

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"
www.nswaa.com.au

Volume 14 Number 1
January - February 2021

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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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Ray Hull, Neil Bingley, Stephen Targett, Steve Cunial, Robyn Lewis, Brian Woolfe

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Email: wally.56@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Steve Cunial PO Box 771 GRIFFITH NSW 2680 Mob: 0448 627 291

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Brian Woolfe 18 Dumaresq St GLEN INNES NSW 2370 Mob: 0429 032 019 Email: woolfe@exemail.com.au

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Robyn Lewis PO Box 117 Narellan NSW 2567

Mob: 0466 269 811 Email: info@nswaa.com.au Website: www.nswaa.com.au

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Miskell Hampton 0437 913 831
Ray Hull 02 6760 3634
Bryn Jones 02 6887 2638

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Contact President
Col Maloney 02 6663 7051
Glenn McConnell 02 6732 3222
John Smith 02 6926 2227
Estelle Roberts 0423 658 060
Jane Flitter 0413 769 411
Norm Maher 0447 603 245
Lisa Mumford 02 6887 2638

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Chairman: Trevor Weatherhead

Executive Director: Helen Goodall

Ph: 0402 467 780 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au

Mailing address: PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

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AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (AQBBA)

Secretary: Mrs Paula Dewar, 157 Lake Moogerah Road Kalbar QLD 4309 Ph: 07 5463 5633 Email: AQBBA21@gmail.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



Presidents Report

Happy New Year. I hope that everyone has had a good start to the New Year and spent some time with family and friends over the holiday period.

The decision has been made to not have Honeyland at the Royal Easter Show. Honeyland would certainly make a loss with a new location and restricted crowd numbers at the show. NSWAA cannot afford to take a serious loss at this time and the executive made the decision to not have Honeyland in 2021.

The executive are planning to run a face to face AGM and conference this year. Work is well underway for this to occur. Numbers may be limited – depending on the COVID situation at the time. Tickets for the conference will be available after the Feb executive meeting. If the conference is cancelled all ticket monies will be refunded. Registering for the conference will be able to be done on line.

There will be a bee products competition conducted in conjunction with the AGM/Conference. This is a new initiative created by Suellen Cooper. The categories are in this HBN. Please consider entering in one or more of the categories. The more entries, the better it will be to showcase our amazing industry during World Bee Day which coincides with our AGM/Conference. A BIG thank you to Suellen.

Two executive are standing down at this years AGM. Consider standing to help lead our industry into the future.

While most people were enjoying the holiday season some beekeepers were doing the wrong thing and dumping hives on TSR's without a permit and also along travelling stock routes without a permit. **This is stealing.** Other beekeepers had permits for the TSR's and also parts of the stock route.

I believe dumping on public land sites will get worse. The reason for this is that beekeepers with a poor or no business plan are increasing their hive numbers for almond pollination but not increasing their bee site numbers. For an increase in one load of hives at least **SEVEN** extra bee sites are required to support that load most years.

The industry has to take a stance on beekeepers who dump on public land sites. Unfortunately NSWAA cannot do anything about bees dumped on private property next to your bees on public land. To that end NSWAA is beginning conversations with LLS to radically increase fines for the dumping of bees on LLS controlled land. Eventually this will be rolled out to

other public land agencies.

There are already fines available for LLS rangers to administer to beekeepers who dump however fines are so small as to not be a deterrent. What NSWAA will be proposing is as follows:

Bees dumped on LLS land without a permit - \$5,000 fine plus \$8,000 for every week or part thereof that the bees remain on site. Eg if the bees are dumped for 5 days then the total fine to the beekeeper would be \$13,000. If the bees are dumped for 10 days then the fine would total \$21,000.

Obviously there has to be proof such as a ranger seeing the hives etc. **PLUS** – LLS would report the fine to the single desk where a demerit point would be held against the beekeeper for X number of years. This would make it extremely difficult for the beekeeper to get a public land site in any ballot.

NSW beekeepers have access to public land sites through the good grace of government. If a small number of beekeepers keep doing the wrong thing then our industry could have far more restrictions placed on it.

I recently was surveyed on the NSW Government Drought Relief packages for our industry. If beekeepers have any other ideas that would be of financial benefit (cashflow) for beekeepers during droughts please inform the executive. Only 33 beekeepers took advantage of the freight subsidy for feed and water for their bees. This subsidy was not only for the freight to get the sugar syrup, pollen and pollen substitutes to your home base but also for the delivery of these products from your home base to the bees. There was a phone number to call to get help with filling out the paperwork. If I can fill out the paperwork then it was not too onerous. 33 is a disappointing number.

An update on the Bushfire Industry Recovery grant monies. University of Sydney have received the funding deed and will soon sign off on it. I am working closely with University of Sydney to ensure the projects will proceed. I am confident that projects will be able to commence sometime in autumn 2021.

A friendly reminder that membership renewals are due 1 Mar 2021. Renewals can be done on line from our website at nswaa.com.au.

Stephen Targett
President



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AHBIC Diseases & Quarantine Committee State Conference Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC)	Sponsorships & Trade Show	AHBIC Resources Committee State Resources	Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) State Advisory Group (SAG)	Honeyland	AHBIC Education Committee

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NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 89 417 216 326

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

To provide a means whereby the apiarists of this state may be represented through a common organisation for the welfare of the Industry.

To provide relevant information on the production of apiary products and services produced in NSW and to ensure an adequate return to the apiarist, for their labour and capital in the Industry.

The Association is committed to increasing the demand for apiary products, disseminating information to Members, securing business concessions for members and protecting the natural resources valuable to bees.

To co-operate with the relevant government agencies in instructional and experimental work connected with the Industry.

To assist Members in their apicultural rights, secure effective legislation and administration in affairs affecting the Industry.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership of the Association provides beekeepers with a voice in industry affairs, either through the members' branch or through the Annual State Conference.

The Association's publication, *Australia's Honeybee News*, helps keep members abreast of political, technical and economic developments that affect their livelihood. It is published six times a year and is free to members.

