

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Volume 13 Number 2
March - April 2020



Inside:

QLD Border Closed Pg 14

Farewell Dr Doug Somerville Pg 18

2020 Changes & Cancellations Pg 46

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COVER:

Honeybelles Club from Mount Saint Mary Academy (girls high school)
in Little Rock Arkansas USA. See story on page 8



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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The Association Membership year runs from: 1 March to 28 February

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- Provide strong representation to Government
- Membership Badge
- Copy of Biosecurity Manual for Beekeepers
- Annual subscription to *Australia's Honeybee News* the NSWAA bi-monthly Journal & FREE classified advertisement in Journal
- Annual State Conference & Trade/Field Days
- Support beekeepers in all regions through 9 NSWAA Branches
- Provide opportunities to meet other beekeepers and NSW DPI representatives at meetings, workshops and conferences
- 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
- SCHUTZ (Australia) Pty Ltd - IBCs special members' rate

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HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Presidents Report

COVID-19 has created havoc with many plans. By now you should know the 2020 Tamworth conference has been cancelled. At this stage we intend to hold the 2021 conference in Tamworth at the same venue and with hopefully most of the same speakers. The AGM has been postponed and when and if it will be held will depend on replies from Fair Trading. Everyone will get a paper copy of the audited financials. When you receive them if you have any questions please contact me as I will be answering any and all questions on the financials. Other reports will be on our website by the 21st May 2020.

Notices of Motion can be bought to the executive's attention via a branch at any time. The executive will deal with the notice of motion at our next meeting and not wait until the next AGM.

I would like to thank Sullen Cooper for doing a lot of work towards the Apiary products competition that was to be held in conjunction with our conference.

Thanks also to Therese Kershaw for her professional work with sponsors and the tradeshow for the conference. As well a big thank you to our secretary Robyn who also has done a lot of work towards our conference and then to see it all cancelled is very disappointing.

What an extremely difficult time for the beekeeping industry. Bushfires that have burnt over 9,809 hives and wiped out the field bees of over 88,094 hives and burnt just over 5 million ha of forests. With minimal autumn prospects a small percentage of these affected hives will be suitable for almond pollination.

This disaster is unprecedented in scale for our industry. 67% of National Parks on the eastern seaboard have been burnt. Even if you have not had sites burnt you will probably still be effected with forests and roads closed until dangerous trees have been cut down, burnt wooden bridges replaced etc.

DPI did a great job supplying sugar and sugar syrup to beekeepers affected by fire. A big thank you to Stephen Green and Elizabeth Frost. Bushfire sugar aid has now ceased. 440.06 tonnes of sugar and sugar syrup was distributed to 82 beekeepers.

I know of beekeepers who have been seriously affected by the bushfires that have received the \$75,000 federal government grant. Check our E Bees and Honeybee News for links to useful sites. There is a lot of support

available. NSWAA is not going to fill out your application forms. There are helplines to assist with the paperwork.

NSWAA met with the Hon Adam Marshall minister for agriculture and his advisors. We received a very good hearing. NSWAA requested access to unburnt National Parks, water board lands, Snowy Hydro land and other crown lands. We are currently chasing a response to these.

We also asked for a sugar syrup subsidy through until July 2020 to build/maintain bees at a suitable standard for almond pollination.

Due to the heavy use of sugar feeding to bees honey packers will be testing all honey for C4 sugars. If C4 sugars are detected then you will not be paid for the honey/sugar. Be truthful on your vendor declarations.

Corona virus is affecting everyone in some way. As food producers we are exempt from most restrictions. See copy of letter from Hon Adam Marshall in this edition. However it would be prudent to reduce your exposure to people as much as possible. NSWAA sent a letter to the state transport minister asking for exemptions from any transport lockdowns/restrictions. We know there are a few beekeepers who wish to work Napunyah in the channel country. See in this edition the protocols for entering Queensland with their state lock down.

The Association would like to thank Mick Rankmore for his 42 years with the Department - most recently in a regulatory role. Mick has quietly retired after taking 18 months long service leave. Mick is a member with a few hives and hopefully we will see him at future conferences.

The Association would also like to thank Dr Doug Somerville for his 32 years in the Department. Doug had a farewell party in Goulburn and there were many speeches of praise for Dr Doug's work from within the department and from beekeepers. The Association thank you in the form of a bush poem is in this copy. This is something Dr Doug can show his grandkids. Doug has guided the Association through many difficult periods. Under Doug's guidance the Association has become stronger and more relevant than ever before. Doug is a life member and with his role in Agrifutures will still be involved with the Association and bees for years to come.

In the recent mail out you received there is a membership renewal form. We urge everyone to renew their

membership. The executive have been working hard on our members behalf.

Honey land has been cancelled. Thank you to Debbie and Mal Porter for their work towards this years Honeyland and also the transporting of the honey from Beechworth to Kieran Sunderland who bottled the honey. Luckily the Association has been able to sell all the Honeyland honey that had recently been bottled. A BIG thank you to Kieran Sunderland who bottled the honey and also who had contacts for the sale of the honey.

In the recent bushfire crisis the E-Bee was used very effectively to get information out to our members far quicker than other registered beekeepers received the information. If you have NOT been receiving E-Bees then please contact our secretary to confirm email address etc.

The recent mail out included a proxy form. That was my error and I accept full responsibility. The constitution does not mention Proxy votes and NSWAA have not used them in the past. The mail out also included executive nomination forms. If you or any one you know wishes to be on the executive then please send in the nomination form by the due date. If we have more nominations than the vacancies then a postal ballot will take place. i.e. a mailing voting system which will be slow - but

democratic.

A lot of beekeepers would have seen on the news and Facebook about the policeman who was stung when a beekeeper who was moving un netted open entrance hives during daylight hours was pulled over at a RBT. This is very serious and the policeman could have died. 1% of the population are allergic to bee venom. NSWAA has asked DPI to investigate and to prosecute this person to the full extent possible (biosecurity, public health etc). If the beekeeper cannot be charged under current regulations/laws then NSWAA is recommending that laws be changed so that the cowboys in the industry can be fined substantial amounts of money or gaoled. Currently beekeepers have a good public image - incidences such as this harm the industry and our image.

Congratulations to Neil Bingley who has been appointed to the Agrifutures committee along with Rob Manning from WA.

Finally please treat COVID -19 as serious. Obey the social distancing and wherever possible avoid contact with people. Having said that small businesses are struggling and if possible support your local small businesses so that we have vibrant communities when COVID - 19 is behind us. Above all stay healthy.

NSW AA Executive Responsibilities

Stephen Targett NSWAA President	Steve Cunial NSWAA Vice President	Neil Bingley NSWAA Executive Councillor	Brian Woolfe NSWAA Executive Councillor	Ray Hull NSWAA Executive Councillor	Elizabeth Frost NSW DPI Advisor
AHBIC Diseases & Quarantine Committee	Sponsorships & Trade Show	AHBIC Resources Committee	Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC)	Honeyland	AHBIC Education Committee
State Conference Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC)		State Resources	State Advisory Group (SAG)		



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Story Behind Cover Photo

Photo of the Honeybelles Club from Mount Saint Mary Academy (girls high school) in Little Rock Arkansas USA.

They contacted NSWAA to find out how they could help bees and beekeepers that have been affected by the horrific bush fires.

We informed them of Hive Aid.

Their Honeybelles Club (beekeeping club) sold lip balm as a fundraiser and raised US\$500 which they donated to Hive Aid.

We also had contact from UK people asking how they could assist us.

It is amazing that throughout the world people are concerned about Australia's bees and beekeepers after the fires and are willing to help.

Bee passionate people are amazing people.

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Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code).

A new condition will come into effect from 1 July 2020 requiring existing and new beekeepers registered in NSW to comply with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code).

NSW DPI recognises your association as a reputable source of information among beekeepers in NSW. We would therefore greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide to help us ensure that NSW beekeepers are appropriately informed of the upcoming changes to conditions of registration prior to 1 July 2020.

A virtual folder containing a number of electronic resources including newsletter articles, fact sheets and flyers can be accessed by [following this link](#). If you could please share some of the articles and any of the contained information via your communications channels it would greatly assist us to ensure we are reaching as many NSW beekeepers as possible to inform them of the upcoming changes to their registration.

