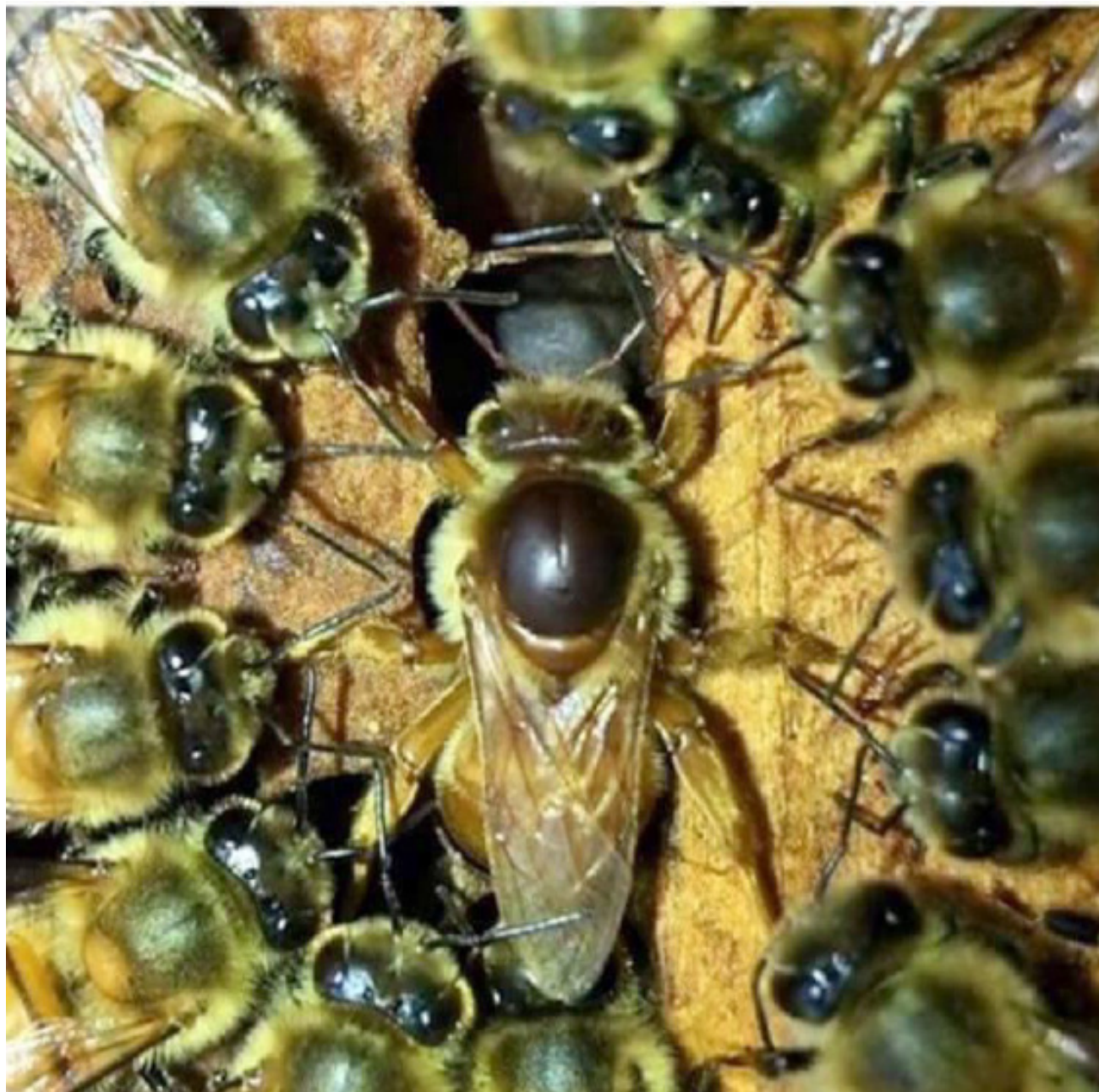


AUSTRALIA'S

# HONEYBEE NEWS

"The Voice of the Beekeeper"  
[www.nswaa.com.au](http://www.nswaa.com.au)

Volume 11 Number 6  
November - December 2018



*Merry*   
 *Christmas*

# DENMAR APIARIES

## ITALIAN

Prices effective from 1 July 2018

### UNTESTED

1-10 ..... \$28.00 each

11-49 ..... \$21.50 each

50+ ..... \$20.00 each

and isolated mated breeders = \$420.00



**Join now**

**TERMS 7 DAYS**

*Late Payments - Add \$4 Per Queen*

**PAYMENT BY: Cheque or Direct Debit**

*Details on ordering*

## QUEEN BEES

**PO Box 99 WONDAL Queensland 4606**

**Phone: 0448 690 064 Email: ausbee4@hotmail.com**



**John Covey**

Email: sales@coveybees.com.au

Ph: 0427 046 966

PO Box 72 Jimboomba QLD 4280

### Specialising in Caucasian Queen Bees

1 - 9	.....	\$32 ea
10 - 49	.....	\$28 ea
50 - 199	.....	\$25 ea
200 and over per season	.....	Discounts apply
Queen Cells	.....	\$6.60 ea - collect only

**Breeder Queens - \$550**

*Naturally mated on a remote island*

Post and Handling \$15 per dispatch under 50 qty.

Prices include GST

Valid September 2017 to March 2018

Terms: Payment 10 days prior to dispatch

## HONEY Down Under

LLOYD & DAWN SMITH

Committed to maximising returns to beekeepers

**Honey & Beeswax for sale?**  
*Call us for a quote*

Phone 07 3271 2830 Fax 07 3376 0017

Mobile 0418 786 158

136 Mica Street, Carole Park Qld 4300

Email: hdunder@bigpond.net.au

*COVER: Queen Retinue  
Photograph: Brett Bingley*





# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

The official Journal of the NSW Apiarists' Association (NSWAA) [www.nswaa.com.au](http://www.nswaa.com.au)

Published Bi-Monthly Email: [honeybeenews@icloud.com](mailto:honeybeenews@icloud.com) ISSN 1835 6621

## CONTENTS

Executive & Industry Contacts	Page 4	Sydney Royal National Honey Show Entries	Page 25
President's Report	Page 5	Vale Fred Benecke	Page 28
Condolences	Page 5	Fungus Provides Powerful Medicine in Fighting	
ACCC Press Releas - Audulterated Honey	Page 6	Honey Bee Viruses	Page 29
Catch the Buzz - NZ Honey Levy	Page 10	Marcus Oldham Leadership Course	Page 30
Doug's Column	Page 13	NSW DPI EOI Pilot Results & Feedback	Page 31
Apiary Industry Liaison Officer Training	Page 15	NSWAA Trade Show	Page 32
Frost Report	Page 19	Bee Biosecurity Officer Report	Page 36
Letter to the Editor	Page 22	Aussie Beekeepers USA Tour	Page 42
New Members	Page 22	Classifieds	Page 43
NSWAA Executive Summary	Page 23	AHBIC Update	Page 47
NSW DPI Online Biosecurity Course	Page 24	Beekeeper Journals	Page 50
Hotline Numbers	Page 24	Advertisers	Page 50
Honeyland Volunteers Needed	Page 25		

**Copy Deadline for Next Issue of Australia's Honeybee News  
23 January 2019**

## Pre-Paid Advertising Rates

	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE	QUARTER PAGE	EIGHTH PAGE
	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Colour</i>
<b>6 Issues</b>	\$2090.00	\$1180.00	\$640.00	\$380.00
<b>3 Issues</b>	\$1180.00	\$635.00	\$350.00	\$215.00
<b>1 Issue</b>	\$465.00	\$260.00	\$175.00	\$120.00

**Classified Ads up to 5 lines - \$40.00 (FREE TO MEMBERS)**

*Australia's Honeybee News* goes free of charge to NSWAA members. Subscriptions are welcome - within Australia \$65.00 Overseas (airmail) AUS\$95.00 - Payable to NSWAA, PO Box 5022 South Tamworth 2340 Australia Email: [info@nswaa.com.au](mailto:info@nswaa.com.au)

The opinions expressed in articles published in *Australia's Honeybee News* are those of the authors and do not imply the endorsement of the NSWAA for the promotion of any product, goods or services mentioned unless specifically stated.

