

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"
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Volume 14 Number 4
July - August 2021



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HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As this is my first Presidents report, I will take this opportunity to thank the following people.

Firstly, to Neil Bingley who initially encouraged me to nominate for the executive, Neil has been a great leader and mentor. Neil spent many years on the executive and I congratulate him on his life membership. To Stephen Targett who has also been a great leader and has achieved a lot in regards to funding and rebates for beekeepers particularly during the drought and bushfires.

I look forward to working with the current executive, I feel that we have a healthy combination of skills and experience.

By the time you read this the annual almond pollination will be well underway. It's estimated that 277000 hives will be required. Please keep up to date with Covid travel requirements, travel safely and keep the public's safety in mind. Things like netting loads in daylight and fuelling up before loading bees. The wet weather is sure to present its own challenges.

The biggest single issue that we're hearing from members is problems to do with the BPass system. Your Executive, led by Stephen Fuller (Resources Chair) are working on this talking to and organising meetings with the relevant departments. We ask that as you have problems arise that you email the details through to our secretary information regarding your problem, what action you've taken to rectify and the response that you are receiving.

The Branch structure is very important, we are asking Branch secretaries to inform us via email of upcoming Branch meetings as soon as dates are set. It is our goal for each Branch to have an Executive member not from their branch to attend at least one meeting per year. This may be difficult under Covid restrictions but we'll endeavour to accomplish this.

Our next Executive meeting will be in Dubbo on the 23rd of August. We then plan to hold a meeting in Tocal in November. Then in February a meeting is planned for Tamworth, at this meeting each Branch will be invited to have two executive members and one up and coming member attend. This will allow the Branch Representatives to observe and discuss issues of concern.

The Executive is well aware of the importance of Honeyland in promoting Australian Honey to the Public. We have set up a subcommittee Chaired by Ray Hull along with Debbie Porter. They will aim to have Honeyland returned to the Woolworths Dome. We ask that Branches and members start considering the donation of honey for the 2022 event. We are looking for 5 straight line honeys, 1000kg of each.

Spring looks like it will be a busy time, most areas of the state have received good rainfall, large areas of canola are planted, it is also forecast to be wetter than average.

Stay safe
Steve Cunial
President NSWAA

NSWAA Executive Responsibilities

Steve Cunial	Brian Woolfe	Stephen Fuller	Therese Kershaw	Ray Hull	Bianca Giggins
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Jenny Aitchison MP

Member for Maitland

25 June 2021

Mr Steve Cunial
NSW Apiarists' Association
PO Box 117
Narellan NSW 2567

Dear Mr Cunial

NSW Members of Parliament have the opportunity to acknowledge exceptional service to our community in the form of Community Recognition Notices, which are tabled and then recorded in the Hansard of the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament.

On 8 June 2021, in the chamber of the Legislative Assembly of the NSW Parliament, I recognised World Bee Day.

Please find attached a copy of my Community Recognition Notice. You can also find this Notice in the Hansard of NSW Parliament at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/hansard.

Thank you for your positive contribution to our community.

If I can be of any assistance with State matters in the future, please contact my office on 4933 1617 or by email maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Aitchison MP
Member for Maitland
Shadow Minister for Regional Transport & Roads
EO Ref: BH



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT

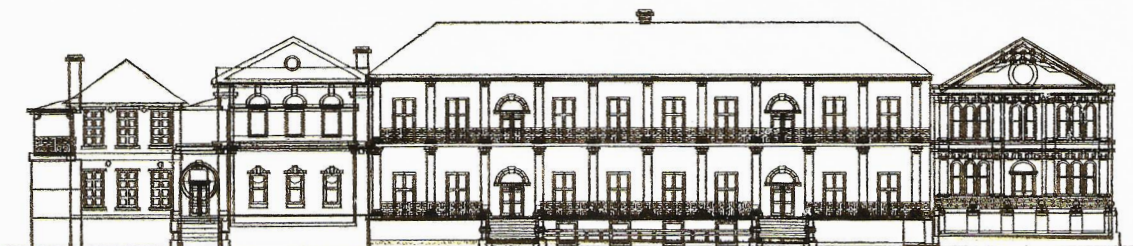
8 June 2021

WORLD BEE DAY

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) World Bee Day was the 20th of May, and it is incumbent on all of us to recognise how crucial the Bee Industry is to agriculture not just in NSW but across the world.

NSW is the largest honey producer in Australia, contributing around \$36 million per year to the state's economy, through the production of honey, bees wax and other products. The pollination of our crops keeps us and our livestock alive, and the value of these services to our economy is estimated to be around \$5 billion per year. With an estimated 9,809 hives reported to have been lost during the 2019/20 bushfire season the number of bees lost is inestimable. In addition, the severe drought beforehand, and floods have also impacted on the industry.

World Bee Day provides our local communities with the opportunity to start a conversation about the importance of bees, and to acknowledge that their survival is vital to our own survival. On a local level I urge everyone to look up and plant some bee-attracting plants in their gardens or if you are on the land, offer a site for an apiarist so we can all support the bees!





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NSWAA Conference Survey

Thank you to all those that completed the survey. While the results are not a true reflection of commercial beekeepers in NSW, it is the only data we have. The results reflect those that attend our annual conference. 42 attendees were surveyed.

Here we provide the average and the median for those surveyed. The median result is achieved by deleting the highest and lowest figure and then averaging the remainder.

Q1. Age – this was in bands.

16.7% were below 40 years of age and 14.3% were over 70 years of age, with 40% of respondents in the 51 – 60 age range.

Using the centre age for each band and 39 for below 40 and 71 for above 70 the average age was 54 years of age.

The median age was also 54 years.

Q2. Hive Numbers – this was in bands.

50% of respondents had below 300 hives while 4.8% had 1500 + hives and 26% had between 301 and 500 hives.

Q3 asked if those that has less than 500 hives were they full time beekeepers? 38% responded YES.

I took only commercial beekeepers into account for Q2. Using the figure of 450 hives for commercials below 500 and using 1750 for those 1500+ and a figure in the middle of the band for all others the average hive number was 755 hives.

The median number was 720 hives.

Q4. Excluding yourself how many people do you employ?

55% employed no one. 19% employed full time personnel and 24% used part time labour. Unfortunately the survey did not collect the number of people employed in either category. These figures were distorted by the non commercials completing the survey.

Q5. In an average year, what % of your income comes from pollination?

24 of the respondents either did not do pollination or did not get paid for pollination. For the other 18 respondents figures ranged from 100% down to 5%. The average for those that did pollination was 31% of their income comes from pollination.

The median was 28% of income comes from pollination.

Q6. How many crops do you provide pollination for?

21 replied zero. Other answers ranged from one thru to six crops. Some interesting results were 100% pollination income but zero crops pollinated. 70% and 80% of pollination income both provided pollination services for three crops. Apart from the 100%, the others

may do blueberry pollination which is over 8 months of pollination for the year for one crop.

The average number of crops pollinated was 2.1.

The median was two crops were pollinated.

Q7. In an average year, what is your average honey yield per hive?

This ranged from 10kg to 400 kg per hive. Given that 38% of respondents that had less than 500 hives were not commercial I removed all the answers below 50kg which corresponded to 38% of respondents which correlated with the non-commercials. Of those that averaged less than 50 Kg per hive a few pollinated one crop.

Several respondents pollinated three crops and averaged between 80 & 100 Kg of honey per hive. The 400kg average did not provide any pollination services and the respondent who averaged 220 kg, pollinated four crops. In the responses there were three respondents with an average of 50kg and no pollination services. This question highlighted the huge difference in income between the high performing and the low performing respondents.

