

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Volume 12 Number 3
May - June 2019



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Report June 2019

This is my first newsletter and it will be far longer than any other presidents report I pen. As your incoming president I must acknowledge the great work that Neil Bingley has done over the last four years as president.

There have been great changes within NSWAA under Neil's presidency. Some of these include the new secretariat, new Honeybee News editor, a new membership registration system plus new accountants and new accounting software and great advances in our website. As well we have seen a changing of the guard at DPI and a review of the coastal Regional Forestry Agreements. While some of these have not progressed as quickly or as smoothly as the executive would have liked Neil calmly guided the Association forward. Under Neil's guidance NSWAA is in a sound financial position. All members owe Neil a BIG thank you.

A thank you goes to past president Casey Cooper who has stepped down from the executive. Casey recently was on the Honeyland, Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) and State Advisory Group (SAG) committees and will be missed. The Association wishes Casey and Suellen Weiss all the best in their upcoming wedding.

It is healthy for the Association to have elections for the two vacant executive positions. Thank you to Ray Hull and Therese Kershaw for nominating for executive positions. Congratulations and welcome aboard to Ray Hull who was successful for the second vacancy.

The conference was a great success and thanks go to everyone who made sure that all went smoothly, in particular 2 Rivers and Therese Kershaw. Thanks to all who attended. Once again Therese did a magnificent job with the tradeshow and also obtaining sponsorship for the conference. Thanks mainly to Therese's efforts the tradeshow and sponsorships raised approx. \$60,000.

We had some very good speakers and in particular Cooper Schouten on his Papua New Guinea bee journey, Michelle and Byron Taylor from New Zealand and our emerging researchers Amanda and Jeremy. Rural Cokectin reported on the exciting research and trials on honey as a prebiotic.

For those who did not attend the conference dinner

there were two very deserved awards handed out. Dr Doug Sommerville received life membership and Therese Kershaw received the Keith McIlvride Memorial award.

The Saturday field day was well attended and thanks go to the central tablelands branch but mainly Mal & Debbie Porter. A big thank you to all concerned.

Honeyland was a great success and thanks go to the Honeyland committee especially Debbie and Mal Porter and Casey Cooper. The Honeyland report will be in this issue or the next. Honeyland was manned by both recreational and commercial beekeepers. The NSWAA executive appreciates everyone giving up their time to support this fundraising and educational event.

One large beekeeping operation has been purchased by an almond company. The almond company plans to increase their hives numbers to 25,000 hives. Where they will get the resource to sustain these extra 20,000 hives I am not sure.

There has been another bee kill in the Riverina due to pesticides and once again EPA state they cannot prosecute anyone.

Some areas have received reasonable rain however without a wet spring the season ahead looks to be well below average. Hopefully everyone has packed their bees down for winter in preparation for almond pollination. More hives are required this year for almond pollination. Most beekeepers met their quota obligations this season but I suspect a lot used honey that had been held over from a previous good season.

Stephen Targett
President



40th Annual Tocal Beekeepers' Field Day

12th October 2019

Free!

Program

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

**A free event for
beekeepers and
beekeepers-to-bee**

Tocal College,
815 Tocal Road
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- 2.00 Main hall special lunchtime
presentation on 'The Benefits
of Competitions and Marketing
your Backyard Honey' - Len
Verrenkamp and Michael Symes
- 3.00 What makes a good Apiary Site?
- Nick Geoghegan
- 3.20 Urban Hum: Boutique Backyard
Beekeeping - Kelly Lees
- 3.40 Raffle draw and close

**Trade Show, Honey Tastings and Sales,
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Best Management Practice for the Transportation of Open Entrance Beehives

In the interests of public safety, the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council Inc. (AHBIC) recommends that the following guidelines be followed, except in the case of emergency, e.g. fire or flood:

- Where possible, only transport open entrance beehives between sunset and sunrise.
- When securing beehives, equipment or machinery onto transport vehicle ensure LOAD RESTRAINT GUIDES as set down by the National Transport Commission of Australia are adhered to.
- After completion of loading of beehives, wait until most bees have stopped flying before departing site.
- Even in cooler weather, travel through built up areas and road works should be avoided during daylight hours.
- Ensure adequate fuel is carried on the vehicle to complete the journey without the need to enter a refuelling depot when transporting open entrance beehives.
- If absolutely necessary that a break in the journey has to occur, then ensure vehicle is located far enough away from lights as not to attract bees

If the above guidelines cannot be met, AHBIC advises beehives should be screened, netted or closed entrance to prevent escape of bees from transport vehicle.

CRITICAL INFORMATION ON REPORTING PROBLEM BEEKEEPERS

If you wish to report another beekeeper for poor beekeeping practices (like allowing AFB to build up until it poses a risk or exposing honey to robbers) - please choose the "beekeeping practices" option on the reporting form, NOT the "pest and disease" option.