**Editor:** Vikki Bingley PO Box 7425 Sutton NSW 2620  
**Advertising Enquiries:** Mobile: 0427 552 001 Email: [honeybeenews@icloud.com](mailto:honeybeenews@icloud.com)  
**Printer:** Impress Printers 2/55 Townsville Street Fyshwick ACT 2609  
 Phone: (02) 6280 4238 Email: [terry.impress@iinet.net.au](mailto:terry.impress@iinet.net.au)

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

**Note: Rates from 1 March 2017**

0 to	10 hives	\$100.00	1 vote
11 to	200 hives	\$200.00	2 votes
201 to	400 hives	\$300.00	4 votes
401 +	\$1.00 per hive		6 votes
700 +	\$1.00 per hive		8 votes
1001 +	\$1.00 per hive		10 votes
Over 1500 hives	\$1.00 per hive		12 votes
Affiliated/Retired/Student	\$65.00		1 vote
Honeybee News subscriber/member		\$65.00	0 vote

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Provide a means for the commercial apiarists of NSW to be represented through a common organisation
- Lobby to maintain access to essential floral resources
- Help to secure your Industry's future
- 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](mailto:jane.jones@wfi.com.au)
- SCHUTZ (Australia) Pty Ltd - IBCs special members' rate

# NSW APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION INC. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



*Stephen Targett, Casey Cooper, Roslynn (Ros) Riggs, Brian Woolfe, Steve Cunial & Neil Bingley*

**PRESIDENT:** Neil Bingley 101 Woodfield Rd SUTTON NSW 2620 Mob: 0428 487 105 Email: beez101@bigpond.net.au

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Stephen Targett PO Box 325 NARRANDERA NSW 2700 Mob: 0428 649 321  
Email: wally.56@hotmail.com

**Casey Cooper** Darby's Road TINGHA NSW 2369 Mob: 0428 233 551 Email: cooperbees@bigpond.com.au

**Steve Cunial** PO Box 771 GRIFFITH NSW 2680 Mob: 0448 627 291 Email: steve@cunialbeekeeping.com.au

**Brian Woolfe** 18 Dumaresq St GLEN INNES NSW 2370 Mob: 0429 032 019 Email: woolfe@exemail.com.au

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Roslynn (Ros) Riggs PO Box 267 MANILLA NSW 2346  
Mob: 0400 441 346 Email: info@nswaa.com.au Website: www.nswaa.com.au

## BRANCHES

**Central Tablelands**  
**Hunter Valley**  
**North Coast**  
**Northern Tablelands**  
**Riverina**  
**Southern Tablelands**  
**Sydney**  
**Tamworth**  
**Western Plains**

## PRESIDENTS

Mal Porter 02 6337 5383  
Col Wilson 02 4930 4950  
Barry Watts 02 6689 5359  
Richard Willis 0428 323 812  
David Mumford 02 6959 2519  
James Kershaw 0400 370 481  
Paul Drew 02 9887 1175  
Ray Hull 02 6760 3634  
Bryn Jones 02 6887 2638

## SECRETARIES

Debbie Porter 0429 375 383  
Contact President  
Col Maloney 02 6663 7051  
Glenn McConnell 02 6732 3222  
John Smith 02 6926 2227  
Judy Saxvik 0427 684 114  
Jane Flitter 0413 769 411  
Norm Maher 0447 603 245  
Lisa Mumford 02 6887 2638

## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (AHBIC)

**Chairman:** Peter McDonald Ph: 0427 722 167  
Email: prmcdonald@hotmail.com

**Executive Director:** Trevor Weatherhead Ph: 07 5467 2265  
Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au

Mailing address: PO Box 4253, Raceview QLD 4305

## HONEY BEE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (HBRDC)

Ms Margie Heath, Project Manager, RIRDC PO Box 4776, Kingston ACT 2604 Ph: 02 6271 4145  
Email: Margaret.Heath@rirdc.gov.au Website: www.rirdc.gov.au

## AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (AQBBA)

**Secretary:** Mrs Paula Dewar, 157 Lake Moogerah Road Kalbar QLD 4309 Ph: 07 5463 5633 Email: aqbba@bigpond.com

## CROP POLLINATION ASSOCIATION (CPA)

**Secretary:** Mrs Debbie Porter, 135 Eusdale Road Yetholme NSW 2795 Ph: 02 6337 5383 Email: debbie.porter3@hotmail.com

## HONEY PACKERS & MARKETERS ASSOCIATION (HPMAA)

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





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## President's Report December 2018

### Season

The big dry continues, but surprisingly in some isolated areas canola received enough moisture to yield a reasonable honey surplus. Yellow Box where budded has yielded well above what was expected, later flowering areas may be affected by the emergence of scarab beetles following some recent rainfall. Grey Ironbark on the coastal fringe has yielded fairly well albeit somewhat patchy in areas. The biggest challenge facing beekeepers now is maintaining colony strength.

There is very limited potential for production in Autumn but this may change with short budders on the coast receiving reasonable rains.

### Biosecurity

There have been numerous reports from members concerned by perceived inaction when reporting to DPIs Hotline. From my experience the lack of follow up once a disease report is submitted is unacceptable. It is my belief that unless beekeepers get a response from a DPI staff member in a timely manner then the reporting of Biosecurity matters will become a low priority.

On a brighter note, as far as actions are concerned, I am pleased to see compliance taking AFB seriously and cracking down on apiarists that continually take inappropriate hives to Almond pollination. The probability of colonies becoming infected is one of the main reasons other beekeepers shy away from the almonds.

### Conference

Our 2019 conference is to be held at the Panthers club in Bathurst on May 16 and 17.

There will be a half day business seminar on May 15, details for both will be published in the February Honeybee news.

### IFOAs

The Coastal Integrated Forestry Operation approvals have commenced. After receiving 3148 submissions the Government has approved the remade IFOAs. My concern is that although the apiary industry concerns were noted, I do not believe any major differences to current logging will be seen, especially when you read that although commenced, Forestry Corp. can continue to operate under the old IFOAs for an extended period of time.

By the time the new IFOAs are fully implemented there won't be much useful resource remaining in our forests.

### Next Meeting

The next executive meeting is to be held at Dubbo on February 22, 2019

### Season's Greetings

On behalf of the NSWAA Executive team I wish all members a joyous Christmas break and a prosperous 2019.

Neil Bingley  
President



Prices include GST:

1 - 10 .....	\$31.50 each
11 - 49 .....	\$29.00 each
50 - 100.....	\$27.00 each
OVER 100 (in total) ....	\$26.50 each
200 and over -	Discounts apply

Queen Rearing Manager: Rose Taylor - 0409 667 908

**Package bees available October to March...**

*Terms: Payment prior to delivery/pick-up*

FOR ORDERS OR ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

**ROSE and NICOLE TAYLOR / ROWENA**

**1800 024 432 FREE CALL** from anywhere in Australia  
(Call from anywhere in Australia for the price of a local call)

**IF UNANSWERED: (02) 6368 3788**

Or write: 58 Marshalls Lane, Blayney, NSW 2799  
Email: [aqbe@bigpond.com](mailto:aqbe@bigpond.com) / Fax: 02 6368 3799

## Condolences

**The NSWAA would like to pass on its condolences to Steve Targett and his family on the passing of Steve's father**

# **ACCC Press Release**

## **Honey investigation concludes due to testing uncertainty**

17 November 2018

The ACCC has concluded its investigation into allegations Capilano Honey Limited (Capilano) breached the Australian Consumer Law in relation to representations about its 'Allowrie' honey and other products. The investigation followed allegations in the media that a number of honey products including Capilano's 'Allowrie' honey, labelled 'pure' and '100% honey' were adulterated with sugar syrup.

The allegations were based on results arising from a testing process known as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) testing. NMR testing can be used for a variety of applications, but has only recently emerged as a testing method for honey adulteration.

The ACCC is advised NMR testing is not yet reliable enough to determine whether honey is adulterated and therefore should not be used as a basis to support legal action. This is consistent with the approach of regulators in the UK, US and the EU.

The ACCC's investigation found Capilano had taken steps to provide assurance, and did not uncover any other evidence that supported the allegation Capilano's 'Allowrie' honey was adulterated with sugar syrup. "During the course of our investigation however, it also became evident that there is low confidence in the current test method (the C4 test) used to detect adulterated honey.

"Governments and research agencies around the world are investigating alternative testing methods, including NMR, but these are not yet developed to the point they can be used with sufficient confidence," ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh said.

Since 2015, the Department of Agriculture has tested imported honey using the C4 test, which did not detect adulteration in 'Allowrie' honey or some supermarket private-label products.

"The ACCC understands that where there are different tests for honey products that produce different results, it can cause significant frustration among consumers and industry," Mr Keogh said.

"We understand the Department of Agriculture, which is best placed to determine the most appropriate form of honey testing, is reviewing testing standards."

"It's important that consumers have confidence in the claims made about the foods they purchase, including honey. The ACCC urges the honey industry and the Department of Agriculture develop an agreed approach to testing, and implement more robust programs to provide greater assurance about the integrity of their products," said Mr Keogh.

### **Background**

The allegations raised with the ACCC in September 2018 related to blended Australian and imported honey and not Capilano's Australian honey range. Consequently, the ACCC's investigation only focused on Capilano's blended imported and Australian honey product under the Allowrie and certain supermarket private label brands.

The inspection of imported honey is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture does not use NMR testing to test honey for adulteration.

Release number:  
235/18





## AUSTRALIA'S NO.1 BEEKEEPING LOADER

# BEE SMARTER. WORK SMARTER.

**Add efficiency, comfort and versatility with a multi-purpose loader from Avant Equipment Pty Ltd**

Manufactured in Finland to the highest specifications, these machines are reliable and well designed for access, safety and ease of maintenance. Free call 1800 686 411 to organise your obligation free demo!



