AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS Volume 12 Number 2 March - April 2019

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COVER: Bees Destroyed by Tingha Fire Photograph: Casey Cooper



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

The official Journal of the NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) www.nswaa.com.au

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



PRESIDENTS REPORT MARCH 2019

SEASON

The big dry continues with very few regions receiving any worthwhile rains. These exceptionally dry times have curtailed any hope of Red Stringybark producing enough nectar to maintain colonies through to spring. Red Bloodwood on the south coast is most southern beekeepers last chance to avoid supplementary feeding but as I write this article heavy rains are falling along the coast, which if prolonged could be detrimental to colony vitality. White Box in the north of the state may provide some nectar but once again will be dependent on moisture availability.

Since my last report several bushfires have devastated large tracts of resource in northern NSW, one of which came extremely close to past President Casey Cooper's property. From reports I received, the Tingha fires alone claimed 350 to 400 hives.

The season ahead looks grim, without any soaking rains this winter any prospects will more than likely amount to nothing but failed crops and stressed trees. Almonds may provide some financial respite but our ability to maintain suitable colonies will be tested.

RESOURCE

As mentioned in a previous report I was disappointed with the delayed implementation of the amended Integrated Forestry Operation Approvals (IFOA's) I sent a letter stating our concerns to Minister Blair and Minister Toole in early February.

We received a response from the Deputy Director General DPI on February 27. For members information both letters are published in this edition. Another area causing some concern is beekeepers utilising properties in a new area due to having to move further afield than their normal operating zone and not leaving contact details with the owners or managers. There are many reasons why you may need to be contacted so please consider others and leave your details when you obtain permission to enter a property.

BEEKEEPER NUMBERS RISE

I am informed that the number of registered

beekeepers in NSW is now greater than 8,500. It wasn't long ago that the number of registered beekeepers was less than half this figure. The recent TV show making beekeeping a sport with teams competing against each other is also a new one. What this means to the rank and file of the professional beekeeping sector is uncertain. Perhaps a point of discussion at our Bathurst conference.

DISEASE INSPECTIONS

On the Southern Tablelands most bee work should be finished by the end of April, this will vary where you are in the state. What is important is to carry out a though brood disease inspection prior to your bees going into winter. If you need advice in this arena I would strongly advise that you have a chat with one or two biosecurity officers working in the NSW DPI. Sick bees going into winter is likely going to result in dead bees coming out of winter. Dead hives being robbed out only creates grief for your beekeeping operation and those hives within flying distance of your apiaries, especially when moved to almonds where there is a high colony density.

STATE ELECTION

The state election is over with the Liberal/National Government returned. Once Ministerial portfolios are decided we will endeavour to seek meetings with the relevant ministers to progress various issues affecting our industry. The most pressing issue is for increased access to public lands.

CONFERENCE

Our conference agenda is mostly finalised as per copy in this edition. The recent questioning of honey integrity will be discussed. We will be featuring a number of speakers at this year's conference on this very important topic. The three speakers will be an update on BQual, a talk from Byron Taylor from New Zealand on their food safety program and a review of the chemistry used to test Australian honey delivered by Jamie Ayton a scientist working in the chemistry arena from NSW DPI. This subject has received some very unfortunate media which was later discredited by the authorities in Canberra but the damage has been done. Public perception of super market honey is poor which affects all commercial beekeepers, hopefully the presentations provided at our Bathurst conference help us

collectively map a way forward.

The Trade show booths have all been allocated thanks to the tireless efforts of Therese Kershaw. Therese has also been instrumental in securing numerous conference partners which help reduce costs to members and aids the financial position of your association. Please support these businesses where possible. A list of our partners is published in this edition. Hope to see you all at Bathurst May 16 and 17. The Central Tablelands branch will be holding a field day on Saturday May 18.

GOVERNANCE

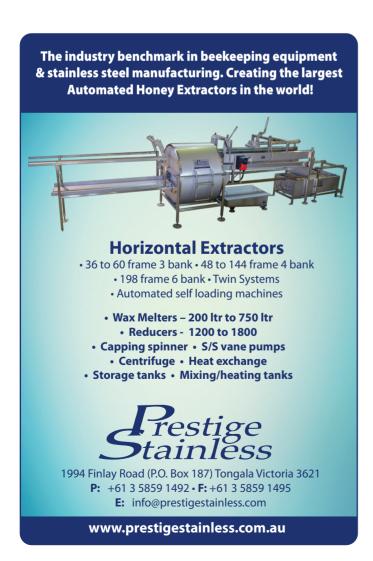
As I write this report your Association still requires at least one more nomination for executive councillor. (nomination form in this issue)

If no further nominations are received prior to conference then nominations will be taken from the floor on May 16.

NEXT MEETING

The executive will hold a short meeting on May 15 prior to our conference and another for the incoming executive on Saturday morning May 18.

Neil Bingley President



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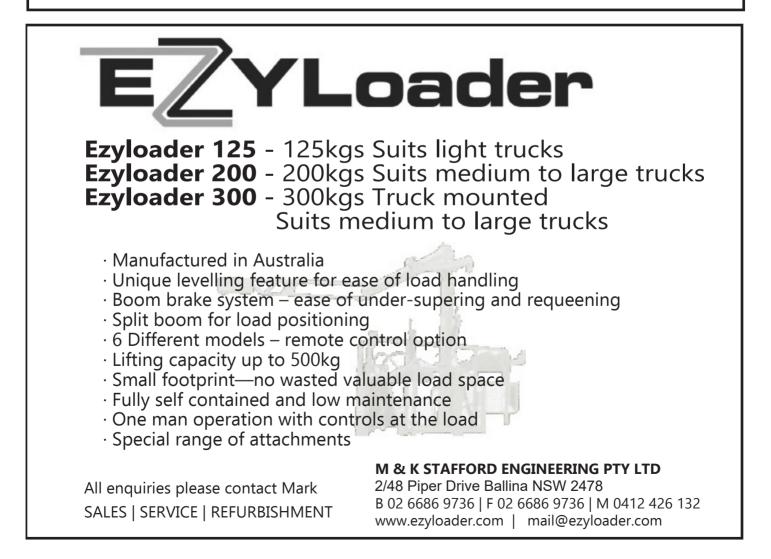
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New South Wales Apiarists' Association

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2019 PROGRAM

(III)

Panthers, Bathurst NSW

	THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019 – Panthers, Bathurst
8.00am	REGISTRATION
9.00am	NSW Apiarists' Association AGM Neil Bingley, <i>President</i> NSW Apiarists' Association
9.20am	AHBIC Report - Activities for the year - Peter McDonald, AHBIC Chair
9.40	AGRIFUTURES Report - James Kershaw, Honey Bee & Pollination Advisory Panel
10.00am	BQUAL Report - Wayne Fuller, Chairman
10.15am	Daryl Cooper & Stephen Green, Regulatory Specialists Apiary, NSW Department of Primary Industries
10.30am	Official Opening - TBC
10.45am	MORNING TEA – sponsored by Dalrymple View P/L
11.15am	Peter Day , <i>Director of Compliance Biosecurity & Food Safety</i> , NSW Department of Primary Industries, Orange TBC
11.45am	CSIRO Specialist – Simon Haberle
12.15pm	Nominations for Executive Council
12.30pm	LUNCH
2.00pm	Queen Bee Breeding Project - Elizabeth Frost , A/Technical Specialist Honey Bees, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Tocal
2.30pm	Breeding Value of Honey Bees - Rob Banks, UNE
3.00pm	Residents in the Honey Bee Gut - Michelle Taylor , S <i>cientist</i> - Pollination & Apiculuture, Plant & Food Research, New Zealand
3.30pm	New Zealand Food Safety Environment - Byron Taylor , <i>Apiculture Technical Manager</i> , AsureQuality Ltd, New Zealand
4.00pm	Honey Fraud: Testing A to Z - Jamie Ayton, <i>Chemist -</i> NSW Department of Primary Industries, Wagga Wagga
4.30pm	General Business
5.30pm	WINE & CHEESE NIGHT IN THE TRADE SHOW - sponsored by Ecrotek



PLATINUM PARTNER





ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2019 PROGRAM

J)

Panthers, Bathurst NSW

	FRIDAY 17 MAY 2019 - Panthers, Bathurst	
8.30am	REGISTRATION	
9.00am	NSW Department of Primary Industries Reports Elizabeth Frost, Nick Geoghegan, Dannielle Lloyd Prichard	
9.30am	Biosecurity & Mandating AHBIC Code of Practice for all Beekeepers in NSW - Rod Bourke & Mark Page, NSW Bee Biosecurity Officers, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Tocal	
10.00am	AFB Minimisation strategy in NSW – Michael Hornitzky	
	Close of nominations for Executive Council	
10.30am	MORNING TEA – sponsored by Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies	
11.00 am	Honey & Benefit to Human Health - Nural Cokcetin, UTS	
11.30am	Propolis Production - Michael Clarke	
12.00pm	The effect of sucrose, invert sugar & Manuka Honey on specific bacteria within adult honey bees, Michelle Taylor , New Zealand	
12.30pm	LUNCH	
	Close of voting for Executive Council	
2.00pm TBC	Emerging Honey Bee Researchers Changes in Honeybee visitation down tunnels in blueberry crops in north QLD - Jeremy Jones , myUne Honey bee viruses, especially deformed wing virus Amanda Norton , University of Sydney	
2.15pm	Chalk Brood - Jodie Gertz	
2.45pm	Insights & Lessons from PNG - Cooper Schouten, Southern Cross University	
3.15	Flow Hive – Stuart Anderson	
3.45pm	Honeyland – Debbie Porter , Honeyland Co-ordinator - TBC	
4.00pm	General Business	
4.30pm	Close	
7.00pm	ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER – sponsored by Select Harvests	
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WFI

2019 State Conference Guest Speakers

Jamie Ayton

Jamie Ayton has worked at NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) in Wagga Wagga since 1995. Jamie has a Masters(MSc) degree from the University of Western Sydney. Most of his work has involved investigating the chemistry of olive oil and canola, and the effect of environmental, genetics and post-harvest storage on these products. He is the leader of the laboratory team which has held accreditation from the International Olive Council (IOC) for the past 19 years for the analysis of adulteration in olive oil. He is also an approved chemist with the American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS), participates in the Standards Australia committee for oils and oilseeds products and is a member of the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) Technical Committee.