Most importantly, membership of the Association directly supports the state's only organisation of professional beekeepers ... the only organisation that can help you survive.

The Association fights for better prices, better access to honey and pollen producing flora, better protection from agricultural chemicals and better research and development.

Voting in ballots is proportional to operational size and ranges from 1 to 12 votes depending on the number of hives owned.

BRANCH STRUCTURE

Anybody of not less than ten members may apply to the Executive Council for registration as a branch of the Association.

Branches run their own programs and conduct their own business. They also have the right to be represented at meetings of the Association's Executive Council.

Most members of the Association are also members of their local branch. Presently there are branches in the Central Tablelands, Hunter Valley, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Riverina, Southern Tablelands, Sydney Metropolitan, Tamworth and Western Plains.

THE VOICE OF THE BEEKEEPER

President

Stephen Targett
PO Box 325, Narrandera NSW 2700
P: 0428 649 321 E: wally.56@hotmail.com

State Secretary/Treasurer

LRA Consulting Australia
Robyn Lewis
P: 0466 269 811

Contact Us

NSW Apiarists' Association Inc
PO Box 117, Narellan, NSW 2567
E: info@nswaa.com.au



NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 89 417 216 326

2021-2022 Membership Renewal Tax Invoice

Membership Name

Postal Address:

.....

Email

Contact (Mobile): (Home).....

Branch Membership Number #

The Association's current financial year ends on 28 February 2021 and your membership subscription is now due for renewal. Please complete this membership form and return it along with your payment to ensure your membership remains current.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	201 - 400 hives	4 votes	\$300
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Tracing American Foulbrood Infections

There have been some recent developments in tracing human disease outbreaks that may have use in the control of American foulbrood (AFB).

In 2020 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was detected in Australia and by December 2020, 28,000 people had been infected with the virus. However, by December locally transmitted infections had almost been eliminated. One important reason for this success in controlling the disease was the ability to determine from where infected individuals acquired the virus. In Victoria, it was determined that the second wave of infections that resulted in the Victorian lock down was caused by the strain of the virus associated with staff working in hotel quarantine. By reviewing hotel quarantine procedures, the source of these new infections was eliminated, and Victoria was able to halt continuing spread of infection.

The technique used to trace these COVID-19 infections is called genomic sequencing. This involves analysing the DNA sequences, i.e. the bases that make up a DNA molecule, of the organism of interest. As well as its use in tracing COVID-19, genomic sequencing has also been used in tracing the source of food poisoning and hospital disease outbreaks. Genomic sequencing would also have application in tracing AFB sources. Outbreaks of AFB occur frequently but infection sources are often difficult to determine, and many cases go undiagnosed. Comparison of genomic sequencing data from AFB outbreaks would provide information to link positive detections and identify strain clusters. For example, a beekeeper who had AFB diagnosed in his/her hive which was found to

be in bee flight distance from a neglected apiary or an apiary with an established AFB infection may be able to determine whether the strain in the infected hives is related to those in a neglected apiary or a nearby apiary with an established infection.

A project involving AFB genomic sequencing has recently commenced at the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Menangle. EMAI holds an extensive range of *Paenibacillus* larvae (the cause of AFB) isolates. These include isolates from most Australian states and the more recently detected Northern Territory isolates. EMAI is the diagnostic centre for bee disease diagnostics in NSW, including AFB diagnostics.

The project has been granted funding from the Australian centre for genomic epidemiological microbiology (Ausgem), a research centre with funding from University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and NSW Department of Primary Industries. With initial Ausgem funding, this project aims to optimise methodologies and generate several completed genomes and sequence isolates from approximately 300 AFB and 100 European foulbrood infections, sourced primarily from samples submitted to EMAI in 2018-2020.

Further funding is being sought to bolster this work and construct an online database to identify linked AFB detections and aid AFB outbreak tracing.

Daniel Bogema
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Vale Bob McDonald OAM



Bob McDonald OAM, 1931-2020

Recently, after a short illness, Bob McDonald passed away peacefully in Castlemaine, surrounded by his large family. We are all very saddened by Bob's death but feel immensely comforted that he lived a good life, helped a lot of people and worked hard to advance the beekeeping industry.

We feel grateful to have been part of his life and will continue to try and live up to his example of living a full life with service to others.

Bob leaves behind a great legacy in beekeeping, having fallen in love with bees at the age of 16 and created a successful, commercial beekeeping business. He dedicated himself to this craft for 72 years, and by extension to the industry and people who shared his passion.

While all this work in beekeeping was happening, Bob was also:

- A dedicated husband of 60 years to Eileen.
- A father to six children.
- A grandfather to 19 grandchildren.
- A great grandfather to four great grandchildren.
- A Scout master for more than 21 years.

Family was always important to Bob, including his four siblings and a single mother who raised them through the difficult Depression years and subsequently as a war widow.

There have been a number of things written about Bob and his service to beekeeping, most recently in a piece in the December 2020 Australian Bee Journal. In retrospect, this was a timely interview and we thank both the Victorian Apiarists Association and John Kennedy for organising this.

Bob is a great loss to the beekeeping industry. He was not a tall man but his contribution was that of a giant and his dedication to the development of our industry was outstanding. He fought on behalf of the rank-and-file beekeeper with whom he so closely identified. He reached out to local beekeeping groups, teaching the basics of beekeeping, through to regional and state representation and on to national roles.