- ✓ Ability to load the truck from one side using telescopic boom
- ✓ Huge lifting capacity up to 1500kg
- ✓ Park sideways across truck
- ✓ Optional air-conditioned cabin
- ✓ Self Levelling Boom
- ✓ Prompt delivery Australia wide

- ✓ All terrain 4wd with outstanding stability
- ✓ Backed by a Family business for over 25 years
- ✓ Save time and man power
- ✓ Easy to access and operate
- ✓ Over 200 attachments
- ✓ Easy finance options available



**1800 686 411 | [sales@avantequipment.com](mailto:sales@avantequipment.com) | [www.avantequipment.com](http://www.avantequipment.com)**



# PENDERS

BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

ABN 27 009 052 155

**72 Munibung Rd  
Cardiff 2285 NSW  
Australia**

**Suppliers of Beekeeping and  
Honey Processing Equipment**

Boxes, Frames and all Woodware  
Excluders - Welded Wire and Plastic

Stainless Steel Extractors  
Honey Tanks and Pumps

**Weathertex** - Covers and Bottom Boards, Special sizes available

Veils, Gloves, Overalls, Bee Suits and Jackets, Hive Tools, Brushes  
Hats, Smokers, Knives, Pails, Jars etc. all your beekeeping needs

We have a very extensive selection of books on all aspects of beekeeping

We buy and exchange wax for foundation. Good prices paid

**MAIL ORDER IS OUR SPECIALITY - PHONE FOR A PRICE LIST**

**Ph: (02) 4956 6166 Fax: (02) 4956 6399**

# EZYLoader

**Ezyloader 125** - 125kgs Suits light trucks

**Ezyloader 200** - 200kgs Suits medium to large trucks

**Ezyloader 300** - 300kgs Truck mounted  
Suits medium to large trucks

- Manufactured in Australia
- Unique levelling feature for ease of load handling
- Boom brake system – ease of under-supering and requeening
- Split boom for load positioning
- 6 Different models – remote control option
- Lifting capacity up to 500kg
- Small footprint—no wasted valuable load space
- Fully self contained and low maintenance
- One man operation with controls at the load
- Special range of attachments

All enquiries please contact Mark  
**SALES | SERVICE | REFURBISHMENT**

**M & K STAFFORD ENGINEERING PTY LTD**

2/48 Piper Drive Ballina NSW 2478

B 02 6686 9736 | F 02 6686 9736 | M 0412 426 132

[www.ezyloader.com](http://www.ezyloader.com) | [mail@ezyloader.com](mailto:mail@ezyloader.com)





Visit our new website  
[www.hummerbee.com](http://www.hummerbee.com)  
to learn about all of our  
other available models:

Rough Terrain Forklifts

**XRT XL XT<sub>2WD</sub>**

The classic Hummerbee  
just got even better...

## ***TURBO II***

The Hummerbee Turbo is now more powerful, smoother, and faster than ever. Now featuring 56 hp being produced by a Tier 4 emissions compliant, Kohler turbo diesel engine. Diesel exhaust fluid is NOT required.

More power, a new maintenance - free articulation joint, easy to use joystick mast controls, digital gauge display, a quieter, redesigned transfer case, and the highest lift capacity in its class while being even more compact than before, make the Turbo II the most exciting Hummerbee yet.

# **A & O FORKLIFT**

[www.hummerbee.com](http://www.hummerbee.com)



Call A&O Forklift to order today  
**800-943-8677**

# CATCH THE BUZZ

## NZ Honey Levy to Include Comb Honey, and Exclude Small Producers.



*Apiculture New Zealand board member and commercial apiarist Russell Marsh, of Ettrick, said the honey commodity levy was most important step the bee industry had taken in decades.  
Photo: Yvonne O'Hara*

Apiculture New Zealand (APINZ) has "tweaked" its proposal to introduce a commodity levy on honey, following consultation with the industry during the past three months.

The move to introduce the levy was the most important step the industry had taken in decades, Apiculture New Zealand board member and Ettrick commercial apiarist Russell Marsh said.

"We are the only agriculture/horticulture industry without any consolidated investment.

"We need to get in line with other industries and what they are doing.

"The reality is there are a lot of beekeepers who don't belong [to the industry body] or contribute to the industry.

"They are just profit-takers and the industry needs to be more mature than that.

"That model is not sustainable."

APINZ chief executive Karen Kos said the consultation process included holding nine meetings throughout the country.

"We got some pretty good feedback and we have taken it on board and have slightly revised the proposal," Ms. Kos said.

"People wanted more time to consider the proposal and they can still send feedback [on the amended version] until the end of December.

While APINZ would retain the 10c/kg commodity

levy for harvested honey, the proposal would also now include comb honey.

In addition, those producing less than 750kg of honey per annum would be excluded from paying the levy.

"Those with 26 or more hives are considered commercial beekeepers, and will pay it," she said. "That represents 95% of all hives."

Ms. Kos said there had also been some discussion about whether manuka honey should attract a higher levy.

"There was no practicality for a two-tiered levy system."

The "tweaked" proposal and voting papers will be sent out before February 1 and members will have a month to vote.

They expect the result will be known by about March 11 and if the outcome supports the proposal, an application for the commodity level will go to the Ministry of Primary Industries.

If that is approved, then a levy order can be expected to be in place by October 1, 2019.

Honey extractors will send data to APINZ by June of each year, an invoice will be generated and the levy must be paid by October 31.

The levy order will also allow the levy rate to be increased to a maximum of 15c/kg during the six years of the levy but only if there is a majority vote of levy payers.

Ms. Kos said they still anticipated raising about \$2million from the levy annually, with about 40% going to research, about 20% to biosecurity, 10% towards running the organization and the balance would be spent on bee health, advocacy, education, industry support, attracting new people, and leveraging funding from sources such as the Sustainable Farming Fund.

**Do you have a photo  
you would like to see on  
the cover of Australia's  
Honeybee News?**

**Send it in with a discription & the  
name of the photographer to  
honeybeenews@icloud.com  
You could have your photo on the  
next issue!**









# AUSSIE HIVES™

The better hive for higher production



The new Aussie Hive by Hasson's Hives Australia is robust yet light with excellent thermal insulation for healthier, stronger, more productive bees. It needs virtually no maintenance and will outlast any other hive on the market.



-  Food-grade polymer reduces hive disease and eliminates paint contamination
-  Polymer is water resistant for drier hives
-  Industry standard 10 frame
-  Strong, lightweight, no-maintenance construction
-  Insulated to control internal hive temperature, support brood development and reduce stress on bees
-  Increases honey production

Prove it for yourself! Place your order now to ensure delivery of your Aussie Hives by Spring.  
And look forward to increased honey production!

T/F 03 5664 8382 E [shayo@sympac.com.au](mailto:shayo@sympac.com.au) W [www.aussiehive.com.au](http://www.aussiehive.com.au)



## AUSTRALIAN QUEEN BEE LINE PTY LTD

ABN 88610746257 ACN:610746257

### Italian and Carniolan Queens

1 - 10 -----	\$30.00 each plus postage
11 - 49 -----	\$28.00 each
50 - 99 -----	\$26.00 each
Over 100 (in total) ---	\$25.00 each
200 and over -----	\$24.00 each



Prices GST Inclusive.

Postage & Handling applies for orders under 11

Terms: Payment prior to dispatch

Terms & Conditions apply. EFTPOS facility available

For Orders or Enquiries contact Charlie & Brenda Casido / Mely

Address: 21 Leewood Drive, Orange NSW 2800 or PO Box 80, Orange NSW 2800

Office Hours: 9.00am - 5.00pm Mon - Fri Ph: (02) 6369 0565 Fax: (02) 6369 0575

Email: [info@australianqueenbeeline.com.au](mailto:info@australianqueenbeeline.com.au) Web: [www.australianqueenbeeline.com.au](http://www.australianqueenbeeline.com.au)

Before & After Office Hours: Mobile 0434 353 301

**The industry benchmark in beekeeping equipment  
& stainless steel manufacturing. Creating the largest  
Automated Honey Extractors in the world!**



### Horizontal Extractors

- 36 to 60 frame 3 bank • 48 to 144 frame 4 bank
- 198 frame 6 bank • Twin Systems
- Automated self loading machines
- Wax Melters – 200 ltr to 750 ltr
- Reducers - 1200 to 1800
- Capping spinner • S/S vane pumps
- Centrifuge • Heat exchange
- Storage tanks • Mixing/heating tanks

*Prestige  
Stainless*

1994 Finlay Road (P.O. Box 187) Tongala Victoria 3621

P: +61 3 5859 1492 • F: +61 3 5859 1495

E: info@prestigestainless.com

[www.prestigestainless.com.au](http://www.prestigestainless.com.au)



# BUYING NOW



**Beechworth Honey now  
sourcing Australian  
Beeswax direct from  
beekeepers**

A Grade Quality Australian Beeswax

**Please contact Steven Goldsworthy**

**Mobile: 0419 559 242 • Office: 02 6033 2322**



*100% Australian honey... always!*



**THE POLLEN SUBSTITUTE THAT  
WORKS!**

**The only product that closely  
emulates natural pollen for better hive  
development**

100% natural plant products, contains no

pollen or hive products

Doubles brood rearing

Doubles colony population

Doubles Honey Crop

Use it for hives going into pollination

Use it to build strong Nucs

**David & Tracey Parker  
(02) 6368 5889**

**cotbrook7@bigpond.com**

**Dave 0428829237**

**[www.feedbee.com](http://www.feedbee.com)**

**The proof is in the results!**



The Revolutionary  
**BLUEBEES Brood Box Bottom Boards**

for 8 to 10 Frame Hives

[www.bluebees.com.au](http://www.bluebees.com.au)

*"Prevention is Better Than Cure"*

**CHEMICAL FREE** - Pests become resistant  
to pesticides, bees suffer, honey & wax are polluted.  
Bluebees Boards curtail chemical use, your honey remains natural!