When you go to

<https://biosecurity.transactcentral.com/Biosecurity/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=report-a-biosecurity>

you will be asked:

- 1) My report is about: select "bees and beehives".
- 2) What would you like to report: select "beekeeping practices".

This will then enable you to report poor beekeeping practices by another beekeeper.

If you chose the "pest or disease" option, your report may be taken as a notification of your own pests or diseases and not a report about another beekeeper.

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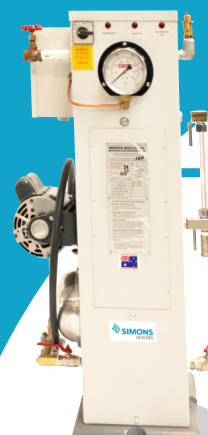
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Doug Somerville
Technical Specialist, Apiculture - NSW Department of Primary Industries - Goulburn
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Comb honey production

The creation of comb honey on a consistent basis is an art form in the field of beekeeping. Its popularity over the decades has risen and fallen for various reasons. Compared to liquid honey, it is an expensive commodity and not all locations or beekeeping situations readily lend themselves to the production of comb honey on any scale.

In more recent times, honey in the comb is seen by the general consumer as something 'pure' and 'natural'. Invariably this is true, as there has been little or nothing done to the product from the hive to the consumer. Even so, care needs to be exercised with the production and processing for the final product to reach the market in its best possible condition.

Not all sources of honey are acceptable for comb honey production and the extra work necessary to consistently produce a high quality product is not an activity for every beekeeper. Even so, comb honey production adds another dimension to keeping honey bees and for those who market direct to the public, comb honey adds a very attractive addition to the product range on offer.

Management

Dialogue on comb honey production assumes that the reader/beekeeper is familiar with:

- best management practice with pests and diseases of beehives
- identifying poorly performing queens and understanding the importance and value in maintaining colonies headed with a productive queen of desirable genetics
- understanding the various seasonal management tasks necessary to maintain regular high production levels, particularly with honey production identifying good breeding and honey production conditions associated with various flowering events, and their influence and impact on hive performance has the ability to differentiate high quality honeys with superior flavours and low tendencies to candy or crystallise.

If you lack knowledge or skills in one or more of these areas, then comb honey production on a regular basis is not something you should consider yet on any scale.

Our aim is to produce strong, populous colonies with a high number of younger bees. High populations ensure that the colony is able to gather a large surplus of nectar and pollen to build wax combs and

store volumes of honey in a relatively short period.

The younger bees are more prolific producers of wax, which is important in the construction and drawing of comb in preparation for the ripening and storing of the new or fresh honey.

Choosing the flowering conditions under which you will create and produce comb honey is the next step:

- some flowering events are unreliable and nectar secretion may start and stop quickly
- some sources of honey have objectionable flavours. An example is privet (*Ligustrum* species) or guioa (*Guioa semiglauc*) on the NSW North Coast. Beekeepers would be well advised not to consider producing comb honey whenever these plants are in flower.
- some honeys crystallise very quickly and, as such, do not have the proper visual appeal.

Nothing wrong with honey that crystallises, it may be consumed along with liquid honey, but it is more an image of what constitutes 'fresh' honey comb. Thus, selecting a flowering event where the resultant honey crop is likely to remain liquid in the comb for several months is highly desirable.

Some honeys have a less than desirable aroma and should be avoided for comb honey production.

What are you going to produce?

Comb honey has been produced in a range of product types over the decades. Most honey comb now produced would have traditionally been referred to as cut comb. This is where a comb of honey is cut up into blocks and placed into containers.

The most popular comb size is the 'ideal' which is likely to be more evenly filled and capped by bees. Chunk honey refers to the cut honey being placed into jars and the jar filled with a light, pleasant flavoured honey. This allows the comb to be readily viewed through the jar.

Section honey is where several small purpose made frames are placed into a regular frame and the comb is not removed or cut out of these boxes.

Sections can be made with timber or plastic frames. They can also be made square, rectangle, round or any other shape, for that matter. Section honey production is the most difficult to ensure a high success rate.

Some points to consider.

Thin foundation is often used in comb honey production, as this provides a better texture to the palate when being chewed.

Some locations are more likely to be a problem, with propolis staining the surface of the honey comb or gumming up the section boxes. Some strains of bees are more inclined to be a problem than others. The appearance of comb cappings can vary on the same flowering event between hives. Some honey comb has a very fluffy white appearance, indicating an air pocket under the cappings, whereas other honey comb has a greasy appearance, where there is no air bubble under the cappings.

Pollen stored in the honey comb is undesirable. Some colonies have a tendency to do this more than others. If a colony consistently does this, you may have to leave a shallow box of honey on the hive between the brood box and box drawing the comb honey.

