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# HONEYBEE NEWS

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Volume 11 Number 4  
July-August 2018



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outside NSW State Parliament June 20 2018. Photograph: Tim Burfitt*



# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## SEASON

Not much has changed since my last report, general rains still elude us. Some small areas have been receiving minor rain events but overall conditions are not favourable for a good spring.

Yellow Box in many areas is already in full flower and some will be well past its prime when warmer weather arrives. Grey Ironbark is holding reasonable bud along most of the coast but is also starting to flower. The overall season ahead is not looking good and production will probably be well below average.

## RESOURCE

On behalf of members we submitted a comprehensive response to the draft IFOAs (Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals) document. As I have previously stated resource security is the biggest threat facing apiculture in Australia and until we can get Governments to recognise the severity of our plight, then our industry will continue to struggle to maintain our ability to service the pollination dependant industries honey bee requirements now and especially into the future.

The draft IFOAs proposals if adopted as they currently stand will reduce the available forest resource to a point where utilisation by beekeepers will be severely reduced. It's all well and good for Government to commit to the timber industry that there will be no net loss of available supply over the next 20years, well what about the importance of apiculture to the industries reliant on honey bees for their production and the States food security.

I met with Local Land Services on July 16 to the upcoming Private Native Forestry review (PNF) For those members that have not yet received their LLS apiary site renewals, I have been assured that they will be forthcoming and that your sites are secure.

The first batch of public lands sites will be available to industry via a pilot EOI (expression of interest) sometime in August .Refer to Nick Geoghegan's article this issue.

## MEETINGS

Vice President Steve Targett and Tim Burfitt fronted the parliamentary inquiry into the provisions of the Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 on Friday June 1.

On June 20 Vice President Steve Targett, Tim Burfitt and I met with Minister Toole ( Minister for Forestry)

at Parliament House Sydney . Discussed were the Draft Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) and the potential negative impacts on the apiary industry. Then on June21 we along with other industry reps. attended a workshop to discuss an AFB strategy in Orange. Then on Friday June 22 executive members Steve Targett and Casey Cooper attended the BIBCC (bee industry consultative committee) meeting also held in Orange.

Our AGM was held at the Royal Pines resort on the Gold Coast on June 26 proud to the 3rd Australian Bee Congress. Thank you to members that attended.

I was pleased to see nominations for executive positions exceed vacancies and the executive members for this year are Neil Bingley President, Steve Targett Vice President, councilors Casey Cooper, Steve Cunial and Brian Woolfe. Thank you to outgoing members Shona Blair and Mark Page. My only disappointment from the AGM was the lack of direction given to your executive. There were no motions forthcoming for either the executive or for us to take to your National Body AHBIC.

Next year our conference will be held at the Panthers club in Bathurst on May 16 and 17. Your executive is currently considering holding a half day seminar on May 15. So please put these dates in your diaries.

Our next executive meeting will be held in Dubbo on August 16.

## HONEYLAND

Does Honeyland have a future?

For many years members have supported our association's stand at the Sydney show. Each year volunteers gave up their time to staff the stand and a few extremely generous members and honey packers donated product. These donations of time and produce allowed your association to promote our industry and along the way make a reasonable profit. As the years progressed those same people that donated time and product have done their bit to support the rest of NSW members and as has happened this past show very few donations were forthcoming, which has resulted in most honey having to be purchased. This has (as far as I can recall) for the first time resulted in a loss.

This situation cannot continue, so if members have suggestions on how to improve this situation, please

forward them to our secretary to allow discussion at the executive council meeting.


#### DPI

The NSW apiary industry is about to lose two dedicated personnel, Mick Rankmore and Dr Doug Somerville have taken extended leave prior to their impending retirement. The Apiary industry can ill afford to lose these positions. Several months ago Casey Cooper and I met with Scott Hansen, Director General of DPI and were reassured that these positions would be maintained. The NSWAA is counting on these commitments being honoured. Mick Rankmore was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the NSWAA while attending the recent Congress on the Gold Coast.

#### AHBIC

Our National peak body needs your support. If apiculture is to prosper into the future through being represented at the Federal level then don't leave the funding of the AHBIC to the slim few who currently support it. The AHBIC representation benefits all in our industry so dig deep and become a "Friend of AHBIC".

Neil Bingley  
President



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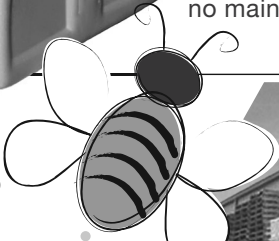








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Technical Specialist, Apiculture - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn  
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## What's in a name?

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

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

Whereas a tree(s) called grey box may be *E.bosistoana* (coast grey box), *E.microcarpa* (western grey box or brown box), *E.moluccana* (gum-topped box) or *E.pilligaensis* (Pilliga box). All are frequently referred to as just 'grey box'.

That is not to say there are not other trees that individuals may (and often do) refer to names such as grey box.

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

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

The scientific classification system has various tiers:

- Kingdom
- Phylum
- Class
- Order
- Family
- Genus
- Species

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

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

*Asteraceae*: includes the daisies.

*Fabaceae*: includes legumes, peas and beans.

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

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

All scientific plant names are in Latin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Increasingly, molecular biologists are assisting with the clarification of the groupings of different plants and identifying more than one species in a group of plants,

all thought to be the same species or on the other hand, identifying that a group of species could be collectively named as a single species.

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

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

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



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# Mapping important agricultural land in NSW

## What is important agricultural land?

Important agricultural land is land that contains a combination of resources that is highly suitable for agricultural industries. The identification of important agricultural land enables the significance of those lands to be recognised and planned.

Important agricultural land may include existing agricultural land or areas that have future agricultural potential. Information from biophysical, infrastructure, socio-economic or agricultural industry sources is used to identify those lands.

Additional information on industry challenges, economic contribution and development prospects can provide the broader context for important agricultural land to assist land use planning for agriculture.

## The benefits of mapping important agricultural lands

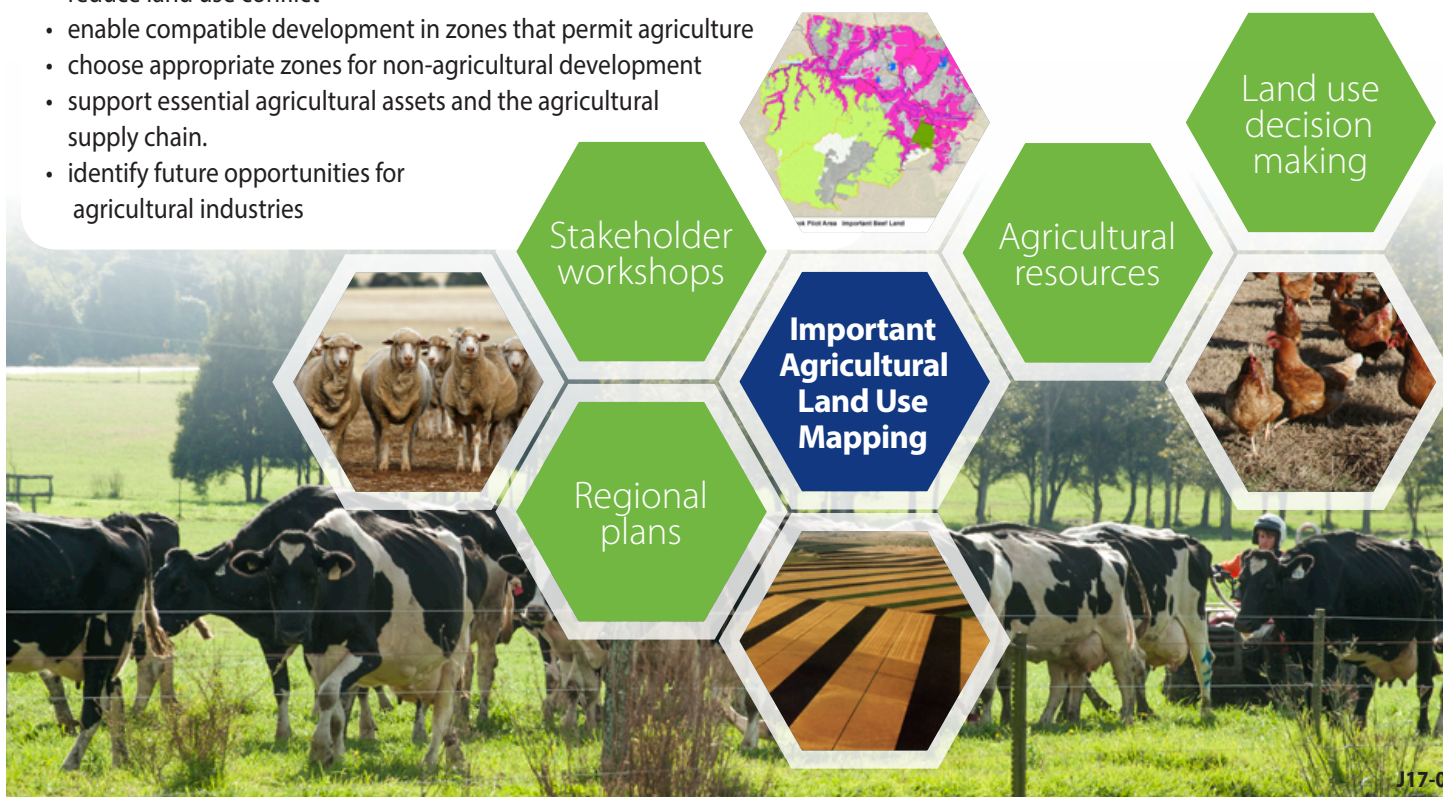
A map of important agricultural lands enables landholders, land planning agencies, consultants and industry to consider the location and multiple community values that important agricultural lands provide. Knowing where important agricultural land is located and understanding its location, value and contribution will assist in making decisions about current and future agricultural land uses. This information will help government and industry to:

- provide more certainty for agribusiness to remain, invest and grow
- reduce land use conflict
- enable compatible development in zones that permit agriculture
- choose appropriate zones for non-agricultural development
- support essential agricultural assets and the agricultural supply chain.
- identify future opportunities for agricultural industries

## NSW Department of Primary Industries

### Important agricultural land mapping program

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is undertaking a three year mapping program across nine regions in NSW commencing in August 2017 to assist local government and other organisations map important agricultural land. The program supports the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's regional planning targets that include actions to map important agricultural lands in NSW.





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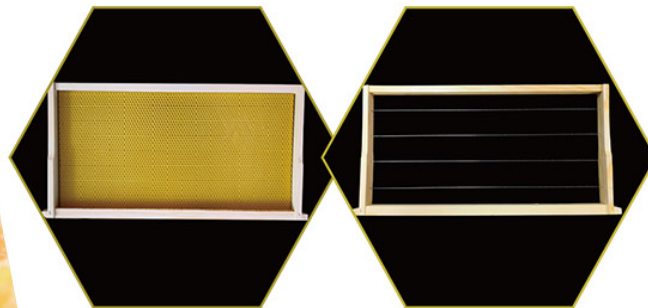
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# THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost  
Education Officer, Honey Bees  
Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries  
T: 02 4939 8821 M: 0437 731 273 E: elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au



## Queen Breeder Survey

NSW Dept. of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) will work in collaboration with University of Sydney and University of New England to establish a Queen Bee Breeding Program at DPI's Tocal Ag College. As a first step, we're seeking guidance from queen breeders across Australia. Your experience as a beekeeper operating 200 hives or more will help us find commercial partners and build a breeding program that yields increased production trait outcomes for industry. This survey was built by Dr. Nadine Chapman (USyd) and myself with guidance from Doug Somerville and members of the NSWAA Executive.

### Instructions:

Please complete the survey below and return to Elizabeth Frost by email, post or in person if you're passing by Tocal Ag College soon. For more information please contact me at my details above. If you prefer online surveys, please complete the Queen Breeder Survey here:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=LXE4DDPKA7>

If you don't breed queens, please complete the Commercial Beekeeper Survey here:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=8KF7WXJNY4>

Thanks for your time!

1. How many queens do you produce per year? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What state are you based in? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What traits do you select for (check all that apply)?

- Body size
- Colour
- Chalkbrood resistance
- Gentleness
- Honey production
- Hygienic behaviour
- None
- Race
- Rapid spring build-up
- Swarming frequency

4. Are there any other traits that you select for?

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5. What factors, if any, prevent you from doing more selection (check all that apply)?

- Can't charge enough to justify the time investment
- Don't have the expertise
- Time
- I am not interested
- It would require more staff
- Extra staff with little work in the off season
- My customers are already satisfied
- There is no market for it

6. How many lines do you maintain? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Would you be interested in finding out the relatedness of your lines?

- Yes
- No

8. Would you be interested in being able to test the sex alleles present in your population?

- Yes
- No

9. Would you be interested in implementing standardised selection practises into your operations?

- Yes
- No

10. Do you think standardising selection practices has the potential to improve selection outcomes?

- Yes
- No

11. Do you think the use of genetic techniques as applied to other livestock selection programs (e.g. sheep, cattle) will increase the effectiveness and sustainability of a bee breeding program?

- Yes
- No

12. What are your concerns with regards to the bee breeding program?

- Disruption to the industry
- Inbreeding
- It will compete with my business
- It will fail
- It won't select for traits that are meaningful to beekeepers
- Resources will only be made available to a few queen producers
- What will happen when the initial investment runs out

13. Are there any concerns that aren't listed? What are they?

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14. Would you be happy to discuss your selection practices in greater detail with us?

If so, please provide contact details. If you would like your previous answers to remain anonymous you may register your interest with Elizabeth Frost instead at:

(E: [elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au); M: 0437 731 273).

If you would like to submit answers anonymously, leave the following blank:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recipient of the Goodacre Award Professor Ben Oldroyd



The Goodacre Award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Bill Goodacre. Bill provided meritorious service to the beekeeping industry.

This award has historically been recognised as the peak national award bestowed upon individuals who have equally provided significant service to the Australian beekeeping industry.

Prof. Ben has been a long time player in the beekeeping research field and actively engaged in the beekeeping scene since completing his studies in 1980. Ben is a Professor of Behavioural Genetics at the University of Sydney. He

started his academic career with the completion of a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University, followed by completion of his PhD at the same university in 1984. His PhD thesis was “Genetic Improvement of Honey Bees through closed population breeding and selection”. His thesis became the cornerstone of the Australian Honey Bee Stock Improvement Program.

Prof. Ben has been particularly interested in behavioural genetics of honey bees, the evolution of social behaviour and evolution in the broader context.

Prof. Ben started his career with employment in Victorian Department of Agriculture from 1985 to 1989. During this time, amongst various projects and activities he:

- produced a study on the effect on AFB of the standard OTC treatments for the control of EFB. His team of 4 people demonstrated that OTC masked the symptoms of AFB, but had no impact on the spores of AFB. Brood would appear to be free of AFB, but eventually symptoms of the disease would reappear.
- authored a number of illustrated agriculture notes (fact sheets) on a range of beekeeping subjects.

Then Prof. Ben temporarily migrated to the USA. He worked in Baton Rouge USDA bee laboratory from 1989 until returning to Latrobe University in Australia in 1992. Ben eventually returned to Sydney University in 1995 until present, where he holds the position of Professor in the Faculty of Science.

His achievements are many, including:

- Nearly 300 peer reviewed scientific papers that have been cited 10,775 times in other scientific publications (as at 3/7/2018).
- Co-author of the authoritative book “Asian Honey Bees”.
- Author of various chapters within scientific book publications.
- Numerous RIRDC (AgriFutures) funded projects; projects of note include:
  - inherited hygienic behaviour in honey bees
  - Asian honey bee biology
  - risk assessment for the large hive beetle
  - how susceptible are Australian honey bees to varroa
- More recently, assisting with the Asian bee queen pheromone work in Townsville.

Prof. Ben was acknowledged in 2014 with the NSW Science and Engineering Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences (Ecology, Environmental, Agricultural and Organismal).

Prof. Ben and partner Madeleine Beckman lead Australia’s premier specialist bee research group, Social Insects Research Laboratory, at the University of Sydney. Prof. Ben is a rare breed, being both a world-leading researcher and an excellent communicator.

We congratulate Professor Ben Oldroyd on the receiving of this award and thank him for his years of dedication and service to the world of honey bees.

## Wellbees, a frame manufacturer with a difference

You may not have heard of Wellbees, or New Horizons but they've been quiet achievers in the Bee Frame industry for the past 18 months.