NSW DPI hopes to work closely with industry over the coming months to support beekeepers prior to the change coming into effect. We will continue to communicate updates and resources as they are developed and they will continue to be made available on the NSW DPI registration webpage. If you can think of any communications materials you think would assist in this space please don't hesitate to let us know. We are more than happy to develop any materials that may assist beekeepers to accept and adopt the Code.

NSW thanks you sincerely for any assistance you can provide to help us get this important message to our beekeepers.

Yours sincerely,

Rebekah Pierce
Acting Leader Regional Pest Management



Department of
Primary Industries

New registration portal

The beekeeper registration process is now managed by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

Updating the registration portal allows beekeepers one place to:

- Register
- Renew
- Maintain records of hive movement
- Notify of bee diseases



To find out more about the changes, visit
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/bees

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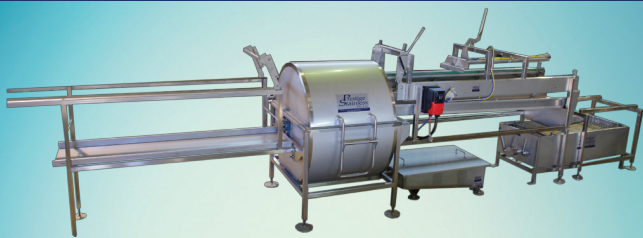
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Adam Marshall

Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales



Good afternoon

As you would no doubt be aware the NSW Government, along with every other state and territory, has today introduced new restrictions on non-critical activities, as a response to COVID-19.

I have taken many phone calls in the last 24 hours and understand there is considerable interest and worry about what this means for our primary industries sector.

I want to personally assure you that primary industry production and related businesses and the entire food supply chain are NOT impacted by these new restrictions. These businesses can continue to operate on a 'business as usual' basis, though should attempt to practice appropriate social distancing measures.

Primary Industries are critical to our State and Australia and the effort of every government to grapple with the developing coronavirus pandemic. Just as important is the freight industry which delivers our primary produce from the paddock or ocean to consumers' plates.

The new restrictions will ONLY impact the following entities:

- Pubs, registered clubs
- Gyms, indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
- Religious gatherings, places of worship (excluding small weddings and funerals that comply with the 4m2 rule, which can proceed).

To assist industry with a clear flow of information and provide support where required, I have requested the the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to establish a concierge service for issues related to COVID-19. This will be up and operational at noon tomorrow via www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. You can get in touch with the concierge service by email: covidinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Should I or my office be able to assist you in any regard, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It is import we all work together through these difficult times.

In the meantime, keep on keeping on, take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,
Adam Marshall
Monday 23 March 2020

New Members

Malcolm Chapman, Coomealla NSW - Karen Stafford, Lennox Head NSW - Corban Rojas Del Portal, Dubbo NSW - Nicholas Charters, Evans Head NSW - Victor Coker, Mitchell ACT - Will Bleeker, Robertson NSW - Aaron McMahon, Pimilco NSW - Michelle Cole, Ophir NSW - Rachael Peedom, Kiama NSW - Seezar Saco, Wakely NSW - Peter Czeti, Amaroo ACT - Charlotte Underwood, Marom Creek NSW - Mark & Karyn Stafford, Ballina NSW - Wayne Milne, Wooloweyah NSW - Aspen Charlesworth & Peter Mattison, Elands NSW - Christopher & Tara Inglis, Yass NSW - Carlene Knight, Glen Innes NSW - Shaun Brogan, Attunga NSW - Norman Chapman, Young NSW - Matt Connell, Bonvill NSW - Garry Gruber, Carwoola NSW - Tyson Manders, Yetholme NSW - John Millington, Eurimbla NSW - Estelle Roberts, Goulburn NSW - Greg & Joanne Vine, Ashford NSW

The Qld border is closed to non essential travel. For beekeepers to be able to cross into Queensland without the 14 day quarantine period the following paperwork MUST be filled out. If you are from a COVID - 19 hotspot then you will NOT be allowed entry to Queensland regardless of the paperwork.
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

Template

Plan to control increased risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19 from interstate workers into Qld workplaces and communities

Company contact details	
Company name	ABN
Address of QLD site this plan applies to	
Number of workers at site	
Key contact 1	
Name	Position
Phone	Email
Key contact 2	
Name	Position
Phone	Email

In addition to existing Work Place Health and Safety procedures this plan:

- A. describes the health screening steps that will be implemented for employees entering worker camps or isolated communities; and
- B. describes the steps, including maintaining health standards, that will be implemented to manage transmission amongst its employees and prevent transmission to the wider community; and
- C. has been submitted to a Queensland Health Public Health Unit .

The company will take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person does not enter the premises of the workplace if they are unwell and/or do not clear the health screening steps below.

In order to prevent spread of illness to other geographical areas, any person who presents unwell while on the premises of the workplace should be managed onsite until medical assessment. If, following medical assessment, a worker remains onsite they should continue to be managed onsite until the worker meets the criteria to be classified as non-infectious.

If there are concerns regarding the clinical deterioration of the patient, usual processes using existing links with local health services should be followed.

The company may be directed by the local Public Health Unit to revise and update this plan if new advice and recommendations are made in order to prevent the spread of illness.

A. Health Screening Steps – completed **BEFORE** the worker travels into Queensland

Steps	Actions
Workers are to confirm that they have not returned to Australia from overseas in the last 14 days	Those who have returned from overseas must self-quarantine for 14 days after entering Australia
Workers are to confirm they have not, in the last 14 days, been in close contact (as defined in the current CDNA guideline https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm) with someone who has novel coronavirus (COVID-19)	Workers must self-quarantine if they have been in close contact with someone who has novel coronavirus (COVID-19) for 14 days after the last contact with an infectious case
Workers are to confirm that they have not had a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath in the last 72 hours and are otherwise well and fit for work	Workers who have been unwell in the last 72 hours especially with cold or flu type symptoms must be isolated immediately and not enter the work place and should seek medical advice

Health Screening Steps – completed at the work place in Queensland **BEFORE** commencing work

Steps	Notes
Workers' temperatures are taken and symptom checks performed before work commences on site. This activity will be recorded, with records to be provided to the PHU if requested	If the worker has a temperature of 38°C or higher or has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, the worker is not fit for work, must isolate immediately and seek medical advice

B. Managing and preventing transmission at the work site and community – in addition to Work Place Health and Safety procedures to maintain health standards

Steps	Details of actions taken
Information will be provided to all employees and contract staff, including domestic and cleaning staff where applicable, on relevant information and procedures to prevent the spread of coronavirus	
Where safe to do so, workers will maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other workers	

Alcohol-based hand rub, tissues and cleaning supplies will be provided	
Hand washing facilities are adequately stocked with liquid soap and paper towel and these are kept clean and in good working order	
Good hygiene practices will be promoted e.g. display handwashing 12 step guide	
The workplace will be kept clean and hygienic. Frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles and workstations, will be regularly cleaned (the minimum expected standard is daily and/or between shifts) to reduce contamination. Records of cleaning activities e.g. sign off will be maintained	
Sleeping quarters will be appropriately cleaned between change-over of workers. The use of communal sleeping quarters should be minimised and workers will maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other workers. Records of cleaning activities e.g. sign off will be maintained	
Promotion of strictest hygiene among food preparation (canteen) staff and their close contacts. Records of cleaning activities e.g. sign off will be maintained	
Separation of meal breaks and work groups to achieve maximum personal space. Where practicable, workers will maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from other workers	
Workers who become ill with respiratory symptoms at work will be isolated and will be supported to access medical assistance. A clinical decision will be made as to where the ill person should be managed with consideration of reducing risk of geographical spread.	
Co-workers will be informed about possible exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 but confidentiality will be maintained.	If a worker is confirmed to have COVID-19, call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for advice.
Regular communication with all workers to provide up to date information for the procedures adopted for the site	
Other additional measures being taken	

C. Sign-off

Please sign and submit plan to a Queensland Health Public Health Unit.