The average yield per hive was 105 Kg per hive.

The median yield per hive was 95 Kg per hive.

This question should have been couched - What is the average income per hive in an average year? There are several ways to gain income from a hive.

Q8. Public land sites are what % of your site portfolio?

Responses ranged from 0 – 80%. 27 respondents did not have any public land sites.

Interestingly with two exceptions those that averaged 50 kg or less of honey per hive had no public land sites. The 220 kg average respondent had 80% of his site portfolio in public land sites and also pollinated four crops.

Of those that had public land sites the average was 26% of their site portfolio was public land.

The median for the above was 24%.

This was the first survey that NSWAA has conducted for many years. While we have some data, it would be great for our industry if we can get data from the majority of the state's commercial beekeepers. It is obvious that some beekeepers are taking advantage of some of the pollination opportunities available. It is also very obvious that there is a huge income difference between the high and low performers in our industry.

Stephen Targett

CATCH THE BUZZ - HONEY SOMMELIER

Yes, 'honey sommelier' is now a delicious new job



Jessica Locarnini is one of a small but growing number of honey sommeliers around the world. *Photo: Simon Schluter*

Jessica Locarnini is a sommelier. Her palate can distinguish nuanced flavours and terroir; she can detect faults and adulteration. But unlike a restaurant sommelier who recommends wine to guests, Locarnini works in the field of honey.

The Melbourne-based marketing professional has trained with – and received official certification from – the American Honey Tasting Society to detect hundreds of different aromas in the sticky, viscous liquid and even distinguish what sort of flowers bees have foraged on.

She is now working with beekeepers to develop language around Australian honey collected in native forests, and advising chefs on the right honey for the right dish.

To explain her evaluation process, Locarnini holds a wine glass dolloped with honey up to the light. She turns it, watching the light catch the fine crystals.

“Crystals are good,” she says. “They indicate that the honey is natural and has not been pasteurised, which destroys nutrition.”

Locarnini plunges her nose into the glass and takes a long whiff, pausing to work out the aromas. Using a spoon, she then takes a small sample of the honey and rolls it around in her mouth.

The sommelier ponders for a moment then writes down a few descriptive words which far exceed “sweet” and “floral”. Locarnini uses terms such as caramel, yeasty, lactic, camphorous, spicy and medicinal.

“You have to remain neutral and not bring in prejudice when evaluating honey,” she says. “But the nasal bulb is connected to the part of the brain related to memories and emotion. When you smell honey it inevitably evokes memory.”

Locarnini was trained by Italian experts Carla Marina Marchese and Gian Luigi Marcazzan, people intent on

creating a global army of honey sommeliers. “Italians have such a strong honey culture,” she says. Her Italian mentors have contributed to scientific papers outlining how tasters can be used to detect adulteration of honey (meaning the honey has been mixed with something other than nectar from bees, such as rice syrup), a growing problem in world honey production.

The sommelier course also opened Locarnini’s eyes to the beauty and unique quality of the honey produced in Australia from native forests.

“In Europe they produce something called ‘Eucalyptus Honey’,” she says, using air quotes. “One eucalyptus honey! In Australia we produce *hundreds* of unique, beautiful and delicious eucalyptus honeys around the country.”

Locarnini points to black box honey as an example, collected from trees in north-west Victoria. “At first, it tastes like unripe bananas – then it tastes like banana bread.”

Lately, she has been working with Australian beekeepers to develop words and language to describe individual honeys. “In a world of processed food products, Australian monofloral [single variety] honeys are so wonderfully individual,” she says.

“They can change with each patch of forest, evoking the French sense of ‘terroir’. I want to help beekeepers describe their honeys using words that evoke their personal experience – their memory.”

She says Australian beekeepers sometimes fail to celebrate the unique individual character of their honeys and this can be reflected in a lack of sales.

Locarnini, who calls herself The Honey Merchant and keeps a backyard hobby hive, also offers advice to cheese-lovers and chefs.

She suggests pairing honey with cheese of equal intensity and flavour, such as an orange blossom honey with goat’s curd. Contrasting flavours can also work – Australian blue cheese with a light clover honey, for example.

“And you can increase the textural experience of a good crumbly cheddar with honey that has crystallised.”

Ultimately, Locarnini views her role as educating Australians to experiment with all the different types of domestic honey.

“Good honey needs healthy bees, healthy trees, healthy crops and flowers,” she says. “When we taste honey, we’re tasting our bush and forests.”

Jessica Locarnini’s tasting notes for Australian honeys to try.....

Yes, 'honey sommelier' is now a delicious new job (goodfood.com.au)



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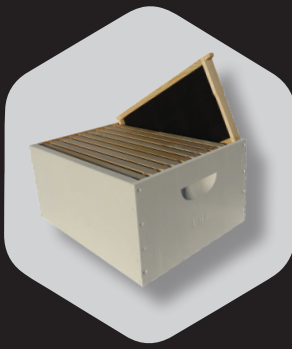
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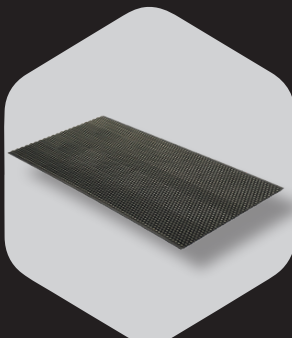
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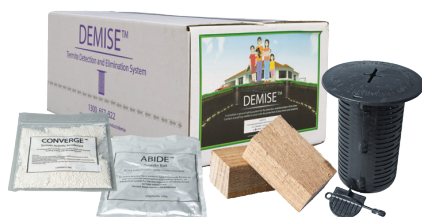
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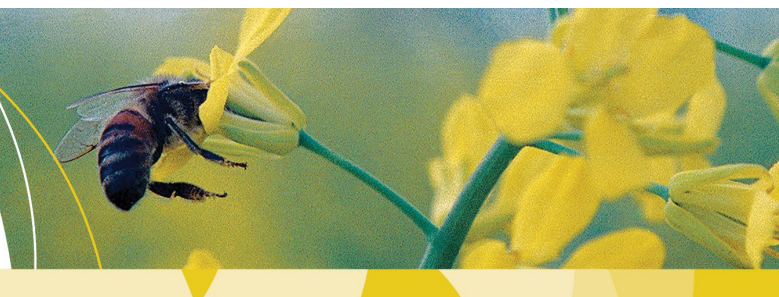
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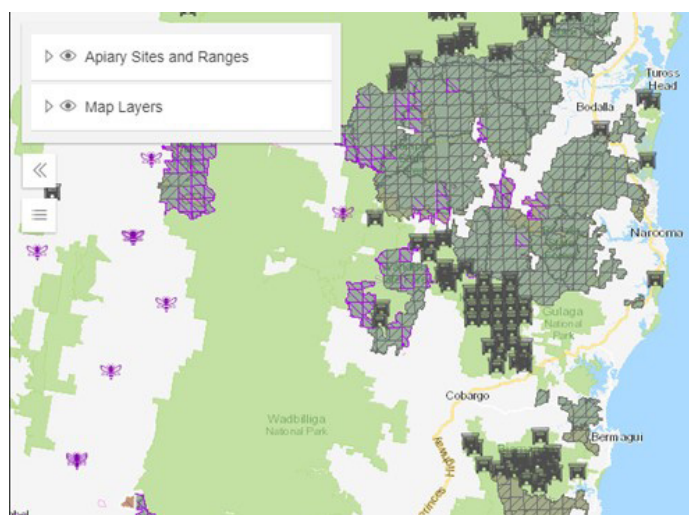
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Nick Geoghegan, Apiary Sites Program Coordinator, NSW DPI

Apiary Sites Service Desk Update

The Apiary Sites Program has made major progress over the last few months. As announced by Minister Marshall at the NSWAA conference, Local Land Services apiary sites on Travelling Stock Routes were added to BPASS at the end of May; adding over 3,500 apiary sites with existing permits as well as around 400 potentially vacant sites. We are very excited to now have all three of the public land agencies in the system with all permits and licenses loaded.