As you'd expect, Wellbees provides a range of high-quality Australian-made frames for bee hobbyists and commercial beekeepers who want to produce the best honey possible. But their story is unique. It began with a father wanting to support his disabled son and is now a thriving business.

Bruce built a carpentry workshop in his shed for his son Phil, who had been interested in carpentry for some 20 years. Phil had a disability and wasn't in employment, so Bruce planned to sell their wares – including bee frames – to the local community.

Phil really enjoyed his work, but the workshop was forced to close when the machines proved too noisy for a residential area. The workshop had such a huge impact on Phil's wellbeing that his dad was determined that he would continue to work. So he reached out to New Horizons, an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) in Coffs Harbour, who already provided meaningful employment for people with disability in their packing factory.

Hearing his story, the manager of the ADE saw an opportunity not only to provide Phil with employment – but also a whole new team of people too, by transforming the factory into a bee frame manufacturer. With the backing of New Horizons they got underway purchasing the equipment and started production.

Today the venture is a flourishing enterprise and quickly building a strong reputation in the beekeeping community. Employing 38 people, it focuses entirely on producing high-quality bee frames from hoop pine sourced from SE Queensland producers. They might have launched their new name this year, but the Coffs Harbour factory remains true to its roots – providing meaningful employment to people with disability.

Providing frames across Australia, Wellbees is able to provide standard and custom frames to suit beekeepers' varying requirements.

When you order from Wellbees you're not only receiving a high-quality product, but also helping to improve the wellbeing of people with disability.

For more information contact Wellbees on 02 6691 8100 or email [hello@wellbees.org.au](mailto:hello@wellbees.org.au)



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## NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 89 417 216 326

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P O Box 267  
MANILLA NSW 2346.

Please advise your members of this change and direct any necessary mail to this new address. The email address remains as [info@nswaa.com.au](mailto:info@nswaa.com.au).

- **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2018/19**

President	Neil Bingley	0428 487 105	<a href="mailto:beez101@bigpond.net.au">beez101@bigpond.net.au</a>
Vice President	Stephen Targett	0428 649 321	<a href="mailto:wally.56@hotmail.com">wally.56@hotmail.com</a>
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	Brian Woolfe	0267 323 168	<a href="mailto:woolfe@exemail.com.au">woolfe@exemail.com.au</a>
	Steve Cunial	0448 627 291	<a href="mailto:steve@cunialbeekeeping.com.au">steve@cunialbeekeeping.com.au</a>

We welcome Brian and Steve and thank them for accepting their nomination. We look forward to working with them in the future.

While Shona Blair and Mark Page are no longer on the Executive Council we are assured they are both still working in a positive way for the Association and the industry. We thank them both for their input in the past and look forward to a continuing relationship with them both.

ROS RIGGS  
SECRETARY.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST USA Tour MAY 2019

Victorian Apiarist Association and New South Wales Apiarist Association are currently investigating the possibility of a tour of USA apiaries and universities during the period of 19/5/2019 to 02/06/2019 - to be confirmed.

Discussions with our USA counterparts during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Bee Congress have given us an approximate itinerary with which to commence negotiations.

Pricing etc will be available once the expression of interest period is complete, so we can establish numbers.

Numbers will be limited to one tour coach only, 1<sup>st</sup> in – best dressed. If this tour interests you please contact Kevin or Therese by the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Enquiries to

Kevin McGibbon- VAA - 0418 577 788 or Therese Kershaw - NSWAA - 0428 857 634



**39th ANNUAL  
2018**

# Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day

- 9.00 Welcome and Introduction
- 9.15 Bee Biosecurity  
Dr Chris Anderson, Manager  
Plant Biosecurity Prevention &  
Preparedness, NSW DPI
- 9.30 AFB Awareness  
Mark Page, Bee Biosecurity Officer  
(Surveillance), NSW DPI
- 10.00 Barrier Systems  
Rod Bourke, Bee Biosecurity Officer, NSW DPI
- 10.30 Morning Tea - Demonstrations of pests and  
diseases inspection of a beehive and AFB smear  
preparation
- 11.30 Apiary Sites on Public Lands  
Nick Geoghegan, Program Coordinator—Apiary Sites, NSW DPI
- 12.00 NSW DPI Queen Bee Breeding Program  
Elizabeth Frost, Honey Bee Industry Development Officer, NSW DPI
- 12.30 The Art of Beeswax  
Bill Winner
- 1.00 Lunch - Demonstrations of opening, splitting  
and rehousing a native stingless beehive; pests  
and diseases inspection of a beehive; box and  
frame construction; mead making; creamed  
honey; wax wraps; candle making.
- 3.00 Flow Research and Development Update  
Dr Emily Grace
- 3.20 Honey Bee STDs  
Tom Gillard (BVSc) PhD Candidate
- 3.40 Native Bees in Applied Pollination  
Dr Tobias Smith
- 4.00 Raffle draw and close

**An event for beekeepers  
and beekeepers-to-bee**

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815 Tocal Road  
Paterson NSW**

**Saturday 13th of  
October 2018**



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Department of  
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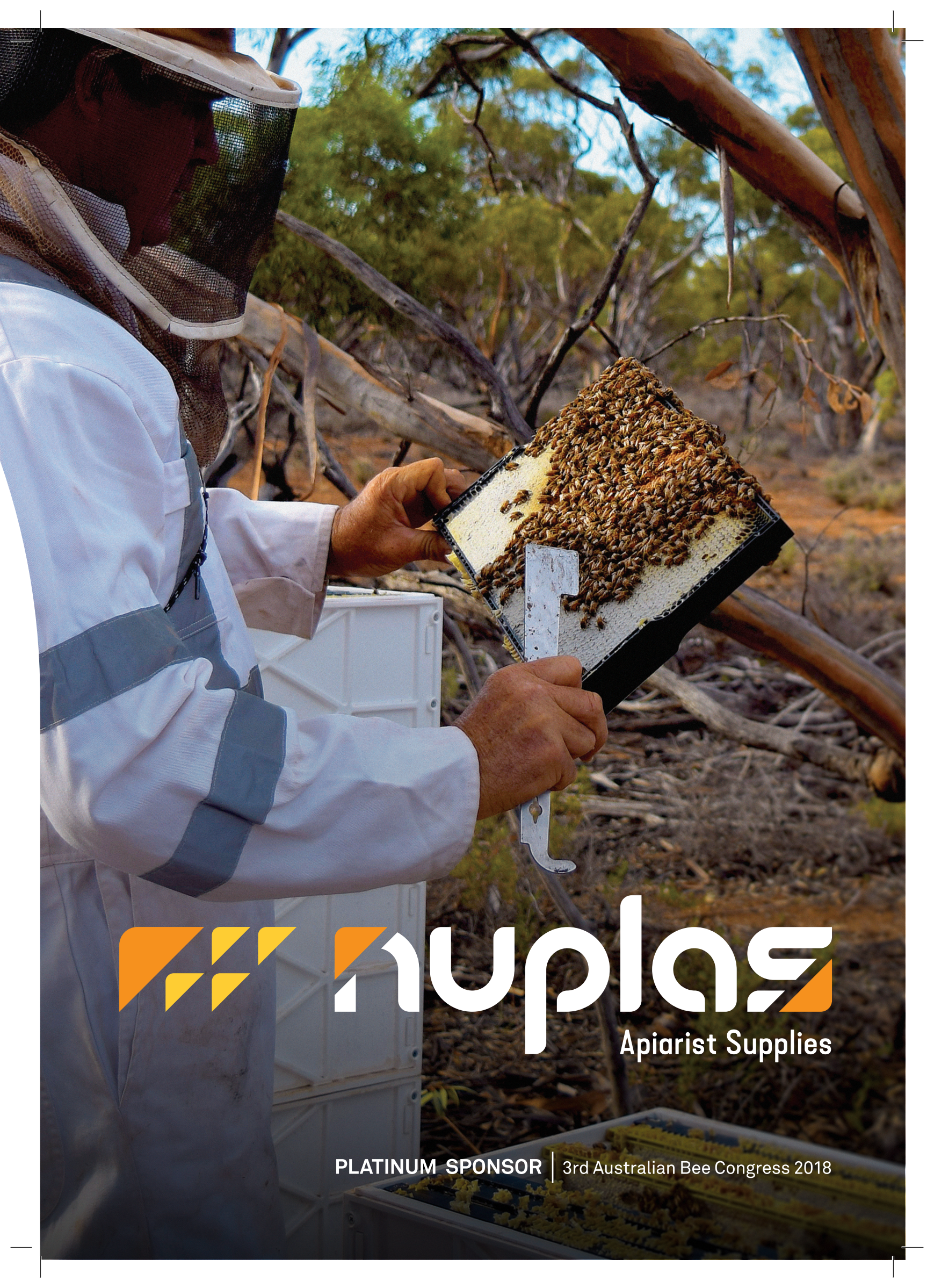
Nuplas Apiarist Supplies is turning industry tradition on its head by helping beekeepers easily transition from old methods, to new and more proactive technologies. Our plastic beehives are low maintenance, quickly assembled, interchangeable with other timber hives, fit with your current frames and save you time and money. Our solution is in-line with the changing future of apiarist technology, so ask yourself – is it time to **change** your thinking?