Michael Clarke

Michael Clarke is a degree qualified agricultural economist with more than 30 years professional experience. Michael has post-graduate training in accounting, marketing, policy analysis and business administration. Michael's project work includes economic evaluation, policy analysis, strategic planning and research in agriculture and natural resource management. Michael's projects for the Australian honey bee industry include an analysis of policy options to facilitate live honey bee exports; an economic impact assessment of a regional pollination deficit, Varroa RD&E planning workshops, a review of AHBIC Varroa management policy and a review of NSW Government American foulbrood policy. Michael has worked for Plant Health Australia preparing the business case and regulatory impact statement for an increase in honey biosecurity levies and ACIAR reviewing the beekeeping industries in PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji. Additional information on Michael is available at www.AgEconPlus.com.au.

Dr Nural Cokcetin

Dr Nural Cokcetin is a microbiologist and Research Fellow at the ithree institute,

University of Technology Sydney, specialising in the medicinal properties of honey. Since her undergraduate Honours degree at the University of Sydney, Nural's research has focused on the use of honey as a



topical antibacterial treatment for wounds and skin infections – particularly those caused by multi-drug resistant superbugs. She currently manages the 'Oz Honey Project', investigating the bioactivity of Australian *Leptospermum* honeys. During her PhD at the University of New South Wales, Nural began investigating honey as a prebiotic food to improve human gut health and she has recently been awarded a grant to lead a new project in this area. She received the 2018 Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence in recognition of her rigorous and innovative research that has direct positive impacts for society.

Nural cares deeply about the Australian beekeeping industry and holds several scientific advisory roles within the industry. She always aims to combine her scientific passions with her well-recognised communication skills to widely disseminate her research findings and help to raise the value of Australian honey as a therapeutic. Nural is a frequent public speaker on topics around medicinal honey, gut health and antibiotic resistance. She was recently named the best young science communicator in Australia and the international runner-up in the British Council's FameLab competition, is a TEDx alumnus where she was named one of the top five change-makers for her research, and she appears regularly in the media as a science leader in her research field.

Mr Daryl Cooper

Leader Qld Fruit Fly, Regulatory Specialist Apiaries, NSW Department of Primary industries Daryl Cooper has worked with the NSW Department of Primary industries since 2003 as a Regulatory Officer. Daryl was appointed as an inspector under the Apiaries Act 1985 which transferred to the Biosecurity Act 2015. He is currently registered as a small beekeeper where his hives are used to pollinate his own stone fruit. Daryl is keen to continue promoting biosecurity in the bee industry in NSW by conducting targeted compliance operations in southern NSW.

Liz Frost

As acting Technical Specialist Honey Bees with NSW Dept. of Primary Industries Liz Frost manages research and development projects with outcomes for the NSW Beekeeping Industry focusing on queen bee breeding and pollination. Frost provides technical advice to the beekeeping industry, government, media and the public and delivers accredited training in queen bee breeding and insemination and pollination courses with Registered Training Organisation Tocal Agricultural College.

Nick Geoghegan

Nick Geoghegan is Program Coordinator, Apiculture Resource at the DPI. His role include the rollout of the apiary sites on Public Land program; simplifying bee-keeping on public sites with a consistent approach across government departments and fairer and more accessible allocation of available sites. Prior to joining the DPI Nick has held a number of senior roles in the telecommunications and technology sector, with a strong focus on product development, marketing, stakeholder engagement and customer experience. His qualifications include a Masters of Information Technology (Sydney University) and a BSc (Management) from Dublin University.

Stephen Green

15 years farm management primarily in the pig industry.

8 years VIC DPI Livestock Inspector - started working with Honey bee industry 2009 5 years NSW DPI Biosecurity Compliance Officer.

Prof Simon Haberle

Prof Simon Haberle is an expert in pollen studies (palynology) from the Australian National University in Canberra and has a deep interest in the many applications of pollen to understanding our natural world. He has applied this knowledge not only to the study of honey, but also to a allergy research, forensic science and most extensively to the study of fossil pollen as a way of reconstructing ancient environments.

Danielle Lloyd-Prichard

Danielle Lloyd-Prichard is the Education Officer Honey Bees for the NSW DPI Education Delivery Unit based at Tocal College. Danielle is responsible for the coordination



of the Certificate III in Beekeeping including the development and review of training resources, scheduling and delivery of beekeeper training and assessment of students. She works closely with Kevin Tracy the new Beekeeper Traineeship Development Officer and is supported by a team of NSW DPI technical staff and beekeeping industry contractors.

Amanda Norton

Amanda is a PhD student at the University of Sydney (Behaviour and Genetics of Social Insects Laboratory), supervised by Professor Madeleine Beekman and Dr Emily Remnant. The overall aim of her



PhD research is to investigate the relationship between honey bees, Deformed wing virus (DWV) and Varroa destructor. Amanda is interested in host-pathogen interactions, such as how vector transmission affects DWV virulence and mechanisms of resistance in honey bees. Amanda was awarded a prestigious Endeavour Research Fellowship, which allowed her to spend four months researching the interaction between Varroa and honey bee viruses in the Netherlands in 2018.

Amanda's background is in chemical ecology. She completed a Bachelor of Science (Hons) at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC), Queensland. As an undergraduate, Amanda worked with Dr Peter Brooks in developing a new method to analyse Leptospermum nectar, to determine which plants will produce honeys with non-peroxide (MGO) antibacterial activity. For her Honours research, she investigated the chemical properties and repellent effects of Corymbia torelliana (Cadaghi) resin, collected by Australian stingless bees, on small hive beetles and Varroa mites, under the supervision of Professor Helen Wallace (USC), Dr Peter Brooks (USC) and Dr Sara Leonhardt (University of Würzburg, Germany).

Cooper Schouten

Cooper's research passion is in international agricultural development with a strong focus on using beekeeping as a means for improving community welfare in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Cooper is an



early career researcher currently completing his PhD in the School of Environment Science and Engineering at Southern Cross University with a thesis entitled 'Beekeeping for Development - a Case Study of Papua New Guinea'. Cooper started his PhD after completing a B. Science with Honours (Class 1) and a B. Environmental Science. He is currently involved in numerous beekeeping research programs with The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in collaboration with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). These research for development impact programs span partnerships with beekeeping industries throughout Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji. These projects have led to significant positive outcomes for improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of smallholder beekeeping enterprises and respective apiculture sectors.

Byron Taylor

I joined AsureQuality in 2001 as an Apiculture Officer with a strong focus on AFB pest management and the varroa mite which had recently established itself in New Zealand. Over the years, the role has changed retaining some of its disease surveillance and control components, but taking a far greater role in the food safety / food processing / export assurance side of the industry. In 2014 I took on the role of the Technical Manager for the AsureQuality Apiary Team which involves the oversight of a number of disease control, food safety, and quality management programs that support the NZ Beekeeping industry.

Michelle Taylor

Michelle Taylor is a scientist in the Pollination and Apiculture team at Plant and Food Research, New Zealand. Over the past 20 years she has conducted honey bee research relating to pesticides, pollination, and pests and disease. With the detection of varroa in New Zealand, Michelle played a primary role in researching synthetic, organic, and bee-breeding varroa control programmes. This research formed the basis for the education programme that helped mitigate colony loss and limit disruption to both the beekeeping industry and the numerous bee-reliant horticultural and agricultural industries in NZ. Michelle's primary interest is colony health to maximise production and to further this she is currently conducting her PhD on bacteria within the honey bee gut with the aim of understanding the impact of these bacteria on bee health.



BUSINESS RISK BEES EYE VIEW FOR

APIARISTS IN NSW & AUSTRALIA

Governance for the Queen Bees/Board Members & What about the Drones?

* Identify the key duties and responsibilities of directorsAppreciate the potential personal liability of directors and council members

- * Understand governance structures as they apply in the not-for-profit context
- * Consider the differences / similarities and nuances of the director's role in the not-for-profit / for profit sectors
- * Understand the role of directors in overseeing the strategy formulation and risk management approach of the organisation
- * Working Boards v Oversight Boards
- * Due Diligence

Smoke out your Subcontractor Risk

* How to De-Risk your Third Parties?

OUCH - I just got stung with a WHS Fine

* New Regulator Approach around the country

* Liability of Directors and Business

Owners * Workplace Health and Safety Laws and Requirements in simple terms

* Due Diligence – what is it and how do you Dealing with Pressures from Work & show it Non Work * How to ID your friends.

