

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2019

Another year has passed and once again I have to report on yet another extremely difficult season. The cumulative effects of several years of below average rainfall have resulted in many failed agricultural crops this past spring which created a dearth of colony build conditions in many areas although some isolated pockets allowed reasonable resources but most of these were short lived. Some production was gained from Yellow Box and Coastal Ironbarks but overall this season's yields have been below average. Bushfires and extended periods of high temperatures also contributed to colony stress and in northern NSW hives and resource lost in fires culminated in very little autumn production. The challenge for beekeepers now is to maintain hives over winter in a reasonable condition to take advantage of next spring.

The gaining of a 12 month fee waiver for public lands sites, along with the two years of free heavy vehicle registrations will hopefully alleviate some financial stress for all beekeepers in these difficult times.

Resource security continues to be the priority issue, the support desk is up and running but some agencies seem intent on delaying progress. The incoming executive will need to maintain dialogue with the relevant ministers to maintain our profile and push for increased access to our public resource. Unless we can secure increased access to a reliable natural resource maintaining colonies to service our states pollination requirements will be extremely difficult to achieve.

This past year you were represented by your association at ministerial meetings and submissions to Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs), Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals (IFOAs) and the Private Native Forestry Review (PNF) to secure access to our public and private native forest resource.

Government seem to be receptive to our concerns but are unwilling to commit to reducing overall timber supply to the detriment of our native forest resource. There has been some recent movement from this stand with the Federal Agriculture Minister stating that there needs to be a shift in current practices to accommodate apiary requirements in forests to maintain food security.

The future of Honeyland was in doubt earlier in the year, so your executive created a sub committee to oversee operations and I must say that the committee have exceeded my expectations and at time of writing this report seems to be on track to have a successful 2019 Show.

Therese Kershaw has been instrumental in securing partners for our conference along with substantial revenue that goes towards reducing registration fees and allows quality speakers to be invited. Thank you Therese for your continued invaluable support in organising both the partnership packages and the ever popular trade show. I urge all members to support those businesses that support your association.

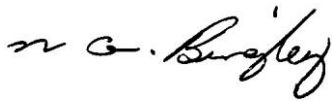
Thank you to secretary Ros and 2 Rivers Pty Ltd for your administrative support during the past year and perseverance with our website which has not progressed as smoothly as I had hoped, but we will get there soon.

Thank you to Vikki Bingley for editing our Magazine, the job can be trying at times especially when articles arrive late or the President adds items just prior to publication.

Your executive has worked tirelessly toward achieving our goals and I wish to convey my appreciation for their support during the year. My sincere thanks must go to retiring councillor and past President Casey Cooper for his unwavering contributions to your association through his involvement in the following committees: Honeyland , Bee Industry Biosecurity Consultative Committee (BIBCC) and the State Advisory Group (SAG).

Thank you to all members for supporting your association, without you our voice with Government would be severely diminished.

I will not be seeking re-election as President and thank you all for your support over the past 4 years. I will be remaining on the committee for my current term to support the incoming executive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Bingley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Neil Bingley