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# Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee Update



Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 Summary

The day before the BIBCC meeting an AFB Minimization Exercise was conducted with approx 40 personnel including commercial and non commercial beekeepers. A separate report will be in the next Honeybee News ref this.

The main points from the BIBCC meeting were:

the recommendation of making all of the National Code of Practice compulsory.

Robust discussion on the AFB incident and response on the northern tablelands in late May 18.

The need to determine a baseline for the current level of AFB. To determine this will involve random honey samples from IBC's for commercial beekeepers and also random samples from non commercial beekeepers. A baseline is required so that any AFB minimization methodologies can be assessed as to whether these strategies are reducing the incidence of AFB.

In May a varroa incursion exercise was conducted. This was a paper exercise that included commercial and non commercial beekeepers as well as DPI staff, personnel from Vic and SA as well as a legal team.

The day consisted of a cross section of people at five tables. The tables were Public Information and Engagement, Operational Planning, Planning – Surveillance & Training (detecting/finding hives), operations – IP Operations – killing and removing hives (Kill & Grill teams) and lastly Legal – zoning and movement restrictions. DPI identified a lot of areas that they need to work on to prepare for an incursion. These areas included training response teams and having suitable equipment stored ready to go for these response teams.

This was an interesting exercise and worthwhile exercise.

Stephen Targett

---

## Bee Hotline Number 1800 084 881

If you have any issues with bees, hives you suspect are diseased, neglected or abandoned than call the hotline number. This way it is recorded and DPI staff will respond. The response time will depend on how close a DPI trained apiary inspector is. However there will be a physical response within a couple of days.

Once the Hotline number is called it is a biosecurity incident until all is resolved with a good biosecurity outcome. Records are kept by DPI of all actions and agreed outcomes for the incident.

When you report an incidence and the matter goes to court DPI do not (and will not) have to give the name of the person who reported the incident – even under oath.

If you suspect a biosecurity incident (hives with AFB) ring the hotline number.

**Bee Hotline Number 1800 084 881**

# APIARY SUPPORT DESK UPDATE

Nick Geoghegan | Program Coordinator, Apiary Sites  
Intensive Livestock  
[nick.geoghegan@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nick.geoghegan@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



## Apiary Sites Expression of Interest Pilot Announced

At the NSWAA AGM on the 26th of June the DPI announced the first pilot of the Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for the allocation of new and newly available apiary sites on public land. The pilot will offer 10-20 bee sites in the Central West region that have been made available by the Central West LLS and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The purpose of this pilot is to offer a limited number of sites to test the EOI process and obtain feedback from industry to inform subsequent EOI rounds. Successful applicants will be offered five year permits that can be renewed.

On the 24th of July available sites will be published on an online map on the DPI website and interested applicants will be able to complete a form to submit their expression of interest in one or more sites. Applications must be submitted before end of day of the 21st of August.

A forum will be held in the Dubbo RSL on the 17th of August from 10am to Midday to allow beekeepers to ask questions and give feedback on the process. Please RSVP to [apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au) if you plan to attend.

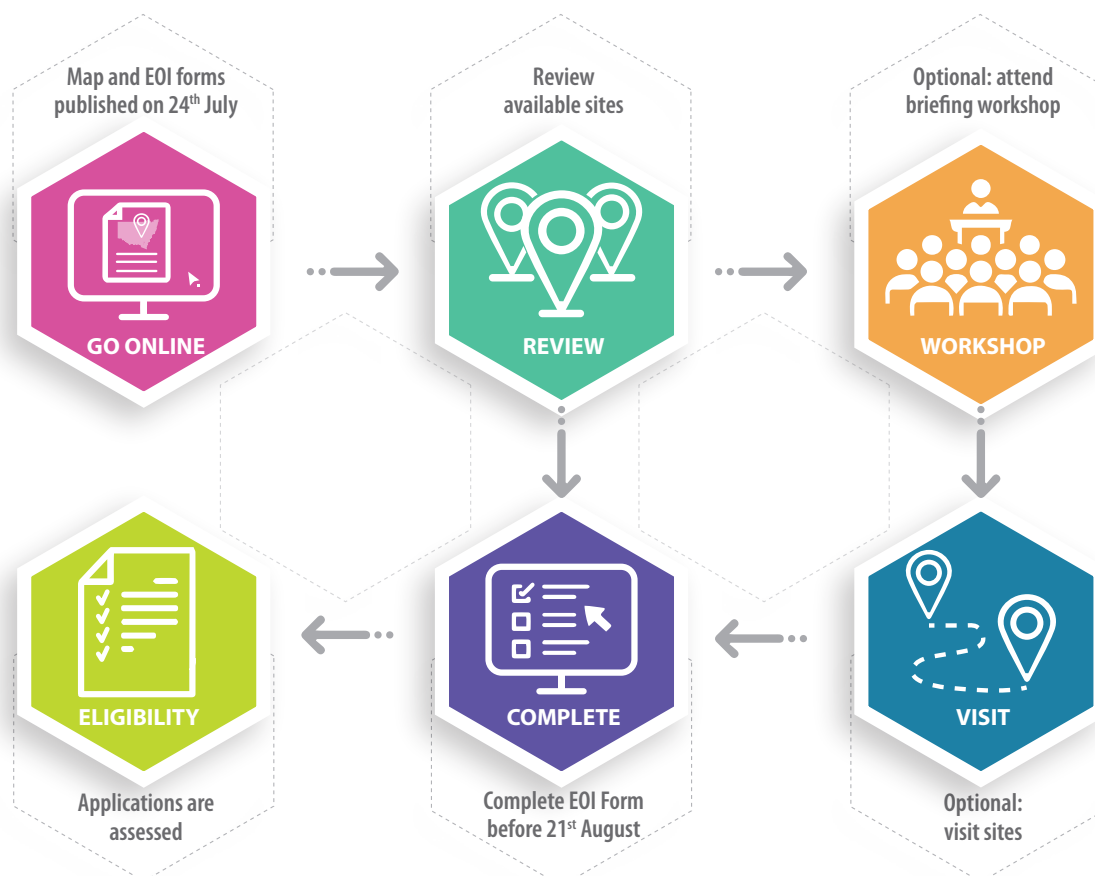
Further information will be published on the DPI website with links from the main DPI HoneyBee page: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees>

Interested apiarists can start preparing for the pilot in the following way:

1. Register for email updates with you name and contact details via: [apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
2. Ensure Beekeeper Registration is current.
3. Prepare your Public Liability Insurance Policy documents.
4. Prepare information about your biosecurity training, adherence to the HoneyBee Industry Code of Practice and history of compliance with biosecurity and permit / license terms.

Apiarists who cannot get access to the online map and form may request a hard-copy of both from Nick Geoghegan at the DPI: 02 6391 3669.