Bob had a long-term belief in the strength of the

beekeeping industry and what can be achieved collectively. He observed the influence other industries had been able to exert economically and politically and leaves a lasting legacy in building that influence within Australian beekeeping. Some of these achievements include:

- 38+ years of national beekeeping representation in groups and subcommittees of the Australian Honey Board, the Federal Council of Apiarists Associations Australia, National Council of Crop Pollinators and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council. Bob's service to the national industry only ended in 2004 during a board upheaval culminating in his departure as an executive. While this event was a lasting disappointment for Bob, the service that he and Eileen performed in bringing Apimondia to Australia was ultimately recognised 10 years later. Bob remained an interested observer in industry developments and freely offered his insights to anyone who asked.
- He was an integral part of the team that developed AHBIC after the AHB was shut down by government.
- He was central to winning the right to host the international Apimondia for Australia in 2007.
- The inaugural President of the Crop Pollination Association, a group created to represent, educate and develop beekeepers and others in the eastern states of Australia on the provision of professional crop pollination services. Bob was also part of the team to form the NCPA which provided the national representation of pollinators.
- A past President of the Victorian Apiarists Association and on the Executive for many years as well as numerous subcommittees.
- For many years in conjunction with others from the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Victorian Apiarists Association he was central to efforts to improve the access to the public land resource base throughout Victoria. Thanks to them all and the Victorian government we now have one of the best systems for access to floral resources for beekeeping in Australia.
- In conjunction with the Victorian Agriculture department Apiary Team of the time he was critical

in establishing the first sentinel hives in Victoria for what was to eventually become part of our first point of defence against varroa, the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program.

- He was an integral part of the team that developed the Central Victorian Apiarists Association in the mid-1960s, a regional group that gave voice to many beekeepers throughout central and western Victoria.
- A critical part of the Bendigo Branch of the VAA that has been organising and running one of the longest running annual beekeeping field days in Australia, for 40+ years.
- With Eileen, constantly opening their house to fellow beekeepers, who sat at our kitchen table to talk about bees, beekeeping and the industry. Bob always remembered the difficulties he had in learning the craft of beekeeping and was determined to make it easier for those who followed him.
- His monthly column, Seasonal Notes, in the Australian Bee Journal was testament to his philosophy that all beekeepers should be equipped with tips and knowledge to find honey.

- He provided encouragement and support to the many beekeepers who started with him as employees but then ventured out on their own as full-time commercial beekeepers.
- Recipient of the Goodacre Award for meritorious service to the Honey Bee industry.
- Recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for service to the Honey Bee industry.
- Joint recipient with Eileen of the AHBIC Award of Excellence for winning the Apimondia Congress for Australia.

Bob will be greatly missed and always remain in our hearts. Professionally, throughout the whole beekeeping community in Australia, we should also remember his contribution towards shaping the future of our industry.

His legacy is not only the actual changes that he was part of, but his example in how much can be achieved by these bodies and through the strength of collective action and unity.

He was a very good man.

Thanks Bob.

By Peter McDonald, on behalf of the McDonald family.



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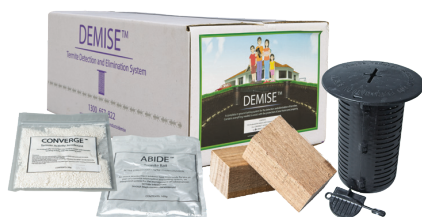
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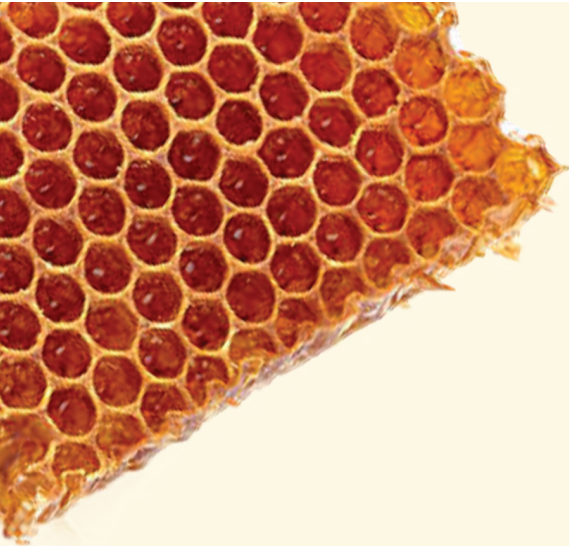
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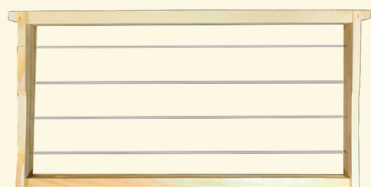
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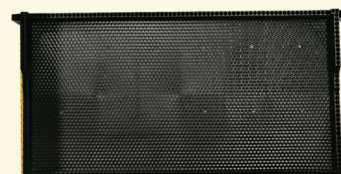
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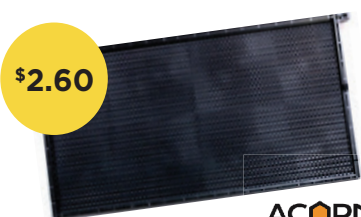
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Plan Bee Update



Website: agrifutures.com.au/partnerships/rural-rd-for-profit-program/plan-bee/

Beekeeper hired: Slavi Nenov

“Plan Bee” is shorthand for the National Honey Bee Genetic Improvement Program managed by NSW DPI, University of Sydney, University of New England, Better Bees WA (BBWA) and AgriFutures. This summer we welcomed a new staff member to the Beekeeping Manager role. Stanislav “Slavi” Nenov joined NSW Department of Primary Industries on 30 November 2020 all the way from Tasmania. His first two days began as a student in Total College’s “Artificial Insemination of Queen Bees” Course. Slavi brings a wealth of commercial beekeeping knowledge and experience, including 14 years working in the Tasmanian industry with TAS Honey Company, R Stephens Pty Ltd at Mole Creek and Daybreak Apiaries as well as from his home country Bulgaria where he manages hives additionally for *Varroa* mite and harsh winter conditions. Slavi’s queen breeding experience includes a season with NZ’s lead queen breeder David Yanke as well as breeding his own queens. Now based at Total, NSW, Slavi manages the day to day operations for the 200 research production hives and we’ll work closely to manage the entire population (250 hives plus nucs) for data collection and production, and work in with commercial beekeeper collaborators. Please make him feel welcome when you meet him at the next field day, conference, videoconference or beyond the black stump.



