stock losses and to request assistance. For drought assistance, NSW-registered beekeeping businesses may access site fee waivers for apiaries on public lands, primary producer vehicle registration waivers and subsidies for transport of fodder and water.

Outside of immediate drought and bushfire assistance, if you do not require emergency support, but support maintaining bee biosecurity in these irregular conditions, get in touch with your state Bee Biosecurity Officer (BBO). I currently hold this position in NSW and from many conversations and experiences I've had in this role it is apparent that the support and services BBOs can provide (in comparison to other DPI officers) is not overly clear to beekeepers. I would like to try and clarify this a bit if I can.

It is **not** the role of the NSW BBO to enforce compliance, do interstate health certificates and manage registrations or regulation. There are standard DPI officers who managed these regular processes as part of the public service. In comparison, the BBO position is *industry* funded to simply support and assist the apiary industry to achieve good biosecurity.

**Biosecurity**, as originally conceptualized, is a set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases in crops and livestock, quarantined pests, invasive alien species, and living modified organisms. Therefore your Bee Biosecurity Officers are 'good guys' with specific roles that assist beekeepers to get on top of their disease issues etc., which when left unmanaged reduce the profitability of your businesses and spread to other beekeepers.

However, that is not to say that any DPI officers are 'bad guys', some simply have the not so fun job of enforcing the rules that are put in place to protect industry. All staff of DPI actively assist industry through policy, technical advice, training, education and protecting them from exotic pests and diseases. In particular, Regulatory

Officers are there to protect both industry and the public from industry and externally generated issues and to sort out problems of public safety.

If a concerned beekeeper or member of the public sees an issue they should call the Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244, not report it to the BBO. This report will then be formally allocated to the nearest available qualified DPI Regulatory Officer to follow up on.



This is the type of beekeeping that DPI Regulatory Officers often have to deal with and get cleaned up, for the good of the industry. If you see bad beekeeping then report it correctly, otherwise it won't become a job for the right DPI staff to deal with.

Hopefully that will clarify the role of the BBO for some readers, and so back to the topic at hand –biosecurity! With a tough season ahead, now is an excellent time to weed out all the junk that you really don't need in your operation. In tough times all dead wood should go!

The wrong approach would be to think that because it's tough that you need every single hive that you can keep alive, so as a result you continue propping up those suspect diseased hives. The right approach is to take out (eliminate) every hive that has any new or longer term history of AFB and to use the benefit of slightly lower hive numbers to spread your hives out (split loads). This will enable your remaining hives to perform better.



This beekeeper obviously has a long term history of AFB, which can only be remedied by them taking tough action

to clean up their junk. Don't even try to save anything that has AFB...just destroy it!

Whilst there is an argument that by splitting up loads that the big beekeeper must travel further to work all the hives, you must also consider the benefit. Two half loads of great bees is far more valuable than one, two or probably even three loads of sub-par bees. The perceived "uneconomical" requirement of taking longer to service hives that are spread out further may have the reward of an extra box or two of honey next season, as the hives were on average stronger and healthier in spring! Strong hives are always better, so aim to achieve quality over quantity and remember to get rid of all dead wood!



A pallet of dead wood (dropped on almonds in 2018)... don't waste your time (and money) with hives like this!

To achieve this ideal, start off by stopping antibiotic use in preference for close monitoring and removing EVERY hive that shows AFB! It is a very simple approach. Removing antibiotic use will stop masking AFB so it is easier to detect and destroy! Every AFB hive removed from your apiary is helping you to clean up your operation. Stop thinking of AFB hives as still having value, or income generation potential...they don't! Infected hives will only cost your business money, and the longer you try to keep them going the worse your problem will become.



The end result of yet another failed attempt to treat AFB with antibiotics (and how many doses has it had over the years)! It doesn't work and none of us want to see this or be anywhere close to bees like that!

If you need assistance weaning yourself off antibiotic use, I am available to meet with you to help you develop a long term plan to manage and clean up your operation. Many beekeepers feel that the only way that they can stay in business is by using antibiotics to manage AFB.

The reality is that many commercial beekeepers do not use antibiotics and they do pretty well for themselves. The main management tools being to do regular brood inspections and remove diseased hives as soon as they are found. In fact, most long term AFB experienced by beekeepers is actually propagated by their own hives within their own apiaries, and often made worse by the use of antibiotics that suppresses the visible signs of AFB.