Contact details for your local Public Health Unit can be found at the link below

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units>

Signature:
Name:
Position:
Date:

D. Public Health Unit Feedback & Approval

Approved	Yes / No (circle the appropriate response)
Feedback:	
Signature:	
Position:	Date:


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Farewell from the Department

Dr Doug Somerville March 2020

Doug was boarding school educated when a young lad
After, he joined the department for which industry is glad
During the department training Doug found his passion
This was long long ago when bees were not in fashion

Doug listened and watched and absorbed knowledge from those within
He talked to beekeepers young and old, some grumpy and some just thin
He read every article and book he could on bees around the world
Along with Information gleaned from observation his head was in a whirl

As a bee specialist he saw the introduction of small hive beetle and chalk brood
These introductions were a great success, which put beekeepers in a dour mood
Seriously, beekeeping has changed dramatically while Doug has been at DPI
Wheeled hive loaders and plastic foundation which used to be pie in the sky

During his career he has seen some beekeepers farming AFB
Many more have been professional, with knowledge of every tree
Beekeepers complaining and ignoring advice is part of the routine
Smart ones listen, then act and if required their hives, they self quarantine

Doug's boss, sometimes the department a new one they would allocate
Afterwards Doug was often heard to moan 'another one to educate.'
He is cynical and his comments dry and on bad beekeepers he was hard
Due to his industry knowledge and understanding he is held in high regard

To further his knowledge he completed his Doctorate after having done his Masters
This all done to better know bees and their requirements, to prevent hive disasters
A true professional and your advice by smart beekeepers is eagerly sought
A department guy with industry passion, a passion that could not be taught

He worked long hours and for days off as time in lieu, he did not apply
Tim, one boss arranged pay in lieu of days off - but Doug did not comply
The editor of the Crop Pollination Association Newsletter for a decade
Then a column in the HoneyBee News for many years, which a legacy made

Articles were interesting and some were technical but always knowledge they imparted
When reading the Honeybee News for many, Doug's Column was where they started
Articles covering topics many and varied with some causing a strain on the brain
If industry had smarts we would be printing Doug's Column from the beginning again

The Association and industry owes a BIG thank you to Annette his patient wife
Not just for time alone while he was involved with industry and living his bee life
But also for proof reading Doug's articles for spelling and grammar, thanks indeed
Vicki Saville thank you for typing up his scribble and scratchings for us to read

He researched and wrote the book Fat Bees and Skinny Bees
An industry best seller which globally made Doug the bees knees
He just completed a book titled Honey and Pollen Flora of South Eastern Australia
Well researched books which will help to reduce beekeeping business failure

Even when leaving the department he did not want to leave the industry in a lurch
 For a suitable, knowledgeable, passionate replacement across the globe he did search
 He found and mentored her on the departments traits and as a bonus Liz has better looks
 With your replacement found you can relax and go to the farm, there breed your chooks

Doug you have done the department, the industry and yourself proud
 For your insight and knowledge we will sing your praises long and loud
 For your efforts you have rightfully been given many an industry award
 All well deserved, do not look back you have earned the right to look forward

This is farewell from the department not from our industry and your passion
 With Agrifutures and your curiosity you will continue with bees in some fashion
 You have dragged many beekeepers into this century while some are stuck in ninety two
 Doug, from the Association and industry for your time and effort a very big THANK YOU

Waiting in your next phase of life pleasures such as travel, beekeeping and time to fish
 Moving nearer to your dad and the ocean we have known for years has been your wish
 To the Bega Valley to farm and build a home which is really the family retirement nest
 From Industry and the Association members we wish you and your family all the very best.

Stephen Targett CSM
 President NSWAA
 13th Mar 2020



Southern Tablelands Meeting and Mini Field Day Supplement Feeding



Beekeepers travelled to Gundaroo from near and far on the 22nd February for the Southern Tablelands Supplement Feeding / Meeting / Mini Field Day! Buzzing over from Texas, USA Juliana Rangel explained in full depth the agrochemicals effects on breeding and the importance of the age of the drone for mating. Madlen Kratz explained nourishment of a variety of resources valuable to our industry. The DPI grants that are available Elizabeth Frost explained in great detail the process how to apply. Dr Doug Somerville demonstrated pollen supplements and liquid sugar feeding procedures. Support was greatly appreciated from NSWAA Executive members Stephen Targett, Steve Cunial and Neil Bingley.



Also Branch Presidents David Mumford (Riverina) and Malcolm Porter (Central Tablelands) both attended. Variety of supplement feeding techniques, displayed from Australian Honeybee, Browns Bees Australia Pty Ltd, Ecrotek Beekeeping Supplies, Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies, Nuplas Apiarist Supplies and fellow beekeepers. Jane Jones from WFI attended to give beekeepers insurance advice. Over 120 beekeepers thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share their individual bush fire challenges they experienced over morning tea and Aussie BBQ lunch. Some great mental health tips were shared which helped to lift our collective spirits. Our branch greatly appreciated the kind contributions from Australian Honeybee whom supplied a delicious morning tea . WFI Insurance and Beechworth Honey support to provide a scrumptious BBQ lunch. Many thanks to everyone who helped with setting up and with the food preparations and cooking the BBQ. Looking forward to the next field day!



Social / informational days are very important for our industry
Laurie Kershaw
 President
 Southern Tablelands Branch



Looking forward to the next field day!



Executive Meeting 17 February Outcomes

Events have overtaken some of the decisions made at this meeting.

Apiary Sites on Public Lands document has been updated and printed. Copies will be sent out to all members in due course. Plan was for attendees to get a copy at the conference.

Biosecurity document is nearing completion. When completed a copy will be on website and one copy mailed out to members.

President & Secretary to develop a budget for the Association.

NSWAA will be submitting a written submission to the NSW Bush Fire Enquiry.

DPI Update

Liz Frost is replacing Dr Doug Somerville, Madeline Kratz is replacing Liz Frost. Kelly Lees is replacing Danielle Pritchard.

Nick Geoghegan gave an update on the single desk policy. It is getting closer and looks very good and beekeeper friendly.

Conference, AGM and World Bee Day

All discussed. *Conference & World Bee Day have been cancelled.* The AGM at Tamworth is cancelled. New AGM details to be advised.

Honeyland

Executive updated by Debbie Porter. *This has been cancelled.*

AHBIC update by Therese Kershaw

Kevin Macgibbon has resigned

Hive Aid - OLAM donated \$100,000

Marcus Oldham

Zac Alcock was asked and accepted. *This has been cancelled.*

Flow Hive had donated goods for bushfire affected beekeepers. Discussion on how to maximise money for beekeepers. Decision was to raffle goods and then donate the money to HiveAid.

For Sale - Coonabarabran

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Sheep & Cattle yards
Partly cleared, remaining mostly apple gum
Quiet & Secure, less than 8km from town
House block levelled & cleared
Contact Margie 0428 334 216

Willoughby Mens Shed - had volunteered to help build bee gear for fire affected beekeepers. Decision was made to send this down to branches to make direct contact with Mens Shed.

Biodiversity Banks - beekeeping is not allowed in forests set aside as Biodiversity banks. President to raise with minister and National Parks.

Website - new website is active. A new Facebook page has been set up and the old one closed down.

Insurance - getting insurance quotes that cover all our insurances and to include coverage for Branch Activities.

Constitution - does not state we are not for profit. Executive to recommend an amendment at our AGM to our members.

TV and Facebook incident where a beekeeper was pulled over at a RBT station and had open entrance hives on the truck during daylight hours. The policeman was stung many times. The industry was lucky the policeman was not allergic. To be taken to DPI to investigate and prosecute to the full extent of the law.

Presentation by ARTC - Pilliga Forest. The inland railway going through the Pilliga north of Narromine. They were updated on beekeepers concern ref access. They were invited to present at our Tamworth conference.

