

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Volume 12 Number 4
July - August 2019



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*COVER: Bird's eye view of drought affected Southern Tablelands, New South Wales
Photograph: Neil Bingley*



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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- WFI - Insurance for Rural Business, Business & Strata - 1300 934 934. WFI provides commission to NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) to help member benefits. Please let your local Area Manager know that you are a member to receive this benefit for the Association. - Ms Jane Jones Mob: 0417 943 451 E: jane.jones@wfi.com.au
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Report

In my first newsletter I was a tad naive thinking I could keep the presidents reports short. A lot is going on that NSWAA is involved in. The presidents report is a great way to keep members informed on the latest information.

It was remiss of me not to thank the businesses that helped make the 2019 conference such a success. A BIG THANK YOU to our 2019 Conference sponsors and tradeshow businesses and hopefully we will see you back and supporting our bigger and better 2020 conference at Tamworth.

Most beekeepers are getting organised for the 2019 almond pollination event. I know of signed almond contracts that range from \$108 - \$140 + GST per hive. Some almond growers do not understand that most NSW beekeepers are not desperate to do almond pollination. Some almond growers are slow to lock in prices and contracts with beekeepers. **Almonds need bees - bees do not need almonds.** If you have an arrangement with a independent grower and you cannot supply bees (because of fire, poisoning, bad winter etc.) be professional and let the grower know early so that they can arrange another beekeeper for pollination.

For those pollinating almonds in Victoria be very aware of disease. The Victorian DPI website recommends blanket feeding OTC to all hives prior to going to almond pollination. Proof of EFB can be submitted later. That should wave a **BIG RED FLAG** to NSW beekeepers. This is against the NSW biosecurity recommendations and against the intent of the national biosecurity code. To me Victorian biosecurity has been dumbed down to suit bad beekeepers. NSW DPI informed me that Vic DPI will not be burning hives that have AFB this year. Remember it is illegal to bring AFB material into NSW without a permit. NSW DPI have issued a blanket permit to bring AFB material into NSW for NSW registered beekeepers. There are stringent rules to the permit. A copy of the permit needs to be carried with the diseased hive material. Personally all weak and dead out hives on pollination that have AFB should be burnt. *Due to the increased biosecurity risk in Victoria the Victorian pollination fee should be a lot higher than the pollination fee in NSW almond orchards.*

A Corporate Governance course was conducted by TOCAL at Orange on 11th and 12th July. Corporate Governance is about meeting procedures, legal responsibilities and good practices at meetings. Some

of your executive and most branch presidents attended. I learnt a lot from the training and from the comments during the training so did all attendees. It was great to see some younger beekeepers attending. Presenter Julia Telford was very knowledgeable and had an engaging presentation style. At the state level this training identified some policy documents required to raise our professionalism with respect to executive meetings. Policies to include details not covered in the constitution. Thank you to Dr Doug Somerville for suggesting this training and a bigger thank you to Elizabeth Frost for finding the funding, applying and being successful.

Unfortunately our membership database is not as good as it could be. If you know of members who are not receiving the Honeybee News please contact the secretary. For branch secretaries if you know of any discrepancies in your membership list please contact the secretary. The executive will take action ref this database in the near future. For branches please give your meeting dates and locations to the secretary so they can be placed on our website.

The 2020 AGM/Conference will be at Tamworth 21 & 22 May followed by a Tamworth branch run field day Saturday 23rd May 2020. Conference wise we are aiming for less talk from DPI (reports will be in conference folder) and more from researchers and overseas speakers. World bee day is 20th May as is our professional development session titled "Commercialising Your Business - the first step". NSWAA plan to have a big media event to open the honey competition and tradeshow to the public on Wednesday as part of World Bee Day. Check the website for details as they become available. Would be great if members can arrive in Tamworth Tuesday afternoon.

The 10th July Orange executive meeting agenda covered the 2020 conference - including the theme "RESOURCES" and speakers, native title, Notices of Motion from the AGM, member committee positions and more. This was the first executive meeting for Ray Hull. Ray contributed some great ideas to discussions during the meeting. Welcome to "The Team" Ray.

NSWAA put in a submission on the DRAFT Forest Monitoring paper. There was a lot of modification required to ensure the final paper looked after NSWAA member interests in regard to forest management and monitoring. Thanks to Tim Burfitt who put in a very professional submission for NSWAA.

The next executive meeting will be in November, date and location will be advertised in the next HBN. Dr Doug Somerville is back at work. May take him a while to clear emails. If you have technical issues give Dr Doug a ring. Let him know we missed him.

Congratulations to Therese Kershaw who was elected onto AHBIC at the AHBIC AGM. We know Therese will do a great job representing our industry.

Prospects are poor across most of the state. For most it will be another below season. The southern part has had some rain which is enough to enable canola to be a prospect if the rains keep coming. River Gum is budded in some areas but if the dry remains it may not yield. I suspect a lot of diesel will be used to keep bees on conditions this year. This may be a season for 1/2 load drops of bees. A thank you to the State Government for free heavy vehicle registrations and waiver on public lands bee site fees.

Stephen Targett
President

Motion/Action from 2019 State Conference

Motion 1.

Are you in favour of the recommendation that any State or Territory effected by Native Title Claims on Crown Lease Lands that the Australian Honeybee Industry Council becomes respondents in the Court hearing supporting the State or Territory Beekeeping Association?

Referred to, no further action to be taken after we received legal advice. Sent to AHBIC for further action. Discussed at AHBIC AGM

Motion 2.

NSWAA request AHBIC seriously consider a national newsletter publication that includes all state/territory newsletters.

Referred to AHBIC, no further action to be taken. AHBIC for further action. Discussed at AHBIC AGM. AHBIC formed a working group.

Motion 3.

The NSWAA Executive request that AHBIC establish a logo promoting honeybees and pollination.

Eg: Proudly supporting Australian beekeepers.
Pollinated by Australian beekeepers.

Referred to AHBIC

Motion 4.

AHBIC investigate information for incoming international beekeeping travellers, to ensure Australia is safe guarded from importation of exotic pests.

Referred to AHBIC

Motion 5:

The NSWAA Executive writes to the State and Federal Governments urging them to get the science right for the health of our river systems and for the EPA to enforce relevant legislation to stop chemical and fertilizers going down the river system.

Letters to State and federal governments – Stephen Targett

Motion 6:

The NSWAA Executive writes to the State and Federal Governments requesting that they use proper science before damming any new river systems.

Letters to State and federal governments – Stephen Targett

Motion 7:

The NSWAA Executive lobby Government to reintroduce carbon farming and plants that are beneficial to bees

Letters to State and federal governments – Stephen Targett

Will be recommending that carbon plants are indigenous and bee friendly

Motion 8:

The NSWAA Executive approach the State Government to change legislation to allow new bee sites in National Parks.

Draft feedback NSW Forest Monitoring & Improvement program. NSWAA are updating the Bee Sites on Public Lands policy. National Parks section to be priority. Then meeting with relevant minister.

Motion 9

Requesting that NSWAA Executive consider to approve whether as a sub-committee structure of Northern NSW branch delegates, or as approved to operate an event at conference for the purposes of conducting a Honey & Apiary products competition/show and public/community awareness promotion in conjunction with the NSWAA conference when it is hosted within the northern regions of NSW approximately biennially

Executive agreed with this proposal. Discussed with Suellen Cooper. To be held at same location as 2020 Conference/Trade Show

Motion 10

That the NSWAA encourage all members to become a friend of AHBIC by adding a check box on the NSWAA membership form that would allow members to make an annual donation to AHBIC while paying NSW membership or find any other way possible to help increase funding to AHBIC so that it can continue to exist.

Friends of AHBIC page to go in Honey Bee News and on the new website and on the membership renewal page.



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- 9.00 Welcome
- 9.10 40 Years of Beekeeping
- Bill Winner
- 9.40 2019 Apimondia Review
- Bruce White
- 10.00 Honey and Pollen Flora of
South-Eastern Australia
- Dr Doug Somerville
- 10.30 Morning Tea - Demonstrations for Beginners, bee smokers and
tools, PPE, Hive parts and opening of a beehive
- 11.30 NSW DPI Queen Bee Breeding Program Update - Elizabeth Frost
- 11.45 Beekeeper Training Update - Dani Lloyd-Prichard and Kevin Tracy
- 12.00 Bee Biosecurity Update - Mark Page and Rod Bourke
- 12.30 The History of AFB and Analysis Techniques - Dr Michael Hornitzky
- 1.00 AFB Sniffer Dogs - Sam Giggins
- 1.15 Lunch – Field demonstrations of pests and diseases inspection
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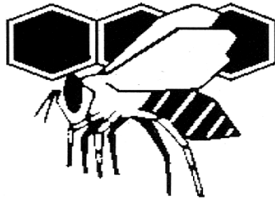
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Movement of beehives that are infected or suspected of being infected with AFB into and through NSW.