Ideally, colonies should be of a very populous condition, referred to as tight, with all available comb space being filled by bee activity. This may cause swarming problems, particularly in spring. The middle combs will be drawn and filled before the outside combs. Thus it may be necessary to manipulate combs on the hive to ensure even drawing and filling of combs.

Processing

Once the comb is capped, the honey is ripe and should be removed from the hive as soon as practical. The combs need to be fully capped to have their greatest appeal.

Leaving full combs/sections on the hive may lead to travel stain from the movement of bees across the face of the comb. When removing boxes of combs or individual combs it is important to prevent and avoid any robbing by field bees. Robbing bees will chew holes in the cappings of combs and detract from the look of the comb honey.

The comb structure should be all new and white in colour. This also means that the physical structure and integrity of the comb is not as robust as older, darker comb. Thus, comb honey is prone to fracture on the frames if roughly handled.

Careful handling of boxes and combs is a must, with particular care with the transport of combs from the field back to the factory. Due diligence must be paid to ensuring that the comb is sealed against moisture, particularly rain, and also protected against dust.

Storage and processing

Combs should be stored in a fridge or freezer. Either will control insect pests, including wax moth, small hive beetles and ants. All these insects may

damage or detract from the presentation of the final product.

Freezing for 24 hours will kill all stages of most insect life cycles, including the insects of concern that may attack stored comb honey.

Sections need to be removed from their supers or larger boxes and wrapped or housed in individual containers. Combs need to be cut into appropriate sized pieces and placed in the desired containers, either purpose-made containers or jars. Any honey that is added to these containers to improve the look of the saleable item should be pasteurised, i.e. warmed to remove any crystals to reduce the likelihood of the honey in the container being seeded, leading to the honey candying.

This processing of the honey combs should be conducted in a food grade premises, free of dust and insects. Records of each batch should be maintained with a trace back system in place.

Markets

The extra work to procure a good quality comb honey product requires a premium liquid honey.

Ideally, if each floral source is stated on the container, the sale of comb honey should attract an even greater premium. Not every source of honey is ideal or even desirable as a source of comb honey. Some honey candies very quickly, others have unpleasant tastes and/or aromas. These should be avoided when it comes to comb honey production. Very high moisture levels in honey may lead to fermentation in the combs. This will make the product totally unsaleable.

One of the biggest problems with producing comb honey for sale is the consistency of supply. Some flowering events only occur every two or three years, producing a highly desirable comb honey product. Thus, to maintain continuity of supply between flowering events, it will be necessary to store comb honey. The best way to store comb honey is in the freezer, which will prevent insect pest activity and slow or stop the honey from crystallising.

Long term storage at refrigerated temperatures is not recommended as this will actually promote crystallisation. There is no need to keep comb honey in a cool environment when on display at point of sale.

Biosecurity is a constant issue and the movement of honey comb is one product that attracts significant attention. While the same pathogens, such as brood diseases, are transmittable in liquid honey as comb honey, comb honey is at a higher biosecurity risk due to the potential to transfer insect pests.

These may include braula fly, small hive beetles and wax moth. Where varroa mites are present, comb

also poses a risk of transferring or harbouring this pest. If you are considering moving comb honey products between states or exporting, be mindful of potential restrictions or conditions imposed by the authorities to be able to conduct this activity.

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

'Can Assist' Stand at the NSWAA Conference

The 'Can Assist' stand at the NSWAA Conference in Bathurst raised \$1,500. The money has been donated to this charity to assist country families with loved ones diagnosed with cancer.

Thank you to Lyson and Hornsby Beekeeping for their donations to our raffle. A very special thank you to Deb Porter and Raylene Michie for their help and support at the 'Can Assist' stand during the conference.

Thank you, members, for your support and donations.

Judith Saxvik



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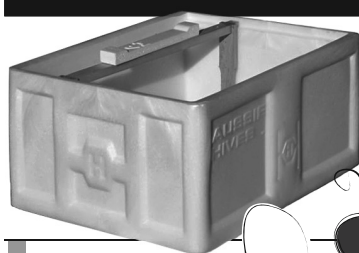
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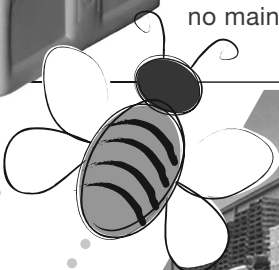
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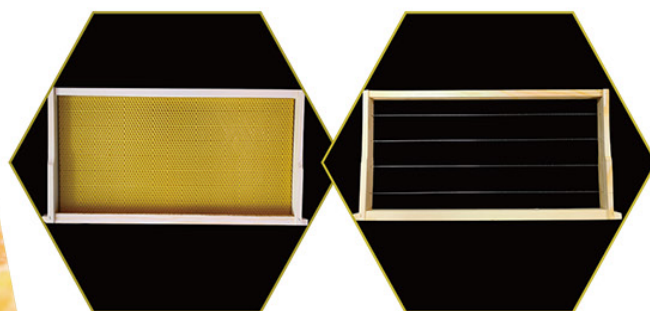
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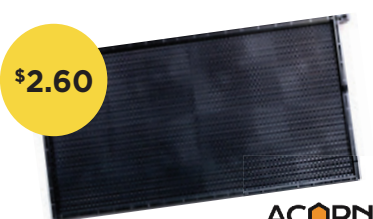
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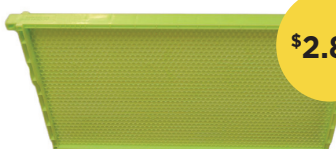