Having LLS sites in BPASS also meant that this year's renewal notifications for LLS sites could be sent to apiarists and could be submitted and paid via BPASS. With five year permits being issued for the first time, LLS regions are reviewing each applicant and site which can take some time. The process of reviewing and approving renewals by the LLS regions is continuing. If you are an LLS permit holder please review your sites to ensure they are all present and ensure you have submitted renewal applications for all your sites.

As with previous releases on BPASS, publishing 4,000 sites on the map and making permit information easy to access in one place has helped apiarists to quickly identify issues which may have existed for some time behind the scenes. We are working to resolve issues as they are raised by apiarists. Most fall into one of three categories:

1. Sites not appearing on an apiarist's permit list when logged into BPASS. Most of these are because the system could not automatically match incoming permit data with existing BPASS or Biosecurity (Byte) accounts. E.g. "John Smith"

may have had permits in LLS regions under "JS Beekeeping", "Smith and Sons" etc. Once these issues are notified to DPI we can usually match the accounts quickly and combine them so all sites are visible together. In some cases the data received from LLS may not be up to date. This can take longer to resolve as we need to work with LLS to ensure the rightful permit holder has the site allocated to them in the system.

2. Renewals displaying as Expired although the apiarist has submitted a renewal application. This is generally because the renewal process is in progress or payment has not been made for an invoice. Renewals are reviewed by the DPI and then approved by the relevant agency. The agencies review each site and applicant which can take some time. Once approved an invoice will be issued to the apiarist. After payment the permit is issued. The good news is that renewals are only required every five years. On other years only a payment of the annual invoice is required so the process will not require these approval steps.
3. Apiarists having challenges accessing BPASS for the first time. Often this requires getting the access codes from Byte to start the process. The apiary sites helpdesk now has greater access to help setting up an account and linking to BPASS. While this speeds up resolution for each user, it does mean more time is required for the apiary sites helpdesk to support users.

In addition, some of the LLS sites did not have GPS locations and are therefore not appearing on the map but will appear on apiarists' permit lists. We will work with LLS to confirm those GPS locations and add to BPASS when available but this does not affect renewals or your ability to use the sites.

If you are experiencing issues with BPASS, first check the "How To" page on the DPI website: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land/bpass/help>

And if you can't work out the issue, send as much information as you can to: apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

With 4,000 sites published and renewals in progress for them all, we have received a large number of requests

and enquiries and the team is working to resolve issues as quickly as possible. Some issues can be resolved quickly but other issues do require input from LLS regions and can be complex if there are historical issues with the data.

As most issues are one-off data issues, once the issues are resolved we expect response times to improve for all enquiries.

Enhancements:

As well as adding the LLS sites we have made a number of updates to enhance BPASS including:

- making it easier to find renewals in the BPASS interface,
- adding TSR numbers to the map and changing the formatting of TSR boundaries to be more distinctive,
- simplifying the renewal approval process for the land managers to speed up approvals.

We will continue to enhance BPASS on an ongoing basis so your feedback and suggestions are very welcome.

Many thanks to the team and to all the apiarists who have

been patient with learning to use BPASS and working with us to resolve any issues that have come up.

Nick Geoghegan

Apiculture Resource Coordinator, DPI Agriculture

Apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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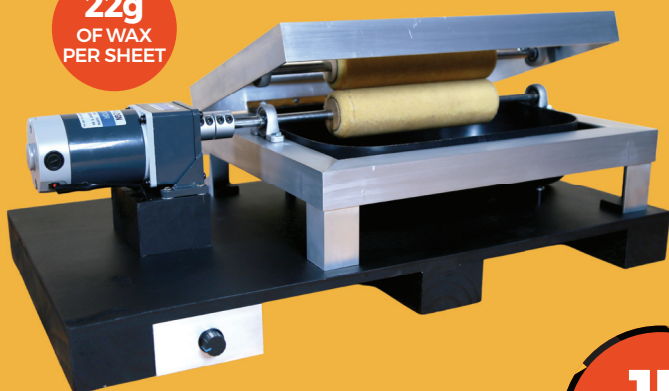
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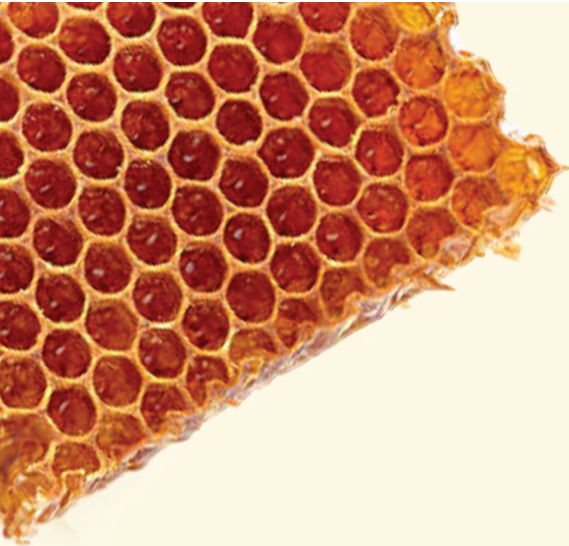
1kg, 1.5kg Honey Pails &
2.2L, 5L Pails

10L, 15L, 20L Pails

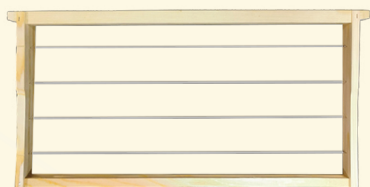
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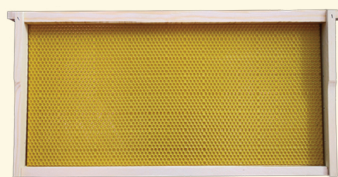
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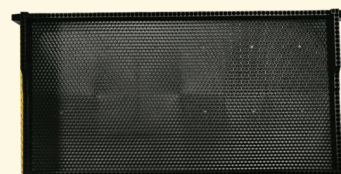
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VALE - NOEL CHUCK

14/2/1933 – 12/05/2021

The beekeeping industry in NSW was saddened by the passing of Parkes beekeeper Noel Chuck.

Noel was a well-respected part of a generation of beekeepers who were hard working exceptional men, who took into their own family the beekeeping family and the welfare of the beekeeping industry.

Born in Yass NSW, Noel's family home was in Bowning, as a teenager he was taught beekeeping by the Late George Thomas in Yass, where he worked weekends with George. George taught him drive and helped him buy his first car.

He was called up for National Service in 1952/54 during the time of the Korean War but did not end up in Korea. Noel came within weeks of being sent to Korea but the armistice was declared 2 weeks before he was due to depart. Noel was quite delighted by this happy circumstance. Noel proudly related how he formed part of the security detail for Queen Elizabeth when she visited Dubbo.