Beehives can only be moved into NSW without certification provided that they are not infected with or suspected of being infected with American Foulbrood.

Because of this rule, if you have traveled somewhere **outside of NSW** and found that you now have American Foulbrood, you cannot bring these hives into or through NSW.

This applies both if you are a NSW based beekeeper or an interstate beekeeper.

To get around this, whilst still managing the risk to NSW, NSW DPI has issued **two group** permits.

“Group Permit AFB Hives into NSW 2019” attached below allows **NSW registered beekeepers** to bring infected hives back into NSW for treatment or destruction provided that prior to movement into NSW the hives have been killed and made bee proof, and the beekeeper has notified NSW DPI of the impending movement. Upon arriving in NSW, the hives must remain bee proof until treated.

“Group Permit AFB Hives through NSW 2019” also attached below recognises that **all beekeepers** may wish to transport infected hives through NSW to another state from time to time for a number of reasons including irradiation treatment. In these cases, there is no need to notify NSW DPI of the movement as the hives will not be

offloaded in NSW. However, the hives must remain bee proof whilst in transit within NSW and must exit NSW by the most direct route and in the shortest time possible.

Example 1. A NSW beekeeper goes to QLD for a honey flow and discovers AFB. The NSW beekeeper must comply with **“Group Permit AFB Hives into NSW 2019”** to bring those hives back into NSW. This requires the beekeeper to notify NSW DPI.

Example 2. A QLD beekeeper goes to almond pollination in Victoria and finds that they have AFB. The QLD beekeeper must comply with **“Group Permit AFB Hives through NSW 2019”** in order to transport those hives back to QLD for irradiation. Whilst this does not require the beekeeper to notify NSW DPI, the hives must be moved by the most direct route and in the shortest time possible.

Example 3. A Victorian beekeeper wishes to transport AFB infected hives through NSW to QLD for irradiation in Brisbane. The Victorian beekeeper must comply with **“Group Permit AFB Hives through NSW 2019”**.

Both permits will be available on the NSW Biosecurity Act webpage under Group Permits at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/biosecurity-act-2015>

For further clarification please contact me on the numbers below.

Chris

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161 Kite Street | Orange | NSW 2800
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NSWAA Executive Responsibilities

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The Hon. Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Western New South Wales

Ref: OM19/1413

Mr Neil Bingley
President
NSW Apiarists' Association Inc
PO Box 267
MANILLA NSW 2346

Dear Mr Bingley

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2019 regarding the ongoing drought conditions and the NSW beekeeping industry.

The NSW Government appreciates the severe impact of drought not only on farmers and regional communities across NSW, but also its impact on beekeepers, their families and their bees. I recognise the challenges beekeepers face in preparing bees for spring pollination events, along with the significantly reduced honey production.

As you are aware, the NSW Government is currently waiving permit fees for apiary sites on public land, as well as providing subsidies for the transport of supplementary feed and water for bees, which is offered through the NSW Rural Assistance Authority (RAA). These measures were included in the NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package announced as part of Budget 2018 and were extended in the recently announced NSW Emergency Drought Relief Package for 2019-20 on 11 June 2019. The additional funding brings NSW Government's investment in drought support, to more than \$1.8 billion.

NSW Beekeepers are eligible to access the following subsidies and loans that are offered through the RAA:

- Emergency Drought Relief Transport Subsidy – can be accessed to transport bees to new locations under agistment and for the transport of supplementary feed and water.
- Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy – can be accessed for the sale of bees where the bees are currently at risk, there is little or no feed and/or water available, the bees are leaving the farming enterprise permanently and the enterprise demonstrates a significant financial need.
- Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy – can be accessed to transport bees where the primary production business is located within an eligible area as defined in the list of Declared Natural Disasters (available through the RAA website).
- Natural Disaster Loans – Primary producers directly affected by a declared natural disaster who are in urgent and genuine need of assistance, may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000
- Drought Assistance Fund – \$50,000 interest-free loans that can be accessed for the transport of bees, purchase and transport of fodder and/or water and water and fodder infrastructure.
- Farm Innovation Fund – low interest loans that can be accessed to create permanent infrastructure such as shelters for bees.

Further information can be found on the RAA website www.raa.nsw.gov.au or by calling the RAA on 1800 678 593.

GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001 ■ P: (02) 8574 5450 ■ F: (02) 9339 5574 ■ W: nsw.gov.au/ministtermarshall

The NSW Government acknowledges the major contribution beekeepers make to agricultural production in NSW by pollinating a number of important crops and by producing high quality honey and associated products. It is committed to supporting the honey bee industry by investing in people and programs that encompass biosecurity education, compliance and diagnostic testing, beekeeper education and training, honey bee research and development, as well as improved access to public lands for beekeeping.

The NSW Government is excited that the honey bee genetic improvement project the NSW Department of Primary Industries has been developing, in partnership with industry and other R&D partners, is now set to commence in July this year with the announcement of support from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention. If you wish to discuss this matter further, Mr Alex Russell, Manager Intensive Livestock, Department of Primary Industries, can be contacted on (02) 6881 1212.

Yours sincerely



Adam Marshall
MINISTER

9 JUL 2019

NSW Youth Summit - Living with Drought

UNICEF Australia, with support from the NSW Government, is hosting the first NSW Youth Summit on Living with Drought later this year. Please find attached: Youth Summit Application form, Youth Summit FAQs, Youth Summit Consent form.

The 3-day Summit is a chance for young people (aged 14-24 years) to come together to discuss the challenges and action needed for young people to better cope with the realities of drought and be better prepared for future droughts.

Summit participants will hear from inspiring speakers, and take part in discussions, workshops and activities. They will work with others who share and understand their struggle, form new support networks and learn new tools and strategies to cope with the daily struggles of the drought. It will be an opportunity to connect, engage and reflect, surrounded by the beautiful waters of Lake Macquarie, NSW.

We would like to ensure the Summit represents the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of young people in drought-affected regional NSW – including those most severely impacted by the drought and Aboriginal young people.

We would be very grateful if you could share this email and the attached information with your contacts, including any young person who meets the criteria for attending the Summit.

Applications are now open for any young person (aged

14-24) who is impacted by drought and the deadline is 30 August 2019.

You can apply:

Online (preferred):

www.unicef.org.au/droughtsummit

By email:

droughtsummit@unicef.org.au

By post:

UNICEF Australia

Att: Sue-Ellen Simic, Project Support Officer
PO Box 488, Queen Victoria Building
Sydney NSW 1230

By phone:

Contact us to make arrangements on 02 8917 3261

Return travel from a regional town (locations TBD) to the venue, accommodation, and meal costs will be fully covered.

We really hope you will apply to attend this Summit – it's a chance to work with others like you to improve the lives of children and young people living with drought in NSW by informing decision-making. It will also be a chance for you to take a much-needed break from the daily struggles of drought and get to know others going through the same struggles.

For enquiries, please go to our website (www.unicef.org.au/droughtsummit) or contact:

Sue-Ellen Simic, Project Support Officer
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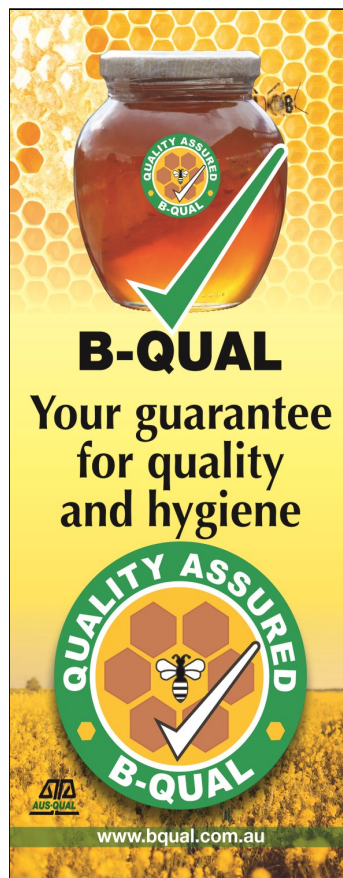
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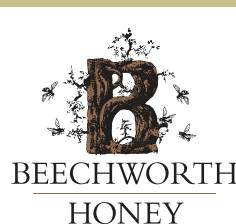
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Doug Somerville
Technical Specialist, Apiculture - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn
doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au



OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

The title of this article might suggest I am focused on the way our physical landscape is changing, but I want to also discuss or at least float the social landscape concept as well. Much of the following is my opinion based on 40 years of being involved in honey bees and 60 years on this planet Earth.