CAPTION: Plan Bee Beekeeper Slavi Nenov.

Beekeeper support thank yous

We would like to sincerely thank NSW beekeepers John Lockwood, Mark Caguioa, Ray Hull, Stephen Targett, Frank Malfroy, Jenny Douglas and Mal Porter for their donation of labour, bees, and queens to Plan Bee in order to establish our reference population. A huge thank you also to Tiff Bates, John Davies and other Better Bees WA members, Corinne Jordan, the Horner family, the Stephens family, Casey Cooper, and Frank Malfroy and Jenny Douglas for donating queens to start up the seed stock for the program. That gives us a good spread of queens to date from NSW, QLD, TAS, and WA. I’m currently expecting a few queens to come in from SA and VIC to propagate and test within our reference population. Please give me a buzz (M: 0437 731 273) if you’ve got some unique breeding stock that you think should be included. All queens will be tested under as similar management and field conditions as is possible.



CAPTION: BBWA #6 inseminated daughter queen shortly after she started laying.

Recording production and health traits

Currently BBWA members are trialling a data recording app Matt Welch has developed in Memento Database with input from BBWA members and the Plan Bee Team. BBWA members are using tablets for entry of hive inspections in the field. More to come on this as they trial it through the WA 2020/21 season and work out any kinks. NSW DPI is currently using hard copy, paper data sheets. The current data sheet Slavi and I developed to continually health and quality check donated hives is as follows and may be useful in your own operation. If you’d like an editable version please call or email me and I can get it to you.

[illegible]

Real time updates

More updates to come on our Standardised Trait Selection Manual, beekeeper and queen breeder survey results, breeding program review, honey bee fertility trait review, and trials of pollination-related field assessments

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that Dr. Nadine Chapman (University of Sydney) and I have been working on with participating beekeepers of all scales. Thanks to you all for your continued feedback and engagement as your perspective and experience is indispensable. If you'd like to get updates quicker than hard copy can allow, please follow us on any of the following social media options. See you there!

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<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member			
Mailing Address:			
Phone/Mobile:		Email:	
A - FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - Each registration includes all conference sessions on Thursday, 20 th & Friday, 21 st May 2021, access to the Trade Show and one (1) ticket to the Wine & Cheese night, morning tea and lunch both days			
Member (includes members of other Apiarist Associations)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
Partner of a Member Insert partner name		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$170
Non-Member.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$350*
EARLY BIRD RATES - if paid by 16th April 2021			
Member ((includes members of other Apiarist Associations)		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125
Partner of a member (insert partner name).....		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 85
Non-Member.....		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$175*
* Non-members tick here <input type="checkbox"/> if you do not wish to automatically become a base level member of the NSW Apiarists' Association			
B - BUSINESS WORKSHOP – FREE			
Wednesday, 19th May 2021 – 1:00 – 4:00PM – Sponsored by NSWAA			
• Business Workshop -.			
C - ADDITIONAL TICKETS - Please purchase one day tickets, dinner tickets and any additional wine & cheese night tickets here			
One Day Member (includes members of other Apiarist Associations)		<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 or <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2	\$150
One Day Partner of a Member (Insert partner name).....		<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 or <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2	\$100
One Day Non-Member.....		<input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 or <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2	\$180
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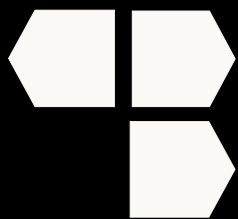
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Tocal Ag College, Tocal Rd Paterson NSW 2320
Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Minimising the possibility of bees robbing your honey

A recent post on social media showed a blurry video of bees actively trying to rob a stack of un-netted boxes on a parked bee truck. In light of this, let's look at Section 7 in the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code), which all beekeepers within the state of NSW should now be following.

7. Beekeepers must not allow hives, or appliances to become exposed or neglected

Allowing hives or appliances to become exposed or neglected is an offence in all states and territories. Robbing of exposed or neglected hives is a major pathway for the spread of pests and disease and this Section is included in the Code to reinforce the importance of the beekeepers biosecurity obligation and the importance of properly caring for hives. The appropriate care of hives also means ensuring bees have ready access to suitable water so this requirement is also included.

REQUIREMENT

- 7.1 A **beekeeper** must not allow a used **hive**, part of a used **hive** (including frames, combs, honey or beeswax) or an **appliance** containing honey to be exposed in a manner or under conditions likely to attract robber bees; including during transportation.
- 7.2 A **beekeeper** must not do any of the following:
- Abandon a **hive** previously kept by the **beekeeper**, or
 - neglect the management or care of a **hive** kept by the **beekeeper** to the extent that the **hive** is likely to become infected with disease or attract robber bees, or
 - fail to destroy or properly dispose of any unwanted bees or part of a **hive** (including frames, combs, honey or beeswax).
- 7.3 A **beekeeper** must ensure bees under his or her care have access to water suitable to sustain the bees.

Source: Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

When it comes to limiting the incidence of American foulbrood (AFB), every opportunity to prevent bees getting access to honey should be taken, including the use of nets. Beeproofing means that something is covered in such a way that bees cannot access the honey and other hive products in (or on) it, so if you have a stack of boxes which have honey dripping out of them or coating their outside surfaces, then you should be using a net or other secure covering to keep the bees away.

It is NOT OK to do the following:

- leave exposed/unprotected boxes or equipment on a truck/trailer/around your apiary, premises or anywhere else where they may be robbed by nearby bees (yours or others).
- leave boxes of honey exposed whilst or after removing from hives so that they become robbed
- having an extraction or storage facility that is not bee-proof and allows bees to enter/exit and rob available honey
- discard old/used equipment where it may get robbed
- abandon hives or visit them so rarely that they are liable to fall over, have lids blown off or become weak/diseased/die-out and be robbed
- leave diseased hives (especially those infected

with AFB) in the field to ultimately be robbed out.