Noel for a time drove trucks for Shell; he was transferred in 1959 from the Shell depot in Parkes to Port Kembla where there was a growing need for workers with the development of industry there. Noel took long service leave and went full time as a commercial beekeeper. In the 1973 Noel worked alongside Harold Peck in Orange, all the time fine tuning his beekeeping skills and applying his extraordinary work ethic eventually working around 1000 hives on his own. With Harold he began successfully working the Channel Country for the Napunyah honey crops that were so plentiful in the 1970's and onwards. One could say he was amongst the group of beekeepers who pioneered and developed the skills needed to work this arid country honey flow.

His good friend Kevin Smith recalls Noel working adjoining sites in the Pilliga and Spotted Gum at Narooma on the South Coast. He recalled Noel as a colossal beekeeper and workaholic. He had an outstanding knowledge of trees and was generous with lending sites to other beekeepers, (if they asked). Noel was not overfond of working bees on the coast as he reckoned they were always cranky.

Chris Wild quoted a favourite saying of Noel's "Go out West to get honey, the mountains to get bees and the coast to go broke!"

In the early days Noel was inspired by George Thomas, Harold Peck, Bill Markwort and Frank Armstrong. His long-time friend Kevin Eastburn believes it was Bill that taught Noel to understand trees and country, a talent that is hard to come by these days. Kevin was also aware of Noel's association with Frank Armstrong who delighted in sharing knowledge which undoubtedly assisted Noel along the way. Noel was never one to shy away from a yarn. Yes he loved to talk. Always the gentleman, always had a smile, always willing to offer advice, always ready to assist and always ready to talk about trucks.

Kevin Smith told me Noel had Bedford truck he purchased from Harold Peck before progressing to a Diesel Dodge (He had two Dodge's), Kevin Eastburn commented that Noel's Dodge wouldn't go uphill fast – so they called it the downhill Dodge! Noel always wanted the biggest and fastest truck and always made the best choice. I recall his bogey drive International truck with 500hp stickers on it. I never did find out if it really did have 500hp, though his fellow beekeepers claimed 350hp. He loved talking about Cummins Diesels. Noel was not all that fond of Japanese trucks, casually referring to them a "Rice Burners" or "Skateboards" and was even less impressed when they passed him on the road. BUT! He ended up with one (Hino) towards the end of his long commercial beekeeping career.

Pat Robert's another friend of Noel's recalls that "Chucky" (Noel was mostly referred to as "Chucky" by beekeepers) got himself into a very serious bog in a Narooma forest, it was so bad he left the truck, (fully loaded with bees), where it was and went home, returning three weeks later to recover it, only to find the bees had filled with honey. There are a lot of experiences and quotes that we will not mention here that can be attributed to Noel. Maybe one "Truck mounted hive loaders? 'Mobile Clothes lines.'" He was a skid steer loader man.

As mentioned Noel always had a smile and a very good sense of humour. Harold Peck used to mark hives with a stone, a small stick, a piece of paper under a lid, little things to check if anyone had been going through his hives. Noel on occasion would move the markers around sending Harold into a spin.

Another part of his character was his generosity. He would visit Eulo to check his Channel Country sites and drop off a bin of fruit for the locals. A gesture very much appreciated by the community who at the time did not receive a lot of fresh produce.

Noel served on the Executive of the NSW association (CAA) for a time, and as President in 1976, in later life he really appreciated the Branch system of the NSWAA being a regular at the Bathurst Branch and later the Southern Tablelands Branch.

In his early 80's Noel was forced to give up commercial beekeeping due to failing health, he didn't sell out, he just wound down in the end unable to physically manage the bees.

Noel will long be remembered as a true gentleman and much loved by those who knew him.

Noel is survived by his wife Fae, Daughter Gayle, sons Graham and Christopher and grandsons Nicholas and Brandon. To the family and Noel's many associates we extend our sincere sympathy.

Bill Winner



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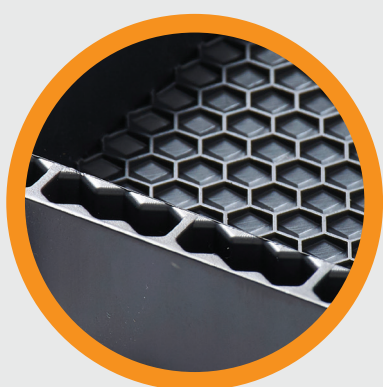
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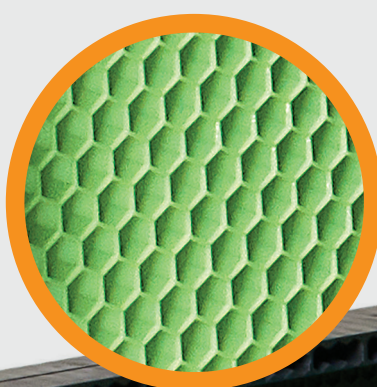


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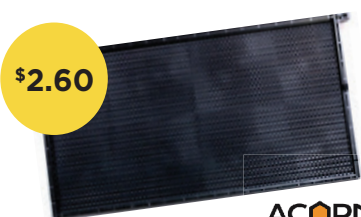
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NSW Performance Data and Insights 2020

The *NSW Primary Industries Performance Data & Insights* (PDI) is an annual publication that highlights the economic output of the NSW Primary Industries sector each financial year. It reflects the underlying strength and long-term viability of primary industry sectors including beekeeping. 2020 marked the first in-depth look into honey and beeswax production in NSW. DPI Manager for Primary Industries Analysis Tim Edmonstone combed available industry production data, news, import/export data, and historical economic reports and Alex Russell, Nick Geoghegan, and I assisted with industry context and intel, bushfire-related assistance and impacts reported from agencies managing apiary sites on public lands.

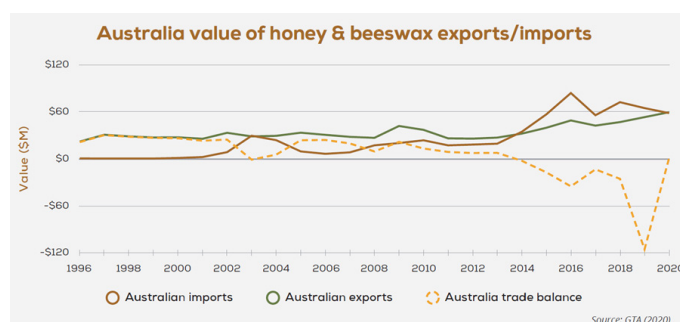
I strongly encourage industry associations and members to make statewide and national production data on honey, beeswax and queens publicly available on an annual basis. Primary industries' production history as reported annually in *NSW Primary Industries Performance Data & Insights* underpins the making of policy, government assistance planning and is a reference document for the banking sector and others. Annual access to industry production data is incredibly valuable to commercial beekeepers' interests.

The following insights on industry output, production, price and trade are quoted from the full report on honey and beeswax which can be read online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/publications/pdi/2020/honey-and-beeswax

“Output \$57m est. Down 12% yoy⁸. Output is made up of honey and beeswax sales however apiarists (beekeepers) also earn income from providing pollination services. Production was significantly impacted by drought and bushfires during [2019-2020].