My role while employed by the NSW government has encompassed many facets of the beekeeping scene, including pest and diseases, queen rearing and the full range of beekeeping subjects, my real passion is honey bee nutrition – or more specifically, flora and its role in meeting the needs of honey bees.

The accumulated knowledge necessary to be successful in Australian beekeeping in the floral space is second to none in the world. Most beekeeping countries either have a commercial system based on a stationary apiary scenario, or a migratory movement pattern whereby beekeepers utilise the same sites during the same seasons year after year, moving between these sites on a more or less fixed calendar basis.

This is not so for the majority of Australian mainland commercial beekeepers. Estimates suggest that eucalypts and closely related species account for 70% of our national honey crop. While this will vary from one year to the next and between beekeeping operations, this figure is close to the mark. Other floral species, without doubt, are also extremely valuable to individual beekeeping enterprises. Note: eucalypts rarely flower on an annual basis, rather every two to five years, depending on rainfall patterns and location.

In reference to 'our changing landscape', how has this impacted on our eucalypts? When driving or flying around the country most casual observers would possibly say that there are plenty of trees and there is no issue, but ...!

The 'but' – the vision that experienced long-term observers of the bush see. I have had a number of beekeepers comment to me about the increased logging intensity in forests, particularly coastal forests. When you look at a forest with the majority of stems being young, actively growing regrowth, this picture is of less value to beekeepers than older, mature trees that flower for longer periods of time, with more reliable regularity and produce nectar more profusely. I'm quoting the content of any number of conversations with long term professional beekeepers and their observations.

The relationship between forest timber harvesting activity

and beekeeping has always been a strange one. While forest activities create access in the form of drivable roads and apiary sites (old log dumps), the removal of the very tree species that produce the nectar and pollen has always been problematic.

Generally beekeepers have observed that the frequency of logging has increased and the size of the logs removed has decreased. Not a good scenario for a sustainable beekeeping resource.

The other observation related to me by a few beekeepers that have utilised the same forests for literally generations, is the change in the mix of species. As a general rule the box/ironbark eucalypt group is an incredibly valuable source of nectar, producing a premium honey crop. Ironbark and box trees are often slower growing than their cousins, the gums. Regular harvesting and removal of certain tree species have led beekeepers to make the observation that they believe grey ironbark tree numbers along the east coast have reduced in number due to the slowness to regenerate compared to other tree species. After several harvesting cycles it is the belief and observation of several beekeeping families that their once favoured floral species has been reduced in numbers, be it slowly, over many years.

Let's swing to the firewood industry and its impact on our favourite floral species. Most in the know in the firewood game will agree that box and ironbark are highly desirable sources of timber for this market. Again, generally slower growing than many other eucalypt species.

The cropping scene is often not kind to remnant eucalypts. Slowly (or sometimes quickly), paddock trees die or are removed. This removal of isolated trees in paddocks utilised for cropping, facilitates efficient operation by the relevant ploughing and harvesting activities. In recent years I have observed quite large areas of cropped land, cleared of all trees and shrubs to facilitate the efficient use of machinery and irrigation systems.

Those beekeepers who do not utilise or work forestry or cropping country are still observing a slow but relentless changing landscape. I recount beekeepers' conversations where they noticed or observed another tree in a paddock dying or dead each time a property is used by them as an apiary site. While to the casual observer the death of one tree is not significant, over two or three decades, particularly when observations are intergenerational, they become highly significant. This is a real concern, particularly when there is no regeneration of the same

species within the landscape, possibly due to the livestock grazing pressure.

One plant I evolved with was Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*). This plant, depending on your view point, was a noxious weed which seriously affected farming enterprises, or was an incredibly valuable plant, both for grazing livestock in drought and the provision of large volumes of high-quality nectar and pollen for bees.

The distribution of this plant covered the temperate regions of Australia, ranging from Western Australia through South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales. The annual flowering from September through to December in many locations and years made for a very reliable flowering event. The nectar collected produced a light coloured honey in large volumes and the pollen protein levels were some of the best available to beekeepers to manage the nutritional requirements of bees.

The large volumes of high quality pollen collected in spring provided a superior level of nutrition throughout the summer. It wasn't just about the nectar. Capilano's last significant delivery of Paterson's curse honey occurred in 2006. This date marked the point when the combined negative impacts of a range of biocontrol agents had on the population, distribution, abundance and general health of this plant.

Paterson's curse is now virtually a non-event as a floral resource for beekeepers in Australia.

Possibly partly due to the demise of Paterson's curse the gap has been filled by canola, which has now become a significant flowering event on the beekeepers' calendar. The flowering of canola appears to occur earlier and earlier in the season. The flowering period used to occur in mid-September into October. Now flowering is regularly reported in July and August. This can be a good thing – or a not so good thing. Bees, being insects, will be restricted in outside/field activity when atmospheric temperatures are cool, the weather is wet or wind is a factor. The earlier flowering period for canola will provide earlier build or stimulation conditions for honey bee colonies but will likely also mean the opportunity to harvest worthwhile honey crops from these earlier flowering events will be less.

Various chemicals are from time to time utilised on canola and many beekeepers have expressed concern over their potential impact on honey bee health. While a lot of this concern is speculative, there are certainly events where honey bee health has been impacted.

The issue in many cases may be simply honey bee colonies working a poor pollen source in the autumn. Colonies dominated by low protein bees coming out of winter are much more likely to struggle in early spring to build up in populations, particularly as the pollen produced by canola is OK, but not 'up there' with species such as Paterson's curse.

Bees tend to perform better in early spring when there is a range of pollen sources coming into the hive, not from a single species. This is not necessarily due to any insidious use of chemicals; it may be simply a nutritional issue.

Either way, canola has now become a main part of the beekeepers' calendar, wherever it is grown. Perhaps sheep and droughts are our biggest problem when it comes to canola. Last year I moved bees onto a canola crop and was contacted three days later to be told the crop was going to be turned into hay. I picked the bees up and moved them to another crop about half an hour drive away. When I went back to check on these bees a fortnight later the said crop had been grazed into the ground by the owner's sheep. Hmmm.....

Early flowering canola has become a direct competitor with flowering almonds. Almond blossom provides very useful quantities of reasonable quality pollen, but next to no nectar. The pollination service fee for almonds will, no doubt over time, reflect this set of circumstances as each party works out what they are prepared to offer.

Almond pollination has become a major event in the beekeeping landscape and, in some areas, blueberries have become a very important pollination event. While both crops provide some benefits to bees, generally this would not warrant beekeepers moving onto these flowering events. Thus, the major incentive is the payment by the growers to the beekeepers for the provision of a professional pollination service. This is governed by detailed contracts stating the strength of the colonies, where and when bee hives will be delivered, risks to the bees, method of payment by the grower; etc.

While some paid pollination services have been on offer across the beekeeping landscape for decades, generally they have been isolated and not a widespread practice within professional Australian beekeeping business models. The rise and rise and rise of the acreage grown to almonds in southern NSW, western Victoria and South Australia have seen the need for over 200,000 plus hives to be utilised in paid pollination services during August each and every year (no sheep or drought issue here!). The number of hives required for pollination services is set to continue to climb.

Increasingly, professional beekeepers who were wholly and solely honey producers are adding the provision of paid pollination services to their business mix. In some cases, beekeepers are scaling up the number of hives to provide greater numbers for pollination services. This annual cash flow provides a degree of stable income not historically available to businesses based purely on honey production.

The area planted to almonds does not appear to be slowing down. Thus, the opportunity is for a very large number of commercial beehives in the eastern states to be involved in the annual migration to this crop. But almonds will (and are) competing for attention along with

canola and blueberries.

Our 'changing landscape' doesn't just relate to what is in flower, or the value of this flowering resource, it also relates to our social licence to operate. This is a new term, or set of parameters to consider our combined activities as practising beekeepers.

Our population around the world is growing rapidly, measured now in the billions. The trend for the majority is to reside in an urban landscape. The disjunct between natural landscapes where agricultural pursuits occur, and where people reside, is becoming greater and greater and greater.

We have all heard of religious freedom and Australian society prides itself on this attribute. More recently marriage freedom gained the same status. A scary trend is the pressure on culinary freedom. I'm a carnivore and make no issue with eating meat. But this is nearly becoming a crime in itself in some circles.

Nothing stays the same. There is immense pressure on aspects of agricultural practices, particularly dairy, pig and chook farming. Will bees escape? While some probably think Doug has 'lost it' at this stage, have I? There are already noises in certain parts of Europe about the 'welfare' of bees and questions on how they are managed. Would we stand up to scrutiny? Well, it depends on what the parameters of that scrutiny are.