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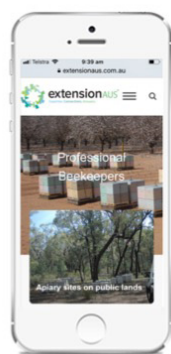


Social Media for Professional Beekeepers

The Professional Beekeepers Community of Practice (CoP) has been established to meet the needs of rural and regional Australia for the extension of knowledge and to promote collaboration on important issues to commercial beekeeping. Have a look for yourself at the following web address and let me know what you think:

extensionaus.com.au/professionalbeekeepers/home

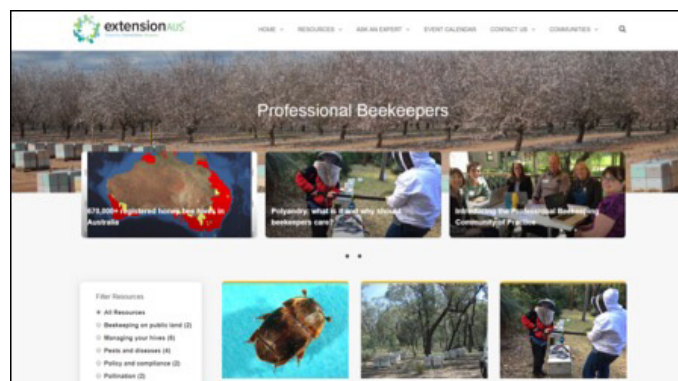
Led by passionate and knowledgeable industry experts from around Australia, the Professional Beekeeping community provides the most recent, relevant and accurate information on the latest research and technological developments, best beekeeping practices and business solutions for the commercial beekeeping industry. Content is viewable on smart phones, computer and tablets. Here's how it may look on your smart phone:



The ExtensionAUS platform was first launched in 2014 with Crop Nutrition and Field Crop Diseases Communities of Practice. The platform continues to grow with many more communities coming on board providing extension networks to collaborate and share expertise and resources online.

Professional Beekeepers CoP is made up of scientists, researchers, technical specialists, educators and commercial beekeepers with expertise in the areas of honey bee nutrition, queen breeding, pests and diseases, vocational education, pollination and managing beekeeping businesses around Australia. Our first articles cover research on small hive beetle and queen bee quality based on drone mate numbers, updates of beekeeper and hive registration statistics, a case study with commercial beekeeper Casey Cooper of the Northern Tablelands on what makes a good apiary site and an introduction to the contributors to the

CoP articles. If viewed on a computer, the home page will look like this with changes over time as new articles come out:



Professional Beekeepers article contributors currently are Dr. Diana Leemon (QLD Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries), Dr. Nadine Chapman (University of Sydney) and myself. Every article must be peer-reviewed by two people before it goes live. Our current reviewers include the previous list of contributing writers as well as Danielle Lloyd-Prichard (Education Officer, Honey Bees at NSW Dept. of Primary Industries) and Tom Gillard (PhD Candidate at University of Sydney). Behind the scenes Ruth Luckner, NSW DPI eLearning and Web Services Project Officer, transfers our writing and photographs to the extensionAUS web platform using WordPress.

We are always looking for professional beekeepers with success stories in business, hive management or otherwise they'd be willing to be interviewed about and have shared publicly for industry development. The idea here is to give you all more tools for success quicker than annual conferences allow. We're also seeking content and interviews from researchers with emerging research, so please get in touch with me to find out more. If you'd like to follow us in real time, check back into the Professional Beekeepers website weekly or if you prefer we notify you of new articles, please follow our group on Facebook:





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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: July 2019 Long Term Vacant Sites Online Pilot

Thanks to all of you who I met at the NSWAA annual conference. It was exciting to meet so many of you and to talk about the forthcoming online pilot of publishing Forestry Corporation Long Term Vacant Sites.

The pilot is now planned to start on the 16th of July and will involve the publication of a map of potential apiary ranges on Forestry Corporation sites. The ranges published have not been used for at least 2 years and in some cases had never been used.

Interested parties should note that these sites have not been inspected or reviewed before publishing and may not be suitable for beekeeping. Before

applying for an apiary site, applicants must visit the site and ensure it is suitable for their operation.