At the end of the day whilst tough times are being faced by some NSW beekeepers this is also an opportune time to grab the bull by the horns and clean up some of the disease that has plagued many for so long, because it is GREAT when you can bee keep without AFB.

If you would like assistance in improving the biosecurity within your operation then please give me a call on 0438 677 195, or email [rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au) so that we can start that conversation.

Ask me for a BOLT Code if you need one too...please remember that July 1<sup>st</sup> is just around the corner and you all need to do it or other relevant Bee Pest Disease training (within the last 3 years) by then.

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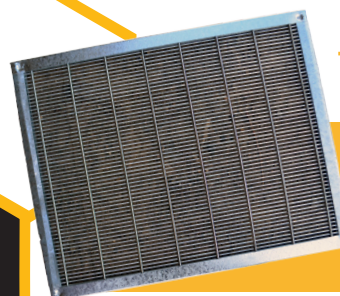


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# AUSTRALIAN OWNED AND FAMILY OPERATED

**Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies is owned and operated by Neil and Sharon Masters together with sons Cameron and Stuart. They are a family owned Australian based company producing high quality Australian made products for the beekeeping industry.**

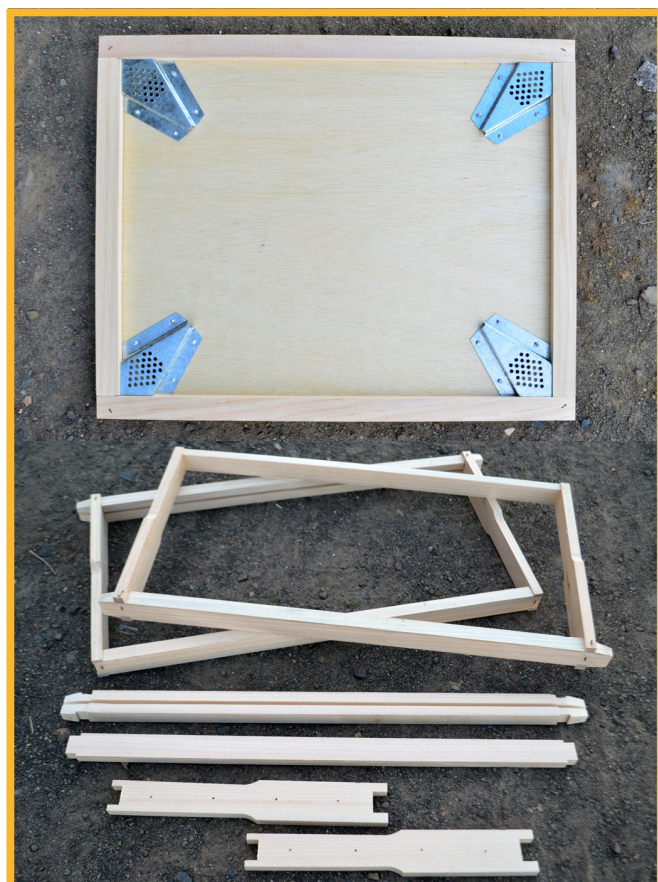
As experienced beekeepers, Sharon and Neil are currently running 700 honey producing hives from their base in Allora, Southern Queensland, which is 45 minutes south of Toowoomba on the New England Highway.

The business has grown enormously since 2007 when the family purchased

the BEECO business from David and Dianne Cahill of Warwick and moved it to Allora. During the last 12 years the business has continued to grow and expand and so to accommodate their growing customer base they built and moved into a larger premises in Allora's Industrial Estate in 2018.



*The Masters Family: Cameron, Sharon, Neil and Stuart of Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies.*



*ABOVE TOP: Clearer Boards available in 8 Frame and 10 Frame. They are made with 4mm Ply and BEECO Escapes. ABOVE: Frames available in Full Depth, WSP and Manley.*

Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies manufacture all the timber components for beehives including: frames, supers and clearer boards etc. All the timber used is Australian grown Hoop Pine sourced predominantly from the Imbil district of Queensland. The Masters family continue to maintain the very high standard in which was set by the previous owners. All products are manufactured to precise specifications and therefore only leave the factory as first grade. Their business strives to sell only Australian made products, where possible.

Along with the timber hive components, Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies are now making the Original BEECO Design Excluders again. The Queen excluder cores are manufactured in Brisbane then trimmed and bound by the team in Allora. These are all heavy duty and have an extra cross wire under the rim and a thicker metal binding.