Stephen Targett

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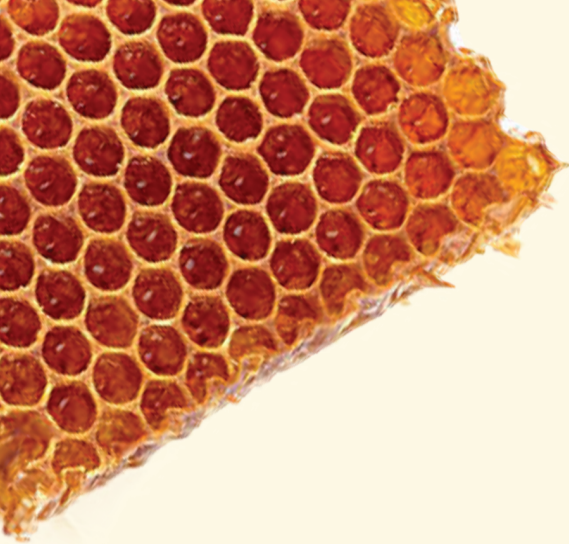


10L, 15L, 20L Pails

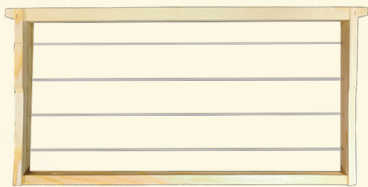
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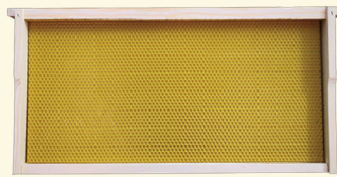
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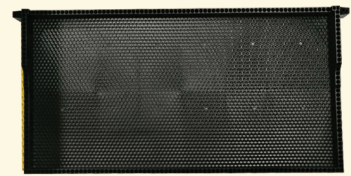
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 and much, much more....

Madlen Kratz

Honey Bee Industry Development Officer Report

NSW Department of Primary Industries

815 Tocal Road, Paterson NSW 2421

T: 02 4939 8948 E: madlen.kratz@dpi.nsw.gov.au

WHEN THE FOREST TURNED SILENT

It was Thursday the 5th of March 2020 when I was travelling through Lithgow, a town of ~21,000 inhabitants situated at the foot of the blue mountains. The streets of Lithgow didn't seem unusual for a weekday afternoon. Shops were still open, some customers being served, people wandering the streets, at least enough to fill up the street parking areas in the centre of the town.

The town centre itself isn't very big and within a few minutes I had reached the other end of the town. What one might imagine like the 'door to Narnia', is where I found myself looking out to the forest of the blue mountains of NSW.

That idyllic image however faded very quickly with the first signs of those raging flames that had left their mark too close for comfort to some factory buildings and houses at the edge of town.

Setting a path on the windy inclined road towards the mountain forest, the scorched earth, the horrific'ness' that the fires had left only weeks before grew in intensity, very quickly! Burnt tree crowns, completely blackened trees and fallen trunks had left the forest in silence. I was grabbed by deep sadness, which was quickly overtaken by the feeling of devastation. The beauty of mother earth that can leave one speechless, now left me feeling empty like the forest itself.

If only the ashes could talk, there would be many stories to tell. Stories of life and living, of animals and plants that once were there and now have gone. Some may return and it may be a question of time, but some will be lost forever.

“WHEN THE FOREST TURNS SILENT, LIFE IS ON HOLD BUT EARTH KEEPS ON LIVING.”

But there is hope! The forest is starting to breathe again. Australia's vegetation is truly remarkable in that way. Burnt eucalypts that from the distance don't look much more like deserted stick figures in sandy soils are beginning to shed their burnt outer layer of bark.



The forest, once full of lush, dense greenery, now looked like an exposed desert of “naked trees”.



But look! The trees have started to sprout again, and that only weeks after the fire had roared through the forest.



‘Soon’, at least some of the trees will be wearing a green coat again and the forest will not only cough, but breath again being the lungs of the earth that they are. The animal life will return. To what extend and how quickly is difficult to say. It is also difficult to make an estimate for how long it will take until the forest will be productive again and be of use for the beekeeping industry.



What we do know is that it will take a long time. While some understorey growth like grasses and shrubs may return faster with the long awaited rain, for trees it can take from a few years to decades to recover! Recovery rates largely depend on the mechanism by which plants recover from fire, which of course also depends on the intensity of the fire's heat.

While some native plants require fire for the dispersal of seed pots and others contain highly flammable oils that intensify the fires, some entirely rely on seeds that survive under soils or from regrowth from rootstock.

To a large degree, all plants rely on soil conditions and specific weather patterns. These include soil moisture and nutrients but also temperature and humidity. We have been hoping for rainfall to put an end to the fires and for accelerated regrowth, but for long term recovery we need favourable conditions for years to come.

Here you see an example of a recently cut tree trunk. Isn't it amazing how some of our hardiest, toughest tree barks can withstand the impact of fire? Unfortunately, not all trees can and the astonishing Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus oreades*) are an example of that.

I also wonder what it must be like returning to one's home in the mountain areas that could be saved from the fires, and waking up to burnt forest every morning.



“SOMETIMES IT TAKES A BIT OF IMAGINATION TO SEE THE BEAUTY IN THE MOMENT”.



It is almost impossible to imagine the size of the burnt areas, but for sure you feel the impact of it when you see the devastation in front of your own eyes as it reaches as far as you can see.

Not only plants and animals have been affected. People have died, houses have been lost and businesses have been severely impacted.

I give my condolences and respect to every soul that has been lost and to the impact the fires have had on all life and our economy. I also deeply respect anybody who has and or still is offering a helping hand in one way or another following these tragic events.

It sure is a time of change that we have been experiencing for some time, with more severe weather events being reported world-wide and seemingly more often.

By now you might have been wondering about the storyteller (only if it was “just” a story). So let me introduce myself.

I am Madlen Kratz and I have worked with honey bees for almost a decade. My background is in honey bee research (nutrition, foraging behaviour, pollination) and I am also a passionate keeper of bees. I recently joined the Department of Primary Industries as the new Honeybee Industry Development Officer taking over from Liz Frost, who now has the challenge of filling the big shoes left by Dr Doug Somerville. Doug is leaving the Department, which will undoubtedly create a void after his recent announcement of an end to a distinguished career. It will be a well and truly deserved retirement following his many years of what I hear was his tireless work or was it devotion?

I am hiding behind the title of being a Honey Bee Industry Development Officer. It is a role to help our industry grow and develop. I am looking forward to doing so together with you and with the support of scientific evidence.



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A Helping Honey

The unprecedented loss of floral resource from drought and bushfire has battered our country and the Australian beekeeping industry. In many instances, bushfires alone have decimated over 60% of prime beekeeping country that beekeepers rely on to keep bees healthy and strong. The ongoing reports of lost hives and decimated beekeeping country, now across every state, is concerning for us all.

Late last year the team at Hive + Wellness Australia, who pack the Capilano brand, joined the Hive Aid campaign. Managed by Rural Aid and overseen by The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), Hive Aid is a disaster relief campaign aimed specifically at supporting professional beekeepers who have been impacted by drought and bushfire nationally.

At the start of this year, the Capilano brand launched a specially marked ‘Drought & Bushfire Relief’ Honey Pack, with 20 cents from every sale going to Hive Aid. This is aimed to ensure Rural Aid has more and ongoing funds to support as many professional beekeepers requiring assistance as possible. This special ‘Helping Honey’ is available from leading retailers across Australia, including Coles, Woolworths and independent stores, generating much-needed support for beekeepers and their honey bees.

The current situation is not one that will turn around easily, with the devastation of drought and extreme bushfire crippling so much beekeeping country. Recovery from these events will take many years. Capilano’s Drought & Bushfire Relief pack is a very practical way shoppers can choose to support Australia’s professional beekeepers, while also enjoying the taste of pure Australian honey. These specially marked packs also help raise greater awareness for professional beekeepers, who we often refer to as Australia’s “Forgotten Farmers”. We hope that everyday Aussies get behind the cause and we can raise significant funds and awareness to help provide support to those beekeepers who need it most.

In recent news, we have been working with the QLD Government in association with the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) to replicate an assistance package for beekeepers similar to that available in NSW. A special thanks goes to Jo Martin, Secretary of the QBA, for her tremendous efforts in facilitating this package that was officially announced by the QLD Government on 9th February 2020. We hope this will help ease the pain for long suffering QLD beekeepers.

Further information on the important Hive Aid campaign can be found at capilanohoney.com.

Any beekeeper, registered as a primary producer, that has been impacted by drought and/or bushfire is encouraged to register for assistance via <https://www.buyabale.com.au/can-we-help-you/>. Please ensure you indicate you are a beekeeper when filling in the registration form. All applications are treated confidentially by Rural Aid.