Last year I met two commercial beekeepers whom experienced significant AFB outbreaks in one load of their bees, with the larger one having around 80 hives showing infection (and of the "clean ones" remaining from that load another 20% have shown AFB in the 7 months since). For a significant outbreak to emerge so quickly from a previously clean load running on a good barrier system, this had to have been a case of bees robbing out a significant amount of AFB infected honey. By this we may be talking pallets of unprotected stickies or exposed honey that was within flying distance, possibly on the back of a truck parked up nearby for a period of hours or at a nearby beekeeping premise or apiary, or the robbing of multiple weak hives with AFB, or equipment dumped at a rubbish tip etc. The other option is that the infection was intentionally established by another beekeeper placing infected equipment or honey nearby, which would be illegal



None of us want our bees to be finding an unprotected mess like this!



Not the best place to store old gear, even if there is no honey left in it.

Whatever the case may be, many beekeepers downplay the threat of robbing, but it is routinely linked to AFB outbreaks. Following the Code ensures that the risk of robbing is minimised.

I regularly get contacted by beekeepers who are concerned by the activities of other beekeepers located nearby. Apart from the obvious presence of dead outs, another big issue is their neighbouring beekeeper clearing bees from boxes of removed honey by “drifting”. I understand that many beekeepers regularly use this method to remove bees, either by leaving the box on the lid of the hive (often for many hours or even sometimes overnight) or in the case of demaree doubles leaving one (or both) of the honey boxes on the ground in front of hives and letting the bees walk or fly out.

This method is often considered to be quite risky for the following reasons;

- boxes can/are often left fully exposed for long periods of time
- they offer very easy access to robbing bees
- exposed to dust, leaves and other biological contaminants such as ants, bird poop and the elements (causing food quality issues)
- easy access to animals/livestock which may either try to lick or consume it or knock it over/off the hive.

It is clear that there is often a potentially very high risk when undertaking drifting, especially so when the flow has turned off or is on a resource such as Stringybark or Spotted gum (or even clover, burr or other ground flora) where bees are often also prone to robbing during the flowering period.

Many beekeepers have blamed another nearby operator drifting their honey (or exposing stickies) as the source of their AFB outbreaks. If you are located near another apiary (especially within 3-4 km, which is only a few minutes flying time for a bee), it is always best that you never drift boxes of honey or leave anything exposed as regardless of whether you consider yourself a biosecurity risk or not, you will still get blamed by the other operator for any AFB issues they experience afterwards!

The absolute only time that you could ever safely use drifting to remove bees is during a very strong and reliable honey flow, where there is absolutely no robbing. Realistically this opportunity occurs only for a few short times during a season, so the rest of the time when drifting is being used it is definitely the incorrect method and it goes 100% against the Code.

It is also a breach of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) which states “A person must ensure that any hive or other apiary equipment owned or operated by the person is protected so that a bee from another hive cannot take any honey that is in or on that hive or apiary equipment”.

So as far as the Code is concerned even if you were 100% clean you still should not leave your gear exposed, but instead start looking at alternative methods that minimise robbing. By far the best method is using escape boards and then blowing stragglers out a day or two (or more) later and quickly loading it up. Another method that may work on some occasions when you aim to remove the top box of honey immediately is to “blow the bees down”. With this technique, you take off six to eight lids/mats, blow down into each box, return to the first one and blow all the boxes again, return again to the first one and pull the honey box off. If only a few bees are left then put the box straight onto the honey pallet, otherwise it may need to be blown again (when on its end). It goes without saying that any scraped off honey or burr comb goes straight into a bucket/tub (with lid) and can be turned into money when it gets back to the shed, so don’t leave this valuable resource lying around the apiary for bees to rob.



A quick blow after most of the bees went under the escape and these boxes were onto a pallet and getting wrapped up, which minimises the opportunity for robbing.

I know that these methods may seem to require “more work” and be considered “more expensive” to perform, but from a biosecurity perspective they are also much better methods than leaving exposed honey as they greatly reduce the opportunity for robbing to occur.

To slow the spread of AFB every attempt should be made to prevent bees accessing unprotected honey, and for many beekeepers this may mean that they have to make changes to their operation to align with the requirements.



The National Bee Biosecurity Program is funded by the honey bee industry through a component of the agricultural honey levy, with state governments contributing in-kind resources. Plant Health Australia manage the program on behalf of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.



NSW Apiarists' Association Inc.

Honey & Apiary Related Products Competition and Show - 2021

Show Co-ordinator - Suellen Cooper PO Box 334 INVERELL NSW 2360
Email: honeyshow.nswaa@gmail.com ph: 0423 671 263



website: <https://honeyshownswaa.wixsite.com/nswaa>
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HONEY CATEGORIES

Class #	Class Description	Class #	Class Description
1	Liquid Honey—Yellow Box	9	Natural Granulated Honey—Fine Grain
2	Liquid Honey—Iron Bark	10	Natural Granulated Honey—Coarse Grain
3	Liquid Honey—Other Eucalypt —Light	11	Creamed Honey
4	Liquid Honey—Other Eucalypt —Medium	12	Chunk Comb in Honey (piece of honeycomb - min 4x11cm to be of same floral source as the surrounding liquid honey)
5	Liquid Honey—Other Eucalypt —Dark	13	Collection of Honey—3 jars comprising 1 each of different variety/colour/granulated honey—each jar labelled as to variety/style
6	Liquid Honey—Non-Eucalypt —Light		
7	Liquid Honey—Non-Eucalypt —Medium		
8	Liquid Honey—Non-Eucalypt —Dark		



BEESWAX

- 14 One Block Natural Beeswax Yellow min 1kg
- 15 One Block Natural Beeswax White min 1kg
- 16 Six (6) Natural Beeswax moulds

FRAME OF HONEY

- 21 One (1) Frame Capped Honey—Full Depth
- 22 One (1) Frame Capped Honey—Shallow Depth

BEESWAX CANDLES

- 17 Matching Pair of Rolled Beeswax Candles
- 18 Matching Pair of Dipped Beeswax Candles
- 19 Matching Pair of Moulded Beeswax Candles

POLLEN

- 20 Natural Pollen (min 100mL)

APIARY COLLECTION

- 23 Collection of Apiary Products—Visually appealing display of apiary products & educational material
- Minimum 5 Apiary products—produced by the Exhibitor to be displayed. (Suggested examples—liquid honey, granulated/ creamed honey, frame & chunk honey, pollen, propolis etc)
May also include educational material suitable for public/community awareness. Other items forming part of display need not be produced by the exhibitor but must not to show commercial or maker labels nor advertising and must be an Australian product related to Apiary products.
Maximum space 1mt x 1 mt square.