Other great Australian products you will find in stock are BEECO Smokers and Tobin's Wax Foundation as well as being the local Queensland agents for Max Cane's BeePlas Plastic Foundation (all Australian made).

Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies have easy access to major freight companies and are able to send their products anywhere in Australia. Neil, Sharon and their sons are always willing and able to help fellow beekeepers with all their beekeeping needs so be sure to give them a call.



**January 14 2020**

Dear Australian Honey Bee Industry Council members, Australian Beekeepers, Australian citizens and the Australian Government,

**An open Letter to Australian Beekeepers, the Australian public & Australian Policy Makers**

The world is saddened to see the bushfire crisis that is gripping Australia. As President of Apimondia - the International Federation of Beekeeping Associations, I write to say our thoughts are with you and to express my sincere wishes for better things to come for the Australian environment and Australian beekeepers. The world is witnessing an environmental disaster for the beekeepers of Australia, their honeybees and native bees that is of global significance to the broader global beekeeping population and food security.

The beekeepers of the world are always conscious that Australia remains the only country free of the deadly varroa mite and the home to the world's healthiest varroa-free bee populations. I was so saddened to see the impacts of fire also on Kangaroo Island where extremely rare pure strains of Ligurian bees exists in a Bee Sanctuary declared over 100 years ago. Preserving the bee populations around the world relies on healthy bee populations and genetic diversity such as that which exists in the Australian bee population.

Up to this point the major food source for bees in Australia was your pristine eucalypt-based flora from your forests which has contributed to globally unique and special honey products of excellent quality and diversity.

What is clear from the international news reporting is that the impacts on Australian beekeepers from the events of fires following long droughts will be felt for the next 10 - 20 years as your forests recover. What is concerning is that some forests may not recover I am told. This will surely significantly shift the equilibrium of keeping bees in Australia and force the immediate assessment of how to keep bees healthy and sustained in a severely floral resource constrained new climate changed reality.

To this end I encourage your governments and policy makers to double down to help you put long term strategies in place to manage these difficult circumstances over the years ahead. This cannot be a short-term effort. The efforts of careful planning and targeted programs to support beekeepers will be repaid in the resulting crop pollination into the future for the important conservation of beekeeping in Australia. We really hope that with strong action and government support optimism can be found for Australian beekeepers.

Apimondia is deeply concerned about the wellbeing and long-term sustainability of bees and beekeepers and the essential ecosystem services bees play through their pollination. Apimondia works

with initiatives such as World Bee Day to bring awareness to the important role that bees play. I am currently in Rome meeting with FAO in relation to having bees recognised more prominently for their role in sustainable development. Our global efforts should support positive action by your policy makers to initiate new solutions to manage your current crisis and the problem of climate change for the broader beekeeping world.

During the speech in Rome on World Bee Day, 20 May 2019 **María Fernanda Espinosa Garcé** President of the UN General Assembly summarised the importance of bees for those present:

*Bees support a staggering 170,000 species of plants that sustain over 200,000 animal species. They are responsible for roughly a third of all food produced. They make nutritious food, notably honey and royal jelly, of course – which are also used in medicines: both modern and traditional. And in doing all of this, they support millions of jobs, farms, businesses and communities around the world.*

*Whether you are talking about eradicating poverty, tackling hunger, protecting biodiversity or boosting rural livelihoods – **these tiny creatures play an outsize role in our efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.** But about half of all bee species are thought to be in decline. Five percent are thought to be endangered. Across the world, colonies have been collapsing and bee numbers dwindling due to factors including pollution, pesticides, urbanization, climate change and the global trade in low-quality honey.*

I encourage the Australian government to work with the Australian beekeepers to use every resolve to find new initiatives to tackle the challenges beekeepers face. Apimondia stands ready to support in any way through your Apimondia Regional Oceania President Jodie Goldsworthy who is well placed in Australia to support your efforts. She of course has the backing of the Apimondia Executive and myself should this be needed or is helpful.

The thoughts of the world's beekeepers are with you as you manage the difficult days ahead. Apimondia wishes you every success into the future.

Sincerely,



Dr Jeff Pettis - USA  
President  
Apimondia

Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations. It promotes scientific, social and economic apicultural development in all countries and the cooperation of beekeepers' associations, scientific bodies and of individuals involved in apiculture worldwide. Since 1897, every other year Apimondia organizes beekeepers' congresses, hosted by different countries. Apimondia maintains seven scientific commissions and five regional commissions for the purposes of furthering scientific understanding of apiculture and to facilitate exchange of information.



## MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland Government  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

09 January 2020

### Mite-y fight against Asian honey bee enters new phase

#### Key points:

- Targeted surveillance activities will ramp up to prove Townsville is free of varroa mite
- Varroa mites could significantly damage the Australian bee industry and agricultural sector, disrupting honey production and pollination services.
- Australia is the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of varroa mite

#### Main story:

Surveillance activities will ramp up in Townsville to prove the area is free of varroa mite. The National Varroa Mite Eradication Program, led by Biosecurity Queensland, kicked into action in July 2019 following the discovery of a nest of Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) at the Port of Townsville, which were later confirmed to be carrying varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*). Program manager Rob Stephens said with no more Asian honey bees found, the program will now transition to Proof of Freedom phase.

"This means more targeted surveillance activities including sweep netting, aerial pheromone trapping, Rainbow bee-eater pellet sampling, bee lining and setting up feeding stations as well as industry awareness and community engagement activities," he said.

"January is usually a time when bees are more active, especially if there is rain to promote flowering vegetation.

"So it's very important that we identify if there are any remaining nests quickly."

Varroa mite is a tiny parasite that could have serious consequences for the pollination of crops and honey production if it were to spread to Australia's population of European honey bee.

Mr Stephens said community help is especially important as the Program works to prove Queensland is free of varroa mite.

"Australia is the only inhabited continent in the world to be free of varroa mite and we want to keep it that way," he said,

"The local community has been terrific at keeping an eye out and reporting sightings of bees to us.

"We have received more than 270 calls since July when our response officially first began and we need that to continue.

"So the message remains: report unusual bees, nests or swarms to 13 25 23 immediately and we'll follow up.

"Like our European honey bee, the Asian honey bee will forage on flowers but are smaller, not as hairy and look darker and glossier.

"Look for bees clustered into a swarm or nests in small hollows like trees, eaves, letter boxes and compost bins."

For more information visit [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or to report unusual bee activity call 13 25 23. ENDS

Media contact: Deborah Rule 0436 916 667

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018-2019 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC



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**(AHBIC)**  
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**Account Name:** Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc

Banking  
Details

**Bank:** Bendigo Bank

**BSB:** 633 000

**Account No:** 150 976 405

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Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.

It is gratefully appreciated.



The Southern Tablelands Branch of NSWAA Inc.

## **Mini Field Day** **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**

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Guest Speakers: Dr Doug Somerville and Elizabeth Frost

Includes the NSWAA Southern Tablelands Branch AGM meeting.

Venue: Wattle Valley, 151 Shingle Hill Way, Gundaroo NSW 2620

12 noon – BBQ Lunch

2pm – Meeting

Please RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Email - Branch Secretary, Judith Saxvik – [southerntablelands@gmail.com](mailto:southerntablelands@gmail.com)

NSWAA Southern Tablelands Branch welcomes all businesses with bee feed to attend with information/samples/supplies – please RSVP.

Ecrotek Beekeeping Supplies and Nuplas Apiarist Supplies are attending the Mini Field Day and Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

Everyone Welcome

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### Executive Members Contact Details

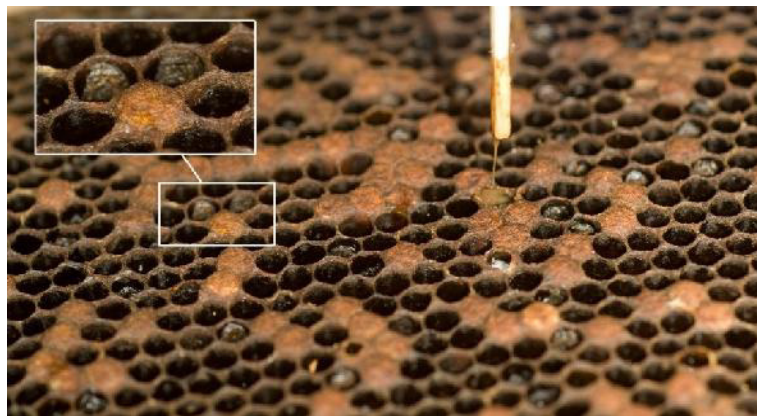
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Treasurer: Therese Kershaw (02) 62369137 Email: [theresekershaw@gmail.com](mailto:theresekershaw@gmail.com)

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

From beehives to medical applications, Steritech is there for you.