## EOI PILOT APPLICATION PROCESS





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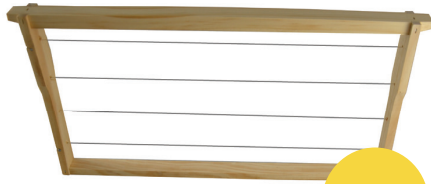
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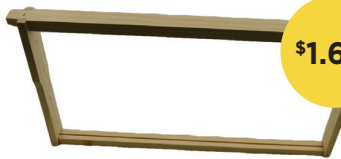
**Assembled and wired frames:**

Minimum order quantity = 1000

**\$2.15**

**Assembled Double Groove Frames:**

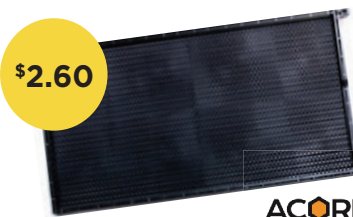
Minimum order quantity = 1000



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**Plastic Frame Full Depth:**

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**\$20.00**



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**Drone Comb Frames:**

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# BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

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



## Almond pollination preparations and Operation DO (Dead Out)

At the end of July and early August the annual migration of bees into the almond growing regions of NSW and Victoria occurs. In preparation for this, every beekeeper should have assessed the strength of each individual bee hive they are intending to move to the almonds. In order to get paid, there is a requirement that hives should have at least seven frames of bees and average at least eight frames of bees throughout each apiary.

### **IMPORTANT/WARNING:**

***Weak and dead-out colonies are not welcome on the almonds as they pose the single greatest biosecurity threat to both the beekeeper that owns it and every other beekeeper around them. Beekeepers should make every effort to ensure that they only move in hives that at the very least meet the seven (7) frame of bees minimum standard. Weak loads of bees will collectively get robbed by every apiary around them, so don't send in weak hives!***

Some beekeepers use the excuse that they don't have enough time to check every single beehive that they will be taking into the almonds. This attitude is a concern as it means that those beekeepers are not serious about managing the spread of disease, nor offering up a consistent quality product for the almond pollination job. They are probably also running too many hives per beekeeper.

The task of assessing beehives is neither as thorough, time consuming nor invasive as doing a full brood inspection, and is actually very quick to undertake – as long as you already occasionally crack open queen excluders to look in the brood box. You would not earn the pollination fee if you did not go to the pollination job. You need to understand that instead of this fee being a full profit job, part of the fee needs to be used in looking at/preparing hives for the job even before you load up the trucks with diesel and hives.

The hive assessment process is to ensure that the hive actually contains enough bees within it to “do the job” on the almonds. Hives below this assessed strength generally have little or no input into the pollination process as they don't bring back enough pollen (Sheesley and Poduska,

1970). If your hives don't make the grade, you shouldn't get paid!

Assessing bees is best done at or below 15 degrees Celsius and looking at the bees in a cluster. Above that temperature, bees spread out more and it will appear that there are more bees than there really are! A full depth frame that is  $\frac{3}{4}$  covered in bees equals “one frame of bees”. For doubles you would split it and look at bottom of top box and top of bottom box, whilst with a single box you remove mat and look in from above. Be hard in your assessments and don't count seven and “a bit” frames of bees as an eight...it's only a six or seven!



*Assessing hive strength on the almonds.*



*Strong hives working almonds...lots of bees means you earn the pollination fee!*

The other important thing to note is that weaker hives generally suffer badly on the almonds whereas stronger hives going into them tend to improve greatly and come out booming.

Whilst the quality of almond pollen is high, the combination of other potential stress factors means that there are too many pressures on weaker hives that cannot be overcome, so they generally go backwards. You are therefore best to leave your weaker hives back at home



and allow them to improve their condition, without the added stress of migrating them to almonds. If your location/weather conditions allow, you can probably give those weaker hives their first spring full brood inspection at home whilst the rest of the hives are on almonds, meaning that you have less extra work to do when the booming hives come off the almonds and need to be worked over heavily.

Another important reason why you should leave your junk (weak and dead-out hives) at home is that Victoria is running Operation DO (Dead Out) this season, with the intention of finding dead-out, weak and suspected diseased hives. Almond brokers will be examining hives with great scrutiny as there is an expectation that the broker will notify Victorian compliance if they find any suspect hives in loads of bees that they are ultimately responsible for, so do your part to assist with this by not taking junk down.

NSW DPI is also undertaking compliance operations throughout NSW during the almond pollination. Under the NSW Biosecurity Act, you are not permitted to move hives back into NSW if they are suspected to be contaminated with AFB. You must kill the bees and make your boxes and frames bee proof to prevent robbing before entering NSW. You must irradiate or hot wax dip contaminated hives before reusing these hives again, or destroy them in Victoria!



*Dead-out hives with frames like these are a large part of the AFB issue on almond pollination.*

### TAKE HOME MESSAGE

No matter how many bee hives you run it is your responsibility to ensure that every single one that goes to almonds is up to the grade required to do the job and deserves to be paid the fee. Leave anything that does not meet the grade at home!



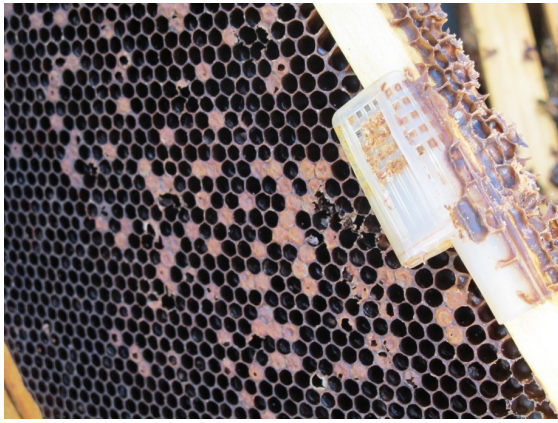
*Tell-tale sign of a robbed out hive...don't send this one to the almonds!*



*Dead-out hives with frames like these are a large part of the AFB issue on almond pollination.*



*This one should stay at home too...the colony is a non-performer and has already experienced some robbing by other bees.*



*Closer examination shows frames full of AFB scale... this hive has probably passed on AFB to other hives and should have been removed from the apiary 3-4 months ago instead of being allowed to deteriorate this far.*

To report AFB and other notifiable bee diseases, neglected hives, bees creating a public nuisance or other bee related biosecurity issues refer to;  
New hotline number for domestic biosecurity complaints, ph 97414790  
To request interstate health certificate or to report suspected exotic pests refer to;  
NSW/ACT Domestic quarantine 1800 084 881 or email quarantine@dpi.nsw.gov.au

**BOLT course & change of details**  
For NSW registered commercial beekeepers (with 50 hives or more) who would like to do the Biosecurity for Beekeepers BOLT online course but have not yet received a code from me (to do it at no cost) please send me an e-mail to rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au listing your brand, individual or company name and I will get this out to you.  
For all beekeepers use the following link to access the course. <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>

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

**Reference**  
Sheesley, B. & Poduska, B. 1970. *Strong Honeybee Colonies Prove Value in Almond Pollination. California Agriculture* 24(8): 5-6. <http://calag.ucanr.edu/archive/?type=pdf&article=ca.v024n08p5>

## Flow Hive Workshop #4 Sunday 25 February 2018

Tanya Ananin  
Branch Education Committee

After recognising the interest in the Flow Hive, the Sydney Branch NSWAA organised a one day Flow Hive workshop on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

We had eight students on the day who attended from a variety of locations, some travelling a very long way in order to attend. Student beekeepers were from Mornington in Victoria, the Hunter Valley, the Southern Tablelands, Central West NSW and Metropolitan Sydney. Their efforts to make it to the workshop and travel so far on the day were appreciated.

The course was run at the Nulawala Community Hall in Fairfield; an excellent venue and well suited to our course. The hall is owned by Fairfield City Council and is a sustainable building constructed of environmentally friendly and recycled materials where possible. It is not only a venue set up to accommodate student instruction but also an educational centre in its own right showcasing sustainability within building and everyday living. The extensive Fairfield City Council nursery is also on site where volunteers work to promote public knowledge, grow plants for the local area and participate in regeneration schemes. Our branch highly recommended the venue as a location for future educational workshops.

Bruce White was our instructor on the day and he taught the class with his usual vast knowledge, professionalism and ability to adjust practical demonstration to the mood of the bees. The inclement weather on the day was a welcome relief for Sydney after an extended dry spell and Bruce adjusted the lessons and demonstrations of the day to suit both students and weather. Mostly cloudy with intermittent rain the bees were placed under a carport which allowed demonstrations to continue in the drizzly conditions without interrupting the course work for the day.



*Dividing a hive - making up a split.*

Student instruction consisted of live bee demonstrations and hands on practical application of skills combined

with classroom lessons. Bruce presented the workshop using power point presentations, videos, lecture style learning and hands on introduction to bee keeping tools such as frames and smokers. Students also had an opportunity to participate inside the classroom with beekeeping skills such as embedding wax into a frame using the battery to heat the wire and melt the wax.