Apiarists experienced very difficult conditions during [2019-2020]. Apiarists are essentially landless farmers, required to move their honey bee livestock from agistment on one source of flowering tree, shrub, crop or ground flora to another as they become available. Whilst bees gain some of their requirements from flowering crops at certain times of the year, they are also heavily reliant on access to native flora, especially eucalypts, for most of the year. Apiarists are large users of public land for these purposes. Initially in the year the widespread east coast drought severely impacted the floral resource base. Compounding the impacts of drought, bushfires in the middle of the year impacted 43% of the available

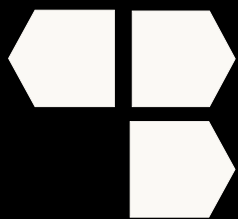
public NSW apiary ranges in State Forests and 35% of National Park's apiary sites. Unlike traditional livestock producers, apiarists cannot sell bees to reduce production when traditional food sources are not available. Unless supplementary food is provided during prolonged drought and severe bushfires, the bees will die. Consequently, lower production and higher feed costs significantly impacted apiarist's profitability. [...]



Production and price. Production is estimated to have fallen 30% offset by an estimated price increase of 18%¹⁹. Production is likely to have fallen by more than 50% in the latter half of the year after the bushfires over summer. The output for honey and beeswax is estimated to have fallen 12% yoy⁸ to \$57 million. The importance of bees to agriculture is much greater than the value of honey and beeswax produced. At least 35 crops (including almonds, avocados, cherries, apples and berries) rely on bees for pollination for their own production. Without honey bee pollination, crop yields would be significantly reduced.

Trade. The value of Australian honey and beeswax exports increased 12% to \$59.5 million⁹⁴ during 2019-20. Exports from NSW declined 6% to \$9.5 million. The largest market for Australian exports is China (30%) followed by the United States (13%). Both Australia and NSW were also significant importers of honey and beeswax, primarily from New Zealand (65%) but also from China (23%). In 2019-20 imports decreased 10% to \$58 million. China is both a large buyer of Australian honey and supplier of cheaper honey. Australia has traditionally been a net exporter of honey and beeswax however, a surge in cheaper imports from China from 2015 meant Australia became a net importer. For 2019-20 Australia again became a net exporter primarily due to a 51% increase in exports to China.

Outlook. The compounding impact of drought and fire during 2019-20 severely impacted NSW apiarists. Even with rain, industry recovery will take longer than other livestock sectors as trees don't produce nectar and



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pollen immediately. Some trees will take many years to recover from burning and/or drought. Bushfires have also reduced the number of apiarist's sites available on public land. Given the financial strain on the industry, and the importance of honey bees and pollination services to other industries, in particular horticulture, the NSW Government offered a subsidy during the year to assist apiarists feed their hives and maintain the honey bee population. Nevertheless, production is expected to decline further next year. Over the longer term, increasing demand for pollination services from horticulture, primarily from almond growers, is expected to support industry growth."

Sources

- 8 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) (2020). Agricultural Commodities Series, June 2020.
- 94 IHS Global Trade Atlas (GTA) (2020). Last accessed September 2020.
- 129 The Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) (2019). Honey prices to climb as supply dries up, November 2019.

North Coast Branch Report

The North Coast branch held a meeting on 25th June at the Casino RSM club.

Approximately 20 interested people from all areas turned up to attend. We usually have guest speaker at each meeting and for this night we had Kalum Windsor from Ace Ohlsson (Bangalow) talking about Ecrotek products.

Our next meeting is be held on 27th August at the Casino RSM and all are welcome.

Any further information please call me on 0488 434 498.

Steve Fuller
North Coast Branch President.



WANTED

Articles on what your branch has been doing

Upcoming meetings or events

Articles you would like to see published

Photographs for the cover

Email to honeybeenews@icloud.com

Branch Meeting Dates

Sydney Metro

First Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at Chifley College Bidwell Campus, Daniels Road, Bidwell.

Central Tablelands

January - third Tuesday

April - third Tuesday

July - third Tuesday

October - third Tuesday

Riverina

The next meeting of the Riverina Branch will be on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

This is an unusual time for our meetings as this time we are meeting in conjunction with a First Aid course for members.

Our meeting dates are usually in the first week of February, May, August, and November each year. Lately our meetings have been held alternatively between Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

Usually on the first Monday, when held in Wagga Wagga and on the first Thursday, when held in Griffith.

The venues change to suit availability.

North Coast

North Coast Branch is planned for August 27, 2021, at the Casino RSM Club.

Meetings are generally held on the fourth Friday of every second month from February onwards (excluding December).

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Honey Bee Biosecurity	4 & 5 November

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



Managing hives to minimise damage from small hive beetles

This past season has seen a large increase in the numbers of small hive beetle (SHB) observed within NSW beehives. There have been many reports of SHB forcing colonies to abscond and the hives taken over and slimed out. This has particularly been the case in the coastal regions and especially where flooding events earlier this year caused the demise of many bee colonies. Quite a few of those flooded colonies were lost and bred up a lot of SHB.

Unfortunately SHB is here to stay and they will be worse in some years (wetter ones) than others. Some areas will have huge SHB loads this season, so be prepared. Being that SHB are so opportunistic they are often going to make the most of an easy target, and amongst the easiest of targets is a weakened bee colony.

Many beekeepers have told me how “hive beetles killed their beehive”. When I ask a few more questions it is clear that many of those hives were not managed properly. The number of brood checks were nil or last undertaken in the previous season, the hive had swarmed “a few months before”, “I had not seen many bees around for a while” or “I am too busy to check every single hive I run”.

Many of those situations would have been highly preventable if the beekeeper had undertaken an appropriate amount of work on managing their bees. More importantly they would not have bred up all those extra beetles that then went on to wreak more havoc in other bee colonies.

The main reasons that hives become overrun by beetles often revolves around stress or mismanagement of the hive. If a hive has a high loading of beetles within it then just by opening it and pulling it apart (to do brood checks or under-super) can be sufficient enough disruption to give beetles the opportunity they need to later overwhelm a colony and get into the high protein prize contained within the brood frames. Once a colony becomes alarmed then other beetles will sense that and flock to that hive to try and get in on the action too!



This single was overwhelmed by beetles. The breeding potential from one hive is immense, so get it in the freezer to kill the lot.



One Chux was not nearly enough...

When working good hives you will often see large groups of beetles corralled into an area under the hive mat or comb area between boxes or excluder (or in a corner of the box). The bees have worked tirelessly to drive those beetles into that prison, so whilst they are contained they pose a reduced risk to the colony. The moment the beekeeper disturbs all that hard work and they escape the beetles immediately become a major risk.

A hive may contain a number of SHB devices or traps that will often not completely control them, and at times



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.

the numbers of SHB can become very high. Whilst the stronger colonies can drive up and control the beetles, weaker colonies are less capable of achieving this, so often the beetles are predominantly situated on the brood combs and causing constant stress and distraction to the colony. They lay eggs and whilst the bees can clean them up it is ok, but as soon as the bees cannot keep up then it becomes a problem.

When experienced beekeepers see lots of beetles in the top box they generally accept that working the hive that day will be counterproductive. If you decide to work it anyway then you risk losing the hive.

The best approach is to add a couple (more) beetle traps around where the beetles were concentrated and just close it back up. If you haven't disturbed the bees too much then they will very quickly get back to herding beetles. If you cannot achieve that then removing honey boxes and tightening up the hive may work, but you cannot always justify doing that.

The next day (or next site visit) there could be hundreds of beetles inside each trap, and due to the sheer volume of SHB many of them may not be dead. It is best to quickly seal those traps into a large Ziploc bag and freeze them to kill any live beetles. If there are still lots of beetles in the hive then add new traps and close up again. If the beetle loading has dropped right off it may now be safe to work that hive. In "Beetle country" it is often the case of balancing what you would like to do with a hive versus what you can/cannot actually do and still keep it alive.