Further details of the pilot have now been published on the DPI website (search for “DPI Beekeeping on Public Land” and follow the link for the pilot). Detailed instructions and the map will be published at the start of the pilot.

The next Expression Of Interest (EOI) allocation is planned for September. Further details will be shared closer to the date.

To receive updates on the pilot and EOI allocations send an email with your name and contact details to the Apiary Sites Helpdesk: apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Nick Geoghegan, Apiculture Resource Coordinator, NSW DPI.

McIlvride Award Recipient Therese Kershaw



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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



NSW Apiarists Association Conference 2019 marks 2 years of Code of Practice

It's been 2 years since I started the NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer role and began promoting the Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice (the Code) and its benefits to the industry. With the 2019 Conference just past it seems like a good time to give a refresher on the Code and review how NSW beekeepers have progressed with their uptake of it over the past two years.

Let's start by addressing some fears (the constant companion of change). There is nothing scary about the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice. Adopting the Code will make your business far more profitable in the long run. In fact, the Code encourages such a good basic level of beekeeping practice that complying with the Code is set to become a condition of NSW registration from July 1, 2020.

To give a refresher on how simple it is for beekeepers to comply with the Code, here's a quick summary with some supportive observations made over the past two years.

1-Beekeepers must be registered.

There are now over 8500 registered beekeepers in NSW, which is a large increase since I came on board two years ago when we had 5600. However, the rate of Commercial Beekeeper registrations and hive numbers has not increased all that much during that time. It is safe to assume that many more recreational beekeepers are increasing hive numbers to commercial levels (50 hives and above is considered commercial) and starting to generate income from their bees. If this sounds like you, change your registration to appropriately reflect the number of hives you have. Every beekeeper should also be regularly updating their registered hive numbers as they increase (or decrease).

2-Beekeepers must report notifiable disease.

A lot of you have probably experienced AFB this past year, but reporting rates from commercial beekeepers are still extremely low. The law (NSW Biosecurity Act 2015) states that you must notify NSW DPI (call or e-mail) to report AFB within one working day of detection. Even if you are confident in your AFB management and destruction of hives, all occurrences of the disease must be reported. A key reason why this is necessary from our industry point of view is that *statistics* drive government priorities. Unless beekeepers start following the law and reporting AFB then the statistics don't reflect accurate AFB levels that could provoke positive action

by government. When you detect AFB, ensure reporting is part of your standard management regime. If you have sent in a slide to DPI to be tested and the result is positive, the slide submission fulfils your reporting requirement.

The Bee industry needs to be part of the AFB solution. This is easier said than done, but to achieve positive change you must lead by example!

EFB, Chalkbrood and Nosema are also notifiable diseases and the same principle applies.



When you find this then make sure that you promptly notify it to DPI.

3-Hives must be regularly inspected for pests and diseases

There are a lot of commercial beekeepers out there that are not maintaining their regular inspections. Breeding bees is the number one priority for many beekeepers, especially commercial beekeepers who (should) expect income from every hive. Over the past 2 years there have been numerous occasions where I have come across dismal hives that have obviously not been checked in quite a long time. Quite often this has been an outcome of beekeepers who are keeping more hives than they can manage in their current operation. At a bare minimum you should do two full brood inspections each season, otherwise you have lost track of what the hive is doing.

As an example, I recently met an aging beekeeper who had made the active decision to stop being commercial around 6 years ago. Rather than getting right out of bees at that time he kept 40 hives, which over the years had become harder and harder to manage. Due to age and adversity his hives had not received the work they needed and half had died out, mostly from AFB. Following collaboration with DPI Compliance visits he decided to get rid of the 20 hives he had remaining. The next time we spoke he said "I should have done it years ago!". This man's experience is one shared by others and cautions us to only run what we can manage. The manageable number will differ between beekeepers'

experience, skill level and type of operation. If you are running more hives than you can regularly inspect then you are creating a danger to your own operation and other beekeepers. Consider reducing your hive numbers or reviewing your management practices/staffing levels to avoid costly pest and disease outbreaks.

4-Beekeepers must control or eradicate pests and diseases and must manage weak hives

This is an obvious point that a lot of good beekeepers follow. Unfortunately I have also observed occasions where beekeepers do not. To promote healthy hives (as opposed to weak hives) you should only propagate from healthy hives. Therefore do not do splits or nucs from hives that have been treated with OTC as they could be full of AFB (but you just can't see it at the moment). By allowing hives with AFB to show themselves (and then destroying them) you are promoting healthy hives within your operation. Cull out the weak and only use healthy hives to make up new hives, or your mistakes could cost your business dearly!



Rotten with AFB, on the almonds and not particularly strong...poor beekeeping and no regard for biosecurity or other nearby beekeepers.

5-Beekeepers must maintain records of biosecurity-related actions and observations.