- Suppresses humidity & deprives the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) breeding conditions in the hive
- Facilitates dry & clean hives with strong & healthy bees, best bottom board for pollination
- Empowers bees to hunt & eject interloping pests such as: SHB, Wax Moth & Varroa - (not yet in Australia), as well as debris from the hive



Made in Australia to Professional Beekeeper Standards  
Winner 2012 - Bendigo Inventor Award for  
Agriculture and Environment Sustainability

**Contact:** J-Pierre Mercader (Proprietor) **Phone:** 0412 541 060

**Email:** jpm@bluebees.com.au **Website:** [www.bluebees.com.au](http://www.bluebees.com.au)

Protected by The Australian Federal Government IP Design 14/221/2010 & 14/222/2010. Extended till November 2020.



# DOUG'S COLUMN

*Doug Somerville*

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



## DROUGHT

The word 'drought' has many meanings in the bee world. Beekeepers experiencing no rain for a week on the NSW North Coast are in a drought (tongue in cheek), while beekeepers experiencing little or no rain in much of the southern region of NSW for 6 to 12 months are in a drought!

Drought is traditionally a measure of the impact of no rain on pasture growth, thus the top 30 to 60 cm of soil. This has a direct impact on the health and availability of flowering herbs, usually weeds. There are many, many plants with relatively shallow root systems that provide pollen and/or nectar to honey bees. Without these plants bees struggle nutritionally and, in some cases, may perish.

Other plants with deep root systems eg. trees, can escape the impact of a surface water drought as long as subsoil moisture levels are satisfactory. That is the real problem at present, the subsoil moisture levels are at extreme lows.

How do you tell? Firstly, there is no fresh or new growth on the trees. Secondly, small trees and shrubs start to die, and thirdly, more sizeable trees die or whole branches of leaves die. Of course some trees are more susceptible to moisture stress than others.

On the South Coast for instance, river peppermint, where it is not directly accessing alluvial soils with reliable water, will die. Forest red gum, on the other hand, will survive reasonably well in the same circumstance.

In order to yield nectar stringybarks generally require good rain just before they flower and are generally regarded as shallow rooted. Not sure about the shallow rooted aspects because you often see a clump of remnant red stringybark growing in some of the harshest conditions on the tablelands.

While dry, warm conditions are conducive for bees to fly, some plants yield well and others don't. What plants do what under certain circumstances is down to your knowledge of the eucalypts, particularly in your area.

Yellow box has a reputation for yielding well during hot dry conditions, but preferring cooler nights. Other trees, such as river red gum, may cease producing nectar if they experience extreme hot, dry conditions.

Often the more important drought effect is in the lack of new growth and subsequent budding of eucalypts. Thus, once a regular reliable rainfall pattern returns, eucalypts will go into a growth phase then produce buds. The whole budding phase on average takes 12 months. A

few eucalypts carry buds for a few months and others for 24 months or thereabouts. Even so, most fall into the 12 month bracket.

The irony of a drought breaking, i.e. plentiful rain to rejuvenate pasture and paint the landscape green, is that beekeepers will have to wait at least another 12 months or longer to experience flowering from many of the eucalypt species.

So what must a beekeeper do? If you are mobile, like most professional beekeeping business in the Australian context are, then you may need to have a good look at the country you work to see what prospects there may be. Often in these circumstances there are, what I refer to as, second or third tier plants that are not regarded as prolific or reliable under normal conditions.

If that fails, then you should have already started to be conservative with the way you manage your bees. Leaving a super or box of honey on each hive is always a good strategy. This requires the beekeeper to have two or three honey supers per hive to be able to add and remove boxes of honey as they fill.

In the yellow box case, I've heard of good honey flows being obtained during drought conditions, but the bee colonies go backwards. Why? No pollen!

Protein supplementary feeding is becoming more and more common in Australian beekeeping. Provision of protein supplements should not be confined to one particular time of year, it is more about what the bees need and when. Feeding protein supplements should be practised whenever there is a major shortage of fresh pollen in the field and stored pollen is diminishing within the hive.

Remember to record protein supplementary feeding in your diary and ensure that your honey packer/buyer knows you are carrying out this practice. Why? Because the chemical tests being used to detect adulterated honey will be affected by foreign protein in the honey and provide a false positive for C4 sugars. I'll leave that story there, but this area of beekeeping science needs a lot more coverage.

Some beekeepers advocate for no supplementary feeding practices. I am not one of them. Allowing your bees to be depleted, or even die, to avoid feeding them seems to me to border on animal cruelty. While I'm not sure how this concept applies to bees, we maximise just about all our animal enterprises by supplementary feeding when and if the animal requires it. I'm thinking chooks, pigs,

cattle, sheep etc. So why are bees any different?



*Starved Bees*

I won't get too much into protein supplementation, only to say that:

- you can feed in the hive or outside, both have advantages and disadvantages
- it can be expensive, with few or little measurable results
- fresh ingredients are always best
- there are a range of 'products' all making various claims, the fact is we do not know exactly what a bee's complete nutritional needs are
- palatability (attractiveness) is the prime consideration
- other problems may arise, e.g. small hive beetle in the hive with patties, wild pigs with open feeding
- continue to monitor your brood to see if the protein supplementation is having a positive effect on the colony.

Protein feeding is secondary to the carbohydrate situation. Have the bees got adequate stored honey?

Yes - then leave it on them.

No - then consider feeding sugar.

Feeding sugar can be done in a multiple number of ways. How you feed and what the concentration of sugar is will impact on the response of the colonies.



*Dry sugar*

Dry sugar does not stimulate the colony and has been used historically by some beekeepers to feed bees in drought. The dry sugar crystals can be supplied in a frame feeder, under the lid or in some other container on

or within the hive. This will provide the colonies with a carbohydrate source to keep them alive. I first saw this being done in SA during summer drought conditions.



*Dry sugar on inner lid*

Concentrated sugar syrup will be a two parts sugar to one part water. Bees are not particularly stimulated by this mix, but they will readily store the syrup. This requires the bees to take up and process the syrup, usually within a week. Any longer and fermentation may become an issue. The surface of syrup attracts moisture from the atmosphere and may provide conditions where yeast growth can then prosper. Usually thick syrup is fed in large quantities of at least 5 to 10 litres per colony, a very common practice in the autumn in many beekeeping countries around the world.

Thin sugar syrup is not recommended for a drought strategy. Thin syrup is one part sugar to one part water or even thinner. This produces a stimulus to the colony and promotes brood rearing and colony expansion. Possibly not the response you are after, although maybe it is.

Thin syrup is usually fed in lots of one to two litres, once or twice a week, to promote brood rearing.

Ants could become a problem when feeding or providing sugar. Consider what or how you are going to deal with them so that doesn't impact on your bees.

All of these supplementary feeding activities have a cost in ingredients, time or extra equipment to feed out. What is your goal or aim? What are you trying to achieve? When and where is the next likely flowering event so you can opt out of expensive supplementary feeding?

Other factors to consider, particularly during droughts, are water and fire. The average colony of bees consumes a litre of water per day. Once atmospheric temperatures get into the late 30°C and 40°C then just about all field bees are now water gathers. To be effective in this task to keep water up to the hive, the hives need to be within 100–200 metres of a water source.

In these really hot conditions, the radiant heat off the ground surface can be considerably hotter than the atmospheric temperatures. Placing hives under shade will help the bees in extremely hot conditions.

Fire is the other major concern. A bare paddock with no grass is likely to be your friend. Many apiaries will be placed in forested sites that don't afford such protection.



Clearing vegetation from around apiaries may afford sufficient protection to save the hives if a fire does engulf an apiary site. When a forest is particularly dry, such as during drought conditions, then fire risk to any particular apiary site should be of paramount consideration.

Ironically, you should also consider the eventual arrival of rain. More than once, beekeepers have been caught out by placing apiaries in various locations, then after rainfall find access to the site a problem.

General predictions are that the drought conditions being experienced may impact on honey yields for at least the next two years and possibly reduce the honey crop by 30% or more. But then it might rain and I am always amazed how beekeepers can find something for their bees.

NB: Carl, have I covered the subject?

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

## Apiary Industry Liaison Officer Training (ILO)

On the 10 and 11 September Stephen Targett and myself travelled to Melbourne and attended the ILO Training, which is a nationally accredited training exercise.

The training was initiated by the VIC Department of Agriculture and the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC). We must thank Daniel Martin from the VIC Department of Agriculture and Peter McDonald AHBIC Chair for their role in instigating and preparing the exercise.

The last ILO Training was undertaken ten years ago.

17 Beekeeper representatives attended with 2-3 members from each State and Territory.

The aim of the ILO training was to prepare industry reps to liaise with a State's Biosecurity Operations Centre in the event of a honey bee industry emergence response such as a Varroa Mite incursion.

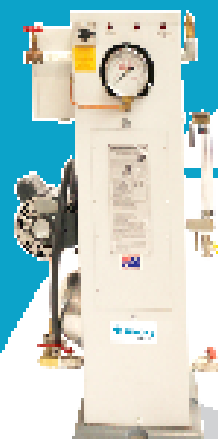
As part of our training exercise we used the real-life scenario of the June inception of Varroa in the Port of Melbourne. This exercise highlighted the need for communication between the ILO and Government (National, State or Territory) in the decision making process of such an incursion.

All beekeeper participants enjoyed the training exercise and it was felt it would be beneficial to carry out further training on a State basis in preparation of such an exotic pest invasion.

Brian Woolfe

# Steam

For decapping, extractors, wax reducer & wash down



## Fully Automatic Electric Steam Boilers

Model shown ranges from 3kW to 42kW

- Steam output from 0.3 to 66.5kg/hr.
- Models range from 1/3 h.p. (3kW) to 46 h.p. (42kW).