There was ample opportunity to ask questions and students also each received the Bee AgSkills book, a copy of the biosecurity manual and a USB memory stick of bee information.

The experience amongst the students ranged from no experience with bees through to students who owned up to three hives. Some students had experience with live bees and others were starting out as complete beginners with the Flow Hive. All students expressed great satisfaction with working with bees and the insights on intricacies of the flow hive gained from the course. It is rewarding for our branch members to not only educate beekeepers but to also see the passion people have for bees and our industry.



The Sydney Branch of the NSWAA ran the workshop but it could not have gone ahead without the assistance and support of key sponsors. Our branch and students on the day extend their sincere thanks to Jamie Crighton of Steritech for the USB memory sticks as well as Reiner and Tim Johnson of Fairfield Council for allowing us to use Nalawala. Additional supporters include branches of NSWAA and other beekeeping associations and supply shopfronts who advertised our workshop free of charge. The generous sponsor support of our workshop is appreciated.

As with any course there are many people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure its success. Our branch volunteers generously gave up their time on the day and I would like to give special thanks to:

**Jose** who catered for all of the students and members running the day ensuring we were well looked after at lunch, morning and afternoon tea as well as the associated clean up.

**Bruce** who not only ran the course on the day but also supplied the bees for the demonstrations and was available to answer questions and assist students all day.

**Miskell** who made a special trip to drop off protective gear ensuring all volunteers and students had the opportunity to wear a full bee suit if they had not brought one.

**Paul** who assisted with absolutely everything technical, the live bee demonstrations and the general running of the course for the entire day.

**Ted** who kept a sharp lookout for snakes, helped with the smooth running of the bee demonstrations and assisted wherever required throughout the day ... I will most definitely be more aware of snakes going forward and am grateful that it was a plastic educational tool not a live one!!

**Martin** who came in especially in the morning to open the hall, disengaged the alarm system (which we accidentally tested and can vouch for its effectiveness) and as our branch treasurer provided administrative assistance both on the day and in the lead up to the course.

**Jane** our secretary who gave a great deal of administrative help in the lead up to the course ensuring everything was ready on the day for student registration.

As educational coordinator of the Sydney Branch I would like to thank everyone involved in our course. Students, instructors, volunteers, advertisers and sponsors – no workshop can run without you. Thank you!



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### Going to the almonds? Don't bring American foulbrood back into NSW

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act, you can only bring in bees and hives into NSW if they are not contaminated with American foulbrood (AFB). These restrictions apply to all beekeepers and anyone dealing with bees and beekeeping equipment entering NSW.

If your hives are diagnosed with AFB, or are suspected to have AFB, you can't bring them into NSW. Symptoms of AFB include dead outs, ropiness and irregular brood pattern.

For more information on AFB, go to <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases>.

If you suspect that your hives are contaminated with AFB, then you must:-

1. Euthanise the bees.
2. Make the hive and its components bee proof (to prevent robbing) **before** bringing them into NSW.
3. The infected hive and its components must be treated with irradiation or hot wax dipping before exposing to bees again.

For further information, see the group permit at

[https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/817471/group-permit-afb-hives-into-nsw.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/817471/group-permit-afb-hives-into-nsw.pdf).

Dr Emma Cottage | Senior Plant Biosecurity Officer Preparedness & Programs

NSW Department of Primary Industries | Biosecurity and Food Safety

161 Kite Street | Locked bag 21 | Orange NSW 2800

T: 026391 3107 | F: 02 6361 9976 | E: [emma.cottage@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emma.cottage@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

W: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) | [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity)

If you suspect you have found a new pest, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881



Photo: Rod Bourke

## Legend of the Royal Easter Show



At this year's Royal Easter Show one of our very own members, Bruce White, received the prestigious Legend of the Show award for outstanding commitment and service to the show and was interviewed by Chris Smith from Sydney Radio 2GB. Bruce has been working in the bee and honey sector since 1966. He has been a judge and also involved in coordinating and managing Honeyland, the display which showcases and sells our honey and apiary products.

Bruce has been involved in beekeeping since he was a young boy. A friend had a beehive and it intrigued him; he loved to watch the activity of the hive. This in turn led to his parents getting him a bee hive and Bruce establishing his own colony of bees. Shortly after getting his hive, Bruce's father passed away and Bruce brought his bees indoors. The bees were in his bedroom, set up with glass sides for more efficient viewing of the hive's inner workings and the hive opening exited out of the bedroom window. Through the day Bruce could see the bees working, observing the hierarchy of the hive, and at night he could hear them ripening the nectar. Bruce was fortunate in that his mum encouraged his passion for bees, because it has led to a distinguished career.

While at school on the South Coast Bruce joined the Junior Farmers and completed a Junior Farmers project which won him a scholarship to study apiary at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College before starting his career with the Department of Primary Industries in 1964. He did two years of training in Sydney before being posted to Orange as the District Apiary Officer where his role covered the Central West. Bruce and other agricultural specialists worked with farmers in an advisory capacity and were involved with productivity, best practice and disease management. After his posting at Orange he was posted back to Sydney and worked continuously with the DPI until his life was impacted in 1977 by the Granville Rail disaster. Bruce was a lucky survivor after switching to the fast train at Parramatta station when the train hit the overbridge just before Granville station. After being trapped for three hours Bruce participated in his own evacuation by helping to position jacks donated by the local hardware store under the train and bridge debris pinning his lower body and was evacuated to hospital. After six months learning to walk again Bruce was able to move about on crutches

and callipers and he went back to work.

Bruce can describe the inner workings and the hierarchy of the hive in great detail. Bees are truly amazing insects. With up to one hundred thousand bees in a hive their lives are efficient and well ordered; there are no shirkers in the hive ... apart from perhaps the drones. As soon as the sun rises the scout bees emerge from the hive to go out and find food. On their return they come back and tell their sisters through dancing which direction to source the nectar and pollen. The role of scout bees is important, bees need a balanced diet and different plants produce different flavours and quality of nectar and pollen. Bees will spend approximately three weeks of their life cycle out in the field working, but prior to that they are inside the hive helping to keep the temperature at a consistent thirty four degrees to keep larvae alive, help keep disease at bay and maintain optimal hive operation. Depending on which positions need to be filled, some of the roles which a bee inside the hive may be involved in include nurse bees feeding the queen or even undertaker bees removing the bodies of bees who have perished. Bees help each other and they are flexible; the work they do depends upon what is required for the colony.

The queen is the mother of the hive. She mates for the first ten days of her life with many drones and then spends the next portion of her life laying twice her own weight in eggs every day. The queen's lifespan will be determined by her environment; some beekeepers replace their queen every twelve months while others leave her for a while longer. Ultimately, she can live for approximately four years but will start to run out of sperm towards the end of her life. When a hive is requeened the bees can change completely within six to eight weeks, the new queen will have new eggs fertilised by different drones and so new families of bees will dominate and then overtake the existing families as their predecessors die.

It is especially important for beekeepers to join a beekeeping association to learn to keep bees properly. There are more than twenty branches of the Amateur Beekeeping Association and also the NSW Apiarists' Association who are able to assist beekeepers with education and support in dealing with their bees.

Bees are under pressure worldwide, one of the issues is that bees are disappearing, but this is not necessarily a problem in Australia. Some of the problem is to do with overstocking. When first starting in the industry a truckload of bees was considered to be seventy hives, but today a truckload of bees is one hundred to one hundred and twenty hives. This puts more pressure on areas where the bees are taken to gather pollen and nectar. With less food available the bees are not as effective. Once the bees are unloaded it is more difficult to see overstocking than it is with livestock. Other things that are affecting beekeeping are the high costs of transport within Australia and the continued land clearing meaning more buildings and fewer apiaries.

Bruce is involved with many facets of the beekeeping community. He is a branch executive of the NSW Apiarists' Association and the President of the Amateur Beekeeping Association. He assists with research, is tireless in his efforts to assist amateur beekeepers and even helps His Excellency David Hurley, the Governor of NSW maintain his hives at Government House. He has also travelled extensively meeting and working with beekeepers in Russia, Tanzania, Korea, South Africa, Japan, Argentina, Great Britain, Greece, Chile, Tonga and The Solomon Islands. He has worked with beekeepers to assist with a range of problems including honey taste, hive structure, quarantine problems and even hive management assistance.