The Biosecurity Act 2015 has replaced the Apiaries Act 1980's and with this change has come changes in record keeping requirements. What is written into the current Act is the current law and must be complied with regardless of what the superseded laws used to be. A change in the law is typically to address an identified problem, a change for improvement and to benefit society. A lot of beekeepers are seen to resist change, but these changes better the industry as a whole and encourage us to become more accountable for our beekeeping actions so as not to impact those around us. Record keeping is a simple way to prove that you are applying appropriate management strategies to your hives. Change is inevitable and continuous. Resisting it will only leave you further behind with more to catch up on. Now is the time to sink or swim. If you need help with the swimming (to change your bee keeping to achieve better biosecurity) then contact me.

6-Hives must be appropriately constructed and branded.

Many commercial operations are holding onto decrepit boxes that payed for themselves decades ago and

should have been removed from the apiary before now. Investment in routinely replacing boxes and brood frames should be standard practice as part of commercial operations. Enabling hives to have just one defendable entrance versus numerous other holes also prevents robbing.

Every hive owned and managed in NSW must be branded with the current owners' registration number. Brands of previous owners should be struck out and the current owners' number should be the most visible.

7-Beekeepers must not allow hives or appliances to become exposed or neglected.

Exposed or neglected hives are a hotbed for disease which can then spread once the hive becomes weak and is robbed. To prevent robbing all hives must be protected and managed (requeen, boost, remove from the apiary, irradiate or burn). Avoid exposure of your hives and equipment to robbing by:

- Minimising entrances to allow resident bees to protect their hive under robbing conditions
- Using undamaged equipment for hive construction
- Always ensure hive lids are closed properly and use Emlocks etc.
- Store stickies properly so that they are not exposed to robbing.
- Pull out hives before they become dead outs
- Don't let hives die out from AFB etc. and then think its ok to pick them up later
- Don't operate a bee shed or extracting facility that is not bee-proof
- Remember that allowing bees to rob ANY honey is a risk of AFB spread
- If you need to work bees when there is no nectar around and bees want to rob hard then open feed them very light sugar syrup for a few days and give them a good feed of it on hive inspection days
- If bees are robbing your operations, do not poison them. It is your responsibility to ensure that your operation is bee proof, so manage the issue. Tell the owner of the hives that you are having robbing issues so that they can either feed light syrup (if waiting for a flow to start) or move.



Don't send dead out hives to almonds...all of these hives were full of honey but had no resident bees to defend it, which is basically exposing honey to robbing.

8-Beekeepers must allow their operation to be assessed.

A BBO promotes Bee Biosecurity and encourages commercial beekeepers complying to with the code. Keep good records in case you are assessed by DPI Compliance.

9-Beekeepers must demonstrate a minimum level of knowledge of pests and disease identification and management.

It is pretty obvious to me that some big operations are not managing their bee disease issues nearly as well as some amateurs running 20-50 hives as their “after work” hobby! Some are throwing big hive numbers out there in the hope that enough “pass” to get paid a big pollination cheque or bring back enough honey! Cleaning up dead hives at the end of each trip to the site instead of preventing their demise in the first place is standard for some, which is very inefficient beekeeping. This indicates that their priorities lay with collecting the low hanging fruit/easiest return and do not address the whole issue of bee health and bee biosecurity.

This type of beekeeping operation is a major biosecurity risk, as its dead out hives impact every other beekeeper within the forage area now and in seasons to come if feral hives drop from AFB. These operators really need to educate themselves on how to better manage and prevent these disease issues.

Biosecurity for Beekeepers online BOLT codes are available from me. Still a low response from NSW beekeepers whom have been sent one. If you are going into Victoria for almonds then you will need one! DPI Total offers face to face and online Bee Pest & Disease training, so if you are a bit rusty or unsure about this area then investigate this option or contact me.

10-Beekeepers should have honey tested annually for AFB

Honey testing gives a beekeeper a really good snapshot of how their internal AFB is looking.

The more a beekeeper uses antibiotics the higher their internal AFB spore count becomes, so the more contagious their operation becomes. This becomes a vicious cycle. Anybody can test your honey once it's on the shelf (or the packers will, if they are smart), so test it yourself to make sure it meets standards.

11-Additional information beekeepers with 50 or more hives must provide annually.

Appendix 1 of the Code outlines information that commercial beekeepers must provide on an annual basis. This information includes when spring and autumn brood checks, mite surveillance, honey testing for AFB and their last Bee Pest and Disease training (valid for 3 years) was done. Once your Appendix 1 is completed you can submit this information to me for recording.

Use this link to learn more about the Code and to print out an Appendix 1 form.

<https://honeybee.org.au/programs/code-of-practice->

[and-national-bee-biosecurity-program/](#)

It is also recommended that;

12-APIARY sites should be identified

13-Beekeepers should maintain a barrier system of hive management

If you need assistance implementing a barrier system to control your AFB please contact me.