Social licence to operate in this day and age is not to be taken lightly.

We (the beekeeping world) have strong political and social capital, at present. Honey bees have become the 'canary' of human society. The story goes along the line that if bees disappear tomorrow, the human race is not far behind. This concept has taken on a whole new way of looking at honey bees. Real or not doesn't matter, this is now the current perception.


This is an elevated status for the keeper of honey bees, but could be challenged by other members of society that believe that those mean beekeepers are taking the food (honey) off bees. The very fact that without the intervention and active management by beekeepers, most bee colonies would die is irrelevant to the vast majority of humans living in our urban environment. Our Social licence to operate as beekeepers is something to keep front and centre on our radars as members of the bee 'keeping' community. While we are riding high on the 'canary' at present, history would suggest that nothing will stay the same. The landscape will continue to change.

Anyone for roast lamb?
Honey glazed of course!!


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

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Beekeeping in State forests – site access and maintenance permissions, terms and conditions

Source of conditions	Conditions
39(2) Upper North East, 39(2) Lower North East, 39(2) Eden IFOAs ¹	For the purposes of beekeeping, road construction, road re-opening and routine road maintenance on land may only be carried out where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) there is no alternative site available for the purposes of the road; b) prior to the construction of the road, the manager of the regional office of ForestCorp that is responsible for managing the relevant land (or a more senior officer), has authorised the road construction in writing; and c) all practicable measures are taken to minimise any adverse impacts of the road construction or road re-opening on the environment. <p>Definitions</p> <p>‘ancillary road construction’: the provision of roads and fire trails, and the maintenance of existing railways, to enable or assist in the carrying out of forestry operations (which for the purposes of the relevant IFOAs includes beekeeping).</p> <p>‘routine road maintenance’: the clearing, scraping or treating of a revegetated road where all trees growing on the road have a diameter at breast height over bark of less than 20cm.</p> <p>‘road re-opening’: the clearing, scraping or treating of a revegetated road where any of the trees growing on the road have a diameter at breast height over bark of 20cm or more.</p>
32(2) Upper North East, 32(2) Lower North East, 32(2) Eden, 46(2) Southern Region IFOAs ¹	Vegetation on relevantly zoned land may not be disturbed for the sole purpose of beekeeping unless the disturbance is necessary to enable: (a) a beehive to be set down on a site; (b) access to a beehive; or (c) a beehive to be protected from the possibility of bushfire (but only if disturbance to enable such protection is authorised by a permit, granted under the <i>Forestry Act 1916</i> , to occupy land for the purposes of bee-farming)
32(3) Upper North East, 32(3) Lower North East, 32(3) Eden, 46(1) Southern Region IFOAs ¹	Trees with a diameter at breast height over bark (dbhob) of 20cm or more may not be destroyed, cut or lopped for the sole purpose of beekeeping
215(2) Riverina Red Gum, 283(2) South-Western Cypress IFOAs	Native vegetation may be cleared or disturbed within an environmentally significant area to maintain an existing beehive set-down site or access to such a site. However: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) trees in the area that have a dbhob of 100 mm or more may not be felled or destroyed only for this purpose, and b) native vegetation in the area may be cleared or disturbed to maintain access to a beehive set-down site outside the area only if there is no alternative practicable means of access to the site
125(2) Brigalow-Nandewar IFOA	Native vegetation may be cleared or disturbed within a drainage protection area to maintain an existing beehive set-down site or access to such a site. However: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) trees in the area that have a dbhob of 100 mm or more may not be felled or destroyed only for this purpose, and b) native vegetation in the area may be cleared or disturbed to maintain access to a beehive set-down site outside the area only if there is no alternative practicable means of access to the site
278(1) South Western Cypress IFOA	A tree in an environmentally significant area must not be felled, cut or destroyed in the course of, or for the purpose of, an on-going forest management operation, such as grazing or beekeeping
211(1) Riverina Red Gum IFOA	A tree in an environmentally significant area must not be felled, cut or destroyed in the course of, or for the purpose of, an on-going forest management operation, except as provided by this Division
120(1) Brigalow-Nandewar IFOA	A tree in a drainage protection area must not be felled, cut or destroyed in the course of, or for the purpose of, an on-going forest management operation, such as thinning, grazing or beekeeping

Source of conditions	Conditions
(11(4) Upper North East, 11(4) Lower North East, 11(4) Eden, 46(2) Southern IFOAs) ¹	A person must not knowingly pick a plant that is a member of a threatened species in the course of destroying, cutting or lopping native vegetation for the sole purpose of beekeeping, even where this is necessary to enable any of the activities referred to.
#10 Conditions for Forest Permit (Beekeeping) ²	During the currency of the permit, you must rake and maintain all apiary set down sites free of all loose surface litter between the hives and for a minimum of 3 metres outside the perimeter of the hives.
#11 Conditions for Forest Permit (Beekeeping) ²	You must not clear new set down sites without the express consent of Forestry Corporation.

¹ The Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) for the Upper North East, Lower North East, Southern and Eden regions were consolidated into the Coastal IFOA in 2018. These four older IFOAs are no longer in force. However, the beekeeping provisions under the old IFOAs still apply due to [section 17A of Schedule 3 of the Forestry Act 2012](#).

² The [full list terms and conditions](#) are determined and published by the Forestry Corporation of NSW.



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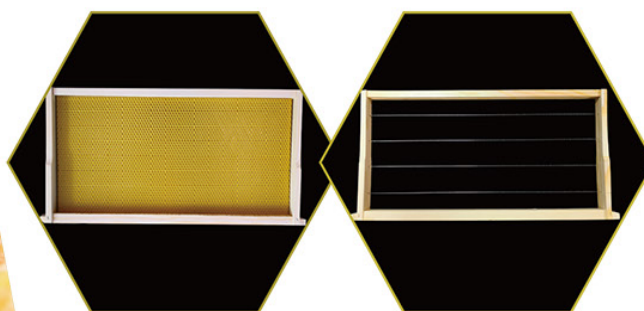
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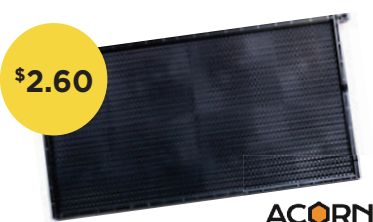
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Floral Resource Interview 1: NSW Northern Tablelands

Commercial beekeeper Casey Cooper from the New South Wales Northern Tablelands says, **“the age old thing is, what you do to them now will get them 6 months down the track.”**

Anybody can stuff bees on white box (*Eucalyptus albens*), no matter where. They’ve got to do the first hatching of brood, they’ve got to lay out, then you can have a go at them, harvesting honey. At the end of the day *Nosema* was what the problem was, nobody takes notice of *Nosema* and it plays a big part.”

<i>Eucalyptus albens</i> White box										
Crude protein %: 22.1, 22.4, 22.5, 23.1 (a ¹); 16.3, 17.7, 17.9, 17.9, 19.2, 19.5, 20.1 (b); 20.6, 24.3 (c)										
Amino acids:										
Reference	Thr	Val	Met	Leu	Iso	Phe	Lys	His	Arg	Try
a ¹	3.4	4.3	2.7	6	3.4*	3.4	5.2	2	5.8	-
a ¹	3.8	5.3	2.7	6.9	4.2	3.9	5.4	2.3	6.4	-
a ¹	3.9	4.7	2.5	6.6	3.8*	3.9	4.8	1.7	5.8	-
a ¹	3.9	4.9	2.3	6.5	3.6*	3.8	5.6	2.6	6.8	-
b	3.1	4.8	2.0	7.0	3.7*	4.2	6.7	2.9	7.1	0.9
b	6.8	4.9	1.8	6.8	3.8*	4.1	6.6	2.4	7.1	-
b	3.9	4.8	1.9	6.8	3.7*	4.1	6.7	2.5	7.3	-
b	4	4.4	2	6.5	3.5*	4.4	6.7	3.9	5.9	-
b	3	4.7	2.5	5.7	3.6*	3.7	5.6	1.9	6.4	-
b	3.7	4.8	3.1	5.3	3.7*	3.9	5.3	1.9	6.3	-
b	3.4	4.5	2.7	5.7	3.5*	3.7	5.3	1.9	6.3	-
h ¹	3.5	4.3	2.0	6.1	3.4*	4.1	5.4	1.9	5.8	-
h ¹	3.4	3.4*	2.0	6.3	3.2*	3.9	6.9	2.2	6.1	-
h ²	4.0	5.5	2.8	6.9	3.3*	4.4	4.0	1.9	5.9	-
* = Below ideal ratio										
Fat/Lipid %: 2.5, 2.6, 2.3, 4.2 (a ¹)										
Minerals (mg/kg): K-4500; P-4700; S-2200; Ca-3100; Mg-740; Na-46; Fe-140; Zn-58; Mn-53; Cu-16										

The white box pollen nutritional profile from Doug Somerville’s *Fat Bees Skinny Bees* AgriFutures publication shows crude protein at an average of 20% across all samples, making it a low value protein source. Somerville writes “protein requirements for honey bees have been calculated by a number of researchers with honey bee-collected pollen between 20–25% crude protein being considered the minimum level. The percentage of crude protein of pollen in the mid-20s are far more useful to colonies in allowing them to meet their protein requirements. Even better pollens with crude protein percentages in the late 20s and early 30s guard against any imbalance in the amino acids of the pollen.”