The legend of the Show Award recognises outstanding service and commitment to the Show, and Bruce White has worked tirelessly not only during the preparation and execution of the annual Royal Easter Show but also throughout the year supporting beekeepers who exhibit their produce across all classes.

Congratulations to Bruce on receiving his well deserved Legend of the Show Award.

## Welcome to New Members

Celia Watson - Ballina NSW

Cybele Masterman - Lower Portland NSW

Ernest & Denis Moy - Jandowae QLD

Geoff Brown - Griffith NSW

William De Jong - Cairns QLD

B R Driver - Gunnedah NSW

Bill Ringin - Moe VIC

Alan Apps - Young NSW

Trevor Kent - Alfredton VIC

Stan Glowacki - Jeeralong Junction VIC

Zane Blackwell - Kempsey NSW

Dennis Anger - Giru QLD

David Stevens - Warwick QLD

Anthony Deighton - Gundagai NSW

John Kennedy - Yea VIC

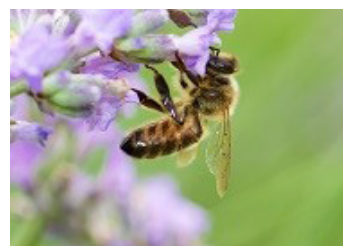
John Tenney - Wirrabara SA

John & Bernadette Kohler - Moonee Beach NSW

Terry Bettini - Moruya NSW

Michael Davies - Bundaberg QLD

## CATCH THE BUZZ Africanized Honey Bees Have a Different Chemistry than Non-Africans.



*Journal of Proteome Research*

Africanized honeybees, commonly known as “killer bees,” are much more aggressive than their European counterparts. Now researchers have examined neuropeptide changes that take place in Africanized honeybees’ brains during aggressive behavior. The researchers, who report their results in the *Journal of Proteome Research*, also showed they could turn gentle bees into angry ones by injecting them with certain peptides.

In the 1950s, researchers in Brazil bred Africanized honeybees by crossing European and African bees. In 1957, swarms of the bees were released, and they have been buzzing their way across the Americas ever since.

Scientists currently don’t understand what makes these bees so aggressive, but the behavior appears to involve a complex network of genetic and environmental factors, regulated by neuropeptides. So Mario Sergio Palma and his colleagues wanted to examine neuropeptide differences between the brains of bees displaying aggressive and non-aggressive behavior.

The researchers stimulated Africanized honeybees to attack by hanging spherical, black leather targets in front of their colonies. Angry guard bees quickly attacked the targets, becoming embedded in the leather by their stingers. Meanwhile, gentler bees kept their distance. The researchers collected both groups of bees and analyzed their brains by mass spectral imaging. In the brains of aggressive bees, two longer neuropeptides were cleaved into shorter ones, but this did not happen in the gentler bees. The researchers then injected the shorter peptides into anesthetized, non-aggressive bees, which became combative upon waking.

The study provides new insights into the neurological basis for aggressive honeybee behavior, the researchers say.

## In Beekeeping is Bigger Better?

**Industry Benchmark:** There are beekeeping operations that run over 1500 hives and have a long term average honey production per hive over 200kg per season. Yet there are other beekeeping operations that run thousands of hives that average 50-60kg per hive per season.

With the increase in pollination, active honeys and niche markets the benchmark should be \$ per hive. This can be a combination of pollination and bulk honey, just bulk honey or maybe active honey (Manuka) and bulk honey or any combination of these. Some beekeepers pack their own honey and receive a premium. Producing less honey but selling for a premium, the outcome dollar wise per hive can be similar to one who sells more honey as bulk.

From my limited research: at \$5.00 kg for bulk honey and \$100 + GST for almond pollination the NSW benchmark is **\$700 per hive** for an average season. Regardless of the enterprise, that should be the minimum gross income generated per hive. There are quite a few beekeeping operations that generate more than \$700 per hive. The profit for each operation will depend on expenses such as wages/interest and the business skills of the beekeeper. Benchmarking expenses for the beekeeper is another project.

**My Scenario:** Occasionally my wife states ‘we make good money why not get more hives so we can retire earlier?’ Most male beekeepers know you cannot win an argument with your partner using logic – however I try.

I immediately complete a **More Hives Advantages Disadvantages comparison**. This can be turned into a Cost benefit Analysis with some assumptions.

Advantages: Higher taxable income = more money for me

Disadvantages: More Tax (I run no debt);

- Minimum of an extra 8 bee sites for every load of bees;
- More nights away moving bees;
- More complaints from my wife about been away;
- More wear and tear on me, vehicles and machinery
- Average honey crop per load decreases.

**Why:**

- Slower to get to all loads to the honey flow.
- Slower to get around all loads for a disease check.
- Slower to get around bees to take honey off.
- Slower to requeen all hives.
- Less time for holidays (with 400 hives I can spend 6 weeks in USA visiting wife’s family and friends with no detriment to business).
- New bee sites for the increase in bees will not be as productive as original sites.

As I explain all this to my wife she replies ‘hire a worker.’

**‘Hire a Worker Advantages Disadvantages comparison.’**

Advantages: Less wear and tear on me;  
More income potentially (For me every worker has to generate \$50,000 for me after their wages, super, insurance and any extra bee costs, extra vehicles etc. to make it worthwhile);  
Improved safety with two people at work sites; and  
Maybe bring different skills to the business.

Disadvantages: Workers Comp Insurance;

- Workers wages, tax and superannuation;
- Need an accountant part time;
- More beehives required to generate \$50,000 for me;
- More bee sites required for more bees;
- More equipment and maybe extra vehicle required;
- Average honey yield per load goes lower as per previous comparison;
- Dealing with a worker who is sick, late or has personnel issues (I have enough of my own);
- More wear and tear on my equipment and vehicles;
- Cost of training worker in Food Handling, Forklift, Truck;
- Less flexibility as I am responsible for the worker;
- More paperwork, timesheets, update risk assessments etc
- Lessor lifestyle; and
- Less time for holidays.



**Note:** *Hiring a worker can be required for many reasons. Here I just look at the income side for hiring a worker.*

My average income per hive is just below \$700 per hive. This is from a combination of bulk honey and pollination.

Is getting more hives going to help me reach industry benchmark or is it better to work my 400 hives better/smarter? 400 hives at the NSW industry benchmark of \$700 equates to \$280,000 pa in an average year. This means a great income and a healthy tax bill.

**Result:** *For me getting bigger is not better.* Reaching the industry benchmark per hive will result in higher income with similar expenses. Getting more efficient, more knowledge and better queens will help me to reach or better the industry benchmark per hive.

This will equate to more tax but will also **result in more money in my pocket** at the end of the season.

Stephen Targett

## CATCH THE BUZZ

### OZ May Have Better Manuka Than New Zealand Afterall.

Alan Harman



Australia is home to 85 of the world's 87 leptospermum species. (Photo: Sunshine Coast University)

Australian native *leptospermum spp.* honey has the potential to surpass New Zealand's Manuka honey for both activity and scale.

Australia is the homeland of leptospermum with 84 of the world's 87 species.

But in Queensland, University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) PhD researcher Simon Williams says the testing shows not all Aussie Leptospermum are equal.

Some have been found not to have the precursor compound dihydroxyacetone in their nectar while others are more active than leptospermum scoparium.

Manuka honey derived from New Zealand's sole leptospermum tree, leptospermum scoparium is the gold standard in medicinal honey.

Scientists in the USC honey research laboratory have been working on understanding Australian leptospermum honeys for the last seven years.

They have found Australian honeys are comparable or better than New Zealand's Manuka honey. "Every state has bioactivity, but it has very large range, which is one of the complications in Australia," Williams says.

Now with funding from the Rural Industry Research and Development Corp. and industry partners, work has begun on identifying Australian leptospermum spp. that are capable of producing medicinal honey.

Beekeepers and the honey industry have been asked to collaborate in the research to allow the whole of Australia to be surveyed.

Williams is testing hundreds of samples of nectar and honey produced by Leptospermum shrubs and trees sent in by beekeepers.

He is mapping the distribution of Australia's Leptospermum species and assessing how much nectar the plants produce and their bacteria-fighting abilities.

"I've tested 54 of the species to determine which ones beekeepers should target," Williams tells reporters. "We are finding that not every species produces honey each year, which is a little bit disappointing."

He says their medical potential is also quite varied. Dihydroxyacetone is the precursor to the medical properties in the honey.