To summarise, two years in and we've still got a ways to go to make the NSW beekeeping industry into the ideal the Code encourages. However, two years in is still looking better than two years ago. In two years from now I expect it will look even better. Be a part of the evolution of the industry to make sure we protect our bees and our beekeepers for years to come so we can keep doing what we love. If you'd like a copy of the Code please get in contact with me, I'd be more than happy to send you one.

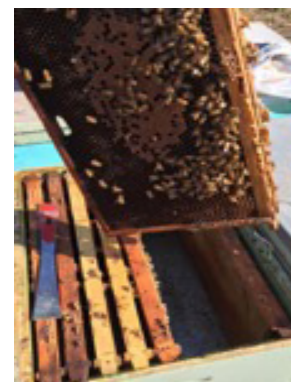
Final preparations for Almond pollination

Depending on where your hives are going for almond pollination you may need to be moving in later July or early August. It is especially important this year to only send in hives of 7 or more frames of bees and aim for an average of 8 or more frames of bees throughout the apiary. Nobody wants to see poor quality bees this year, so put quality over quantity and don't send in any junk! Beekeepers promote a professional image by sending in good quality product, even if they cannot supply every hive that is needed this year.

To achieve this you need to visually assess your hives. The standard for this is 15 degrees Celsius and Full Depth frames that are $\frac{3}{4}$ covered with bees. Simply crack the lid of a single and look under the mat to see how they look. A double may need to have the honey box removed to look at the brood box. Any frames of bees in the honey box can also be included in your count. You may want to write their strength on the lid so that it is easier to remove weak ones before the move. This also allows you to see how the weaker hives perform when left at home to build numbers and the stronger ones are working hard on the almonds.



Don't send this to almonds.



Don't send this either.



Don't send this...its only 5 frames of bees. Leave it at home to grow.



Definitely don't send this.... here were no bees left to kill, so just irradiate/burn it!

Supplying a light feed of 1:1 sugar syrup just before or by the shortest day in June will stimulate hives to lay earlier than they otherwise may, which can enable weaker hives to become strong enough to send. You may need to provide them light sugar syrup regularly to get them laying and also supplemental pollen etc. depending on your conditions.

A ten frame box with 2 empty outer frames should just make the grade. On the other hand a 8 frame hive with 2 empty outer frames won't make it, so if you see that in late July then leave it at home.

If you suspect any hive is diseased (especially AFB/ EFB/Nosema/heavy chalkbrood) then don't send it to the almonds. Feeding sugar syrup often knocks off hives full of nosema, so best to take them to a location with good quality natural pollen and a light nectar flow, and don't expect much from them as their recovery time may be much of the season. Preventing nosema by minimising poor nutrition and stress in the new year is the best option, as otherwise these hives often fail in spring and you will impact them further by sending to an almond pollination.

Good luck with your hive preparations, be smart and don't send inappropriate hives to pollination jobs this season

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 rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au 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. <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>



CATCH THE BUZZ - MANUKA HONEY TO KILL DRUG-RESISTANT BACTERIA FOUND IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS INFECTIONS.

Manuka honey could provide the key to a breakthrough treatment for cystic fibrosis patients following preliminary work by experts at Swansea University.

Dr Rowena Jenkins and Dr Aled Roberts have found that using Manuka honey could offer an antibiotic alternative to treat antimicrobial resistant respiratory infections, particularly deadly bacteria found in Cystic Fibrosis (CF) infections.

Using lung tissue from pigs, experts treated grown bacterial infections mimicking those seen in CF patients with Manuka honey. The results showed that it was effective in killing antimicrobial resistant bacteria by 39% compared to 29% for antibiotics, whilst improving the activity of some antibiotics that were unable to function effectively by themselves, honey and antibiotics combined killed 90% of the bacteria tested.

CF is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited diseases, with around 10,400 people in the UK suffering according to the CF Trust. A government review led by Lord Jim O'Neill also highlighted the threat of antimicrobial resistance, estimating that a continued rise in resistance by 2050 would lead to 10 million people dying every year from antimicrobial resistant infections.

A problem that CF patients suffer from are chronic and long-lasting respiratory infections which often prove fatal due to the presence of certain bacteria that are resistant to many (if not all) the antibiotics that doctors currently have at their disposal.

Bacteria that cannot be removed from the lungs through antibiotic treatment can, as a last resort, be removed by

providing patients with newly transplanted lungs. This has some associated risks, however, as the bacteria that caused the original infection can still be found in the upper airway, and migrate into the new lungs, thus making the transplant ineffective.

Some patients have a worse prognosis as they are infected with deadly types of bacteria, such as *Pseudomonas* and *Burkholderia cepacia* complex, which are difficult to kill (due to multiple antibiotic resistance) and cause extensive damage to the lungs. In some instances, merely their presence within a patient can prevent them from receiving life-saving lung transplants.