- * Penalties for WHS Offences
- * Practical initiatives for managing safety

Bee-Have – In the IR/HR

- * Basics * Visas * Employment
- * Casual Conversions * Inductions

Stung by Injuries in Workplace

- * How to Manage?
- * Workers Compensation how does it work?
- * Who is Covered?
- * What to do with third parties?

Swarming Around Bee-Stingmas & Mental Health

Dealing with Pressures from Work & Non Work * How to ID your friends, family or work mates who need help *How to refer to help



WITH THANKS TO



This Manage Damage workshop will be of benefit to all levels, as an employer, employee, company director, family trusts and those who take on positions within boards, branches, associations, clubs etc. We urge you to take time out of your busy schedules to attend.

This workshop is on Wednesday 15 May @ Panthers, Bathurst 1pm-3pm.

NOMINATION FORM - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NOMINEE (Person you are nominating)

Name:	Member No:
(please insert nominee name)	(insert nominee member no.)
I hereby accept this nomination.	Signed:

NOMINATOR

I	Member No:
(print your name)	(insert your membership number)

hereby nominate the person listed above as the Nominee for a position on the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Executive Council.

Signed:

SECONDER

hereby second the nomination of the person listed above as the Nominee for a position on the NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. Executive Council.

Signed:

DATE

- No member of the Association shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council unless they reside in NSW or the ACT and has been a Financial Member for at least two successive years immediately prior to the date of the holding of the Annual Conference.
- Each member shall be elected for a 2 year term and must retire from office at the annual Conference held at the end of such 2 year term, but if eligible, may seek reappointment.

Return:

By Post to: NSW Apiarists' Association, P O Box 267, South Manilla NSW 2346 Or Email to: info@nswaa.com.au.

This form to be submitted no later than three weeks (3) prior to the AGM.



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clients through the provision of Financial Counselling

Identify options to improve their financial position; Develop a plan to implement the options chosen by them, and implement their plan. Assist clients in their dealings with lending institutions in relation to applications and contracts, and processes relating to farm debt mediation; Provide information on and assisting clients to access programmes provided by government or industry, including client referrals to appropriate professionals; Assist our clients to identify the need for advice from and to prepare for meetings with professional service

and the viability of their enterprise;

Assist our clients to understand their financial position

Services designed to:

providers

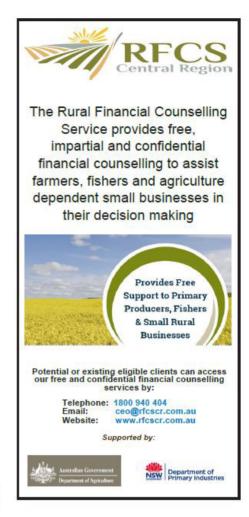
RF(CONTACT DETAILS CONTACT Any Member of our Team on: 1800 940 404 Fax 1800 950 951 www.rfcscr.com.au Updated 15th January 2019 Bathurst Toby Jones Bourke June Saint Mark Fitzpatrick Broken Hill Coonabarabran Liz Tomlinson & Coonamble Dubbo John Edwards Dubbo Alistair Murphy Forbes Rob Muffet Gilgandra Phoebe Maroulis Mudaee Liz Brown Nyngan Victoria Boad Orange Andrew Turnbull Parkes Michael Hallahan Tottenham 8 Susan Kellev Condobolin

Julie Casey

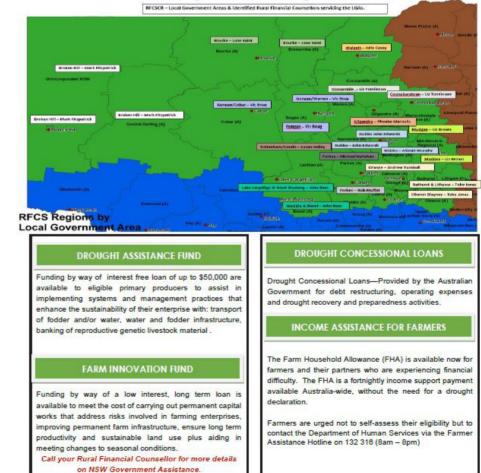
John Beer CEO Jeff Caldbeck 1800 940 404

Walgett

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Rural Financial Counselling Service New Regions - New South Wales



A subsidy on the transport of stock is available to primary producers where animals are at significant risk in terms of animal welfare. A subsidy for the cost of transporting donated fodder, organised by community groups or other organisations, from within NSW to drought affected properties is also available

TRANSPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Provide information to assist our clients to make decisions relating to their enterprise/s.

Call your Rural Financial Counsellor for more details on NSW Government Assistance

SUCCESSION PLANNING

Succession Planning can often be a complex, time consuming and difficult process. Rural Financial Counsellors are able to assist with exploring options and determining priorities in a non-judgemental and free of cost environment. Referrals are then made to professional people for clarification and action.



NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN: 89 417 216 326

- 8 FEB 2019

The Hon. Niall Blair MLC GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001

5 February 2019

Dear Minister Blair (Nial)

The amendments made to the coastal IFOAs are a slight improvement on the previous ones, but in the opinion of the NSW Apiarists Association fall well short of allowing forests to remain a sustainable resource for future generations.

The area of major concern is the transitional period of up to two years which in apiarists' opinion will continue to allow harvesting at unsustainable rates and inappropriate tree selection during this period. The opinion of many apiarists is that after another two years of the current harvesting regime there will be very few forests remaining that have adequate mixed age multi species eucalypts available to be of value to sustain a sustainable healthy productive apiary industry.

As global temperatures continue to increase and drought years occur more regularly the necessity for apiarists to utilise forested public lands resources also increases as does the need to maintain bee colonies for pollination of crops.

Regards

n c. Burgley

Neil Bingley President NSW Apiarists Association

President Neil Bingley 101 Woodfield Road, SUTTON, NSW 2620 P: 0428 487 105 E: <u>beez101@bigpond.net.au</u> State Secretary/Treasurer 2Rivers Pty Ltd Roslynn Riggs – Lead Project Officer P: 0400 441 346 **Contact Us**

NSW Apiarists' Association Inc

E: info@nswaa.com.au

P O Box 267, MANILLA, NSW 2346

Page **1** of **1**

Australia's Honeybee News March - April 2019



MF19/566

Mr Neil Bingley President NSW Apiarists' Association Inc. 101 Woodfield Road SUTTON NSW 2620

Dear Mr Bingley

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2019, to the Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry, regarding the protection of habitat under integrated forestry operations approvals (IFOAs). The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

In 2016, the NSW Government released the NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap, which outlines a number of key actions to be undertaken to balance economic, social and environmental outcomes and help build a stronger, more competitive and ecologically sustainable forestry industry. The Roadmap can be viewed at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forestry/industry-roadmap.

The Roadmap reiterated an earlier NSW Government commitment to review the four coastal region IFOAs. These IFOAs have now been modernised into a single Coastal IFOA to reflect industry best practice and meet contemporary environmental standards.

The new Coastal IFOA was developed in the context of overarching commitments that the new prescriptions should not adversely impact on environmental values or timber supply. The NSW Government is determined to get the right balance between the environment and industry, and believes that environmental standards can be strengthened at the same time as providing long-term security of wood supply and certainty to investors and the industry.

The release of the new Coastal IFOA comes after public consultation occurred from May to July 2018 with a wide range of stakeholders across NSW, from the environment and industry sectors and local communities. More than 3,000 submissions were made and the Government carefully considered all feedback received and made several improvements in response. This includes improving some environmental protections, such as for nectar trees and winter flowering eucalypts, and increasing flexibility for industry to operate effectively.

> DPI Fisheries – Port Stephens Fisheries Institute Locked Bag 1, NELSON BAY NSW 2315 Tel: 02 4982 1232 Fax: 02 4982 1107 www.dpi.nsw.gov.au ABN: 72 189 919 072

NSW native State forests have been harvested and regenerated many times over the past 100 years, or more. In NSW, all old growth forest is protected, and only regrowth native forests are available for sustainable harvesting. These regrowth forests are typically mixed species and multi-aged. Before harvesting, foresters carefully select a silvicultural technique that will create ideal conditions for regeneration, provide habitat for wildlife and maintain a diverse forest ecosystem. Silvicultural systems provide frameworks for harvesting and regenerating forests to achieve a desired forest structure and adequate regeneration, among other objectives.