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PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

Class #	Class Description	Class #	Class Description
24 a	Bees in Action - Colour (Depicting Bees/Beekeepers in action)	26	Liquid Gold - Colour (Honey—may be in hive/processing/consuming)
24 b	Bees in Action - Black & White (Depicting Bees/Beekeepers in action)	27	Natural Beauty - Colour (Bees in the Landscape)
25 a	Bees Vital for our Food - Colour (Depicting Bees in Food Crop Pollination)	28	Strength in Numbers - Colour (Swarms/colony)
25 b	Bees Vital for our Food - Black & White (Depicting Bees in Food Crop Pollination)	29	Solitary in Nature - Colour (Native Solitary Bees or Single Bee in work)

COOKING CATEGORIES

- 30 Feature Cake—Apimondia Australia 2007
Feature Recipe - refer Special Conditions
- 31 Cake – whole. To include at least one feature ingredient
specified in special conditions
- 32 Slice – (cut & presented as min 3 portions)
To include at least one feature ingredient specified in
special conditions
- 33 Tart— whole. To include at least one feature ingredient
specified in special conditions
- 34 Biscuit—min 6 biscuits of same batch & ingredients.
To include at least one feature ingredient specified in
special conditions
- 35 High Tea—selection of min 5 different portions suitable
for high tea—each portion to use a different feature
ingredient from the pollination reliant ingredient list in
special conditions.
Each portion to have a label with all ingredients.





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GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ENTRY – ALL ENTRIES

- 1 Entries in all classes must be the bona fides product/work/creation solely of the registered Exhibitor/s
- 2 Entries in all classes must not show any exhibitor/creator/maker/producer identification
- 3 Entries are limited to maximum 3 per exhibitor in any one class, subsequent entry in a class must be a different floral source (honey), extraction batch (wax), design (candle), image (photography), ingredients (cooking)
- 4 Entries on attached entry form fully completed and received by Show Co-ordinator either email or post accepted up to **4PM TUESDAY 20.04.2021 – invoice & payment details/reference details will be EMAILED to the exhibitor no later than 5pm WEDNESDAY 21.04.2021 and proof of payment to be provided to NSWAA Secretary by 4pm Tuesday 27.04.2021 for entries to be confirmed as accepted**
- 5 Entry Fee – Classes 1-23 & 24 to 29 **\$8.00** per exhibit. Classes 30-35 **\$5.00** per exhibit.
- 6 Cancellations received up to 4pm Tuesday 27.04.21 eligible for refund, cancellations after this time no refund issued.
- 7 Exhibit labels will be posted to each confirmed/accepted exhibitor from 27.04.2021 to have affixed to their exhibit items prior to presenting exhibits at the Show
- 8 Exhibits will be accepted in person at the West Leagues Club, Tamworth from 10am – 6pm Monday 17.05.2021 and 8am – 10am Tuesday 18.05.2021. Courier deliveries of exhibits only accepted at the venue during these times.
- 9 Exhibits may be collected from 4pm – 6pm Thursday 20.05.21 and 9am to 4pm Friday 21.05.21
- 10 Exhibits not collected by 4pm Friday 21.05.2021 will be donated to a local charity. Requests for return of exhibits by courier or post to be arranged & prepaid by the Exhibitor & notified to Show Co-ordinator with entry.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

HONEY, HONEYCOMB, BEESWAX, APIARY PRODUCTS COLLECTION,

1. All classes are limited to maximum 3 per exhibitor in any one class. Multiple entries in the same class must be of a different floral source (honey), extraction batch (wax), design (wax moulds & candles).
2. Entries into Classes 1 to 16, 20 to 23. Honey, Honey Comb, Beeswax, Pollen & Apiary Collection, must be that solely of the Exhibitor/s who is a validly registered beekeeper with their State or Territory of residence or an immediate household family member. (Currency and Validity of Registration will be verified with the relevant state authority)
3. Entries in Classes 1 to 13 - liquid honey, candy honey, creamed honey are to be presented in clear glass round straight-walled jars of 375 ml (500gm) filled to the fill line, with white lids (may be metal or plastic).
4. Entries in Class 13 – collection of liquid honeys, & Class 23 Apiary Products Collection – items to be clearly & legibly labelled as to floral resource (Class 13 & 23) and product name (Class 23). No Exhibitor/creator/producer identification to be shown.
5. Entries in Classes 14-15 Beeswax to be of minimum 1kg to max 3kg weight in a single block of wax in round, square or rectangle shape with plain surfaces. Textured, shaped, embossed surfaces not eligible.
6. Entries in Class 16 – Beeswax Moulds – each item in the exhibit to be poured from same wax batch. Moulds may be identical or form a decorative/formative grouping. Must be 6 individual pieces. Subsequent entries by an exhibitor in this class must be of different extraction batches and be of different design.
7. Entries in Class 20 – Pollen must be from natural pollen collected from foraging bees from the Exhibitors own apiary. Shown in minimum 100mL- filled to fill line - glass jar with white lid. Commercial/purchased pollen is not eligible for entry.
8. Entries in Classes 21 & 22 Frame Honey to be shown in fully enclosed wooden display case with clear glass or perspex viewing panels.
9. Entries in Apiary Products Collection Display to be displayed within a maximum area of 90cm x 90cm square. A separate bare table will be made available for each entry in this class for mounting as a stand-alone display (display should consider viewing from all sides). A minimum of 5 different types of apiary products – (ie liquid honey, granulated honey, pollen, beeswax, propolis, honey frames, etc) clearly labelled with product & floral type are to be displayed. Educational content will also be taken into consideration in judging. All table dressing and props etc are the responsibility of the Exhibitor to supply. Set up for entries in this display must be done by the Exhibitor (extra helpers for setup to be organised by the Exhibitor) in person and set-up completed no later than 10am Tuesday 18th May 2021. **Couriered entries NOT ACCEPTED** for this class