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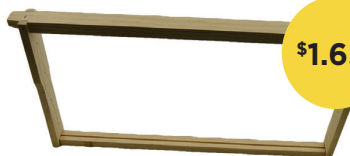
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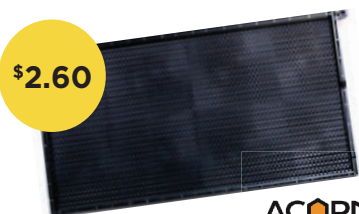
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Australian almond bloom study published

“Bloom progression is the preferred predictor of when to remove honey bee (*Apidae: Apis mellifera*) hives from almond orchards” was published in the Entomological Society of NSW Inc. journal *Applied and General Entomology* Volume 47 in January 2020. I conducted the research in almond bloom 2017 and the paper was written by myself and NSW DPI Biometrician Damian Collins, with input on methodology from retired Technical Specialist Dr. Doug Somerville. This research answers the question “What is the relationship between bee-collected almond pollen and almond bloom quantities over time?” The answer may help almond growers and beekeepers make evidence-based decisions on when to remove hives from almond pollination contract.

The following quotes and graphs are reprints from the paper, which I’m not yet allowed to reprint in its entirety. I can, however, send any interested beekeepers, brokers, growers, researchers or others a full copy directly. Let me know by mobile or email if you’d like to read the full scientific manuscript, otherwise, have a look through the meatiest parts below.

“Summary

Almond pollination triggers the world’s largest mass migration of managed pollinators to a single flowering crop (Somerville, 2007). The University of California, Davis, advises that honey bee hives should be removed from almond pollination when 90% of flowers of the latest blooming variety are at petal fall (Mussen, 2014), but this advice relies entirely on anecdotal evidence and, in Australia, it appears to be unduly conservative.

Almond orchards containing apiaries of commercial hives were used to trap bee-collected pollen (Somerville, 2011) at the hive level and to track bloom progression of three almond varieties (Nonpareil, Carmel and Price) using tagged branches. Bloom progression was correlated with bee-collected almond pollen. Tracking bloom progression is a more practical, and no less accurate, field measurement to ensure hives are removed at an appropriate time, to the mutual benefit of beekeeper and orchardist.

Introduction

Almonds (*Prunus dulcis*) are highly dependent on insect-vectored cross-pollination (McGregor, 1976, Connell, 2000, Rosenzweig et al., 2012). In the absence of adjacent semi-natural habitat or vegetation strips in the almond orchard native bee pollination services cannot be relied upon (Free, 1975, Klein et al., 2012, Sagili and Burgett, 2015). In Australia, the recommended stocking rate is 5 to 7 honey bee hives per hectare (Somerville, 2007). According to pollination broker T. Monson (personal communication, 4 September, 2017), about 215,000 hives were transported to mature almond plantings in the 2016/17 season in Australia, which constitutes the largest mass migration of bee hives to a single crop in Australia. Almonds made up 62% of Australia’s total tree nut crop in the 2017/2018 season with 79,461 tonnes harvested, and yielding \$429 million AUD in export earnings (Almond Board of Australia, 2018).

Whereas beekeepers want to transport their hives promptly onto the next mass flowering, almond growers want to maximise yield, so deciding when to remove bee hives from almond orchards is a challenge. The current recommendation is that hives be removed when 90% of flowers on the latest blooming variety are at petal fall (Mussen, 2014), but this recommendation relies entirely on anecdotal evidence. In addition, the unique branching habits and canopy structure of almond trees (Gradziel et. al, 2002) make assessing bloom progression at a canopy level in mature trees difficult to measure objectively (Vassière et. al, 2011) so agronomists and pollination brokers are routinely forced to decide when hives are removed from the orchard by making subjective canopy bloom assessments (Thorp et. al, 1975). In an endeavour to give these operators a more objective basis for making decisions, we show that bloom progression is correlated with bee-collected almond pollen and that tracking tagged variety branches is an objective and practical method to determine when to remove hives from the orchard.

[...]

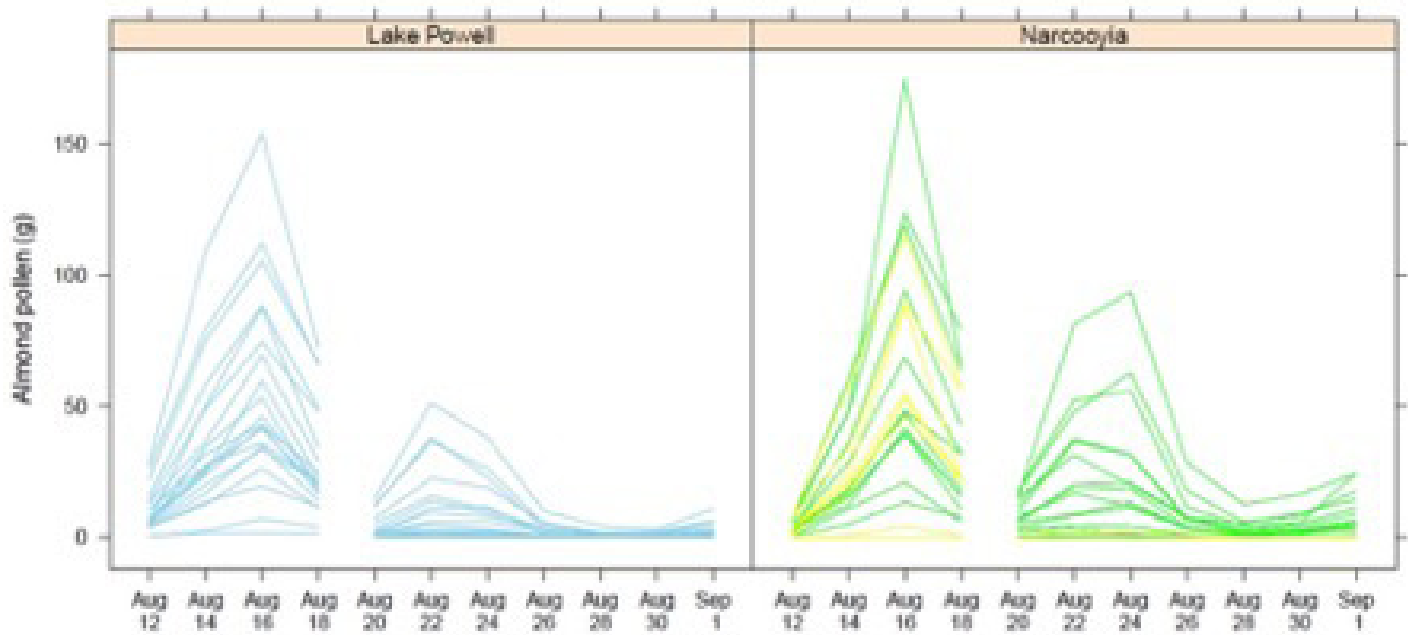


Figure 1: Bee-collected almond pollen peaked about 16 August at both study sites. Blue represents hives at LP20. Green represents hives at NC02 and yellow represents hives at NC06.