When crude protein in pollen is below 20%, as in many of the white box samples, colonies will decrease brood-rearing, a sign of protein deficiency, and may be more prone to stress-related diseases and pests such as the spore-forming fungus *Nosema*. The resulting *Nosema* disease, called nosemosis, can decrease worker bee lifespan, ability to produce brood food and royal jelly, make digestion difficult and at worst can infect queens, reducing their egg-laying and longevity.

Cooper says, “You have to go west of the Nandewar range for white box not to knock them. There seems to be a borderline of a couple degrees warmer of a day and different environmental conditions. It’s a bit like putting bees on the southern side of a hill in the winter time. You put them in the sun on the northern side. Environment plays a massive part in a lot of these things. White stringybark out home, you just sit them there and you do not interfere with them.”

<i>Eucalyptus globoides</i> White stringybark										
Crude protein %: 29.4 (a ¹)										
Amino acids:										
Reference	Thr	Val	Met	Leu	Iso	Phe	Lys	His	Arg	Try
a ¹	4	5	2.3	7.3	3.7*	4.2	6.3	2.8	7	-
* = Below ideal ratio										
Fat/Lipid %: 1.2 (a ¹)										

The white stringybark pollen nutritional profile from Somerville’s *Fat Bees Skinny Bees* AgriFutures publication indicates a high percentage of crude protein in this sample, making this stringybark a valuable flora resource on which to maintain brood rearing and hive condition.

According to Cooper, “Caley’s ironbark (*Eucalyptus caleyi*) down this way is a different thing. Simply because, you can put bees on Caley’s, you can rip the honey off them, and they’ll go stale. They’ll get sick of gathering honey on Caley’s. Down here you take those Caley’s bees to breeding conditions and they’ll just jump away. Nine times out of ten you’ll get one box of honey, maybe two. They’ll get stale and they’ll just sit. Seems to be a warm honey, doesn’t go like an ice block like white box which will candy. Caley’s will candy pretty well, but seems to be a warmer sort of a honey. We’ll start kicking bees in in July, but we won’t interfere with them until the end of July. You want to give the bees time to sort themselves out. We put them in the scrub (country with diverse understory species) in July, but it could be the end of July or into August before we get into them.

Bob Sterling always said, from the 1st of June until the end of June, you pissed off away from them and went fishing. Bob Sterling was a pretty good beekeeper in his day, from Stanthorpe. Even if he went out far west (SW QLD Channel Country) he didn’t interfere with them in June. It’s winter time, leave them alone.”

FURTHER READING:

Beeaware.org.au. (2019). *Nosema* « Bee Aware. [online] Available at: beeaware.org.au/archive-pest/nosema/.

B. V. Chandler, D. Fenwick, T. Orlova and T. Reynolds.
Composition of Australian Honeys. CSIRO, 1974.
Website address: publications.csiro.au/rpr/pub?list=BR0&pid=procite:7edbeafc-c9bc-4ca6-8a9d-bc2fdbfc5e0f

Composition of Australian Honeys, published in 1974 by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is still the most thorough study of Australian honeys published to date. If you have trouble with the web address above, email me and I'll send you a copy. Excerpts of interest about New South Wales white stringybark honey from this manuscript are as follows:

Ash Content, pH and Acidity

"Exceptionally low acid contents and correspondingly high pH values were reported for honeys from white stringybark [...]"

Carbohydrates

"The reducing sugar contents of eucalypt honeys were above the minimum set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and therefore above the minimum set by Australian Export Standards. Only the honeys from white stringybark came near to failing this criterion, and they were also uncharacteristic of eucalypt honeys in their low glucose and very high sucrose contents. The

three samples of white stringybark honey considerably exceeded the maximum sucrose contents permitted in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Australian Export Standard specifications [...]"

Summary

"Honeys from the principal Australian floral source, the eucalypts, showed general uniformity in chemical composition: light amber colour, low moisture contents, low acid and high pH values, high glucose-to-moisture ratios and variable (low to, high) granulation tendencies. Very few of these honeys would have difficulty meeting the quality criteria set by importing countries, although honeys from three floral sources (white stringybark, yellow gum, yellow box) may be unfairly discriminated against because of their naturally high sucrose contents."

Expressions of Interest

For anyone game enough to be interviewed on floral resources, please get in touch or I may find you first! The knowledge of flora experienced, commercial beekeepers hold is an invaluable resource to make any trained botanist envious. Having a bit more of this knowledge out in the open, hopefully will educate both industry and the public to how valuable diverse floral resources are in meeting invertebrate livestock nutrition requirements.



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South Coast Native Title Claim

In 2018 a Native Title Claim on all public lands from south of Sydney to the Victorian border from the sea to the escarpment was submitted. NSWAA learnt of this claim at the last minute and sent out an EBee to all members suggesting that they submit a form to be a respondent on the Native Title claim. 17 Members became respondents to the claim. Two respondents are on the executive.

NSWAA engaged the same lawyer that represented NSWAA and its members at the previous Native Title claim to represent member respondents and NSWAA for this South Coast Native Title claim. While the Native Title claim is in its early stages (we have been informed it can drag on for years) NSWAA has incurred approx \$4000 of expenses. Currently we have applied for funding (grant style) to fund our legal representation for the next six months. Unfortunately the funding grants are only available for six months at a time. Be assured we will be applying for funding every six months.

At NSWAA meetings Native Title is a standing agenda item. The two executive respondents have always declared a conflict of interest. To date all executive take part in the discussion. However when a vote is taken whether to spend money or not (or any other action) the two respondents do NOT vote which is recorded in the minutes.

NSWAA decided to engage a law firm to represent members and NSWAA for the following reasons:

In our business plan our number one priority is access to resources. If we cannot show government that we are willing to fight or spend money to maintain resource access then they are unlikely to take us seriously when we ask for increased access to public lands.

This will not be the last Native Title claim.

If beekeepers lose access to all public lands in the claim area then increased pressure will be placed on other areas of the state e.g. tablelands, south west slopes, central tablelands. This will more than likely result in overstocking on areas which will reduce beekeeper incomes.

If the land is handed to Native Title claimants in full then they could alter conditions on bee sites or charge an uneconomical fee per year for sites. We aim to have bee sites excluded from Native Title claims so that bee site management will remain as is.

NSWAA acknowledges that it is standing for 17 respondents and that ALL members (and NON members) who have bee sites in the claim area will most likely benefit.

Our legal representatives will represent NSWAA and respondents in court when required. There will be a lot of court days when there is no need for our representation in court. Be assured that the lawyers understand native title and will look after our interests.

In the longer term NSWAA is trying to get an MOU with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council in respect to bee keeping on aboriginal land.



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APIARY SUPPORT DESK UPDATE

Nick Geoghegan | Program Coordinator, Apiary Sites
Intensive Livestock
nick.geoghegan@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Dear Apiarists,

I am pleased to announce that we have just published the first pilot of the Long Term Vacant online application in conjunction with Forestry Corporation NSW.

On the DPI website we have published a map of vacant potential beekeeping sites on Forestry Corporation apiary ranges across NSW for apiarists to visit and apply for. There are over 3,000 potential sites but sites have not been used for at least two years and in many cases may never have been used for beekeeping before; there is no guarantee they are suitable for beekeeping. It's critical you visit each site and determine it's suitability for your operation before submitting an application.

Allocations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis based on the order of requests submitted through the pilot's online forms.

To facilitate the visiting of sites outside your local area you can optionally request for a "Hold" to be put on up to 20 sites at one time.

Once you have visited a site and determined it is suitable for your operation you can submit an application. If you are the first to enquire / apply we will send you a prefilled application form to submit to Forestry Corporation who will check the suitability of the site before sending an apiary permit.