Always remember that if there are lots of beetles around (and you don't want to risk losing the hive) then the best thing you can often do is not work it until you have thinned the SHB out. That doesn't mean you just don't ever work the hive, it just means you need to deal with the beetles first and then work your bees later.

Another way that beekeepers can cause slime-outs is by allowing hives to swarm, then not managing the remaining colony size (adjusting down the amount of extra space/honey for the reduced bee population to adequately protect), not fixing the queen status and subsequently allowing the colony to dwindle. At many steps through the swarming process the colony will be under stress and therefore be very attractive and vulnerable to SHB. Mismanagement of spring hives and failed recovery from swarming is a major pathway to slime-outs and breeding up more beetles along the coast as the weather starts to warm up. There is a lot to be said for always having a few queens in your pocket and good nucs on the truck when dealing with the "iffy" hives!

Preventing swarming often prevents a lot of SHB issues, so by keeping your bees strong and with younger queens you can reduce the risk. Everybody wants queens in

spring, but many successful beekeepers actually do much of their re-queening work over summer and depending on their location right through to April. New Year's queens are unlikely to swarm the next spring (unless you do everything wrong), so they are an absolute pleasure to manage in spring when the older queens are wanting to head for the trees.

As well as the beekeeper and hive management related issues causing SHB damage there is another big one... neglected colonies, which often end up being prime SHB targets as they dwindle.

The even scarier point is that an unknown number of these neglected and "hive beetles killed my beehive" situations probably also involved American foulbrood (AFB) as part of the background story.

For frequently managed bee colonies most AFB is (hopefully) found when the infection is still relatively new and only a small number of infected cells have shown themselves. For colonies that only get a spring and autumn brood check then the infection can often have progressed much further and at times the colony has already dwindled severely before being identified as diseased. For the colonies that are neglected and receive even fewer (or no brood checks) then the AFB will run its full course.

These unmanaged colonies are a major risk to SHB attack, because as the colony progressively becomes both weakened and stressed by AFB it will be targeted by both robber bees and SHB, causing a double whammy of AFB to be spread and a big breeding opportunity for SHB. A lot of hives that beekeepers put down as "being killed by SHB" were already infected by AFB, so they were probably first robbed and presented a major biosecurity risk.

Because a slimed out beehive is often such a horrible mess (and potentially harmful to our health because of the *Kodamaea* yeast that the slime contains) many beekeepers do not examine the brood frames. In their eyes "hive beetles killed my beehive" and the story basically stops there. Unfortunately this mishandling of the equipment often fuels the later re-emergence of AFB infections. Any colony that has experienced AFB is a biosecurity risk and must be treated accordingly, so if you cannot 100% identify and determine what killed your hive then assume the worst and treat it like it has AFB. Many successful beekeepers irradiate any dead-out colony that they get, just to ensure that they are always on top of their AFB.

I have spoken to quite a few beekeepers who have inspected the brood of slimed beehives and found clear signs of AFB amongst the mess, and often these were operators doing their adequate hive management each



season. If a lot of good beekeepers are finding signs of AFB in slime-outs then it is likely that a high percentage of “mystery slime-outs” are also infected with AFB.



What happened within this hive before the beetles took control is unknown...was it robbed and did it have AFB?



It can get pretty hard looking at brood comb like this, so if you cannot 100% confirm it was a “clean” hive then assume it was AFB and burn and/or irradiate it.



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.

If you get a slime-out then the best thing to do is immediately block it up/bag it, freeze it (to kill all stages of SHB inside it) and then decide if you will burn the whole lot or irradiate and clean up the mess later. If you value your time (or pay staff) then often it is actually more cost effective to just burn most of the frames and only keep the good wood gear.

For some beekeepers it is normal to just “clean up” all the dead-outs each time they go to the site (often slime-out or full of wax moth), which indicates that they are not on top of managing their hives. They are allowing the equipment and frames to be contaminated (which costs money to rehabilitate or replace), making it harder to identify the actual cause of hive demise and also breeding up a lot of beetles and possibly AFB. If you are operating like that then it is time to re-evaluate and work out what you need to change in your process to turn it around. Training your beekeepers to better manage weak colonies is probably a good start. Reducing the hive per beekeeper ratio so you can work hives more frequently is a great move. This improves the general consistency and strength of each colony, which is beneficial and often much more profitable as honey production/hive increases.

As anyone who has had to clean up a slime-out would know it can be a horrible job (and costs you hard-earned money), so try to prevent it at all costs. I would much rather deal with an AFB hive (at least you can extract the honey), irradiate and reuse it than deal with the slimy mess that same hive could become a month or two later if it is not dealt with properly. Therefore, make it a priority to do a MINIMUM of two full brood checks each season (if not a few more), manage your queens (don’t keep them any longer than you should), train your beekeepers, manage weak hives and keep on top of you beetle numbers. That makes a lot more dollars and sense than being one step behind on your beekeeping all the time.

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Dutch honey bees resistant to varroa mite imported to Australia to help guard against the pest

Tim Lee 15/07/2021



© Provided by ABC NEWS Bee breeder David Briggs works on imported genetic material at a quarantine facility in Melbourne. (ABC Landline: Tim Lee)

Hunched over a bench in a modest caravan, apiarist and bee breeder David Briggs slows his breathing and focuses intensely on the work at hand.

In this laboratory in north-east Victoria, his skill, if he's successful, will help shape the future of Australia's honey bee population.

Constrained in a tiny tube is a queen bee, rendered unconscious by a minute amount of CO₂ gas. She's the first of several very special queens he's preparing to artificially inseminate with semen collected from specially selected Australian drones.

"We use AI [artificial insemination] to control the mating and to ensure that the queen is mating with the genetic material that were looking for," Mr Briggs said.

It requires a steady hand and a powerful microscope. Mr Briggs has performed the procedure thousands of times over the years.

But this time there's a great deal more riding on his skill and cool nerves.

Fighting a destructive pest

The queen bees are progeny bred in the Netherlands. They're the first successful importation of bee genetics into Australia in 15 years.

What's more, these Dutch queens have special traits that give them some defence against *Varroa destructor*, a blood-sucking mite that has ravaged bee colonies around the globe.

"Their own, effectively communal, hygiene mechanism removes mites or interrupts the mite's breeding cycle before it can propagate in the colony," Mr Briggs said.

Australia remains the only continent still free of varroa mite.

Despite stringent measures around the nation's entry points, most believe it will inevitably breach our biosecurity defences.

It is present in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia. Feral beehives infected with the parasite can easily hitch a ride on any of the thousands of container ships that dock in our ports.

So the \$100-million-a-year apiary industry, backed by the horticultural industry, is on the front foot.

Some produce, such as almonds, avocados and melons, is entirely dependent on honey bees for pollination.

"A milestone is an understatement," said apiarist and scientist Jody Gerdts.

"I would say that it's super important."

Dr Gerdts saw varroa's path of destruction in her native United States 30 years ago.

Wild honey bee populations there are only now starting to recover.

A global effort

The quest to breed varroa-resistant honey bees has become a cooperative global effort by apiarists.

It began in 2013, when Dutch apiarist JanBart Fernhout's prized queens were killed by varroa mites.

Enlisting the help of amateur beekeepers across Europe and joining forces with American entomologists, he identified then selectively bred bees which, through fastidious hygiene, could counter varroa.

"What's really inspiring is that there's so many people that are passionate about this," Dr Gerdts said.