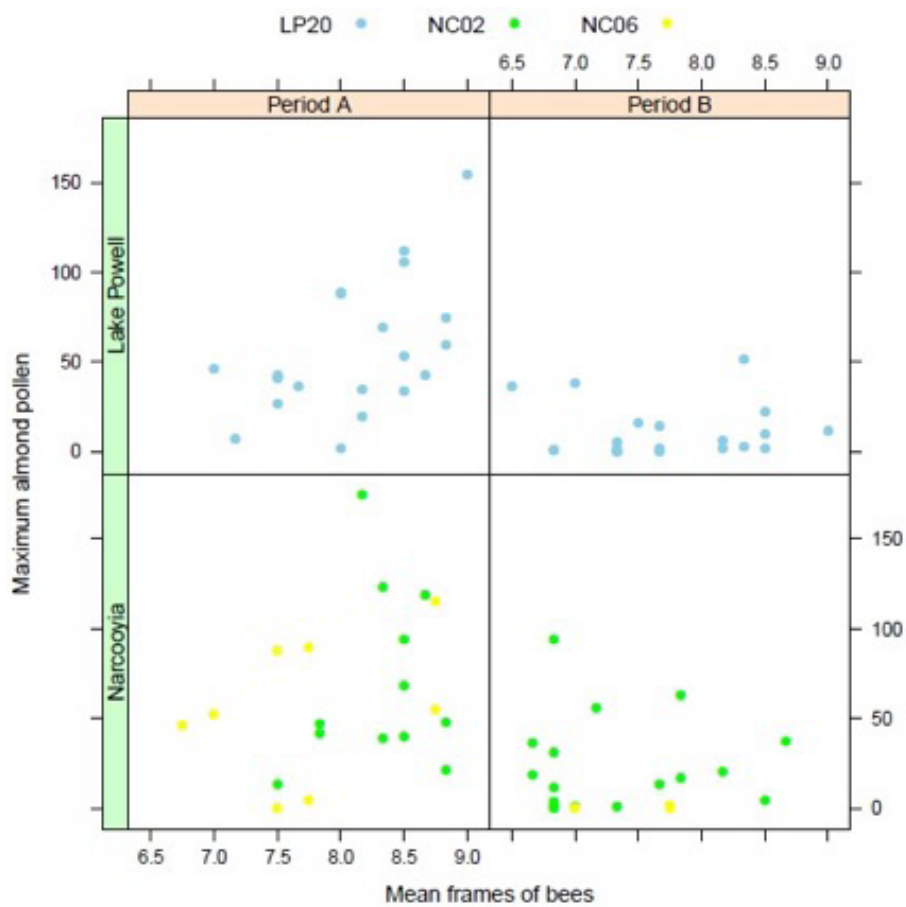


Figure 2: There was some relation across all study sites between hive strength and bee-collected almond pollen collected in Period A, as a result of the greater pollen availability before and after peak bloom, in comparison to Period B. [...]

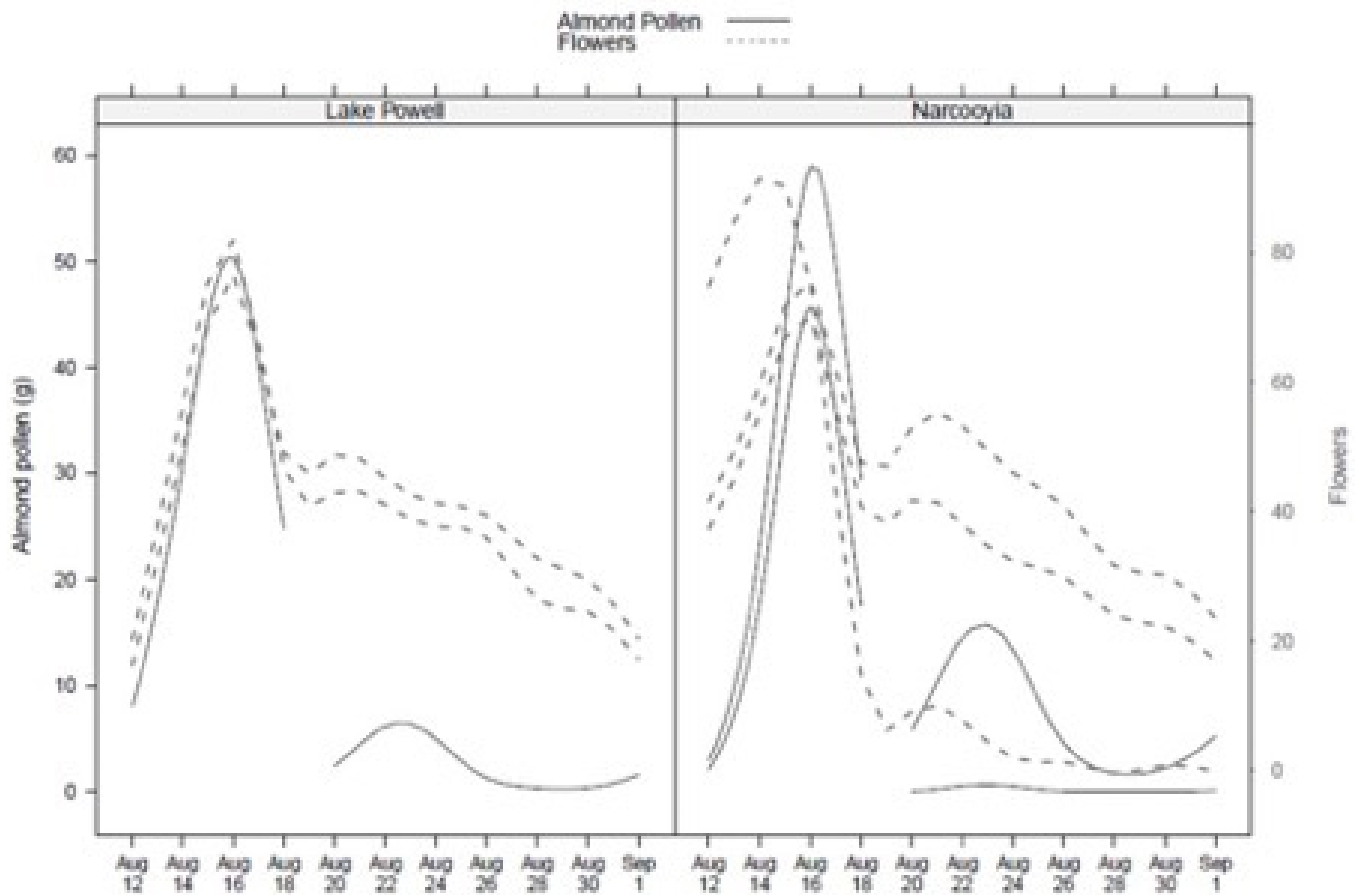


Figure 5: Flower quantities and bee-collected almond pollen were strongly correlated before, during and directly after peak bloom. Almond phenology supports the gradual decline of flowers and decreased collection of almond pollen from 20 August onward. For almond pollen, a separate line is shown for the two apiaries in Narcooyia, and for flowers, a separate line is shown for each variety. [...]

Discussion

Our study shows that tracking individual tagged branches is an objective and practical method to predict when to remove hives from the orchard because bloom progression is strongly correlated with bee-collected almond pollen. Consequently, it is also to be preferred over the current standard of subjective canopy assessment which is open to operator error arising from both misinterpreting the complex branch architecture unique to each tree and also misinterpreting the foraging of bees on remaining flowers when the bees are actually foraging for nectar when pollen production is low.

Looking beyond the second, minor peak in almond pollen quantities, flower quantities in the second sampling period show that, despite the remaining flowers, pollen production was at its lowest point. The low levels of almond pollen collected from 22 August 2017 onward, despite the presence of flowers, highlight that pollen production was depressed which also supports the decision to remove hives from the orchard. As a result of participation in this study, the collaborating beekeeper was one of the last to remove hives from the orchards in the immediate area around the study sites. By the final sampling day, 1 September 2017, partnering growers wanted all hives removed to facilitate their next management tasks, giving remaining hives in this study greater access to available almond pollen as foraging competition decreased. The maximum quantities of almond pollen collected by each hive in this study are consistent with the depressed availability of pollen at study sites during the second sampling period after peak bloom.

In reference solely to the 2017 almond bloom in Australia, the data on bee-collected pollen supports the participating growers' decisions to release contracted hives around 28 August 2017 in the last quarter of the bloom period even though it occurred before 90% petal fall of the last flowering variety.

Overall, this study shows a clear relationship between bloom progression and bee-collected almond pollen decline. The use of tagged branches to track bloom for each variety is both a practical and a superior method that almond growers should choose to increase the accuracy of their decision on when to remove hives from the orchard.

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge and thank Monson's Honey and Pollination Director Trevor Monson for providing in-kind support to this project, coordinating study sites, organising hives, and labour, Olam International for in-kind support in the form of study site inductions and use, Select Harvests Ltd. for in-kind support in the form of study site inductions and use, Monson's Honey and Pollination Production Manager Reece Cameron for assistance with pollen trap transfer, Monson's Honey and Pollination Beekeeper Ben Dunn for assistance with pollen trap transfer, Bruce Saxton for assistance with hive assessment measurements, Joe Connell for sharing his protocol to estimate almond bloom progression using canopy visual assessments.

Contributing author Damian Collins provided biometric analysis for the data. Dr. Doug Somerville provided guidance in experimental design, hive assessment services and manuscript review. Dr. Robert Brown, Dr. Sophie Parks and Dr. Romina Rader provided manuscript review.”