"Within one of the more common species, Leptospermum polygalifolium or jellybush, we've seen levels that range from 1,000 parts per million DHA all the way up to about 30,000 parts per million DHA," Williams says.

Williams keeps the location of beekeepers' shrubs and trees confidential.

But the university has published two Leptospermum identification guides that have location maps to give people an idea of where species might be and how to identify those species.

The production of high grade manuka honey in Australia was given a boost last year with the Rural Industries Research and Development Corp. (RIRDC) contracting a Leptospermum breeding program with West Australian based company ManukaLife.

ManukaLife and RIRDC, working with Kings Park Botanical Gardens in Perth, signed a three-year research agreement to conduct the plant breeding program.

"The breeding program builds on a current project funded by the RIRDC Honey Bee and Pollination Program which identified Australian Leptospermum species with high levels of bioactivity," RIRDC Managing Director John Harvey said.

"Our aim is to grow the availability of Leptospermum plantations for honey production and provide an alternative enterprise for Australian famers, which in turn will address the growing global demand for Manuka Honey."

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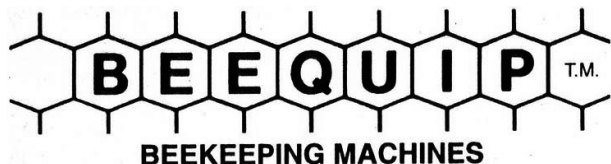
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# Media article

## Operation DO (Dead Out) - 2018 almond pollination apiary biosecurity compliance

Agriculture Victoria's apiary biosecurity team, in partnership with the Victorian honey bee industry, is preparing for Operation DO – a large-scale surveillance exercise during the pollination of almond trees in the Victoria's north-west.

An estimated 150,000 bee hives from Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland will be moved in to pollinate the blossoms of the region's expanding almond industry.

With this large movement of beehives there is heightened biosecurity risks associated with inter-apiary transmission of honey bee pests and diseases, most notably American Foulbrood disease (AFB).

In this high concentration of colonies AFB can easily spread from hives that are weakened and vulnerable to robber bee activity or from dead out exposed AFB colonies that may be delivered to almond orchards.

*Operation DO* has two primary aims:

1. To increase the surge capacity for improved broader apiary surveillance and increase compliance capacity under the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 (LDCA) in Victorian almond orchards
2. To increase the detection of LDCA breaches leading to mitigation of apiary endemic disease biosecurity risks for the benefit of Victorian and interstate beekeepers and almond growers.

A major objective of *Operation DO* is to further develop and improve Agriculture Victoria's collaborative partnership with stakeholders including almond pollinating beekeepers, pollination brokers and almond growers. Consultation with these stakeholders has already started.

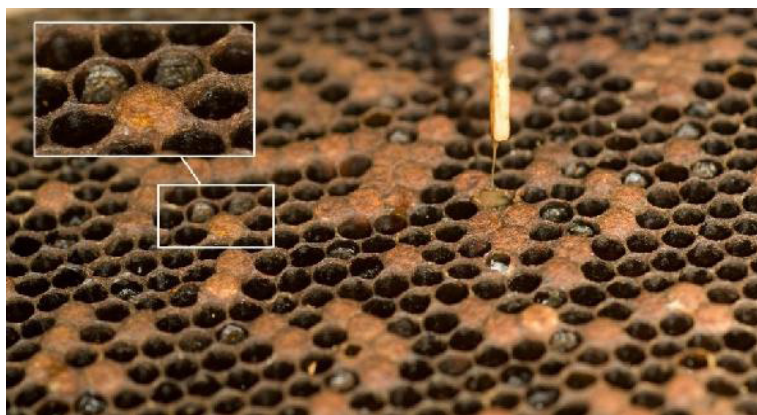
*Operation DO* is supported by the Victorian honey bee industry with funding recommended for operational use through the Apicultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC).

Biosecurity Officers from other states will also be part of *Operation DO* as observers.

For more information contact Leading Apiary Officer Daniel Martin on 0428 752 449.

For more information about honey bee pests and diseases and the Victorian Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees#bios>

## Could this be happening to your beehives?



Disease in bee equipment can be a major problem if left untreated.

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Please contact us about any inspirational ideas you have*



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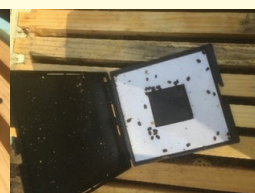
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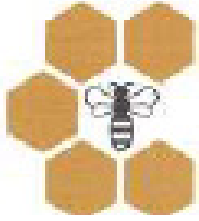
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# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

## AHBIC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

This year two (2) AHBIC Awards of Excellence were awarded.

The first one was a joint one presented at the Victorian Apiarists Association Conference to Bob McDonald OAM and Eileen McDonald. This was in recognition of their contribution to beekeeping in Australia and in particular their involvement in securing the 2007 Apimondia for Australia.

The second award was made to John Davies at the Third Australian Bee Congress. John was recognised for his work in Western Australia in particular his input into the Better Bees WA bee breeding programme. Congratulations to Bob, Eileen and John on their awards. Well deserved.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The Five year Strategic Plan has been adopted by industry. It will be put on the AHBIC website for those who did not get a copy.

## AHBIC AGM

The AHBIC AGM was held on Sunday 1 July, 2018 on the Gold Coast. The Executive for this year are:-

Peter McDonald - Chairperson

Stephen Fewster - Deputy Chairperson

Executive

Jodie Goldsworthy

Leilani Leyland

Peter Barnes

Kevin MacGibbon

Thanks go to Lindsay Bourke, who stepped down as Chairperson, and Executive members Ian Zadow and Phillip McHugh, who did not stand for re-election, for their contribution to the Executive.

More on the outcomes of the AGM and Executive meeting next issue.

## POLLEN IN AUSTRALIAN HONEY

A project on pollen analysis of Australian honey was funded by AgriFutures Australia (formerly RIRDC). A paper on the results can be found at this link.

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/comments?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0197545>

## MELBOURNE INTERCEPTION

Since my note I sent out on 3 July, 2018 there have been no new developments in Melbourne. Surveillance of hives within a two (2) km radius will continue but

this is purely precautionary.

The question had been asked if the ship came directly into port or did it anchor offshore awaiting a berth. I have enquired and the ship came directly into port.

## ASIAN BEES IN DARWIN

At this stage no more Asian bees have been found in Darwin.

Peter McDonald and I spent a week in Darwin a few weeks back helping out. The bee birds are currently very thick and bees are not flying much due to their presence. The pellets from these bee birds were being collected from seven (7) roosts in Darwin and so far no Asian bee wings have been found. Whilst in Darwin I participated in media interviews, both radio and TV, to keep the public on side and ask them to report any bee activity or any bee eater bird roosts. The response was positive with several new roosts being identified.

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Thanks to those beekeepers who have responded to the call to become "Friends of AHBIC". Many of you came forward at the Third Australian Bee Congress. We will need more beekeepers to become "Friends of AHBIC" if we are to be able to function efficiently into the future.

## ADVERSE REPORTS

I have written in the past about the need to have adverse reports fill out if you suspect that you have a chemical poisoning of your bees. The phrase I used was that "if it is not reported it did not happen".

It has come to AHBIC's attention that some may not do this as they do not know how to navigate the details that need to be reported.

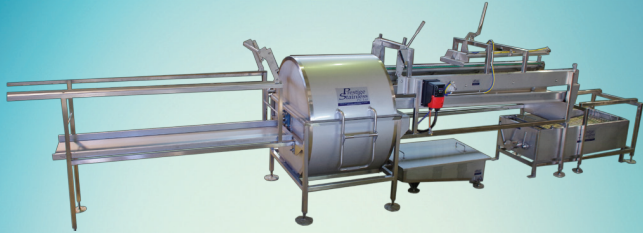
To this end the AHBIC Executive has decided that if you do not wish to report direct to APVMA then you can send the details to AHBIC and we will fill out the details and submit on your behalf.

I will develop a reporting form and include in the next newsletter. If, in the meantime, you do have an event contact me and I will take down the details and submit.

## PRODUCER CONTINGENCY FUND LOAN

The Producer Contingency Fund has made a loan of \$50,000 to the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) to allow them to mount a challenge to the trademarking of manuka by New Zealand in overseas countries. The loan will be repaid over five years (5).

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