## Advantages

- Fast steam rising
- Compactly packaged & self contained, no plant room required
- 99% Thermal efficiency
- Low capital & low installation costs
- No boiler attendant required *(step regulation may limit maximum capacity)*
- Simple installation requires only connection of water & electricity
- No flue - no fire - no risk of explosion - no fumes or smell
- No oil storage tank - no oil deliveries
- Clean equipment & work area
- Can be installed adjacent to steam appliance in workshop
- Quiet & reliable operation - low maintenance cost
- Simple to operate & maintain - no sophisticated burner/grippers/draft controls - no fire brick maintenance
- Corrosion resistant, no tubes, gaskets or stays - no heat transfer surfaces
- Low heating element replacement cost
- All spare parts available in stock
- Comprehensive operating & maintenance instructions, wiring & piping diagrams accompany each boiler



1/31 Mellick Street  
Alexandria NSW 2015  
Ph: (02) 8338 8800  
Fax: (02) 8338 8861

Authorised agent  
covering NSW  
31 Strong Street  
Therong, NSW 2894  
Ph 080 888 8788  
Agents in all other states

[www.simonsboilers.com.au](http://www.simonsboilers.com.au)

# LYSON

**BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES AUSTRALIA**

**CONTACT:**

Send us an email: [info@lysonau.com.au](mailto:info@lysonau.com.au)

Visit our website: [www.lysonau.com.au](http://www.lysonau.com.au)

Give us a call: 0467 233 292 or 0407 070 670

Visit us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/lysonau](http://www.facebook.com/lysonau)

**WE SUPPLY EVERYTHING FOR BEEKEEPERS  
FROM HOBBY TO COMMERCIAL**



**Optima Processing Line**

40 frame extraction line

**Special Introductory**

**Price**

**\$38,000**



We sell the following products:

Polystyrene Hives

Nucleus Hives

Mating Hives

Travelling Hive Boxes

Feeders (hive & stand alone)

Honey Extraction Equipment

(2 frame up to 80 frame)

Honey Bottlers (manual to auto)

Suits, Veils & Gloves

Bee Tools

Cleaning Agents

Candle Moulds

Candle Making Supplies

Capping Extruders

Wax Melters

Settler Tanks up to 2000L with

or without heating & mixer

Dehydraters & Creamers

Queen Breeding Equipment

Queen Rearing Equipment

Honey Sumps & Filters

Pollen Dryers

and much, much more....



# SA BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES

2 Gawler River Rd, Lewiston SA 5501

Food Grade Plastic Foundations

Full Depth - W.S.P - Manley

Mahurangi Frames to suit

8Fr & 10Fr W/Wire excluders

Beautifully made

Heavy Duty Hive-locks

Discount on pallet lots

**Gary & Cynthia Brown**

Ph/Fax: (08) 8380 9695

Mob: 0429 806 609

Email: [beekeep2@bigpond.com.au](mailto:beekeep2@bigpond.com.au)



**B-QUAL**  
Your guarantee  
for quality  
and hygiene



[www.bqual.com.au](http://www.bqual.com.au)

**B-QUAL**  
Industry Owned Quality Assurance System

**HOW DOES B-QUAL CERTIFICATION BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?**

- Product integrity
- Quality Assurance
- HACCP based certification
- Regulatory Compliance
- Industry best practice
- Biosecurity
- Access to domestic & export markets

B-QUAL Certification also enables an enterprise to market its product under the B-QUAL logo to show that it meets the B-QUAL Industry Standards

Complete your training at home at your own pace!

For more information and to obtain a Certification Information Pack contact the B-QUAL Certification team  
[www.bqual.com.au](http://www.bqual.com.au)  
 AUS-QUAL Pty Ltd  
 Phone (07) 3361 9200 | Toll Free Number 1800 630 890  
 email: [bqual@ausqual.com.au](mailto:bqual@ausqual.com.au)



Bee frames. Built well.

02 6691 8100  
[wellbees.org.au](http://wellbees.org.au)

**Order  
now!**

Quality bee frames crafted by skilled Australians with disability.

- ▶ Made from certified Australian hoop pine
- ▶ Standard sizes and custom orders
- ▶ Lightweight, strong and durable
- ▶ No order too small or large



**WELL BEES PRODUCE THE BEST HONEY**



powered by







## Honey Pails

- Tamper Evident
  - ◆ 1.0kg, 1.5kg, 3.0kg(2.2ltr), 4Ltr, 5Ltr Clear
  - ◆ 10Ltr, 15Ltr, 20Ltr White
- \*\* Also available in Non Tamper Evident Pails



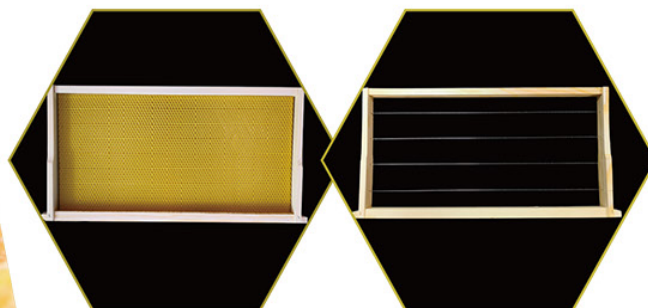
## Jars & Squeezes

- 250g, 500g Square Jars
- 300ml Twist & Squeeze
- 500g Squeeze (Honey Comb)
- 250g, 500g Amber Jars
- \*\* All jars come with pressure seal wadding.



## Frames

- Assembled Full Depth with Foundation
- Assembled Full Depth with Wire



## CALL OR VISIT US

Clayton Plastics  
5 Lydia Court Epping VIC 3076  
Business Hours 9am-4pm

**PHONE: 03 8401 4248**

**FAX: 03 8401 4969**

**sales@claytonplastics.com.au**

**www.claytonplastics.com.au**

# THE FROST REPORT

Elizabeth Frost

Acting Technical Specialist, Honey Bees

Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries

T: 02 4939 8821 M: 0437 731 273 E: [elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



## Record keeping: Taking stock

Record keeping is vital to professional beekeeping, for traceback in the event of disease, quality assurance compliance, tracking floral resources and, for any queen breeding program, selection of production traits like honey production, brood pattern, chalkbrood incidence, etc. Before I came to Australia, hive record keeping was a required job task during my two seasons with the Bee Informed Partnership's Midwest and California Tech Teams in 2012 and 2013. On these teams I worked with commercial beekeepers in California, North Dakota and Minnesota, monitoring a small percentage of hives from several loads throughout their season mainly for pests (Varroa, small hive beetle), diseases (Nosema, chalkbrood, American foulbrood, European foulbrood, viruses, etc.), and strength (brood pattern, frames of bees, weight). The California Tech Team worked specifically with queen breeders and also tested hives for hygienic behaviour while it was up to the beekeeper to record honey production numbers given this generally occurred out of California across multiple Western states.

When taking hive records, especially for spring and autumn (minimum!) brood checks, it's important that record keeping is your main task on that apiary visit. Don't allow other tasks that need doing distract you from checking every frame with brood on it. For example, if you miss one cell of American foulbrood (AFB) because you didn't check every brood frame and proceeded to split that colony, you'll pay for it down the track by losing at least two colonies to this fatal, notifiable bacterial disease. To keep your records safe from weather, honey, wax and bee faeces, consider buying a storage clipboard and put each completed record sheet away once you've filled it in. A storage clipboard is also handy for storing multiple pens/pencils in case one gets broken or runs out, blank record sheets and to stop record sheets from blowing away. Note the photo below of beekeeper Chris Kulhanek (left) and I (right) assessing a commercial beekeeper's hives who is part of the Midwest Bee Informed Partnership in Minnesota summer of 2013. In this instance we've got our storage clipboard, record sheet and sampling tools within arm's reach and have already placed sampling vials on our next pallet of hives. Most professional beekeepers have broader shoulders than me so I'd advise working on opposite sides of the pallet, if you take records with another person and your hives are palletised that is.



The apiary record sheet below is an example for your consideration. While we all need to keep records of our twice annual spring and autumn brood checks for pests and diseases, additional records taken are up to the beekeeper. What records in the sheet below would be useful to your operation? If you want to breed queens and increase production traits you should definitely be collecting some records on honey production every season so you know which hives are your best producers to graft and raise drones from. If you see a pest or disease on the list below and you're not sure what it looks like, it's time to study the following resources which will help you with identification:

- [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees)
- [www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications/list/agskills/agguide-healthy-bees](http://www.tocal.nsw.edu.au/publications/list/agskills/agguide-healthy-bees)
- [beeaware.org.au](http://beeaware.org.au)

With timely management and appropriate record keeping, you'll set yourself up for success on the next honey flow. I hope your hives have a productive holiday period and you and yours have a good one. Please copy the below apiary record sheet to your heart's content or email me and I'll send you an editable copy.