"So you can breed resistance into any stock, into any managed, accepted commercially viable stock.

"That's exciting and it's pioneering."

But getting these Dutch, varroa-fighting bees into Australia has been a nail-biting ride that came perilously close to failure.

They had to pass stringent biosecurity measures in a Melbourne quarantine facility that had never before been used for bee importations and be vigorously screened for viruses and parasites.

Then Mr Briggs had to entice them to breed, even though arriving from a European spring into a chilly Melbourne autumn went against their normal biology.

Somehow he succeeded and enough viable eggs hatched for him to raise a new royal brood of queens.

It's those queens, with their precious genes, that he artificially inseminated.

A new era for apiarists

The industry hopes this successful initial importation will make it easier for others in the future.

It also links Australia with the global effort of protecting the world's vital honey bees.

“We’re really excited in Australia to try and capitalise on these breeding programs overseas and bring in those genetics,” said CSIRO entomologist John Roberts.

Dr Roberts’s primary role was to screen the Dutch bees for the presence of viruses.

He hoped Australian apiarists could further develop this strain of varroa-resistant bees.

“It certainly could be a landmark for industry,” he said.

“We’ll see how much engagement we can get with queen breeders.”

For the moment, Mr Briggs isn’t putting all his eggs, so to speak, in one basket.

He has left two foreign queen bees in the Melbourne quarantine facility over winter, in case anything goes amiss with their offspring, currently tucked away in his own nucleus hives in north-east Victoria.

Those queens have started laying eggs.

When spring blossoms burst, this new breed of carefully selected stud bees — part-Dutch, part-Australian — will emerge from their winter hibernation to carry Australia’s apiary industry into a new era.

Pollination Season - SOS Riverina

The new pollination season is upon us and this year we will see increased cropping in the Riverina especially in areas along the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan and Murray River systems.

This brings with it the inherent danger that honeybees and agricultural sprays will come together, sometimes with adverse effects for our pollinating friends.

Hence the concerns of SOS Riverina [Stop Off-target Spraying] and the use or non-use in particular of the “Bee-Connected” App by Apiarists’ servicing the Riverina from across the eastern seaboard.

The BeeConnected App can be used by farmers to help assess and keep track of where vulnerable hives may be located around the farms they are spraying, indicating a GPS position which can then be ground truthed.

BeeConnected also allows aerial operators and other spray operators to pin-point areas which should be sprayed at particular times of the day and to plan around bee activity.

SOS Riverina Valleys members have been assessing the BeeConnected App since its introduction and were instrumental in advancements which have made it more accurate in logging the positions of the hives.

What we need now is for more Apiarists’ to adopt this as a useful tool whilst operating in the Riverina.

Apiarists’ can also access Crop maps of the Riverina like “Cotton Map” which shows the location of almost every Cotton crop grown plus many permanent plantings and other crops.

These should be used in conjunction with normal practices when choosing hive locations.

The SOS group have been proactive in communications during 2020 by advising local residents across the area that pollination season brings an increase in truck traffic, especially after dark and to be aware that these vehicles are usually fully loaded and stopping distances are increased.

Farmers in general acknowledge that bees are essential to their livelihoods and the commitment and dedication

apiarists devote to their own enterprise is the same as other primary producers across Australia. Increased communication and education are the keys to resolving some of the difficulties we now experience.

There are established SOS committees across NSW and we encourage all apiarists, no matter how big or small, to contact their local SOS committee when moving through New South Wales.

This can be done via <https://sos-nsw.com/>

Stop Off-target Spraying in the RIVERINA

SOS Riverina Valleys was formed in early 2019, and is made up of representatives from ALL farming industries (including cotton, dryland cropping and grazing, rice, grains, apiarists and horticultural production systems), advisors, chemical suppliers/resellers, spray applicators, councils, government departments and water supply organisations across the Riverina region. We all recognise the need to work together to prevent spray drift in our region.

The Riverina Valleys SOS Committee works to progress the SOS initiative in the Riverina and the members are:

- Kevin Sternberg (Chairman) – Syngenta
- Iva Quarisa (Secretary) – Irrigation Research & Extension Committee
- Matt Toscan – Irrigation farmer Darlington Point
- Grant Delves- Prune Growers Association & Irrigation farmer Hanwood
- Michael Pfitzner- Dryland farmer Rankin Springs
- Lachlan Danckert – Irrigation Farmer Deniliquin
- Steve Cunial – Apiarist
- John Ward – Grazier
- Gerry Wilcox – Riverina Helicopters
- Brian Bortolin – Riverina Winegrape Growers
- Mark Groat – SunRice
- Michael Waanders– EPA
- Neil Bull- Rice Growers Association
- Kylie Edwards – Cotton Australia
- Peter McGrath – Griffith City Council
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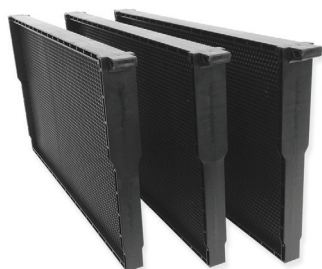
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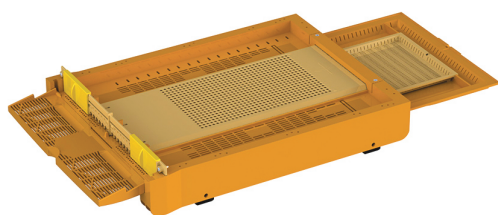
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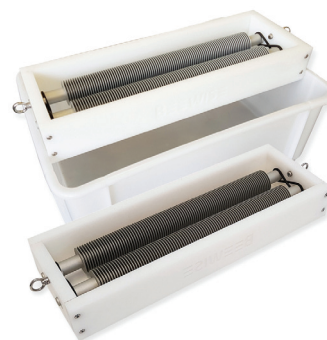


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May 27, 2021

Washington State University

A new fungus strain bred in a lab could provide a chemical-free method for eradicating mites that kill honey bees. Varroa destructor mites play a large role in Colony Collapse Disorder, which destroys thousands of bee colonies every year.

A new fungus strain could provide a chemical-free method for eradicating mites that kill honey bees, according to a study published this month in *Scientific Reports*.

A team led by Washington State University entomologists bred a strain of *Metarhizium*, a common fungus found in soils around the world, to work as a control agent against varroa mites. Unlike other strains of *Metarhizium*, the one created by the WSU research team can survive in the warm environments common in honey bee hives, which typically have a temperature of around 35 Celsius (or 95 F).

“We’ve known that *metarhizium* could kill mites, but it was expensive and didn’t last long because the fungi died in the hive heat,” said Steve Sheppard, professor in WSU’s Department of Entomology and corresponding author on the paper. “Our team used directed evolution to develop a strain that survives at the higher temperatures.

Plus, Jennifer took fungal spores from dead mites, selecting for virulence against varroa.”

Jennifer Han, a post-doctoral researcher at WSU, led the breeding program along with WSU assistant research professors Nicholas Naeger and Brandon Hopkins.

Paul Stamets, co-owner and founder of Olympia-based business Fungi Perfecti, also contributed to the paper. Stamets is a fungi expert, well-known for using several species in applications ranging from medicine to biocontrol.

Varroa destructor mites, small parasites that live on honey bees and suck their “blood,” play a large role in Colony Collapse Disorder, which causes beekeepers to lose 30-50% of their hives each year. The mites feed on bees,

weakening their immune systems and making them more susceptible to viruses.

The main tools beekeepers use to fight varroa are chemicals, such as miticides, but the tiny pests are starting to develop resistance to those treatments, Naeger said.