NSW DPI Outstanding Service

Last, but not least, I would like to sincerely thank Mick Rankmore and Doug Somerville for their outstanding service as NSW DPI Regulatory Specialist Apiaries and Technical Specialist Honey Bees, respectively. Mick retires after 42 years of continuous service to the State Government and Doug after 32 years of service. A well-deserved retirement is ahead of them. It has been a privilege to work with them both and I look forward to making them proud in my new role as the Technical Specialist for Honey Bees.

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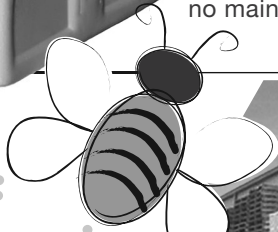
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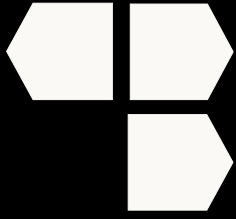


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Ph: 02 4939 8946 Mob: 0438 677 195 Email: rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au



How to integrate the Australian Honey Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice (Code) into your autumn brood checks.

Rod Bourke, NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer.

With July 1 just around the corner now is a great time to start thinking about what you may still need to add into your autumn brood checks to comply with the Code. All good beekeepers check their brood box regularly and with the colder weather fast approaching now is a great opportunity to do one last check on every hive in your operation before they shut down.

Remembering that from July 1 the Code becomes mandatory in NSW, it specifies that you should do at least two brood checks per season, with a gap of four months between the first and second counted checks. This is to ensure that you do at least two significant brood checks spaced well apart (eg. spring and autumn) without your hives going too long without being looked at properly. This requirement does not stop beekeepers from looking into their brood box more frequently (please do), but this stipulation stops the silly ones from just doing two brood checks in quick succession and then neglecting the brood box for the next year (or longer). Those that can produce a lot of honey know that managing your brood box is the only way to consistently achieve productive hives, so at the very minimum please check it twice per year.

When conducting your check, look at all frames; The Code stipulates that a minimum of three frames of brood be inspected during a brood check, but any serious beekeeper looks at EVERY frame in the brood box. Signs of American foulbrood (AFB) and other notifiable brood diseases may initially only be present in one small area of a single brood frame within a hive, so if you don't do a thorough check then you could easily miss something that will soon develop into a major biosecurity problem for you, and others around you.

Manage weak/poor hives. During your brood checks you will come across hives that are not doing as well as they should. This is often due to disease, queen status, poor quality brood combs or nutritional issues. The Code states that you MUST manage weak hives. Weakening hives invariably fail if the beekeeper does not intervene, which then leads to robbing by other hives. Any opportunity for bees to gain access into another hive and remove honey etc. to their own hive is a huge biosecurity risk, especially if the robbed hive is already expressing disease symptoms. Even if no symptoms are visible there is likely to be some AFB spores present, so it may still be possible for MILLIONS of AFB spores to be liberated and taken into other hives if robbing of weak hives is allowed.

Manage weak hives as soon as possible (straight away is the best option) to prevent biosecurity risk. Some strategies include removing extra boxes to tighten the colony up (which is also good when dealing with EFB, Chalkbrood and Nosema) and reducing the entrance size to enable them to defend their colony better. Re-queening, adding healthy bees and/or frames of brood/nucleus colonies to bolster the colony strength or some addition of pollen substitutes and/or sugar syrup to stimulate breeding may also be required. Regardless of the strategy you use, remember to keep detailed records of your activities.

Which brings me to record keeping. All beekeepers currently need to record:

- all hive movements (whenever you move hives!)
- notifiable disease found (when and where)
- names/details of people to whom you sell colonies/packages/queen bees to
- hive disposal details.

Under the Code you will also need to record:

- dates for when each hive was individually brood checked (and you actually need to check every hive under your control)



- dates for when a hive at each apiary was checked for mites.

Many beekeepers do not currently keep records and instead rely on memory. Whilst remembering your beekeeping may work under some circumstances it is not an approved method of record keeping under the Biosecurity Act, which requires a hard copy or appropriate electronic records to be kept and immediately available should they be requested or required. Think about the hundreds of hives that are undoubtedly still out there from beekeepers who have passed without a record of their locations. These ‘abandoned’ hives pose a constant biosecurity threat to other bees as unchecked sources of diseases.

There are a number of Log books (NSWAA & ABA included) and record keeping templates (PHA and DPI) that may suit your personal record keeping needs, as well as commercially available apps. If you would like to make up your own site sheet from scratch then these are the following points that need to be included; Site, date, number of hives on site, work done (brood checks, mite check, numbers and types of notifiable disease and pests found and what will be done about it) and hives moved onto/off site and to where/whom. In addition to the minimum record keeping requirements, other notes that may be helpful to the running of your operation include; honey boxes on or off, strength/condition of hives, queen status, pollen or nectar coming in (and resource providing it), date that you should revisit site and additional notes.

Monitoring for exotic mites (Varroa and Tropilaelaps, plus Braula louse) is highlighted specifically in the Code to be conducted in each apiary twice per year. This is best done when doing your full brood checks as you should be sampling from nurse bees working in the brood area (where the mites would normally be most commonly found).

Your three options for mite monitoring include sugar shake, alcohol wash and drone uncapping. Each method has its own strengths and weaknesses as follows;

- Sugar Shake; possibly not quite as accurately effective as alcohol, but it does not kill the bees so it encourages many recreational beekeepers to undertake monitoring.
- Alcohol wash; can be more effective than sugar shake, but kills all bees sampled.
- Drone uncapping; this method can find Varroa if they are established in a hive, but drone brood is not always present/easy to find when you want to sample.

The overall message is that it doesn’t matter which monitoring method you use, but please understand that EVERY beekeeper needs to ACTUALLY LOOK for exotic mites within their apiaries. There are no exemptions to this requirement. If mites can be found early enough (because beekeepers are looking for them) then there is EVERY opportunity to control and eradicate them, but if nobody is looking and they can go for years unnoticed then we will have a situation like NZ did! Looking and record keeping can stop them impacting our industry, but only if beekeepers follow these requirements.



Image of a Varroa mite. Nobody in Australia wants to see this, but if we are actually looking then we can stop it quickly if it does get here!

The conditions I have listed so far apply to all beekeepers. For beekeepers running 50 or more hives there

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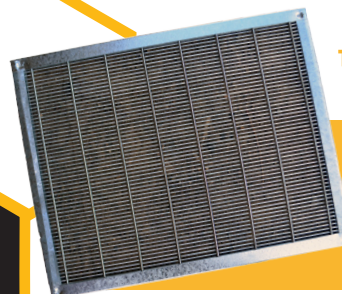


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are a few additional requirements. First is the requirement to conduct one AFB honey test per year. You need to submit at least one pooled honey sample covering 20% of your OWN hives each year to meet code requirements. Though if you run loads of bees then my recommendation is that it is even more valuable if you send in a well-mixed sample for EACH individual load in your operation, as that gives even more beneficial information. If you find that every load is negative for AFB spores then you are very lucky and are doing the right things. If you do find AFB spores then this indicates that you may have one or more hives in that load of bees that is showing symptoms of AFB or is likely to do so in the future. You as the beekeeper then know that the AFB infected loads of bees may be in need of extra management to get on top of the problem. This includes additional brood checks (perhaps a full brood check every 4-6 weeks during the season), removal of all older brood combs and honey from brood box (for extraction and then irradiation or disposal), addition of lots of new brood combs, irradiation of all honey boxes linked to that load and implementing a single hive barrier system to stop the horizontal transmission of AFB between hives within the load. Many beekeepers have proven that they can manage acquired AFB and clean up their loads of bees, so contact me if you would like to implement such a plan.



Image of AFB. Looking for AFB is an extremely important part of beekeeping. Don't use antibiotics to mask it, otherwise AFB wins every time and your problems continue to increase!

Anybody managing 50 or more hives also needs to show that they have a minimum level of bee pest and disease training and that this is renewed every three years. This can be achieved by doing a recognised Bee Biosecurity/Bee Pest and Disease training course through a Registered Training Organisation (including Total) or alternatively the Biosecurity for Beekeepers BOLT online course through Plant Health Australia. For NSW beekeepers running 50+ hives I can supply a code so that you can do that course at no cost. Please email me for that at rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au if you require a code, but first please also search your email for messages from me as I have sent out hundreds of these codes to NSW beekeepers that have not yet been used, so you may find you already have it.