You can read more about the process on the DPI website: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land/long-term-vacant-sites-online-pilot> (there have been some small changes since the first publication of the pilot process).

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us via apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au

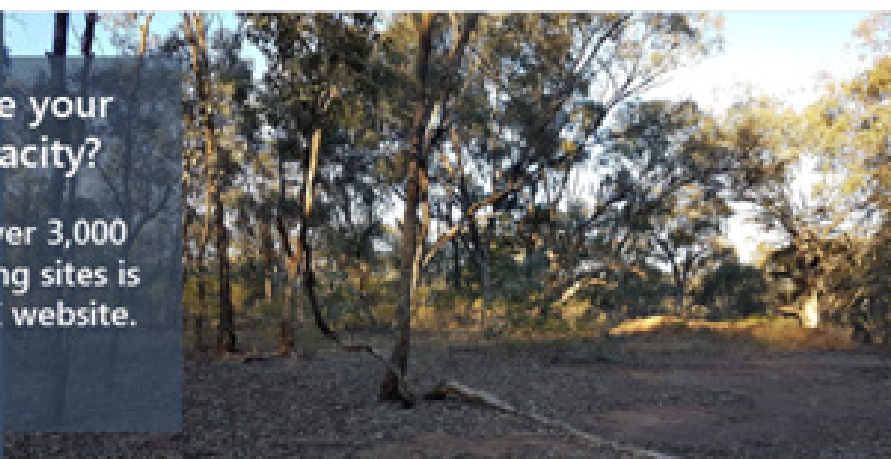
Many thanks,
Nick Geoghegan



Department of
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potential beekeeping sites is
now live on the DPI website.



www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

What an incredible bee adventure. truly a trip of a lifetime!!!



Our minds are now boggling with bee knowledge gained during our coach trip from San Francisco to Minneapolis, USA.

The coach buzzed along with 31 very excited Aussies eager to visit 17 USA Beekeeping operations with our tour guide Dave Mendez and his partner Mary.

Each day Dave shared interesting bee facts and information about the Beekeepers we were visiting, and relevant info on the various areas we were travelling through.

Our group was encouraged to share information about their own Beekeeping businesses, and it was such a delight to watch and hear the bee conversations shared amongst our tour group.

It's always amazing to see just how much beekeepers have in common, regardless of the size of business, or geographic location.

Our tour started in Northern California with a visit to Mann Lake Beekeeping Supplies. Like 31 kids in a lolly shop!. If only our bags were bigger.

Of course this area is home to huge plantations of almonds, sorry Ammands, and also many world famous Queen breeding operations. BIG. You better believe it.

These queen breeders shared many tips, both verbally and hands on, much of which has been passed down for many generations. Two of these businesses shared history from Homer Park and included some of his incredible queen quality techniques.

The cumulative queen production from the businesses we toured amounted to well over 10000 queens delivered, as either caged or in packages per day!!!!

Onward and upward, we travelled through the Sierras and into Nevada and Idaho.

We were shown through Cold storage facilities built specially for the overwintering of beehives. Temperature, carbon dioxide, and humidity controlled an environment which helps keep beehives at stable levels of population and honey stores. Within this is the capacity to reduce the Varroa levels within these hives by taking the hives into brood free periods. Starting the season with much

reduced Varroa levels is crucial to longer term survival of every Hive. One cold storage room we visited holds 40000 hives.

Another in planning is tipped to hold some 100000 hives. Loading is done within the building and can handle many semi-trailer loads per day. All work being done under red light and at 42 degrees Fahrenheit. Manipulation of this temperature by only a few degrees starts the bees raising a brood nest just in time for the move to Almond pollination in California.

Through the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks our cameras were in overdrive with spectacular scenery and wildlife, of bears, bison and all sorts of critters. Magnificent Mountain ranges forests and geysers galore. No not old geysers, though we saw a few of those too!



Our evenings at Yellowstone were highlighted by visits from guest speakers Jerry Bromenshenk and Dr Will Robinson. Both gentlemen holding our group enthralled with info on beehive monitoring and africanised bees respectively, as well as Will's research into *Apis Dorsata* in Thailand.

Through Montana, Wyoming and into the Dakotas, astounding vistas of snow-capped mountains and rolling plains. At one point during the passage through one rather spectacular snow covered mountain, our coach deposited some 30 odd youthful bee folks on to the roadside at which point many rather large snowballs rained down upon all Much laughter ensued and I must say I haven't laughed so much in years.

Not a eucalypt in sight. Plains of Alfalfa and sweet clover. Very different to Australia.

Visiting Adee Honey Farms, the largest Beekeeping operation in the world, gave us all a different perspective on mass honey production. With some 638 bee yards and 80 hives per yard. During the honey extracting period levels reach 8000 supers per 4 days with 12 staff running the extractors and 24/7 when the honey is flowing. Field staff abounds and trucks galore. A logistics manager's nightmare.

Millers Honey Farm and Browning Honey shared with us their respective beehive management techniques for honey production, as well as cold storage, resources, Varroa control methods, as well as the vast distances travelled to maintain their bees.



North Dakota beekeepers introduced Bee and Butterfly Habitat in 2014. Specialising in plants for pollinators, particularly Bees and Monarch Butterflies. These crops of specially sown pastures enable free range habitats for these pollinators and are certainly an option for honeybee breeding programs worldwide.

The tour exposed us to a variety of size of bee businesses, each offering something a little different. Including extracting methods, equipment, honeybee marketing, package bees, queen-rearing, and tourism. Many of the US beekeepers maintain more than one operational base. Home and Florida, or home and California for instance.

Adee's operate with 4 bases in South Dakota plus operations in both California and Nebraska.

On into Minnesota to meet Dr Marla Spivak, at the University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing bee researchers in action throughout the lab. Genome technology being used for things like Hygienic Queens, and propolis for example. Marla was instrumental in the introduction of the Bee Squad, who help both beekeepers and the community in the twin cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to promote the conservation, health and diversity of bee pollinators through research, education, and hands-on mentorship.



Becky from the Bee Squad arranged an amazing opportunity for us to see rooftop beekeeping in full buzz; the beehives were actually on top of our hotel.

Our tour was broken into 2 parts. Minnesota was the completion of tour 1. About one third of our group departed for home after 3 weeks of amazing fun, frivolity, and education galore.

The rest of us were onward and upward, literally! A quick flight to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania saw the commencement of tour 2.

A new bus and driver, and new sights to be seen, we headed off to Lewisburg and its lush green pastures. Spotting beehives along the way had become the daily sport.

Our visit to the Hackenberg Family was next on the agenda. Dave and Linda were our tour 2 guides and joined us on our trip through to Ontario, Canada.

Meeting the Hackenberg's was extra special, their family having dinner with us prior to our arriving at their home the next morning. Lots of trucks and of course, more beehives!



Dave and Linda shared many stories on our trip which included a couple of days at Niagara Falls. Again, a photographers dream, thank goodness for digital cameras.

Canada here we come! First stop was to meet Mike Parker of Parker Bee Apiaries - Charlie Bee Honey. Mike is another producer/packer and includes honey straws.

His staff were loading bees for pollination as we arrived. I believe there were some thousand hives in the backyard to choose from. Munro Honey and Meadery offered another bee "wow factor". Five generations of knowledge shared, and an opportunity to see how their business has flourished since 1914. The Bryan family showed us through their honey extracting plant, packing operation, meadery and tasting, and of course we couldn't help but check out their bees. No need to mention the fun to be had in the honey shop. A genuine tourist trap.

The majority of the Bee Operations we visited were in small country towns. Three of these little towns were so excited to see us Aussies that they invited their local media to interview us all. We are now famous in Gackle ND, Milnor SD and Alvinston, thanks to Millers Honey Farms, Ruby's Apiaries, and Munro's in Canada. We were overwhelmed by the hospitality of our hosts, some even providing banquets for our lunch, and special touches that won't be forgotten.

The friendships we have made throughout the tour we will treasure. Some nights we shared stories and our evening meals with our hosts. We really appreciated the time our hosts gave for our tour group, especially during their peak season activities.

Get ready though Aussies - USA Beekeepers are now planning a trip to visit us down under.

Therese Kershaw and Kevin MacGibbon

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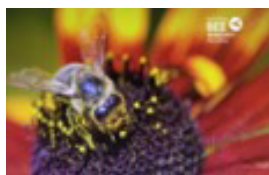
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BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT



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Tocal Ag College, Tocal Rd Paterson NSW 2320
Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au



How to maximise profit from your beekeeping.

The main aim for an established beekeeping business is to make a profit. In order to achieve this aim, every part of the business operation needs to be regularly assessed to see how well it is contributing to overall profit.