As you are aware, forests are dynamic ecosystems and contain a mix of wildlife and flora. Some species respond well to disturbance and thrive in young regenerating forest. while other species prefer areas that have not been disturbed for some time. The science of silviculture considers the best way to manage forests for timber production while maintaining soil and water guality and creating a mosaic of age classes to maximise biodiversity across the landscape.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely

Dr Geoff Allan Deputy Director General DPI Fisheries, Forestry & Game Licensing Date: 27 February 2019



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2019 AGM DATES

NSW Apiarists Association – 16-17 May, Bathurst

Bee Industry Council of WA – 24-25 May. Perth

Queensland Beekeepers Association – 30 May – 1 June, Bribie Island

Victorian Apiarists Association – 4-6 June, Mildura

South Australian Apiarists Association – 10-11 June, Adelaide

Tasmanian Beekeepers Association – 28 June, Launceston

Honey Packers and Marketers Association – TBA

National Council of Crop Pollination Associations – TBA

Australian Queen Bee Breeders Association – TBA

Australian Honey Bee Industry Council – 29 June Launceston



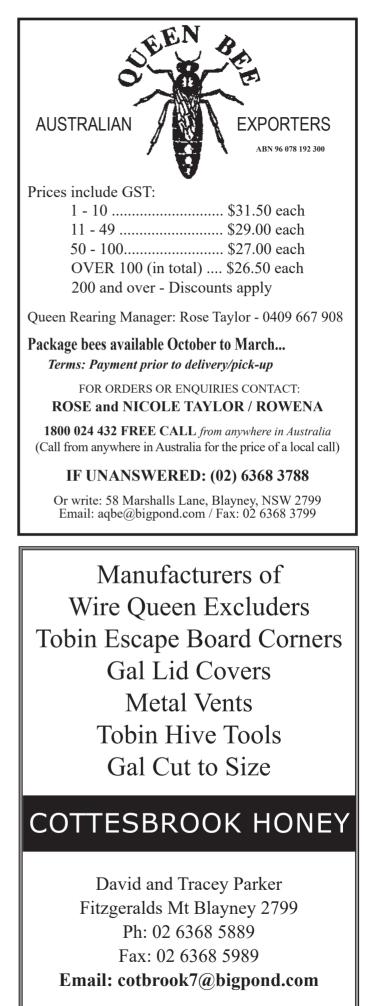


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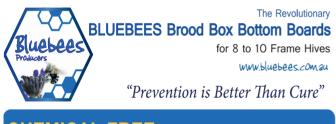


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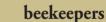


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DOUG'S COLUMN

Doug Somerville Technical Specialist, Apiculture - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn doug.somerville@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Beekeeping etiquette

Beekeeping etiquette - what does it mean?

Definition: *Etiquette. (noun), the customary code of polite* behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession or group.

I have been involved in many, many conversations where the 'so and so beekeeper' didn't do the 'right thing'. So, what is the right thing?

"There's no point in industry old schoolers complaining about newbies if we are not prepared to give some guidance as to the expected niceties of beekeeping alongside one's peers" (Neil Bingley-President NSW Apiarists' Association)

We have Acts of Parliament to oversee our activities and behaviour in some areas of beekeeping, including our impact of keeping bees on the public, our role and responsibility in controlling certain diseases (AFB), our responsibility to mark or brand hives, and be a registered beekeeper.

We also have various codes that are not law, but certainly the breaking or lack of adherence to such codes, agreed to by the industry and the government agency, may not go well if there is also a breach of an Act. Likewise, if there is repeated breaking or ignoring of the 'code', then this may induce industry representatives and government officials to make key elements of the code into law, incorporating it into the relevant Act.

Recommendations included in industry agreed codes cover such things as backyard beekeeping (recommending certain sized yards be restricted in hive numbers); transportation of bee colonies and fuelling of trucks before loading bees and not after (not always preventable, but when hundreds of loose bees effectively close down a service station, this is not good for anybody). There is already a code covering these matters.

I'm talking about simple stuff, like:

- How much honey do you leave a farmer for the privilege of placing your beehives on their property? While some beekeepers don't want this stated, others simply don't have a clue. Responses include:
 - a 10 litre bucket (most common)
 - as much honey as the property owner wants

- a dozen or so 500 gm jars of honey
- o a 3 kg bucket of honey
- cash payment (uncommon and not favoured)
- nothing (property owner happy to have bees on their land)
- Communication with the property owners is important. Many beekeepers annually provide gifts of honey even though the sites may not be utilised on an annual basis.
- If a property owner states that another beekeeper already uses their property from time to time;
 - usually the beekeeper asking the question goes to another property
 - if the property owner hasn't heard or seen the previous beekeeper for several years, is it alright to consider utilising the property? There are many opinions here, particularly if the beekeeper in question hasn't left any honey (payment) on an annual basis.
- Placing apiaries on private property;
 - o away from gates, sheds, houses
 - consider livestock watering at troughs
 - anything that will interfere with the property owner or manager
- State of the site during and after its usage
 - ensure no rubbish or material is left lying around during and after
 - avoid entering the property during very wet weather as this may create wheel furrows across the paddock
- Don't entertain working bees with a smoker during a total fire ban
 - long, dry grass may be a major fire hazard with vehicles; stick to formed tracks
- In fire danger periods, equip vehicle with firefighting equipment.
- Notify property owner when it is intended to use the farm and give them a courtesy text/call when property is vacated. Properties may have changed hands, likewise where you place your beehives may not be suitable currently due to activities in that location such as cropping preparation.



- Leave contact details with the property owner. I've had several conversations with property owners that only know the beekeeper as "Fred" and he drives a 'red truck'.
- If there is a load of beehives in the neighbouring property, usually it is desirable to place the next load of beehives at least a kilometre down/up the road and not on the other side of the fence.

Remember, all beekeepers are ambassadors for the industry. Behaviour and etiquette should reflect this position.

Forming long-lasting relationships with the owners of the properties you rely on for apiary sites is vital for your ongoing beekeeping business. Failure to maintain these relationships will seriously erode the strength of your beekeeping business.

Acknowledgements: Rob Michie, Neil Bingley, Casey Cooper, Steve Targett and Brian Woolfe for reviewing and commenting on article. Thanks to Vicki Saville for typing my notes and Annette Somerville for proof reading the final article.

NSWAA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting 22 February 2019 at Dubbo

- Letter to be forwarded to the National Parks & Wildlife Service outlining NSWAA concerns with regard to the AWC Pilliga closure and the method of allocation for relocation of hives affected by the enclosure.
- A further submission for the Private Native Forestry Review has been sent.
- Neil Bingley and Stephen Targett to attend a face to face meeting with Rod Bourke at Tocal with regard to Bee Pest and Disease courses for NSWAA branches and local beekeepers.
- Consultation is currently ongoing regarding the Registration Fee Waiver for 1-5 hives.
- NSWAA agrees to support in principle, labour agreements to allow migrant workers to come to Australia to give NSW beekeepers access to skilled labour.
- NSWAA supports members with the South Coast Native Title Claim assisting 14 respondents.
- NSWAA is looking into Governance, Succession Planning and Leadership training workshops for branches and Executive Councillors.
- 2rivers has been retained as the Secretariat until 30 June 2020.
- Work on the new website and data base is continuing.

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Sugar Shake It Like A Polaroid Picture

April is sugar shake month. As you are already undertaking your autumn brood inspection, it is quite easy to shake some extra bees to roll through a sugar shake at this time. By doing this you will be meeting obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2016 and Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice. Only 1 hive per Apiary is required to have a sugar shake conducted.

Since April 2018 over 1400 kits have been distributed through DPI's "Sugar shake month" initiative.

By testing your hives, you are not only being a good beekeeper, you are also contributing to a greater data set that helps prove Australia is free of Varroa.

Citizen science is a growing space and engaging community members to assist with information for data gathering and monitoring (such as the backyard bird count etc) can give a surprisingly accurate

picture of what is happening in these research areas. The same can apply for the surveillance of an exotic pest that may decimate an industry.

Let's get some data gathered! For those that are on the net we have an information entry portal to log that you have undertaken a sugar shake and enter some information and a photo as confirmation. Alternatively email to <u>mark.page@dpi.</u> <u>nsw.gov.au</u> for data logging or results can be messaged or phoned in for logging 0409 299 415.

Why is widespread surveillance important? The health of the beekeeping industry is important in itself, but also has flow effects to pollination-reliant industries and the wider community that benefit from healthy hives, their products and the services they provide.

While surveillance of sentinel hives at airports and ports can provide early detection at high risk sites, it is important to monitor larger areas of our state. Increased global travel networks and people movements, shorter flight times and social media as a free way to meet up with fellow beekeepers across the globe mean that you can easily visit hives in countries that have Varroa, bring back mites on contaminated equipment and unknowingly introduce it to a colony here. Mites may live 2-3 days off a bee and in ideal conditions perhaps more than 5 days, so the risk of introduction is real.

A few points on Varroa

Stay on Adult bees 4-11 days and maybe longer if no brood present in the colony, will leave the bee to enter a brood cell to begin laying

• May live 5 days without the presence of a honey bees but would need to be reintroduced to a colony to reproduce (female mite)

• Prefer drone brood to breed on and in and mite numbers will increase more rapidly when drone brood is present in a colony

 \cdot Populations increase faster in climatic areas that support year round brood rearing

· Varroa can be spread by drifting bees (drone bees drift from hive to hive and even between apiaries), foraging bees and of course robbing of infested colonies (remembering we don't have Varroa)

• Visual sighting is very low as a detection method (Across the ditch in NZ it was estimated that Varroa had been present for up to 5 years before discovery)

 \cdot Earliest detection also assists in the containment or Quarantine

Link to sugar shake <u>https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/</u> animals-and-livestock/bees/pests-diseases/sugarshake-month

Call if you suspect Exotic pest hotline 1800 084 881

Mark Page Department Primary Industries Bee Biosecurity Surveillance P: 0409 299 415 E: <u>mark.page@dpi.nsw.gov.au</u>

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> Please contact fellow Beekeeper, Paul Costa on: 0499 775 664 or paul@gustarehoney.com

THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost Acting Technical Specialist, 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

Pollination preparation

Research has shown that supplementary feeding of sugar syrup and protein to honey bee colonies is appropriate in several crops and during challenging seasons to increase bee longevity, to overcome pesticide damage, to provide a sufficient number of foraging bees to maintain the colony populations during honey flows and to assist hives to overcome diseases (i.e. - chalkbrood, European foulbrood) associated with nutritional deficiencies. In our current state of drought in NSW, if you have not strategically moved your bees through the season to natural sources of adequate nectar and diverse sources of high quality pollen, you probably should have started a regime of supplementary feeding when you noticed colony condition start to worsen. Either moving hives to better sources of nutrition (i.e. - Red Stringybark, Spotted Gum etc. in autumn months) or providing it to them in the form of sugar syrup and protein supplement should occur as conditions and the flora you are working indicate. Professional beekeeper experience dictates, if your colonies overwinter in cool, temperate climates in NSW they should have ample winter stores and bee population by Anzac Day at the end of April.