Metarhizium is like a mold, not a mushroom. When spores land on a varroa mite, they germinate, drill into the mite, and proliferate, killing it from the inside out. Bees have high immunity against the spores, making it a safe option for beekeepers.

Stamets, who did some of the initial testing with *Metarhizium* that showed the fungus couldn’t survive hive temperatures, was impressed by the work done by the WSU researchers.

“Science progresses through trial and error, and my technique wasn’t economical because of the hive heat,” he said. “But Jennifer did enormous amounts of culture work to break through that thermal barrier with this new strain. It’s difficult to really appreciate the Herculean effort it took to get this.”

Han and Naeger screened more than 27,000 mites for levels of infection to get the new strain.

“It was two solid years of work, plus some preliminary effort,” Han said. “We did real-world testing to make sure it would work in the field, not just in a lab.”

This is the second major finding to come from WSU’s research partnership with Stamets involving bees and fungi. The first involved using mycelium extract that reduced virus levels in honey bees.

“It’s providing a real one-two punch, using two different fungi to help bees fight varroa,” Stamets said. “The extracts help bee immune systems reduce virus counts while the *Metarhizium* is a potentially great mite biocontrol agent.”

The next step is to seek approval from the Environmental Protection Agency to use *Metarhizium* on hives used in agriculture. The team must also finalize delivery methods for beekeepers to apply the fungus in hives.

“We hope in 10 years that, rather than chemical miticides, *Metarhizium* is widely used to control Varroa mites,” Sheppard said. “And that the mite problem for beekeepers has been significantly reduced.”

The team thinks the methods they developed to evolve *Metarhizium* for varroa control could be used to improve biocontrol agents in other crop systems as well. The majority of the funding for this work came from private donations from individuals and foundations.

Additional funding came from Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant K2531 and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Hatch 1007314.



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Connie Ryman, Dungowan NSW
Laura Skinner, Big Springs NSW
Neil Maher, Glendale QLD
Jim Levy, Tamworth NSW
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Mark Piggott, Blackalls Park NSW
Peter Flemming, Asquith NSW
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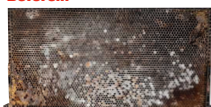
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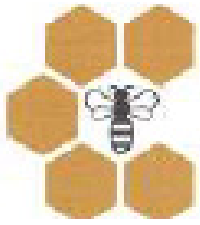
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Full newsletter available from <http://honeybee.org.au>

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor

Weatherhead AM

1. With the Covid restrictions now imposed by the various States, AHBIC will again be participating in the working group that was established last year to ensure that beekeepers are able to deliver hives for almond pollination and not have to self-isolate for 14 days when they return to their home State.

The working group has had one meeting this year and is now scheduled for another meeting this week. This group consists of the various State Associations, Government representatives from the various States affected, AHBIC, almond industry and some brokers. If you want to keep up to date, our AHBIC website will again have the latest information and your various State Associations will also be on top of the latest developments.

2. It has been a difficult month with the various Covid outbreaks. I was able to attend the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) conference at Southport. Great program. Helen and I were also able to attend the Open day (field day) run by the Brisbane Branch of the QBA at Beenleigh State High School grounds. Great venue, great weather, and great program. Helen and I had an AHBIC stand and were able to meet many of our Friends of AHBIC and, thanks to the help from Brad Jensen, we recruited some more Friends of AHBIC.

3. Helen and I were also able to attend the South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) conference at Berri. Great venue and great program. Again, it was great to meet up with the many Friends of AHBIC and meet up again with old friends and make new ones. The tour of the almond orchard and processing plant was very enlightening.

4. The intention was that Helen and I would travel from South Australia to attend the conference meetings in Western Australia. However due to Covid restrictions uncertainty, the decision was made not to attend and this has been justified by the bans that have been put in place. It was disappointing that this decision had to be made as we were looking forward to meeting the beekeepers in WA.

5. The AHBIC AGM was to be in Sydney on 12 July but due to all the Covid border restrictions this has been cancelled as a face to face in Sydney and will be virtual. Still on the same day. For people who wish to be observers they will need to register with our CEO Helen so they can receive the login details.

6. With 2022 marking 200 years since the successful introduction of the honey bee to Australia I have heard it said that the reason the honey bee was introduced was for pollination. From what I have researched there is no evidence to support this. I have asked those who say this to give me references for this but, to date, I have

not received any. When you think about that time the crops they grew did not require honey bee pollination i.e. wheat, maize, barley, oats etc. For those few that needed pollination there would have been plenty of native bees around.

Also in the various articles in the Sydney Gazette in 1822 there is no mention of pollination, only honey production and swarms. As an example on 1 November 1822 "We congratulate our Readers upon the complete establishment of that most valuable insect, the bee, in this Territory. During the past three weeks, three swarms of young bees have been produced from two hives, the property of D. Wentworth Esq. purchased by him from Captain Wallace, of the Isabella, and placed at his estate at Homebush, near Parramatta. The fragrant scrubs and flowers of Australia are thus proved to be peculiarly congenial to the increase of this insect; and we trust that, in a few years, we shall be able to add honey and wax to our numerous productions." Of note is the spelling of Wallace. In earlier articles it is Wallis. So if anyone does have any references to pollination please let me now.

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7. AHBIC sent a letter of congratulations to Kay Hull for her being made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday honours list. Kay is currently the Chair of AgriFutures Australia.

Life memberships

One of the pleasures of going to the different conferences is to see worthy people given life membership of their Association. The following have been given life membership at this round of conferences:-

- Neil Bingley - New South Wales Apiarists Association

- Lindsay Bourke - Tasmanian Beekeepers Association

- Maxine Ewington - Tasmanian Beekeepers Association

- Adrian Jones - Queensland Beekeepers Association

- Robert Dewar - Queensland Beekeepers Association

- Barry Pobke - South Australian Apiarists Association

I am sure that if you know the above, as I do, you will agree that they have been recognised for their valuable service to their various Associations. Congratulations to all. Well deserved.

GOODACRE MEMORIAL AWARD

The Goodacre Award for 2021 was presented to Mr Charles (Joe) Horner at the NSWAA Conference in Tamworth 20 May 2021.

The Goodacre Award for 2020 was presented to Marion Weatherhead at the QBA Conference on 4 June 2021.

Please note this could not be presented to Marion in 2020 due to Covid - 19.

Congratulations to both recipients and it is a great acknowledgement of their contribution to the industry.

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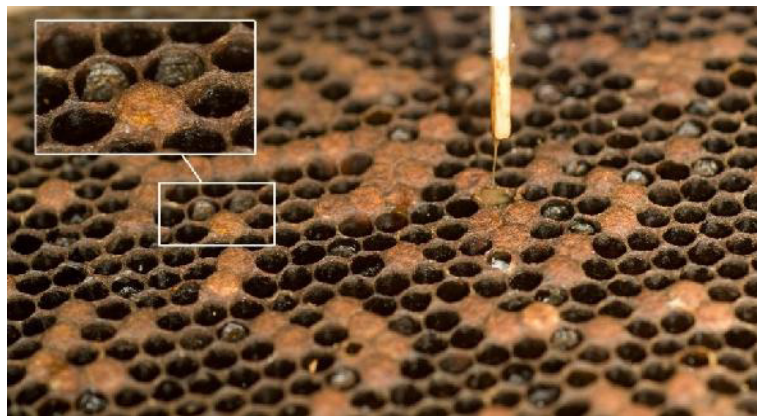
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