The effectiveness of antibiotics against these deadly infections is a huge concern, making the need to find suitable, non-toxic alternatives, which are effective at killing the bacteria a top priority.

Honey has been used for thousands of years as a medicinal product. More recently, research has shown that Manuka honey is capable of killing antibiotic resistant bacteria present in surface wounds. Funding from The Waterloo Foundation and The Hodge Foundation has allowed research to look at it as an antibiotic alternative in CF infections.

Dr Rowena Jenkins, Lecturer in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at Swansea University, said:

"The preliminary results are very promising and should these be replicated in the clinical setting then this could open up additional treatment options for those with cystic fibrosis infections.

"The synergy with antibiotics and absence of resistance seen in the laboratory has allowed us to move into the current clinical trial, investigating the potential for Manuka honey as part of a sinus rinse for alleviating infection in the upper airway."



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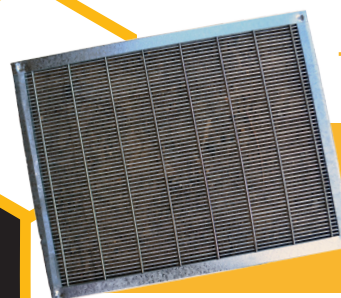


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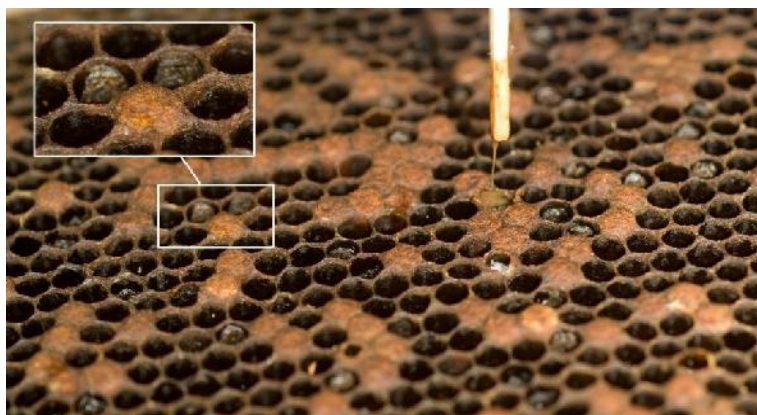
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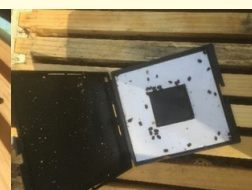
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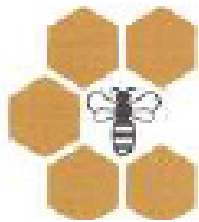
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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

Please be advised that the AHBIC AGM is being held on 29th June 2019 at Hotel Grand Chancellor in Launceston, Tasmania, from 9am – 2pm following the Tasmanian Beekeepers Association 74th Conference which is being held on Friday 28th June, also at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

27 April, PM pledges jail time for activists who target farmers, Tougher laws to crack down on extreme animal activists will be legislated in the first week of a re-elected Coalition government, according to Prime Minister Scott Morrison. The Prime Minister reiterated his support for the tougher policy to deal with anti-livestock industry activists, which was announced on April 10 by Attorney General Christian Porter

WA proves a sweet spot for beekeeping reported by Good Fruit and Vegetables, on 12th April. Beekeeping is having a meteoric rise in Western

Australia. The state now has more than 3,000 registered beekeepers. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) records show the number of registered beekeepers has tripled from 660 in 2010 to 3,005 beekeepers caring for more than 45,860 beehives. DPIRD livestock biosecurity director, Peter Gray, said the majority of the increase was attributable to amateur beekeepers with less than five hives. Read quotes from BICWA Chair and AHBIC Executive member Leilani Leyland in the article. But apparently, the news is not all good with prescribed burns affecting WA beekeepers who believe the forest is not what it used to be. Listen to segment Native honey industry beekeepers say prescribed burns leave forests with less frequent flowering, ABC News WA Country Hour, by Tyne Logan and Joanna Prendergast, 7 May 2019

Beekeeping is an industry that needs more skilled workers, and staff at the Tocal Agricultural College are working to get more Australians trained and working in the field. Honey bee traineeship development officer Kevin Tracy tells ABC Newcastle's Jenny Marchant about what the industry has to offer young people. Hunter Valley college buzzing with next generation of beekeepers, ABC On Breakfast with Jenny Marchant and Dan Cox, 30 April 2019

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Southern Tablelands Branch Annual General Meeting & Branch Meeting

Saturday 13 July commencing at 2pm

Goulburn Soldiers Club,
15 Market Street, Goulburn NSW

Our guest speakers for the Branch Meeting

Sarah Paradise
Executive Director of AHBIC

Liz Frost
Bee Breeding Project

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