Not all protein supplements are equally nutritious or stimulating to the colony. Regarding protein supplements Dr. Doug Somerville notes, "as far as attractiveness and stimulus on brood rearing is concerned, fresh pollen is the most desirable, followed by pollen stored in the freezer, then dried pollen, then recipes containing a portion of pollen. The least attractive pollen supplement to honey bees is one that contains no pollen. These mixtures will not stimulate a colony to rear brood past two brood cycles, when no pollen is available by any other means." For supplementary sugar syrup and protein feeding case studies from NSW professional beekeepers, protein contents of common pollen flora and guidelines for supplemental feeding, download Somerville's "Fat Bees Skinny Bees - a manual on honey bee nutrition for beekeepers" from the AgriFutures webpage: www.agrifutures.com.au/ wp-content/uploads/publications/05-054.pdf



Honey bees foraging on an open-fed protein supplement mix including pollen.

Supplemental feeding of sugar syrup and protein may be necessary for many more beekeepers this season, especially those destined to travel to almond pollination. Weak colonies not only may not make the grower's grade to garner a fee from almond pollination, they also won't get the full benefit of almond pollen while in contract due to their weakened state. Just as a weak colony is at a disadvantage going into a nectar flow and likely won't produce as much honey as a stronger colony, so in almond pollination a weaker colony, such as the one on the bottom, right of the pallet shown below, may not be able to take full advantage of available almond pollen, which at an average of 26% crude protein (Somerville, 2005) can be a very good pollen source to breed bees on.



Hives opened for strength assessment in an almond orchard using the cluster method of inspection. The bottom, right hive did not make strength and will not be paid for by the grower.

Besides, protecting your livestock's health with good nutrition management, how about ensuring the health of your business? If you work directly with an almond grower, I strongly urge you to adapt the following "Sample Almond Pollination Contract" to the specific agreement you have with your grower.



Call or email me and I'll email you an editable copy. The contract below is based on Project *Apis m.*'s sample contract. Project *Apis m.* is a United States-based non-profit organisation which funds and directs research to enhance the health and vitality of honey bee colonies while improving crop production. You can read all about Project *Apis m.* and its research projects on their webpage: <u>www.projectapism.org/</u>

SAMPLE ALMOND POLLINATION CONTRACT

("Beekeeper") and

("Grower") agree as follows:

Beekeeper shall place ______ colonies of bees in Grower's almond orchard located at ______ (town/area/GPS coordinates) during the ______ pollination season. Beekeeper shall place said colonies in Grower's orchard before 10% bloom of early varieties, weather permitting, but not sooner than <u>96 hours</u> after the last application of dormant spray. Grower shall promptly advise Beekeeper of the date of such last application to facilitate placement scheduling. Each colony shall, at the time of delivery, have a minimum of __ full depth frames or their equivalent and the colonies shall have an average of __ full depth frames or their equivalent, with a minimum of 70% coverage of clustering bees. Cluster method inspection of 10% of the colonies shall occur within days of placement at a temperature range of 5-16°C and wind speed of less than 16 km/h.

Inspection shall be performed at Grower's expense by a neutral third party knowledgeable in apiculture, using the cluster method of inspection for 10% of the colonies. Grower shall notify Beekeeper 24 hours in advance of the date and time of inspection and the identity of the inspector and permit Beekeeper to attend. In no event shall inspection occur if the ambient temperature is less than 5° C or wind speed is greater than 16km/h.

The results of the inspection shall be delivered to Grower and Beekeeper simultaneously and, if colonies delivered are understrength, Beekeeper shall have 48 hours from the receipt of the results to provide additional colonies to compensate for the understrength colonies. If Beekeeper shall fail to make such correction, the amount due Beekeeper shall be reduced in proportion to the shortage in the average number of full strength frames (with no credit for colonies containing less than __ frames) in the colonies provided. Beekeeper shall service the colonies in accordance with usual apicultural practices and remove the colonies after completion of pollination and, in any event, within 14 days after notice from Grower.

2. Grower shall pay Beekeeper the sum of \$_____ for each colony in installments as follows:

% on execution of this agreement
 % on delivery of the colonies
 % on completion of pollination

Any amounts not paid when due shall bear interest at 10% per annum. If suit shall be brought for nonpayment, the prevailing party shall recover its reasonable attorneys' fees as a part of its costs of suit.

- 3. Beekeeper shall place the colonies in mutually agreeable locations in groups of not less than ______colonies, which shall be accessible at all hours to Beekeeper and its vehicles and equipment for placement, servicing and removal.
- 4. Grower shall give Beekeeper a minimum of ____ hours' notice prior to application of pesticide in the orchard. Beekeeper may remove the colonies in such event and in the event of a threat of flooding of the colony locations and replace them when the threat of damage to the colonies has passed. In such event, Grower shall pay Beekeeper an additional charge of \$____ per colony for removal and replacement. Said charge shall be payable with Grower's final installment.
- 5. Beekeeper shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Grower acknowledges that Beekeeper makes no warranty that the number of colonies set forth above will be sufficient to achieve full pollination of Grower's orchard and that pollination is dependent on weather conditions, colony loss due to pesticide kill, acts of nature and other matters beyond Beekeeper's control, for which Beekeeper shall have no responsibility. In no event, shall Beekeeper be responsible for failure or reduction of Grower's crop. Beekeeper shall be excused from performance if prevented by quarantine or other law or regulation, weather, flooding, colony loss or other matters beyond its control for so long as such cause shall exist.
- 6. Other provisions:

Dated:		
Grower : Address:	Beekeeper : Address:	
Mobile #: Email:	Mobile #: Email:	

Central Tablelands Branch of NSWAA Beekeepers Field Day!

- Date: Saturday 18th May 2019 commencing 9:00am
- Where: Bathurst Showground Great Western Hwy, Kendall Ave Bathurst NSW 2795
- Cost: Gold coin donation on entry

Event Info:

Anyone in the beekeeping community is invited to attend. Market stalls are available for vendors to sell their beekeeping or pollination products and services. There will be a small fee per stall.

Contact: Debbie Porter - Secretary,

Central Tablelands Branch of NSWAA

- debbie.porter3@hotmail.com
- **、** 0429375383



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APIARY SUPPORT DESK UPDATE

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



Apiary Sites Program: January 2019 Expression of Interest Update.

After the completion of the EOI pilot last year the next Expressions of Interest offering of recently vacated apiary sites opened on the 30th of January 2019. 49 sites were offered across 4 LLS regions: Murray, South East, Central West and Northern Tablelands. 18 Apiarists applied for sites before the deadline of the 27th of February.

At least one application was received for each of the sites with the most popular site receiving 8 applications and some sites only receiving one application; reflecting the variety of sites published. At time of writing the final steps of the allocation process are in progress with the results expected to be notified to applicants by the end of March. Updates will be published on the DPI website and send to members of our email list.

A number of queries came through to the apiary sites helpdesk regarding the Biosecurity Code of Practice Compliance section of the EOI application. The document to be uploaded is a scan of a completed Appendix 1 form from the back of the Australian Honeybee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice. Some apiarists were unsure about the AFB testing declaration to comply with section 10 of The Code as they have not routinely being doing this testing. It's useful to know that many honey packers conduct this testing on their supplier's behalf. If this is the case, you should contact your packer to get the testing information required in the form.

We've also received a number of queries about applying for long-term vacant sites. We are still working on a pilot to publish a map with long-term vacant sites and met recently with the NSWAA to review the draft process. The map will increase visibility and simplify the application process. This includes an online "First Come First Served"