APIARY RECORD					
Apiary Name: _____		Beekeeper/Assessor: _____			
Date : _____		Temperature: _____		Weather: _____	
Observation/ Management Task	Colony #	Colony #	Colony #	Colony #	Colony #
Queen origin					
Queen status					
# of supers					
Colony Population (EX: frames of bees)					
Temperament					
Brood: amount					
Brood: pattern					
Disease/Pest: American foulbrood					
: European foulbrood					
: Chalkbrood					
: Sacbrood					
: Small Hive Beetle (adult/larva)					
: Wax Moth					
Work					
Swarm cells					
Honey Removed					
Foundation + or -					
Honey Stores/Weight					
Pollen Stores					
Pest & Disease Monitoring					
Small hive beetle trap changed					
Sugar shake test					
Sticky mat					
Drone uncapping					
Brood frame checks					
See an unusual pest or disease system?					
Contact Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881					

## APIARY RECORD SHEET GLOSSARY

Observation/ Management Task	Definition
Queen origin	The source of the queen. What queen breeder produced this queen? Is this a supersedure queen (i.e.-the original queen has swarmed and a daughter has replaced her)?
Queen status	QS=queen seen, eggs+= queen not seen, but likely to be present, QL=queen less, no queen present, DL=drone layer, the colony is hopelessly queenless, multiple worker-laid eggs/cell
# of supers	The quantity and type of supers above a queen excluder on top of the broodnest. "1-FD 10F"= one full-depth 10 frame super. "1-ideal 10F"= one ideal depth 10 frame super. "1-FD 8F"= one full-depth 8 frame super.
Colony Population (EX: frames of bees)	Number of frames completely covered with bees
Temperament	Can be described or valued on a number scale (i.e. -1=aggressive, 2=average, 3=calm/best temperament). Poor=needs to be relocated away from public places and/or requeened.
Brood: amount	Quantity of frames with brood present
Brood: pattern	On a scale of 1-5 how solid is the brood pattern? 1=very little brood and spotty/shotgun pattern. 5= solid brood pattern, i.e.-very few empty cells on a frame of capped brood.
Disease/Pest: American foulbrood	American foulbrood disease must be notified to State apiary regulatory officer and hive killed and equipment irradiated or burned and buried as per the Australian Honey Bee Industry Code of Practice.
: European foulbrood	European foulbrood is recorded by number of brood cells affected or by a description (i.e.-early stage, advanced stage)
: Chalkbrood	Chalkbrood is rated by number of cells affected or a description (i.e. 10 cells+, "Bad chalk," +, ++, +++, etc.)
: Sacbrood	Is sacbrood present? Yes or No.
: Small Hive Beetle	Are Small Hive Beetle adults present? Yes or No.
: Wax Moth	Is wax moth present? Yes or No. (Indication of a weaker hive)
Wax	New wax present? Burr or brace comb present?
Swarm cells	How many swarm cells are present and did you leave them?
Honey Removed	If honey was removed how much? (i.e.-# of frames, # of supers)
Foundation + or -	Was foundation added and frame(s) removed?
Honey Stores/Weight	Rated on a scale of 1-5 or Light, Average, Heavy, Needs Extracting, etc.
Pollen Stores	Rated as Poor, Good, Excellent or by frame area if breeding for increased pollen collection
Pest & Disease Monitoring	
Small hive beetle trap changed	Record date changed and type of trap
Sugar shake test	Record date of sugar shake test and report unusual pest or disease to Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881
Sticky mat	Record date sticky mat changed and report unusual pest or disease to Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881
Drone uncapping	Record date of drone uncapping and report unusual pest or disease to Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881
Brood frame checks	Record date of brood frame checks and observations above. Report unusual pest or disease to Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881

## ***Letter to the Editor***

I recently attended one of 26 workshops being conducted throughout NSW - hosted as a joint initiative of NSW Police and NSW Farmers - "Tackling Rural Crime" presented by Rural Crime Prevention Team of the NSW Police.

The primary focus I had in attending was the legalities surrounding the use of surveillance cameras/video etc for the security/prosecution for crimes used in the beekeeping industry. The stories of bee hive thefts appear to be gaining in numbers each week and is quite alarming.

Some points I brought home from the workshop in relation to surveillance which should be of interest to members of the beekeeping industry are:

You are permitted to place recording/camera surveillance devices anywhere on YOUR OWN PROPERTY - regardless where the image capture is pointed. There IS NO requirement for signage to be posted nor do you need to provide notification of recording/capturing images even if the captured subject is outside your private property boundary.

The exceptions are that the image capture may not invade the personal privacy of neighbours private living spaces (bedrooms/bathrooms etc), and that where you have employees on your property/workplace/premises they must be notified of there being surveillance/recording devices in place and of the location of such devices.

I raised the question in relation to the nature of bee-sites - the majority of which are either held on Public Lands sites under permit, or by private agreement on private lands not owned by the beekeeper - what rights the beekeeper may have in being able to place surveillance upon their apiary when the property is not their own.

You may place surveillance devices on lands not your own IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE LAND OWNER. In the case of Public Lands sites - this would require you as the permit holder to approach the permitting land agency and request Ministers Consent (I do not think it would be sufficient authority of the agency ranger or admin person to be enabled to provide such permission but I'd be more than happy to be proven wrong on that score) to allow surveillance devices be used on those public lands sites.

In the case of having bee sites on privately held lands - it would require permission from the land owner - with them being required to notify their employees of the potential use of surveillance devices and the location of same.

So - for anyone already having surveillance devices located at your apiaries - ensure you have the adequate permissions for the use of them.

Another point of interest is that images/footage captured is best presented in the first instance to the NSW Police

- Rural Crime Prevention Team (RCPT) -and refrain from sharing said images/footage to wider media sources - the information contained therein may be useful to the Police in wider investigation that they may be working on, should the footage/images etc be released to other media sources it may cause for a prosecution for that one incident but may jeopardise a wider ongoing investigation.

Police may well provide you with the advice that it would not be detrimental to a wider case if you were to release footage but it would be best to wait until they provide such advice.

Within NSW there are 3 higher command regions of the Rural Crime Prevention Team with Rural Crime Investigators spread throughout those regions. Search for the locations nearest you on: [www.nsw.police.nsw.gov.au/safety\\_and\\_prevention/safe\\_and\\_secure/rural\\_crime/locations\\_of\\_rural\\_crime\\_investigators](http://www.nsw.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/safe_and_secure/rural_crime/locations_of_rural_crime_investigators)

There may not be an RCPT Investigator at your closest town - but they do cover their wider regions command and will direct officers as required to your report.

We are all urged to report any malicious damage/theft etc regardless how meaningless we may think it is - the RCPT can build profiles of the areas of need and rising trends in rural crime only if it's reported.

Non-emergency report - phone 131444 or Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 - mention that it's in relation to Rural Crime and request response from the RCPT Investigator in your area - keep in mind the RCPT investigators may not be the ones to attend in person, but may direct local NSW Police officers to conduct initial investigations.

For any emergency situation always call 000 and ask for Police and Rural Crime Prevention Team to respond.

Hoping some of this info is useful to some.

Regards  
Suellen Weiss

## **Welcome to New Members**

**Brett Wilson - Glenn Innes  
NSW**

**John Scott - Hill Top NSW**



# NSWAA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Meeting 28 November 2018 at Tocal

- Casey Cooper has commenced work with Northern Tablelands Local Lands Services with the aim of GPS co-ordination of bee sites on Travelling Stock Routes in the Northern Tablelands.
- NSWAA will be submitting letter to Minister Tooles Re: dissatisfaction with Integrated Forestry Operations (IFOA) - extensive lead time and implementations.
- Stephen Targett and Brian Woolfe attended Industry Liaison Officers training in Melbourne on 11/12 September 2018
- NSWAA Executive are continuing to liaise with Nick Geoghegan, Program Coordinator, Apiary Sites, NSW DPI with regard to Apiary Sites on Public Lands and the Terms and Condition including renewal and allocation, EOI Pilot Survey Result, Challenges. Nick Geoghegan was unable to address the recent NSWAA meeting in person but an electronic link up at the meeting allowed members of the Executive to be advised of progress and put forward any questions and concerns.
- Positive feedback has been received with regard to the Bee Site Fee Waiver.
- Brian Woolfe is following up on the NPWS, Pilliga AWC and subsequent relocation of bee sites.
- Neil Bingley has attended a meeting with the review committee - Private Native Forestry (PNF) Terms of reference.
- Neil Bingley to attend meeting in Canberra 27 November – RFA's
- New Honeyland Committee has been appointed and Casey Cooper has been working with them in respect of the 2019 Honeyland at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
- Stephen Targett and Steve Cunial have been overseeing 2019 Conference Tradeshow and prospective Partnerships, which is being coordinated by Therese Kershaw
- BBO Rod Bourke was invited to address the latest NSWAA meeting giving an insight to what he has been dealing with. Of particular concern was that the Code of Practice was being ignored and advised that he was more than happy to do biosecurity compliance course with NSWAA branches to assist members with compliance as well endeavouring to do more with industry issues.



## Online biosecurity course for beekeepers

The Biosecurity for Beekeepers online BOLT course covers activities that prevent the spread of endemic and exotic pests and diseases within beehives.

The **Biosecurity for Beekeepers** course, which takes about 90 minutes to complete, covers:

- checking hives for pests and diseases
- identifying exotic and established pests and diseases of honey bees
- taking action after finding a serious pest or disease in their hive
- minimising the impact of pests and diseases on their hives.