The final requirement for beekeepers with 50 or more hives is to actually provide their declaration for compliance with the Code (Appendix 1 to the Code) including dates of inspections, honey test and training. From July 1 DPI requires you to submit the Appendix 1 declaration form for each two year registration renewal cycle AND every year in between. This means that the form must be submitted on a yearly basis. If your current registration renewal is not due for over 12 months please complete the form and email to me at rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au in the meantime. I will ensure the record is attached to your registration to indicate compliance with the Code. You can find this form in the back page of the Code.

If every beekeeper follows the Code then our industry will be in an overall better position. If you already operate at a higher standard than the Code requires (the Code is setting a MINIMUM standard that all beekeepers should at least operate at) then good for you and your business, but if you are not yet at the minimum level that the Code requires then it is now time to shape up.

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Thank you for supporting AHBIC to continue supporting your industry at a national level.

It is gratefully appreciated.

Wednesday, 1 April 2020

AgriFutures Australia and Australian Honey Bee Industry Council releases bee management information for drought and fire affected areas

Beekeepers operating in drought and fire affected areas throughout the country are being provided important advice on bee nutrition (water, nectar and pollen) in the form of a fact sheet.

The beekeeping industry faced the most difficult period of its existence over the summer of 2019/20 with fires and drought devastating the country. Whilst conditions have improved, beekeepers are being urged to continue to focus on the health of their hives. In difficult times, the fundamentals of managing water, nectar and pollen remain the same but in order for hives to remain healthy through adversity, extra vigilance may be required.

Water

Even as we leave summer behind, beekeepers are reminded that water is the most essential ingredient for a colony's survival, particularly in weather beyond 35°C and beyond, with strong colonies consuming up to a litre per day. Ensure bees have access to a clean, fresh water source and that measures have been put in place to prevent bees drowning.

Nectar

Whether choosing to feed in-hive or externally, beekeepers should take measures to ensure the correct processes are adhered to in all conditions.

If externally feeding it is important to prevent livestock from drinking syrup, particularly in drought affected areas.

Pollen

Drought has a particularly big impact on fresh pollen available to colonies due to the elimination of flowering herbs, pasture and weeds. Colonies will continue to breed while nectar or syrup (1:1) is available in order stimulate the colony.

Once fresh pollen stores are depleted, colonies will begin to consume stored pollen. Once these stocks run out, the population will decline.

It may be necessary to explore supplementary feeding which can be expensive but necessary to support populations when pollen is scarce. The fact sheet explains the correct process for supplementary feeding wither in-hive or in an open feeder.

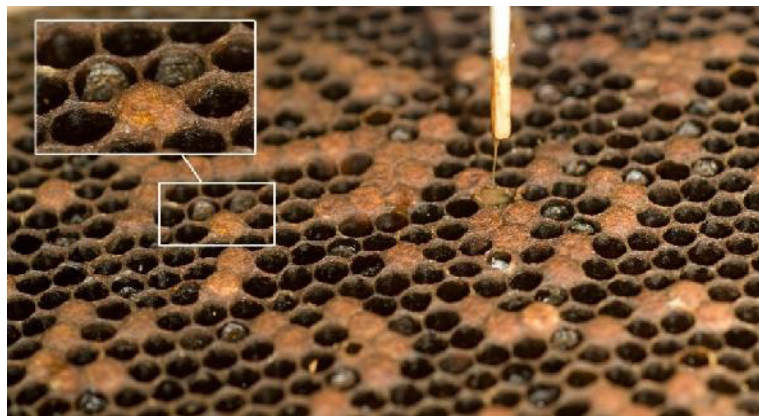
This open resource was developed by Dr Doug Somerville with support from the AgriFutures Honey Bee Program and Australian Honeybee Industry Council, the resource is available here: [Management of bee nutrition in drought and fire affected areas.](#)

ENDS

Media enquiries

For media enquiries please contact Samuel Cox, Cox Inall Communications 0401 464 664 | Samuel.cox@coxinall.com.au
For more information on the AgriFutures™ Honey Bee and Pollination Program visit www.agrifutures.com.au/honey-bee-pollination/

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Innovation is driven from ideas

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

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

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



Please contact us about any inspirational ideas you have



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SHAKE, INSPECT

CALL IF YOU SUSPECT

External bee parasites such as varroa, tropilaelaps mite and braula fly have not been detected in NSW



Braula fly (top), varroa mite (right), tropilaelaps mite (bottom)



Braula fly on the thorax of a queen bee



Varroa mite feeds on a bee pupa

IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE 1800 084 881
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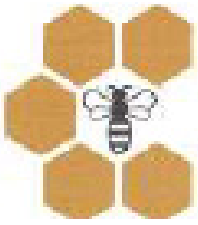
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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

Some changes at AHBIC

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) would like to update you on a few changes regarding the CEO and Executive.

It is with great regret that I have tendered my resignation as CEO of AHBIC due to the illness of a close family member which will require more of my time and a significant degree of flexibility. Given AHBIC is resource poor, so I do not feel comfortable continuing in the role knowing I can't give 100%. As a result, I have assisted AHBIC Executive recruit a new CEO, Canberra based Helen Goodall. Helen comes with considerable experience in membership based not-for-profits and has extensive experience in business development, policy, corporate governance, contract and budget management, stakeholder engagement and event management, to mention only a few of her many and varied skills. I have every faith in Helen to successfully continue the important work of AHBIC. Rest assured that AHBIC will not miss a beat with Helen as CEO. No, she is not a beekeeper, but she loves bees and is excited to start in the role. Helen commences with AHBIC on 6 April and I will provide a handover for a few days. I know you'll all make Helen feel welcome when she commences.

In addition to changes in CEO, we would also like to advise of a change to the Executive. Kevin MacGibbon recently resigned as a member of the Executive. The Executive would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Kevin for his service to AHBIC and wishes him all the very best for the future. It is a time consuming and demanding role to be an Executive member so we thank Kevin for his commitment.

We hope all beekeepers affected by the fires are continuing to recover as well as can be expected under trying circumstances. AHBIC continues to advocate on your behalf and we will be hosting a bush fire recovery workshop on 23-24th March in Canberra, in conjunction with Agrifutures, to map out an industry recovery plan.

We will provide more detail of these changes in the March edition of the newsletter so stay tuned.

COVID-19

We are currently liaising with the Federal Government regarding implications for beekeepers of border closures. We are also hosting a teleconference with State Associations on Friday 27th March to share ideas, discuss border closures in addition to cancelled conferences and

methods to conduct AGM's.

Help Us Help You!

Become a Friend of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) so we can continue to advocate on behalf of our industry in such challenging times

In these unprecedented times, AHBIC resources are extremely stretched, the AHBIC Executive team are stretched and we are asking that you please, help us help you by becoming a friend of AHBIC and completing the form on page 47, donations large or small will all help. To those who are current friends of AHBIC, we thank you. We are also moving our voluntary contributions to be in line with the AHBIC financial year which is 1 May to 30 April. This will make it administratively easier for us to send out invitations to contribute once a year in mid April rather than in an ad hoc manner during the year. Donate now and we'll invite you to contribute again in April 2021.

In such challenging times, we sincerely hope our beekeepers and associated businesses are faring as best as possible; drought, bushfires, floods and now COVID-19 have challenged us all. We are in this together and AHBIC is doing its utmost to advocate on behalf of our industry. For example, we have been working with Agrifutures and Michael Clarke of AgEconPlus to design an online workshop to design an industry bushfire recovery plan to put to Government. We've been liaising with Government regarding interstate travel arrangements given COVID-19 and bushfire recovery assistance packages and we've been working with Plant Health Australia on important biosecurity programs such as the National Bee Biosecurity Program review which includes our valuable Bee Biosecurity Officers.

Congress 2022

Yes! There will be a Congress in 2022 in NSW. We are currently in the throes of organising it now, so keep an eye out for information in the coming months!

All the best to our beekeeping community throughout these difficult times.

Kind regards
Sarah Paradise
CEO, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council

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