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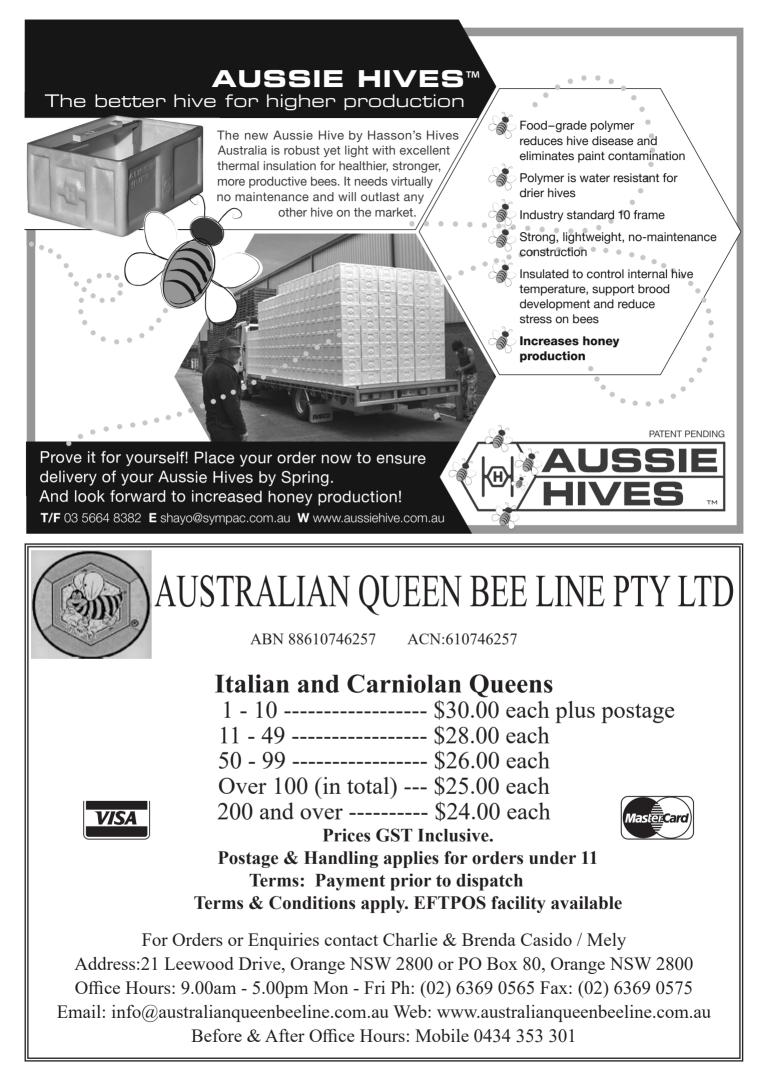
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process to allocate sites to the first applicant for a site (as long as they meet requirements for insurance and beekeeping registration). With feedback on board the work is in process to prepare the site information and the new online service.

In the meantime if you identify a specific site which you believe to have been vacant for a long period, you can continue to contact the landholder agencies to enquire about it. Contact details for Forestry Corporation and Local Land Services regions are on the "<u>Beekeeping on Public Land</u>" page of the DPI website (an online search should get you there quickly). With ballots held in recent years and last year's EOI Pilot the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service do not have any long-term vacant sites so all allocations will be via the EOI process in the immediate future.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me via the Apiary Sites Helpdesk: <u>apiary.sites@dpi.</u> <u>nsw.gov.au</u> or 02 6391 3464 Nick Geoghegan, Apiculture Resource Coordinator, NSW DPI.









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A Revised Approach for the Control of American Foulbrood in NSW

In recent years the profile of the beekeeping industry has been raised worldwide. Colony collapse disorder, the increased impact of insecticides on honey bees (especially the widespread use of neonicotinoids), the dramatic increase in the prices paid for honey with medicinal value especially manuka honeys and new innovations such as the flow hive have contributed to this upsurge in interest. In NSW this increased interest has been reflected, to a significant degree, by the increase in the number of registered beekeepers from 3,000 in 2014 to 8,400 in 2019.

The beekeeping industry is significantly affected by a range of diseases and pests which threaten productivity, pollination efficiency and food security. The most important of these in Australia is American foulbrood (AFB), a fatal disease of honey bee brood. More money is spent on the control of this bee disease than any other yet, despite this investment it is estimated that the incidence of AFB in NSW has increased substantially since 1994, based on AFB honey testing results.

To address this decline in AFB control an AFB Minimisation Strategy was developed by the NSW Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee which is made up of members of the commercial and recreational apiary sectors, packers, pollinators and government.

The key objectives of this strategy are:

- 1. Establish an objective measure of AFB incidence
- 2. Establish AFB reduction goals
- 3. Review and streamline diagnostic services and data management for AFB
- 4. Incorporate the National Bee Biosecurity Program into state legislation
- 5. Develop a whole of industry compliance network
 - a. Actively build a culture of compliance with the Code by rewarding good AFB management
 - b. Effectively mitigate risks where poor management is detected
 - c. Assist non-compliant beekeepers to improve, and
 - d. Create industry based incentives for compliance.

Michael Hornitzky Chris Anderson NSW Department of Primary Industries

Establish an objective measure of AFB incidence and reduction goals in NSW

A prerequisite of developing a plan to reduce the effects of any disease is to first establish its incidence and prevalence so that goals can be set to measure the success of the control strategy. There has never been a baseline measure for AFB in NSW or, for that matter in any other state. However, estimates based on honey testing indicate that the incidence of AFB in NSW has increased substantially since 1994 indicating that the strategy used over the past 24 years has not been working well.

At the AFB Minimisation Strategy Workshop held at the Orange Agricultural Institute in June 2018 it was decided to establish an objective measure of AFB incidence in NSW. This objective is to be achieved by AFB testing of bulked honey samples provided by honey packers. This testing is to be carried out each year so that yearly comparisons can be made to gauge the progress of the AFB control strategy. Once the baseline level of AFB bulked honey spore levels is established, only then can goals be set for the reduction of these spore levels.

Review and streamline diagnostic services and data management for AFB

Bee disease diagnostics for NSW is carried out at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) at Menangle. In previous years EMAI has been at the forefront of bee disease diagnostics and research. A recent review of the capability for bee disease diagnostics and research has indicated that EMAI is well placed to regain this position and a plan has been developed to increase its current capabilities and expand its role in the bee pathology area.

Two areas in which EMAI has already become involved in the testing of bulked honey samples to establish the baseline level of AFB in NSW and determining whether *Melissococcus plutonius* (the cause of European foulbrood) and *Paenibacillus larvae* (the cause of AFB) have developed resistance to oxytetracycline.

Incorporation of the National Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice into State Legislation.

The peak beekeeping body in Australia (AHBIC) has developed a National Bee Biosecurity Program to improve the management of established pests and diseases, as well as increase the preparedness and surveillance of exotic pest threats of the honey bee industry. The Program focuses primarily on reducing the impact of AFB across Australia in commercial operations. The Program is underpinned by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code), as well as the employment of a Bee Biosecurity Officer within each state to educate and train beekeepers in biosecurity best practice.

NSW will incorporate the Code as mandatory for all beekeepers from 1 July 2019. The Code will become a Condition of Beekeeper Registration. This means that Part B of the Code will apply for ALL beekeepers and Part C to those with 50 hives or more. Compliance with the Code will not be enforced until after 1 July 2020 allowing for a 12 month phase in of the Code with training and materials being delivered to help the industry adjust to new record keeping requirements. Beekeepers who are subject to any future audit programme will be required to show evidence of record keeping requirements.

This change will coincide with a review of current beekeeping regulations in NSW and the launch of a new beekeeper portal on the DPI website which will act as a one stop shop for all beekeeping issues from registration to reporting.

NSW is also driving a national approach to the movement of hives across state boundaries particularly for pollination events. The aim of this work is to free up movement for beekeepers who can demonstrate that they are compliant with the Code. This may involve introduction of a new Compliance Arrangement through which beekeepers are audited by the Department or through an approved independent third party. Beekeepers with a current accreditation under this arrangement would then be able to complete the required inspections and self-certify the condition of hives being moved across borders, with appropriate checks and balances in place to provide assurance that the load meets the state entry requirement. For this to work, states must first harmonize entry

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requirements where possible in alignment with the Code and agree to adoption of the Compliance Arrangement. There is also the option to recognize industry quality assurance schemes for this purpose where those schemes appropriately audit against the Code. This work is being done through the National Bee Biosecurity Program Steering Committee.

Develop a whole of industry compliance framework

Compliance is not the job of governments. It is the job of industry as a whole to drive compliance with the Code.

The Code was created by beekeepers for beekeepers because compliance with the Code will reduce the impact of AFB which is a problem that is created by beekeepers and impacts on beekeepers. The flow on benefits to industry and the community will be seen in increased productivity for apiarists and pollination reliant industries and greater long term food security.

The NSW Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee will develop a whole of industry compliance framework to help drive adoption of the Code. This framework will focus on

- Creating market-based mechanisms to drive uptake of the Code across all sectors of the industry;
- b. Rewarding good AFB management;
- c. Effectively mitigating risk where poor management is detected whilst assisting noncompliant beekeepers to improve.

The framework will guide government and industry programs and policies to support increased uptake of the Code and create a beekeeping culture where the Code becomes an integral part of and minimum standard for everyday beekeeping.

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New study finds that Varroa destructor feeds on the bees' fat body and not on haemolymph – why this study matters

Madeleine Beekman Behaviour and Genetics of Social Insects Lab School of Life and Environmental Sciences The University of Sydney madeleine.beekman@sydney.edu.au

In early 2017 Ben Oldroyd and myself wrote a piece for the Australasian Beekeeper and Honeybee News that had the title "A new research project at Sydney University aims to protect Australian bees from deformed wing virus". We argued that it is pretty clear that wherever Varroa destructor is present, deformed wing virus, (DWV) is also present, often in very high amounts (as measured by the amount of virus particles). The positive association between V. destructor and DWV led most bee researchers to the conclusion that the damage inflicted on bee populations after the arrival of V. destructor is most likely due to the change in DWV and not so much due to the damage done by the mite itself. A recent study published in the prestigious US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences requires a rethink of our previously-held conviction.