For beekeepers with less than 50 hives the cost to do the course is \$20.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice requires commercial beekeepers (with 50 or more hives) to complete such an approved biosecurity training course every three years. For NSW registered beekeepers with 50+ hives they can do the course for free by emailing NSW Bee Biosecurity Officer Rod Bourke to obtain a token code. Please supply names of beekeepers requiring a code, a MOB number and NSW Bee Brand to [Rod.Bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Rod.Bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Visit the BeeAware website for more information on the:

- Biosecurity for Beekeepers training course ([beeaware.org.au/training](http://beeaware.org.au/training))
- Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice ([beeaware.org.au/code-of-practice](http://beeaware.org.au/code-of-practice))
- Bee Biosecurity Officers in each state and territory ([beeaware.org.au/national-bee-biosecurity-program](http://beeaware.org.au/national-bee-biosecurity-program))

The Biosecurity for Beekeepers course is delivered by [Plant Health Australia](#) through funding from the [Australian Honey Bee Industry Council](#). The development of the course was funded by AgriFutures

## Hotline Information

**NSW DPI Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**  
**1800 084 881**

If you suspect a new plant or bee pest in NSW

**Reporting of Bee Kills**

New South Wales - EPA  
**13 15 55**

National - AU Pesticides & Vet. Medicines Authority (APVMA)  
**1800 700 588**

# HONEYLAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2019 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

## VOLUNTEER FORM

THE SHOW DATES ARE FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 TO TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2019

I/We can work at the Show on the following days: .....

Second Preference: .....

I/We require accommodation for the nights of: .....

*Be specific with your dates for working and accommodation*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDING ACCOMMODATION PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM ASAP AS ACCOMMODATION IS LIMITED**

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS – WHERE TICKETS WILL BE SENT

Name/s: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: .....

PLEASE RETURN FORM NO LATER THAN ASAP:

Debbie Porter, NSWAA Show Coordinator, 135 Eusdale Road Yetholme NSW 2795

Email: [debbie.porter3@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie.porter3@hotmail.com)

### **Entries are open for Sydney Royal National Honey Show**

Calling all honey producers and enthusiasts! The Sydney Royal National Honey Show is now accepting entries for the 2019 competition, held against the vibrant backdrop of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, 12-23 April 2019.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), have a long association with Australian apiculture.

Competitions have taken place as early as 1888. Today, the competition is the only one of its kind in Australia and has expanded to include 62 classes, including honey (comb, creamed, chunk, liquid and granulated), beeswax, small producers, commercial producers, candles, wax moulds, mead and pollen. Just like the 2018 Show, the 2019 Sydney Royal National Honey competition will include two schools classes to encourage and reward student participation.

The RAS is excited to announce that 2019 will see the inclusion of Native Bee honey, with classes for *Tetragonula* and *Austroplebeia*. An inaugural class for honey produced in flow frames has also been added to the 2019 Schedule.

The Honeyland stand in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome is always a Show-time favourite. Honey exhibits are proudly displayed, honey tasting will be offered to the public along with the rare opportunity for them to see the inner-workings of a hive at the Bee-Zeebo exhibition.

Judging for the Sydney Royal National Honey Show will take place on 9 April, with results available on the Sydney Royal website Thursday 11 April after 4pm.

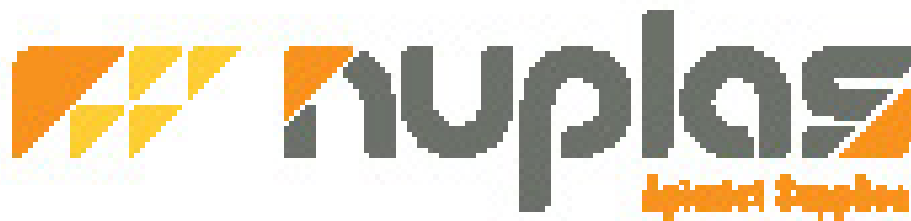
### **Why enter?**

The Sydney Royal National Honey Show offers producers a chance to benchmark products against the industry. By entering, you will:

- Receive assurance of independent assessment of your product by an esteemed panel of industry professionals
- Have a variety of perspectives and palates assessing your product
- Attain quality feedback: a breakdown of your score by each attribute to help you improve your product
- Commercial class medalists receive Sydney Royal medal artwork which can be used in marketing collateral

To enter the 2019 Sydney Royal National Honey Show, or download the Schedule, visit [www.sydneyroyal.com.au/honey](http://www.sydneyroyal.com.au/honey). Online entries close 13 February at 5pm. For further information, contact Bernadette Alcorn on 02 9784 1367 or [bsalcom@rasnsw.com.au](mailto:bsalcom@rasnsw.com.au)





# Innovative solutions for the commercial beekeeper

We seek to change the industry perspective and perception of plants in the landscaping industry and contribute to creating better commercial and residential landscapes.

Our innovative approach to a traditional market can help lower costs, increase productivity, efficiency and help sustain existing and new bee colonies.

We believe plants is superior to living, providing a more affordable and user-friendly range of products and solutions for all climates.

---

**ASK YOURSELF...  
IS IT TIME TO CHANGE  
YOUR THOUGHT?**

---

<http://nuplasusa.com>

**better  
beekeeping.**

# superior!

...we think so!

## TOTAL SETUP & MAINTENANCE COSTS OF 500 COMMERCIAL HIVES OVER 30 YEARS

NUPLAS PLASTIC BEEHIVES	TRADITIONAL TIMBER BEEHIVES
\$160k	\$496k

Call us on (015) 9632 0700 or email us at [info@nuplasingroup.co.uk](mailto:info@nuplasingroup.co.uk) to find out more on this

BENEFITS OF  
plastic  timber  
BEEHIVES

Introducing change through better packaging.

# VALE

## FRED BENECKE

7 November 2018

Aged 87 years

Fred joined the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1953 as a livestock Officer (Apiculture) and in 1955 was appointed District Apiary Officer for northern NSW, based in Tamworth. There he was responsible for disease control and apicultural extension over about one-third of NSW. He was a regular contributor to radio, and later, to television; and a prolific author of Departmental bulletins and articles for the Agricultural Gazette, the ABK and newspapers. While in Tamworth he owned an apiary of about 100 hives.

Fred left the Apiary Branch in 1971 when he was appointed Regional Director of Extension for the North West Agricultural Region, based in Gunnedah. He moved to Head Office in 1974 as Deputy-Chief of the Division of Extension Services becoming Chief of the Division in 1978. After changes to the Department's divisional structure Fred became Executive Assistant first to the Deputy Director-General then to the Director General.

Following retirement from the Department in 1990 Fred served as NSWAA Secretary till 1996. This period coincided with dramatic changes in members' access to forested lands and led to the Association preparing many submissions, meeting with various Ministers and generally becoming more politically active. Fred was the last Secretary of the CAA and first of the NSWAA.

Following on from this Fred still continued to be involved in industry affairs, helping with submissions to Government, and writing the *Code of Practice* which was adopted by the Association and accepted by Government. In 2005 Fred published *Honey Business - a short history of beekeeping in NSW in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century*.

On behalf of the Executive and Members we extend our sincere condolences to his wife Margaret, children Sarah, Adam and Julius along with their partners Ron, Avril and Julie as well as his six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Thanks Fred – a job well done.

Bee part of  
our global Jelly  
Bush revolution.



**Yes, we're looking for Jelly Bush honey producers like you!**

You could supply us with your quality Australian Jelly Bush honey for our ever expanding international customers. We'll supply the IBC/drum and pay the freight and honey levy.  
[gustarehoney.com](http://gustarehoney.com)

Please contact fellow Beekeeper, Paul Costa on:  
0499 775 664 or [paul@gustarehoney.com](mailto:paul@gustarehoney.com)



**DALRYMPLE  
VIEW** APIARY SUPPLIES

**Neil, Sharon and  
Cameron Masters**  
Manufacturers and  
Suppliers of all your  
Beekeeping Needs

Dalrymple View Pty Ltd  
65 Forde Street  
Allora Q 4362  
Mobile: 0448 717 051  
Mobile: 0407 762 847  
Email: [nma66500@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nma66500@bigpond.net.au)

# BEEPLAS

Australia

Plastic Beehive Components  
Made in Australia by Max Cane Apiaries

## FULL DEPTH FOUNDATION SHEETS

- Made in Australia for Australian conditions
- Top quality food grade high impact polystyrene
- Excellent tensile strength and impact resistance
- Natural cell size
- Mitred bottom corners
- 6mm engagement tongue

Std colour **Black, Natural, Yellow and Red**  
Other colours available with large orders (5000+)

Also available:  
Nuplas plastic frames (made in Australia)  
Full Depth, W.S.P and Ideal

**Contact:**  
**MAX CANE APIARIES**  
9 McGibbony Crt, Ararat, Victoria, Australia  
Phone: 0427 501 551

ABN 561 108 274





## Fungus Provides Powerful Medicine In Fighting Honey Bee Viruses.

By: Scott Weybright – Washington State University



*A Reishi Fungus*

Steve Sheppard and his team provide the mushroom extract to a bee colony as part of their experiment. Bees that received the extract showed significant declines in viral infections within days.

A mushroom extract fed to honey bees greatly reduces virus levels, according to a new paper from Washington State University scientists, the USDA and colleagues at Fungi Perfecti, a business based in Olympia, Washington.

In field trials, colonies fed mycelium extract from amadou and reishi fungi showed a 79-fold reduction in deformed wing virus and a 45,000-fold reduction in Lake Sinai virus compared to control colonies. Though it's in the early stages of development, the researchers see great potential in this research.