**Steritech is a proud member of the NSWAA**



### **Innovation is driven from ideas**

The concept of using irradiation in the beekeeping industry all started with an idea on how to do things a bit differently.

We are constantly trying to develop ways to utilise our processes to help your industry in lots of new ways.

But without your ideas and input, gamma irradiation would not be where it is today.

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



*Please contact us about any inspirational ideas you have*



[www.steritech.com.au](http://www.steritech.com.au)

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Jamie Crighton

National Business Development Manager

Tel: 02 8785 4400

Email: [jcrighton@steritech.com.au](mailto:jcrighton@steritech.com.au)

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#### **STERITECH VIC**

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VIC Sales Executive

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Geoff Lord - Procurement Manager

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e: geoff.lord@berringa.com

Berringa Customer Service

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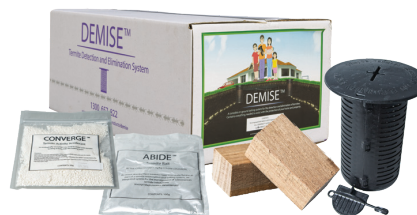


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NSW Apiarists' Association  
21-22 May, Tamworth NSW

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association  
29-30 May, venue TBC

SA Apiarists' Association  
11-12 June, venue TBC

QLD Beekeepers Association  
18-20 June, Warwick QLD

Victorian Apiarists' Association  
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Aust. Queen Bee Breeders Association  
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Honey Packers & Marketers Association  
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National Council of Crop Pollination Association  
TBC

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council  
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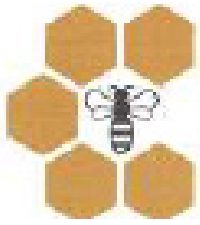
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# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

## NOTE FROM CHAIR, PETER McDONALD

Many events have been happening in the past month.

Drought continues in large areas throughout Australia.

Fires have been occurring and will continue to occur throughout the summer period.

Honey Bee industry people have been banding together in different areas to assist each other in whatever way they can. Be it through contributing financially through programs such as [Hive Aid](#), sharing sites to put bees onto floral resources, sharing plant and equipment to recover from losses or just providing the support required both now and into the future to look after each other's welfare, especially the mental health of those impacted greatest. This support must continue past the immediate events as for some of the impacted people the full depth of loss may not be felt until much later as the forests take their time to recover.

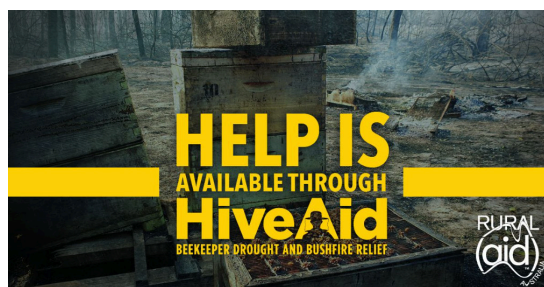
Through all this activity normal operations must continue through all facets of our industry:

- Honey must be produced where possible and marketed and sold widely as Australia produces the best honey in the world.
- Pollination services must still be provided as so much of agriculture now rely on us to continue to provide quality Australia produce.
- Queens must still be produced as we have the healthiest honey bee population in the world.
- Equipment must be continued to be bought and paid for to support our supplier groups.
- Advocacy to governments for programs and services must continue as all our successes to date have been through continued and sustained advocacy.
- Management of programs already in place such as Biosecurity, Research, levy collections etc. must continue to ensure their effective and efficient delivery, and
- Planning for future events must continue.

One such future event is the 4th Australian Bee Congress. After the success of last years congress, AHBIC has decided to have another and it will be held in 2022 in NSW. Further details will be forthcoming. So start getting excited and start planning for an event that will celebrate 200 years of the Honey Bee in Australia.

With all these activities, each and every person involved in the Honey Bee industry, especially those in voluntary leadership positions, are working their hearts out to achieve not just their own personal business goals but also the aspirations for the wider Honey Bee community. I thank you all for your efforts.

A special and very big thank you to the team at Hive and Wellness for their outstanding work in getting the [Hive Aid](#) program in place with us. It is very appreciated.



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South Australian Apirists' Association Newsletter

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For further information please contact:

The Secretary, SAAA

PO Box 326 Mt Compass SA 5290

Ph: 0419 982 102

Email: secretary@saaa.org.au

## THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

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The Amateur Beekeepers' Association Inc..

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