As part of his PhD at the University of Maryland, Samuel Ramsey studied the behaviour of the mite when present on adult bees, the so-called phoretic phase. His question was simple: does the mite feed on the adult bee, and if so, what does it feed on? Because the mite can only reproduce when inside a brood cell, most researchers assumed that the mite only uses the adult bee to be transported to the next brood cell or colony. Hence, the term 'phoretic' which refers to a non-permanent association between two organisms for the sole purpose of travel. Scientists thus mostly ignored this phoretic phase, unless we were specifically interested in the ways the mite selects which next brood cell to reproduce in. Samuel has now clearly shown that instead of using the adult bee as a mode of transport, Varroa feeds on adult bees. In fact its shape is perfectly adapted to allow the mite to fit in between the two tergites (sclerotized plates) found on the bee's backside. This snug fit allows the mite to pierce the inter-segmental membrane to feed off the bee.

So what does the mite eat? For more than five decades researchers believed that the mite

basically behaves like a tick, sucking bee blood (haemolymph) and in doing so transmitting viruses from bee to bee. Because of the above mentioned association between *V. destructor* and certain viruses, research on the impact of *V. destructor* moved mainly towards understanding the impact the mite has on honeybee viruses. And yes, that includes our lab at the University of Sydney. But insect blood is very different from mammalian blood on which ticks feed. In particular, insect blood is nutritionally low quality and this knowledge made Samuel and his collaborators wonder if we have misunderstood the mite all this time. Can *V. destructor* live on this low nutrition diet or does the mite actually feed on other tissues?

By carefully observing the exact location of the mite on adult bees, Samuel concluded that the mite seems to have a preference for parts of the bee that allow access to the fat body. In bee larvae, on which the mite feeds during its reproductive phase, fat and haemolymph are mixed together, so a mite feeding on a developing larva will ingest both haemolymph and fat. But in adult bees the fat body is clearly separated from the haemolymph. Previous work by other researchers has found that V. destructor has a preference for nurse bees when selecting an adult bee to attach to. Seems logical, given that nurse bees spend most of their time near brood where the mite reproduces. However, Samuel and his colleagues realised that nurse bees also have substantially larger and more nutritionally dense fat bodies. Putting one and one together, they drew the conclusion that the mite most likely feeds not on haemolymph, but on the bee's fat. By feeding bees a stain that dissolves in fat, Samuel could show that when mites fed on bees with stained fat bodies they also became stained. Using a stain that only circulates in the bee's haemolymph did not result in stained mites. By developing an artificial mite diet, the researchers could further manipulate the amount of fat in the mite's diet and study the effect of fat content on longevity and fecundity. Mites fed a fatfree diet (e.g. haemolymph only) lived the shortest and hardly produced any eggs. In contrast, mites fed a diet comprised of 50-100% fat thrived. Hence, mites prefer to suck on the bee's fat because a diet high in fat makes them live longer and allows them to lay the most eggs.

Why does all this matter? It matters a lot. For example, future control methods need to take into account that the active ingredient must be present in the bee's fat body and not just in haemolymph. But the mite's feeding behaviour also forces us to rethink the ways in which the mite causes damage to the bees. Instead of mainly functioning as a vector of honey bee viruses, it now seems that the mite directly damages the bee by sucking on the bee's fat. The bee's fat body plays an important role in immune response and it seems likely that any damage will have negative effects on the bee's ability to fend off parasites and pathogens, such as viruses. Samuel's work also helps us understand some of our own rather puzzling results. In our studies working on DWV from New Zealand and the Netherlands we found that bee pupae can carry massive amounts of DWV, yet do not seem to suffer any negative consequences. We concluded that DWV is not the dangerous virus that people make it out to be. But there may be more. Perhaps in the absence of *V. destructor* bees can cope with high levels of DWV because they are otherwise healthy. As always in science, answering one question only seems to leads to more.

Further reading:

- Ramsey, S. D., et al. (2019). "*Varroa destructor* feeds primarily on honey bee fat body tissue and not hemolymph." <u>Proceedings of the</u> <u>National Academy of Sciences</u>: 201818371.
- Remnant, E. J., et al. (2019). "Direct transmission by injection affects competition among RNA viruses in honeybees." <u>Proceedings</u> of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences 286(1895): 20182452.



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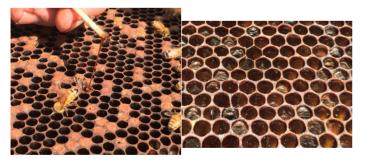
Rod Bourke - NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer NSW Department of Primary Industries - Biosecurity NSW Tocal Ag College, Tocal Rd Paterson NSW 2320 Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Part 1; Looking for AFB scale in hives. Part 2; Almond hive preparations.

AFB Scale

The term "scale" is used to describe the telltale signs of what is normally an ongoing (and often advanced) AFB infection within a hive. Scale is the dried and sunken mass that was once an AFB infected bee pupae, and it is normally found in the bottom of brood cells where it has slumped down. Scale is the final stage of an AFB infection process, and is much further advanced than when you can rope out an AFB cell with a matchstick. When you find scale you can be sure that the hive has likely had an AFB infection for an extended period of time.

Scale has dried down to become a hardened mass that is full of AFB spores. Scale is robust and can potentially sit dormant within a hive for decades before it again causes an AFB infection. Often it is hidden in cells covered with pollen or capped honey, especially in old brood frames that have not been removed or were moved up into the honey box. Normally when scale is present the hive will also display infected brood, but if not then it will soon, even after use of antibiotics. When you find frames with many tens or hundreds of scale then you can be quite certain that the hive has a very high background AFB spore count and the chances of that hive currently suffering AFB are very high, even if no clinical symptoms are currently visible in capped brood.



First you get wet roping AFB and later it dries down to be scale sitting in the bottom of cells





Ongoing (illegal) use of antibiotics to mask AFB is often associated with hives full of scale, and this is an unfixable problem as this hive will continue to weaken and eventually die out as the infection keeps on flaring up. Robbing of such a hive then exposes nearby bee colonies to potentially hundreds of billions of AFB spores from within that infected hive. The longer that live hives are treated with OTC to mask AFB the higher the internal spore count is within each hive (internal surfaces, combs, honey stores and on/inside bees). Therefore when they get robbed out their potential to give other hives AFB is enormous.



This hive is full of OTC and AFB....eventually AFB wins every time.

One of the main reasons that OTC is not prescribed for treatment of AFB in Australia is that it does not work (spores are not affected by antibiotics), and it especially won't work when beekeepers don't even remove infected hives and equipment from their system but instead try to "fix them up" with antibiotics. This process just increases the background spore count of AFB and breeds up AFB within their operation (and nearby ones).

The shape of scale

Brood cells are normally inclined slightly upwards towards the front opening (an angle of around 9 degrees above horizontal) versus the back of the cell where it is drawn off the foundation (and the eggs are laid). Therefore gravity ensures that the AFB infected brood mass (which has the texture of caramel sauce) will lie reasonably flat and hence most of the scale will be concentrated towards the back of the cell. Very little of the scale is visible at the front of a cell so when you look directly front on at a frame of brood (when checking brood) it can be very hard to see scale sitting in the bottom of cells.

Australia's Honeybee News March - April 2019

This also means that scale is not always easy to see with the naked eye, especially when you are a beekeeper who may need (but not always wear!) glasses to see details.

When doing your two (or preferably more) routine full brood box inspections each season you should ALWAYS check EVERY frame in the brood box, not just the ones currently with brood in them. It is often those outer frames (that are sometimes dry or only partially filled with honey/pollen in weaker hives) that often show easily visible scale. Scale will also be found mixed amongst healthy looking and diseased brood on frames, so look for it everywhere!

A lot of operators miss scale though, and this is a major concern as scale is basically just a solid nugget of AFB spores. So how best to look for scale:

1. Pull out the brood frame and shake off all bees (normally back into the brood box)

2. Do your normal brood inspection, and if no AFB cells are found then do a check for scale.

3. Hold the frame with the top bar closest to you and put thumbs over the top part of the sidebar, push your hands into the sidebar and support the bottom sidebars (the underneath side of frame) with your fingers so that you can hold the frame horizontally.

4. Turn your body so that the sun is coming from behind you over your shoulder.

5. Lift your arms into a position where that sun goes directly onto the frame

6. Slowly pivot the frame up and down (top bar hardly moves but bottom bar does) so that you see into the bottom of the cells (with the direct sun light coming from behind you assisting with this).

7. One of the first signs of scale is a rounded triangular shape that can be seen inside the entrance of cells. They often have a different colour (sometimes lighter, sometimes darker) than the cell and are wider at the bottom (further into the cell from the opening).

8. You may need to move the frame in different directions to catch the right light. Once you see scale you can focus on it and see that most of it is located in the back half of the cell.

9. Sometimes your arms are not long enough to get the frame far enough away to really focus into the cells...get your glasses on if this is the case. Taking focused photos with your phone and then zooming in may also help.

10. Once scale is spotted it is best to stick a match in nearby so that you can easily find it again (if only a few scale are present) and play with it. If it won't come out easily then it's probably AFB scale.



Depending on the time of day/angle of sunlight you will need to change the angle of the frame to see inside cells. Left picture is towards middle of day and right is earlier/later in day when the sun is lower



When holding the frame with top bar towards you any scale will see look like in the picture below. This is the easiest way to see scale.



This frame is heavily infected with scale.

Scale of AFB can sometimes be confused with that of EFB and sac brood, but the major difference is that unlike the latter two the scale of AFB is stuck firmly to the bottom of the cell. The other two can generally be quite easily removed with a twig or matchstick (without damaging the cell), whereas AFB scale is firmly stuck and cannot be removed without damaging the brood cell.



Frame showing prolific scale and damage where it was removed for analysis.

In advanced infections where enough spores were present to infect older bee larvae then the remains of a tongue may also be visible hanging down from the top of the cell.