BEESWAX CANDLES

1. Entries into Classes 17 to 19 Beeswax Candles, must be the creation solely of the Exhibitor using only Australian produced pure Beeswax. The raw product Beeswax need not have been the produced by the Exhibitor.
2. Entries in Class 17 to 19 Beeswax Candles to be presented as a pair in an upright position suitable for display in either candle holders or candle tray/plate etc.
3. Entries limited to maximum 3 per exhibitor in any one class. Subsequent entries in the same class must be of a different design.

PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Entries into Classes 24 to 29. Photography must be the work solely of the Exhibitor
2. Exhibitor may enter any/all classes (maximum 3 entries per class). An image is eligible for entry to only one class.
3. The exhibitor, by entering this section shall be taken to have provided permission to use by NSWAA and Honeybee News for publication & promotion with the exhibitors credits acknowledged.
4. Entries in all Photography classes shall be presented on black or white card with a border of min 1cm to max 3cm. Image size to be of minimum 5 x 7 (12.7 x 17.8 cm) to maximum 10 x 12 (25.4 x 30.5 cm).
5. All images entered in Photography section must be of Australian origin depicting beekeeping and/or bee pollination practices in Australia and/or Australian Native Bees.
6. Winning images will be used for the production of 2021 Wall calendar, available for purchase through NSWAA Show Co-ordinator before 30th September 2021 for delivery by approx end November 2021. Exhibitors of winning images will receive a complimentary copy of the published calendar.
7. Images to be made available to NSWAA Show Co-ordinator in digital high resolution format suitable for high quality print publications by 30th June 2021.

COOKING

1. Entries into Classes 30 to 35 Cooking must be the creation solely of the Exhibitor with Feature ingredients (honey or pollination reliant crop) being from only Australian product.
2. Entries limited to maximum 3 per exhibitor in any one class. Subsequent entries in the same class must be of a different feature ingredient and composition.
3. Feature ingredients are pure Australian honey; and honeybee pollination reliant products (90% or greater as per RIRDC Pub No 10-081 August 2010) - being any of:
Almond, Apple, Avocado, Blueberry, Cherries, Cucumber, Macadamia, Mango, Pear, Pumpkin, Rockmelon
4. Feature Class – Apimondia Australia 2007 Honey Cake – see recipe below
5. Entries in Class 30 to 35 Cooking exhibits to be presented on white paper or plastic plate of suitable size for the exhibit, covered with cling film. Label to be affixed to each entry with list of ALL ingredients in the exhibit in order of volume and identifying the Australian produced Feature Ingredient & that it is fresh, frozen, dried, canned etc.

FEATURE RECIPE

HONEY CAKE – AS EXHIBITED AT APIMONDIA AUSTRALIA 2007

125 g butter	85g Pure Australian Honey
1 teaspoon vanilla essence	2 eggs
250 g self raising flour	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground mixed spice	180 mL beer

Beat butter and honey until light and creamy, add the vanilla and eggs. Beat until well mixed.

Sift flour and spices together, and fold them into the creamed butter and honey mixture, alternately with the beer.

In a lined & greased 20cm tin, bake for 30 minutes at 180 degrees C

**** The cake is partially cooked at this point. Do not cool and do not remove from tin.

Topping: 60 g butter, 125 g Pure Australian Honey, 90 g flaked Almonds, 25g shredded coconut.

Melt butter and honey, fold in almonds and coconut.

Spread quickly on top of partially cooked cake and return to oven for further 15 minutes

When cake is cooked, allow to cool before removing from tin.

This cake is to be presented without further icing or decoration.

Class 30 - Judging Points

Appearance 25	Texture 25	Taste 30	Presentation 20
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CLASSES 31 – 35 POLLINATION RELIANT FEATURE INGREDIENTS - Judging Points

Appearance 25	Texture 20	Taste 25	Suitability of Feature Ingredient to the exhibit 15	Creativity 15
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Catch the Buzz

Scientists find clues to queen bee failure

University of British Columbia

Scientists find clues to queen bee failure
University of British Columbia



Scientists at UBC are unravelling the mysteries behind a persistent problem in commercial beekeeping that is one of the leading causes of colony mortality — queen bee failure.

This occurs when the queen fails to produce enough fertilized eggs to maintain the hive, and is regularly cited by the Canadian Association of Professional Apiarists as one of the top causes of colony mortality.

In recent research outlined in BMC Genomics, University of British Columbia and North Carolina State University researchers identified specific proteins that are activated in queen bees under different stressful conditions: extreme heat, extreme cold, and pesticide exposure — conditions that can affect the viability of the sperm stored in the honey bee queen's body. If the queen does not have enough live sperm to produce enough fertilized eggs to maintain its population of worker bees, the colony will eventually die out.

Scientists then measured the levels of these markers in a collection of queens in B.C. that had failed in the field, and found that they had higher levels of heat-shock and pesticide protein markers compared to healthy queens. The results pave the way for a future diagnostic test to help beekeepers understand, and prevent, queen bee failure in the future.

“Currently, there isn't any method to actually figure out why the queen has failed in a colony, and that's important because there are quite a few different ways that that could happen,” said lead author Alison McAfee, a biochemist at the Michael Smith Labs at UBC and postdoctoral fellow at NC State. “This is a very understudied area.”