Unfortunately a lot of beekeeping businesses do not place enough importance on the running of a 'tight ship' in their management strategies. The result of this is that a lot of business activities are never properly costed to determine their benefit to the business and overall contribution to profit. While we might argue that beekeeping sits outside perceived "normal" business models, there are still some main principles that apply to any business for it to remain financially viable.

In relation to beekeeping, some of the main business principles are:

1. Breed sufficient bees to maintain healthy colonies of adequate strength.
2. Provide necessary protection to minimise incidences of death.
3. Reduce the incidence of disease and minimise impacts caused by it.
4. Ensure adequate income generation through sufficient production and sales of honey, bee products and/or providing pollination services.
5. Operate the appropriate number of hives required to achieve point 4.
6. Employ adequately trained and physically capable staff to carry out the necessary amount of work required for point 5.

Good beekeepers who address all of these principles are rewarded by healthy, profitable operations that are viable over many years or decades. There are plenty of examples of well managed beekeeping businesses like this, but there are also a lot of operators out there who have addressed some of the principles while ignoring others (often the harder ones). These are the businesses that are losing out on profit as they are not being as efficient or productive as they could be.

Biosecurity is one of the major areas that many operators fail to adequately prioritise and manage. Biosecurity practices include procedures or measures taken to protect the population (bees) against harmful biological or biochemical substances (biosecurity risks). If you fail to

adequately manage biosecurity then you leave your bees exposed to risk that can ultimately affect many other parts of your beekeeping operation. By managing biosecurity, you are actively preventing problems within the hive that would lead to underperformance.

Taking time to *prevent* biosecurity issues rather than manage them as they occur translates to a healthier profit margin. Cleaning up a mess *after* it has occurred costs you money every time that problem arises and your production generally suffers as the bees themselves recuperate. Whereas if you spend the time and effort to *prevent* the problem from ever occurring your bee/honey production remains consistent or steadily increases, which results in a better profit outcome when comparing the preventative vs management costs incurred.

Three simple examples of where many operators could likely improve biosecurity management to ultimately improve profit are:

- (1) Regularly adding new clean comb or foundations to brood boxes.** Firstly, providing bees access to new foundation or clean drawn comb in spring allows the queen to lay at a far higher daily rate than when the bees need to work around old brood combs clogged with old honey and pollen. So new comb leads to more bees and stronger hives.

However, the real biosecurity risk comes into play by not removing the old brood combs. The longer a brood comb remains in a hive, the longer the period of time for any AFB spores present to build-up around the brood area to 'break out' levels. Regularly removing older frames can prevent hives harboring AFB spores from ever actually succumbing to the disease as it is kept at manageable levels. By removing old frames from your hives and either irradiating or destroying them you are actively reducing disease risks (e.g. AFB, EFB, Nosema) and promoting healthier and more productive hives

Old brood frames also contain a lot of old honey and pollen, which as well as harboring AFB, could also contain damaging chemical residues (e.g. from one of last year's pollination jobs). The thick cell walls of old brood frames also produce smaller bees, which as foragers will not achieve as much as larger ones. Reducing overcrowded brood nest in spring also lowers the risk of early season hive swarming.

The small cost in buying 4-5 new brood combs per hive per season is easily recouped by the increased productivity from the colony.



New brood comb ensures a healthier brood box and colony size. Money well worth spent.

- (2) Preventing bees from robbing exposed honey, sticky boxes and weak or dead-out hives.** Every NSW beekeeper has a legal obligation under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* to prevent bees getting access to honey. This is because one of the most common sources of AFB spores is in AFB contaminated honey. Even in seemingly healthy hives, small numbers of AFB spores are often found in the honey. If you allow for bees to rob honey you are also allowing a pathway for AFB spread that could easily be prevented.



Not very long before this colony will be robbed out...this is a very preventable problem, you just need a good beekeeper!

Managing your weak hives also reduces the amount of “dead wood” within your operation. Diligent beekeepers who regularly inspect their brood boxes develop a knack for predicting the future performance of that colony. Picking up on colony issues early enables problems to be averted to ensure a higher percentage of hives stay within the productive zone. Weak hives restrict profit due to low productivity. By reducing the amount of “dead wood” in your operation you encourage greater return by managing only strong hives and minimise disease spread amongst your own hives.

By managing your weak hives and minimising robbing you are helping not only yourself but other beekeepers around you too, which means that you are not a biosecurity risk who is keeping the AFB reinfection cycle alive.



Another preventable problem. This unregistered beekeeper needed to spend more time looking after his bees. If you don't have the time then please don't keep bees!

- (3) Managing the use of beekeeping equipment so as to limit the risk of spreading pests and diseases between your own hives.** In all intensive livestock industries it is a huge biosecurity risk when you move equipment around that could be carrying pests or diseases. It is a bad idea to share equipment with another beekeeper because of this risk, but have you also considered that the same principle applies even between your own hives? Every time you move used boxes, lids, bottom boards, frames and bees/brood from one hive to another it is creating a risk, and the more often you do that the higher the overall risk is to your operation. Frames that “look clean” are still a great risk of carrying disease. Even under a microscope it's quite hard to see AFB spores, so there is no hope of spotting them with a naked eye.

The solution to limiting disease spread via used equipment is running barrier systems. Barrier systems work on the principle that the less gear that strays from one hive to another, the less risk that disease will spread. The two main barrier systems in use are “load based” (equipment assigned a certain group of hives) and “single hive” (equipment stays with the same hive) barrier systems, and each of these systems is a far better option than unsophisticated beekeeping that just places honey boxes wherever they need to go next (therefore spreading your equipment and AFB everywhere).

A number of commercial beekeepers (with paid staff and financial costing models) have calculated how much dealing with an AFB hive costs their operation. The factors considered in this equation include the travel time to collect the diseased hive at night, removing salvageable or reusable equipment, killing the colony, destruction of the remains, isolating, bee proofing and securely storing equipment for irradiation, transport and irradiation costs, new colony and other hive equipment replacement and the interim loss of production. The overall cost to the business is estimated by commercial operators to be between \$500 and \$1000 per colony. Therefore every hive that you can ever prevent from getting AFB is probably saving your operation a clean-up and replacement cost of around \$1000.

When you take the time to crunch the numbers you can easily justify spending money on preventative measures that will ultimately improve profits by reducing management costs and improving hive condition. Simply by adding in \$20 of new brood frames per season you will reduce the chances of hives ever coming down with AFB, which saves you a lot of money and ensures healthier hives.

It is never too late to make the change, so contact me at rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au if you would like assistance in setting up better biosecurity within your operation. You can also get a FREE BOLT token from me for the online Biosecurity for Beekeepers Course if you run 50+ hives.

Honeyland Show Report

Preparations for the show started in October with the formation of the Honeyland Show Committee. The committee members are Debbie Porter (NSWAA Show Coordinator), Tanya Ananin (Show Secretary), Malcolm Porter (Chairman), Richard Willis, Glen McConnell, Miskell Hampton and David Mumford.

We started with asking NSWAA members to donate honey for the show. I would like to thank the following members for their donation of honey:

Laurie and Therese Kershaw

Robert Porter

David Lord

Malcolm & Debbie Porter

Bryn Jones

Kieren Sunderland

From the Riverina Branch: David Mumford, Steve Cunial, Stephen Targett & Gary Burgess.

Wagging Amateur Beekeepers

From the Tamworth Branch: Ray Hull, Nigel Lawson, Ray Jones, Kevin Haskins & Rob Michie

From the Northern Tablelands Branch: Steve Webber, Graham & Jake Baker, Wayne & Brock Simpkins, Robert & Nardene Seagreave, Peter, Tim & Jack Alt, Richard, Tim & Braiden Willis,

From the North Coast Branch: Tony & James Hannah.

From Sydney: Miskell Hampton, Uri Ananin, Ted Pennay & Martin Radcliffe (Sydney Branch own hives)

Volunteers were then called for and as usual we had a good number of replies. I would like to thank the following members of NSWAA and the ABA for giving up their time to help on the Honeyland stand:

Malcolm Porter, David Lord, Cecilia MacDonald, Tanya Ananin, Miskell Hampton, Glen McConnell, Richard Willis, Steve Webber, David Mumford, Wendy Mumford, Wayne Hammond, Dallys Napiorkowski, Bruce White, Lynn White, Trevor Romer, Geoff Manning, David Cowling, Edward Napiorkowski, Neil McMullen, Jennifer McMullen, Joe Spellman, Fiona Spellman, Brian

Woolfe, Emma Woolfe, Sarah Woolfe, John Staniford, Steve Cunial, Robyn Cunial, Vincent Schnyder, Paul Drew, Jose Drew, Steve Crosland, Robyn Crosland, John Broomhead, John Murphy, Lynn Murphy, Michael Walton, Georgina Brunyee, Christine Miller, Neil Smith, Wendy Smith, Penny Downy, Mandy Farrugia, Brian Farrugia, Nicola Chin, Michael Rayner, Azam Serhan, Heidi Worsley, Tracy Nankervis, Harold Nankervis and Liane Colwell.