False alarms!

Good operators determine that if scale is found within a hive then it probably has AFB, even if other clinical symptoms such as ropey brood are not currently visible. Therefore, to avoid a falsepositive AFB diagnosis of a hive it is best to ensure that no previously irradiated frames containing AFB scale (which is now dead, but still looks exactly like regular and highly infectious "live" AFB scale) get put back into a hive. Even if you date the top bar and indicate that scale was present on the frame much confusion still arises when scale is found in these same frames later, as you do not know if all that scale got there before irradiation or some of it appeared afterwards.

The other issue is that if operators become used to regularly seeing scale in their hives (even if most of it has been neutralized via irradiation) then it is far more likely that they may become complacent and miss identifying a crucial hive that has a current AFB infection. Ensure that there is never any uncertainty when you do find scale...always consider it diseased

If you get equipment from a previously diseased or suspect hive irradiated you should thoroughly inspect EVERY frame before reusing it (whether that is one box or 8 pallets of boxes). At the end of the day it is best to have no frames containing scale in your operation. Either destroy/melt down any irradiated frames still containing AFB scale or scrape it out first (easier if they are plastic foundation) before putting them back in hives.

Every operator should always be vigilant in their search for scale and they should ALWAYS be concerned when they find it. Finding scale in the cells of extracted honey frames is also concerning. When did that frame come up from a brood box, where did it come from and how many hives has it sat on? If you don't run a closed barrier system that frame could have exposed countless hives to AFB spores.

Managing hives with AFB scale

As soon as you see AFB scale you can be pretty certain the hive is infected, so it's time to think about how you will deal with it.

If you find no ropey AFB to put on a slide then remove a small piece of comb containing scale and bag it up. Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) can analyze it for AFB and give you a definite diagnosis.

You should close the hive up and mark it with potential AFB. If it is weak then reduce the entrance

to stop any robbing behavior until you hear back from EMAI as to its AFB diagnosis. If it will soon be a dead out then consider that it probably has AFB already. Remove any useful equipment for irradiation (bee proof it and identify as AFB) and give the colony some petrol that night.

You should thoroughly wash and scrub your hive tool, hands/gloves, smoker bellows and anything else that came in contact with the contents of the suspect hive before working another hive. The aim is to remove honey and wax from equipment, as these could contain AFB spores. Minimising this spore loading before starting the next hive is a preventative measure. Compliance staff and brokers/assessors of pollinating hives often add disinfectant to the fresh water to accomplish a better clean.

Some operators also flame their hive tool. Be aware that when flamed properly the hive tool will be very hot and can burn skin, gloves, clothing, plastic hive components and grass! Due to increased fire hazard DO NOT flame a hive tool during any elevated fire risk periods as getting the smoker hot enough to disinfect the tool may also release a lot of sparks/embers.



Beekeepers should light this type of fire more often, but not one out in a dry grassy paddock whilst using their smoker.

Part 2-Almond hive preparations.

Beekeepers heading to the almonds in August should now be moving through their hive preparations.

Each hive should have its autumn full brood box inspection and be assessed for colony strength and queen performance. The weaker and diseased hives should be dealt with. Get rid of anything with AFB. Hives with old underperforming queens should have been re-queened or united with another to produce a stronger colony that will go through winter.

The population of bees will generally reduce over winter, so if your hives are already weakened and don't currently have a sufficient bee population to achieve the 8 frames of bees average now then they will require additional work ASAP, or will not be good enough to send to the almonds in late July or August.



Don't send junk like this to the almonds. If you currently have weak disease free hives like this then now is the time to unite three or four of them to make one adequate hive for winter. Get a new queen for it too! Do all of this ASAP.

Supplying of 1:1 sugar syrup and pollen supplements may be needed if there is not sufficient nectar and pollen coming in at your bee sites. Stimulating bees to breed up now will ensure a better wintering population and better chances of stronger hives in August.

Single brood boxes should consist of a 10Frame box that is now running 3-5 frames of brood and have the rest filled with pollen and honey stores, with enough surplus bees to partially fill the lid. If it has sufficient bees and brood but not enough honey stores then put on a top feeder and give it 5-8 liters of heavy 2:1 sugar syrup (as per the liquid sugar you buy at the bulk sugar depots). This heavy syrup will not stimulate brood laying. Give them more if needed.

If it needs more brood then feed it 0.5-1.0 liter of 1:1 sugar syrup each week for 2-4 weeks by using an entrance feeder, frame feeder or top feeder etc. If an entire yard of bees needs boosting then they could also be open fed, ensuring that they don't get a surplus that ends up being stored as "honey". Once there are enough bees coming through hives then top it off with a bigger feed of heavy syrup if needed (not by open feeding though). If there is not much pollen around then feed pollen supplements during this entire process.

8 Frame single brood boxes may need an ideal of honey on top to ensure that they are carrying a sufficient bee population going into winter. An 8 Frame single brood box is often not sufficiently strong enough for almonds in August, whereas having an ideal on top often achieves a better colony size if they went into winter strong.



This 8 frame colony has good honey stores but needs a lot more bees in it to reach the correct standard.

If you have double hives (with a honey box) that you feel needs feeding to stimulate breeding then the safest option is to take off the box of honey so that you don't adulterate your honey with sugar syrup. Once it is a single box feed it the same rate of 0.5-1L 1:1 sugar syrup per week and add pollen supplements if required.

If you do not prepare your hives properly NOW then you will have poorer hives in August, meaning that you have to leave more at home or you send a lot of junk to almonds. Get it right now and DON'T send junk to the almonds!

Biosecurity for Beekeepers BOLT course

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 <u>rod.bourke@dpi.</u> <u>nsw.gov.au</u> listing your brand, individual beekeeper and any company name and I will get this out to you.

For all beekeepers wanting to access this useful and informative course please use the following link. <u>https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au</u>

NSWAA AGM; Look for me at the NSWAA AGM at Bathurst if you need a code or assistance doing your BOLT course or with AFB management and barrier systems.

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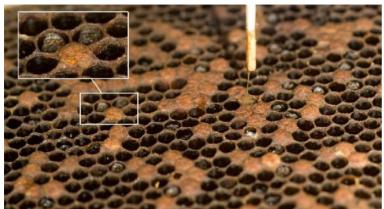


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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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



And the winner of the 2019 Agrifutures EvokeAG Producer Problem Pitch is.... Mr Danny Le Feuvre, Australian Bee Services. Pictured with AHBIC board chair Peter McDonald and AHBIC CEO Sarah Paradice Danny (centre), presented on potential advances in dealing with American foulbrood. It was great to see issues affecting the honey bee industry so highly profiled at this inaugural Agrifutures ag tech conference of about 1,200 delegates. Well done Danny!

Congratulations to our 2019 Australian Biosecurity Award winners!

Apiary program, Agriculture Victoria for their partnership with industry to develop the Victoria State Quarantine Response Team who will respond to detections of Varroa destructor. *Beekeeping partnership recognised with national award* Sarah Corcoran, Northern Territory Government Department of Primary Industry and Resources for her work with industry, government and community during the 2018 outbreak of citrus canker.

Did you catch this story by Samantha Townsend in The Land on 22 February 2019 where Neil Bingley from NSW Apiarist Association is interviewed? *NSW honey production down 30 per cent*

Listen to AHBIC Chair Peter McDonald and Jodie Goldsworthy being interviewed on *Oh, honey: a bees-eye view of Australia's golden industry* with others on ABC Radio - On Nightlife with Philip Clark, 13 February 2019.

Agriculture 4.0 – this is a new initiative by the Australian Government. Working with industry under the banner 'Australia for Agriculture 4.0', Austrade is showcasing Australia's competitive advantages in agtech and foodtech to a global audience and helping to facilitate connections. The initiative is aimed at helping to attract more investment in Australia's emerging agrifood tech sector.

ABC Radio Podcast - Richard Aedy on The Money Radio National, 31st January 2019, a very interesting listen: What's the buzz? The value of bees

Honey bee water needs in hot weather article in The Land on 25th February 2019 by Elizabeth Frost, honey bee specialist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries is another interesting read

The Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources announced that a levy on importers would allow investment in more efficient biosecurity measures, noting that it makes sense that those who create risk should contribute proportionately to our biosecurity screening. Invading pests and diseases can come in on the hulls of ships as well as the decks and storage compartments, as well as in the cargo itself. The steering committee has now been announced and contains representatives from industry and farm groups to help steer an informed delivery for the levy, which will see importers pay for biosecurity border screening.

The Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) announced the public presentation of its new Mark of Authenticity in order to provide consumers of Manuka honey with absolute confidence that the honey they are purchasing is pure 100% Australian Manuka. Products bearing the mark were unveiled at the AMHA AGM held on 20 February 2019. Honey that carries the AMHA's Mark of Authenticity must be pure, natural Manuka honey, produced entirely in Australia, and be tested by an independent, approved laboratory to ensure it meets minimum standards of naturally occurring methylglyoxal (MGO), dihydroxyacetone (DHA), and leptosperin. Plenty of further information can be found on the Australian Manuka Honey Association website. World Bee Day is May 20th 2019 - Keep an eye on your local apiarist association news for events and activities to celebrate World Bee Day. In Canberra, there will be a great day planned to mark the occasion on Sunday 19th May involving activities at Australian Parliament House, a family bee picnic at the Embassy of Sweden and a bee film night. More to follow as details come to hand.

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