Previous research conducted by McAfee and her colleagues determined that queens are safest when kept between 15 and 38 degrees Celsius, and identified five protein markers associated with heat-shock in queens. Now, McAfee has confirmed the two most

identifiable biomarkers for heat-shock, along with two protein markers useful for detecting cold-shock, and two associated with sublethal levels of pesticides. The findings open the door to testing that will provide beekeepers with information needed to ensure the long-term viability of their hives.

“We want to develop a diagnostic test that we can do on a failed queen, which can provide the beekeeper with information on what happened to her in the past that made her fail now,” explained McAfee. “If we can do that reliably, then the beekeeper could do more to try to prevent that from happening in the future.”

Currently, beekeepers simply toss away a failed queen. In the future, said McAfee, “they could ship her to a lab, which would measure the abundance of all these different markers and send a report with information on the likelihood of her being stressed by cause X, Y and Z.”

When it came to failed queens from the field in B.C., the researchers were surprised to find elevated markers associated with heat stress and, to a lesser extent, pesticide exposure.

“We didn't have any reason to believe that these queens were heat shocked,” said McAfee. “A substantial number of them had elevated levels of those particular markers, which could mean that there is a lot more temperature stress going on out there than we would expect. It could also be that those markers also become elevated due to other kinds of stresses that we haven't looked at yet.”

The effect of extreme temperatures on queen bees is a large concern for Canadian beekeepers who import 250,000 queen bees every year, primarily from Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S. Hours spent in the cargo holds of airplanes and warehouses can subject the queens to large fluctuations in temperature during their journey — something McAfee has investigated in past work.

“Every time we put temperature loggers in queen shipments, we have at least some of the shipments coming back is being outside of that Goldilocks zone between 15 and 38 degrees, so I think that happens more frequently than we have been aware of,” she said. “There are no rules for shipping queens, such as including temperature loggers in their shipments. Producers just ship them via whatever courier they choose, and beekeepers are at the mercy of the shipper for handling the package properly.”

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/09/200908113335.htm>

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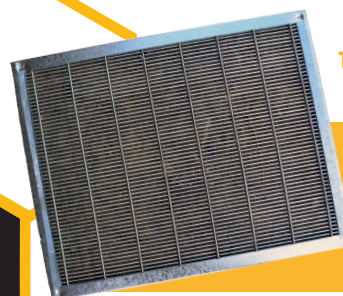
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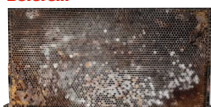
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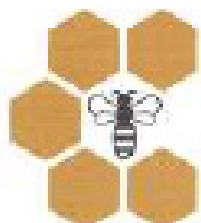
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NEWS FORM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

1. With 2020 drawing to a close may I wish you and yours the compliments of the season. Best summed up in this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Il6BYInDRS4> You may want to skip the ad.
2. What is that word that has suddenly become a part of our vocabulary – unprecedented. Starting with the bushfires in the early part of the year and coupled with the drought many hives were lost and many hives were smoke affected. It is a recognition of the resilience and skill of the beekeepers that, with help in the way of supplementary feeding, the number of hives available for the almond pollination in August was only slightly down on the required number. Then of course we had the Covid-19. This created extra work for many of the State Associations in liaising with their Departments to allow the movement of beekeepers and hives within their State plus interstate. The work that went into the working group that worked on getting hives into almond pollination was an example of all affected State Associations, AHBIC and State Departments working together for the common goal i.e. getting the almonds pollinated. Of course Covid stopped most State conferences so AHBIC was not able to be present to give the update on what we have been doing. To counter this we have held a series of Council meetings online to deal with some issues. The next one is due in early February. Hopefully we will be back at conferences in 2021.
3. Deborah Rule, who has been the Communications Officer for the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) in Townsville, is moving to another position within the State Department. Thanks to Deb for all her hard work over time and we wish her well in her new position. The communications, particularly within the local Townsville community, has been one of the reasons for the success of the NVMEP in Townsville. I will be reporting further on the NVMEP in the January newsletter.
4. AHBIC continues to push for better checking at the port of embarkation of goods coming into

Australia. Our recent florea interception showed that on at least three (3) occasions there was the opportunity to find the nest but it did not happen. Better to find the pest before it is loaded on the ship than hope we find it when it arrives in Australia. We have a meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in the New Year.

5. With fall armyworm being found in Australia and present in Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia and New South Wales beekeepers need to be aware of any spraying that may take place. It will be on certain crops that are susceptible to attack by the fall army worm. Fall armyworm larvae are known to feed on more than 350 plant species, particularly sweet corn, maize, cotton, rice, sorghum, sugarcane and wheat, but also vegetable and fruit crops, causing economic losses overseas

6. Serpentine leaf miner has been found in Australia. See <https://ausveg.com.au/articles/serpentineleafminer-detection-in-nsw-and-qld/> for details.

Again beekeepers need to be aware of possible spraying for this pest, particularly if you are pollinating crops or your hives are in the vicinity of vegetable growing areas

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***It's time to renew
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for details***

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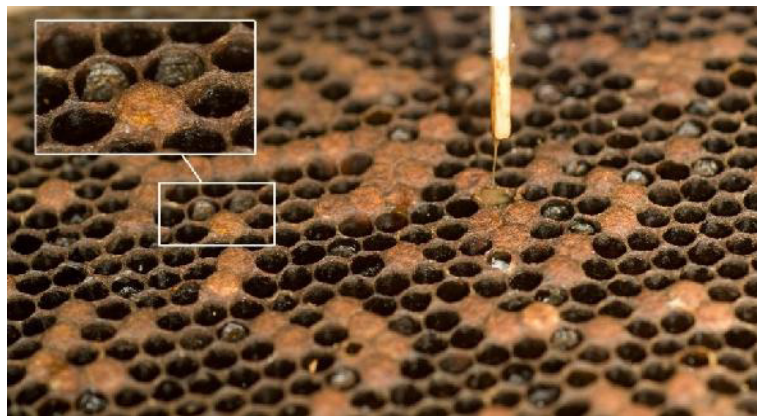
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