Beechworth, Capilano, Superbee and R Stephens have again helped with donations for our Promotion bags. With the honey from our small Beekeepers the committee was able to produce a 6 pack of honey which consisted of one creamed Honey and five liquid honeys. They were all in a 250gm bottle.

By the end of the show we had sold out of about 85% of our stock, which made Honeyland the success it was.

Honeyland income was \$108,915.90 and expenditure was \$84,257.70. This left a profit of \$24,658.20. This is a great effort. The following is what expenses are accrued for the stand:

RAS – Stand Site, tickets, water, sink, bump in, bump out passes, contractor passes.

Exponent – erection of stand, electrical.

Popes Packaging – promotion bags

Clayton Plastics – heavy duty bags

Committee – committee expenses

Western Labels – honey labels

Tina Woolfe Graphic Designs – Honey label design

The Embroidery Guys – aprons

Beechworth Honey – Honey Drinks

Sydney Cash Registers – cash registers

Brian Conroy Electrical – tagging electrical

Ashfield Manor – accommodation volunteers

PJ Kelly – fork lift operator – loading and unloading trucks

All Natural Pty Ltd – honey Popcorn

Goldfields Honey – cut Honeycomb

Podargus Farm Products – hand Cream, lip balm and candles

R Stephens Apiarists – leatherwood Honey

Crop Pollination Association – mud Flaps

Superbee Honey Factory – manuka Honey and pollen

Australian Beekeepers Direct – creamed Honey, packing donated honey and containers

Lombard, the paper people – spoons for honey tasting

Capilano – manuka Honey

J Saxvik – Soaps

Debbie Porter – Coordinator fee

Jodi Burey – packing honey

We are again asking for honey donations for next year. We need five(5) different straight line floral types and each floral type we require 1000kgs. It would be appreciated to receive the donation again for next year. Donations help with the success of Honeyland.

Debbie Porter

NSWAA Show Coordinator



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FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MANUKA HONEY ASSOCIATION

Thank you for attending our presentation on *The Story of Manuka Honey and the Australian Manuka Honey Association* (AMHA) and/or for visiting our booth at the 2019 NSWAA Conference.

As mentioned during our presentation, the AMHA is currently opposing an attempt to trademark the term 'manuka honey' in both the UK and New Zealand by the NZ Manuka Honey Appellation Society (MHAS).

Should this trademark application be successful, the labelling of honey as manuka could be restricted only to mānuka honey produced in New Zealand. The result of this naming restriction on the Australian manuka honey industry would be devastating as we could no longer call our manuka honey, 'Manuka'. Not only would the cost of relabelling and remarketing your products likely be prohibitively expensive, the inability to trade under a globally recognised name would be likely to severely limit your sales.

We therefore urge all Australian producers and packers of manuka honey to [sign up for membership to the AMHA](#) and support our fight to protect our naming rights. Your membership fees will help ensure the longevity of the Association and further our mission to protect and promote the global appeal and awareness of Manuka honey produced in Australia.

Thank you

Paul Callander

Chair

Australian Manuka Honey Association



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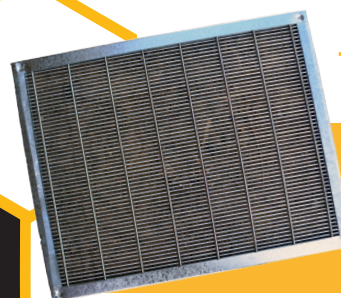
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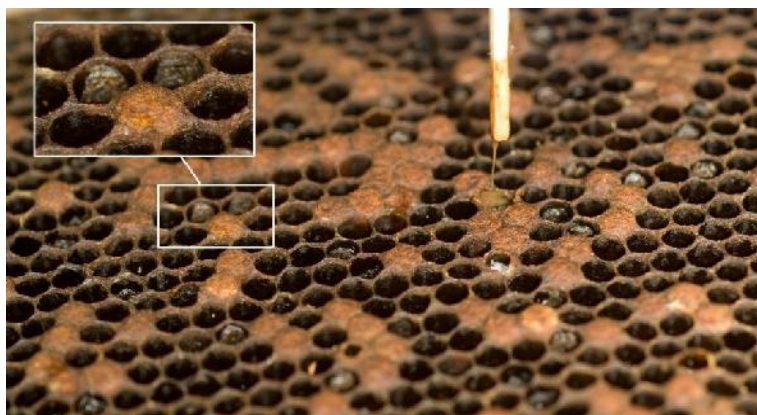
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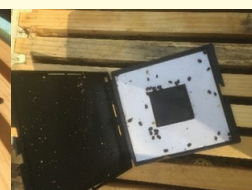
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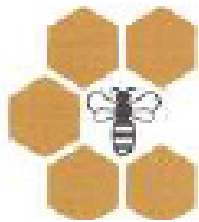
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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

Congratulations

A very big congratulations to Mrs Eileen McDonald (AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald's mum) for being recognised with an OAM for service to the community of Mount Alexander and to apiculture on the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honour List. Well done Eileen on such a great achievement; the honey bee industry greatly appreciates your contribution.

World Bee Day

On Monday 20th May, Their Excellencies General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Lady Cosgrove hosted a reception at Government House Canberra to celebrate World Bee Day. The Governor-General spoke of the importance of bees, followed by AHBIC Executive member Jodie Goldsworthy as President of Apimondia Oceania Commission with a note of thanks given by AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald. Approximately 100 guests were treated with canapes hinting of honey and/or bee pollinated foods as well as honey tasting from the hives at Government House.

Suspected Varroa Mite on ASian Honey Bee, Townsville Port

There has been a new detection of Asian Honey Bee's at the Townsville Port which is unrelated to the 2016 detection; the 2016 detection is close to proof of freedom phase. Since the 2019 detection, industry has been working closely with authorities to manage the response and we would like to acknowledge and thank Trevor Weatherhead for his assistance. We would also like to thank Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer Dr Kim Ritman, Plant Health Australia and the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP), Salvo Vitelli and his dedicated team at DPI Queensland for their response to this new detection and working closely with industry.

Welcome

A very big welcome to our new Minister for Agriculture, Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie; we look forward to working with the Minister in continuing the work of Minister Littleproud and the importance of bees, honey industry and pollination services for food security. Thank you to Minister Littleproud who has been a great supporter of our industry and we look forward to working with him when necessary in his new role of Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management. We will be following up Minister Littleproud's pre-election promise

of a further ~\$1.5 million with Minister McKenzie. We also welcome Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie's view to take a hard line on animal activists; beekeepers are listed on the Aussie Farms Repository Map but to date we have not had reports of beekeepers being targeted.

AMHA Fighting Fund

Australian Manuka honey industry has approved the establishment of a fighting fund to support the future growth and sustainability of the industry. Driven by the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA), the Australian Manuka honey industry has taken a lead in voting in a united manner to fund a levy on Manuka honey production. Funds will be used exclusively to invest in market access and the future research and marketing of this rare antibacterial honey, produced exclusively in the South Pacific. More information, contact info@manukaaustralia.org.au

Propolis

Australian beekeepers could earn an extra \$1,400 a year by incorporating propolis production into their annual honey harvest, according to a new report commissioned by AgriFutures Australia. Report author and principal consultant, Michael Clarke, from AgEconPlus investigated the status of propolis production in Australia and New Zealand. He worked closely with commercial beekeepers to prove that profitable harvesting of propolis in Australia was possible. In his report, Mr Clarke looks to New Zealand as a valuable model for which to create a thriving propolis industry in Australia. He also highlights the growing interest from companies in sourcing Australian produced propolis and a pathway for Australian beekeepers to enter the market.

Chalkbrood

Chalkbrood in Australia - Jody Gerdt has finished a four-year investigation into chalkbrood in Australia. The project looked at *Ascosphaera apis* diversity, volatiles produced by infected larvae, how colonies responded to controlled infection, and what happened to individual larvae fed spores. Jody has recently presented her findings at QBA, ABA and SAAA conferences and will also be presenting at TBA conference on 28th June in Launceston Tasmania. The project will be available online in the coming months so subscribe to BeeScientifics newsletter to stay updated. Another great project partly supported by our honey levies through AgriFutures.

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