"Our greatest hope is that these extracts have such an impact on viruses that they may help varroa mites become an annoyance for bees, rather than causing huge devastation," said Steve Sheppard, a WSU entomology professor and one of the paper's authors. "We're excited to see where this research leads us. Time is running out for bee populations and the safety and security of the world's food supply hinges on our ability to find means to improve pollinator health."

The research was published in the journal ***Scientific Reports***.

The hope is that the results of this research will help dwindling honey bee colonies fight viruses, that are known to play a role in colony collapse disorder.

"One of the major ways varroa mites hurt bees is by spreading and amplifying viruses," Sheppard said. "Mites really put stress on the bees' immune systems, making them more susceptible to viruses that shorten worker bee lifespans."

This is the first research paper to come out of a partnership between Sheppard's lab and Fungi Perfecti. Their co-owner and founder Paul Stamets is a co-author on the paper.

"Paul previously worked on a project that demonstrated the antiviral properties of mycelial extracts on human cells," Sheppard said. "He read about viruses hurting bees and called us to explore the use of the extracts on honey bees. After two years, we demonstrated that those anti-viral properties extend to honey bees."

Stamets is passionate about the various benefits of fungi, both to humans and wildlife. And he's been enjoying this partnership with Sheppard and his lab. "This is a great example of connecting the dots between two fields of biological science," Stamets

said. "I am excited about new discoveries and opportunities. For me, the best of science is when it is used for practical solutions. Our team is honored to work with WSU researchers and look forward to continuing collaboration."

### Limited supplies

Right now, the mycelium extract isn't currently available in levels for beekeepers to purchase for their hives.

"We are ramping up production of the extracts as rapidly as is feasible, given the hurdles we must overcome to deploy this on a wide scale," Stamets added. "Those who are interested in being kept up to date, can sign up for more information at <http://www.fungi.com>."

Sheppard said he and his colleagues plan to do more work to refine their now-published results.

That way beekeepers will have the best information when supplies are more available.

"We aren't sure if the mycelium is boosting the bees' immune system or actually fighting the viruses," Sheppard said. "We're working to figure that out, along with testing larger groups of colonies to develop best management practices and determine how much extract should be used and when to have the best impact."

### Mites and viruses

Over the last decade, beekeepers have seen a disastrous decline in the health of honey bee colonies, often averaging over 30 percent loss annually. Varroa mites, and the viruses they proliferate, play a major role in those losses. Deformed wing virus, which causes shriveled wings on bees, greatly reduces the lifespan of worker bees.

Lake Sinai virus is also associated with varroa mites and is widespread in bee colonies around the United States. While the virus has no obvious or overt symptoms, it's an important virus to fight because it was found at higher levels in bees from collapsing colonies. It is closely related to chronic bee paralysis virus and it likely makes bees sick and weak, according to WSU assistant research professor Brandon Hopkins.

### Treating with fungi

The treated bee colonies in this experiment were fed an oral treatment of mycelial extracts in dozens of small WSU bee colonies infested with varroa mites.

"It's a really easy treatment to apply," Sheppard said. "After we follow larger colonies for a full year, we can develop recommendations for how to use the extracts. Then it is expected that Fungi Perfecti will ramp up production."

There is currently no timeline for when the extract would be available at a scale large enough for beekeepers.

**More information:** Paul E. Stamets et al, Extracts of Polypore Mushroom Mycelia Reduce Viruses in Honey Bees, *Scientific Reports* (2018).

**DOI: 10.1038/s41598-018-32194-8**

## MARCUS OLDHAM LEADERSHIP COURSE

Firstly, thank you all very much for the opportunity to attend the Marcus Oldham Rural Leadership course it truly was a great learning and rewarding experience, much greater than I initially anticipated.

This year was a group of 34 students from all across Australian, all age groups and various Agriculture industries from the medicinal flower industry of Tasmania to the live export industry of top end NT.

We had a ringer from NT at age 18 and Beef grower currently work in local council from the Gippsland area at the age of 65 and all else in-between.

I was the only beekeeper in the group this year and of course because in general (I believe anyway) that beekeepers are still not completely seen as farmers and people don't think about beekeeping a lot I was really able to talk to and receive and answer numerous questions about our industry hopefully giving a better understanding of the importance and skills that is Beekeeping, in particular crop pollination.

It was really good to spend some time with Fiona Chambers, we really got along and I think she really appreciated as did I being able to spend some time together and discuss our industry and where it is at the moment both good and challenging.

All facilitators were great, I learned a lot from each and every one of them. Each day was full of networking, lessons and activities from breakfast to dinner. We had lessons and activities on Networking, Negotiations, Communications, Governance, Respect, Team work and of course Leadership.

The week ended with Media workshops including being in front of a camera and performing public speaking which I found completely daunting and nerve racking but I did really well at both and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to practice these skills.

There was a real rapport with the group and we all participated and worked well together which became evident at the end of the course when Michael addressed us for the last time and told us that this year's group was a Gold group and that in his whole time as a facilitator of the program (which is from the beginning I believe) that it was only the third time he has said that. It really was a great week.

Thank you all again very much, Hopefully with my commitment to our industry and my new skills learnt from the course (all be it still very little with much more to learn) I will be able to be some form of a leader in it.

Thank you, Reece Cameron.

## Beewise Double Roller Slit Uncapper

**Uncapping honey frames just became quicker, simpler and better**



**Stand-alone**  
**\$325.00**  
Delivery Australia-wide \$32.00



Payment:  
BPPOS or EFT  
to Westpac  
BSB 033004  
ACC 205198

**With Tub**  
**\$390.00**  
Delivery Australia-wide \$32.00

- Simply press the honey-laden frame between the double slit rollers
- No electricity or heat source required so works perfectly in the field
- Time saver - easy 20 - 40 frames uncapped in 5 minutes, ready to go to the extractor
- Bees rebuild comb quicker
- Reduced wax waste so bees get back to production quicker
- Eliminates bulk quantities of honey going to the cappings trough
- Wax build up in honey strainer greatly reduced
- Made of food-grade high density polyethylene (HDPE); and
- Slit Rollers from solid aluminium bar, anodised to provide greater surface hardness, and increased corrosion resistance
- Comes either already attached to a food-grade HDPE trough; or
- Stand-alone ready to attach to a tub of your choice

Distributed Australia wide by:



**BEEWISE**

T: 08 8337 8808 E: bees@beewise.com.au

## Expression of Interest Pilot Results and Feedback

Nick Geoghegan, Apiculture Resource Coordinator, NSW DPI

As previously announced in the Honeybee news, on the 21st of August the DPI opened applications for a pilot of the new expressions of interest process for the allocation of new and recently vacated apiary sites. 14 sites in and around GooNoo National Park in the Central West of NSW were published including 6 NPWS and 8 LLS sites.

### EOI Applications

During the 4 week application period 11 apiarists submitted 82 applications in total. Of the 11 who applied: 6 scored the highest across all criteria, 4 had a lower score as they reported they were not compliant with part C of the Biosecurity code of practice and one had a lower score as they reported they had not completed the BOLT or DPI Pests and Diseases course.

### Allocation Process

The applications for each site were evaluated independently. There were multiple applicants for 12 of the 14 sites. For each of these sites any lower scoring applicants were eliminated and a ballot was held between the applicants with the highest scores. The ballot used a randomising equation for each site separately. The process was witnessed by an independent staff member and the whole process was reviewed by a Biometrician (a Statistics Expert with a focus on random sampling) to ensure the integrity and truly random nature of the ballot process.

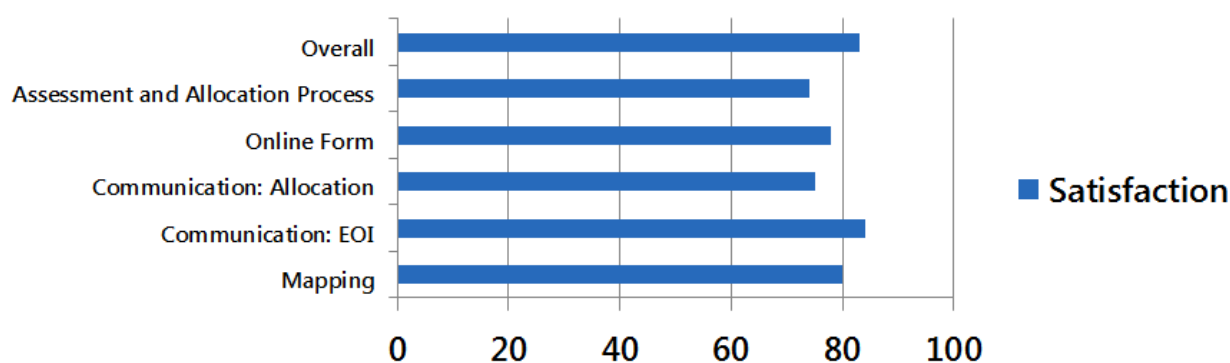
Not all of the high-scoring applicants were successful in the ballot. This was reviewed in detail but the result was determined to be due to sheer luck of the ballot. As we know from coin tosses, a truly random process will seldom lead to a predictable result. The applicants may have increased their odds by applying for more sites, but they might have been successful with a site they did not want.

All applicants were notified of the results and the respective agencies have been working with the apiarists to issue the respective permits.

### Feedback from the Pilot

Following the pilot a survey was sent to all participants to gather feedback and identify opportunities to improve future EOI's. Satisfaction within the applicants was high across all the metrics:

### High Levels of Satisfaction



The main opportunities identified for improvement were:

- A desire for greater communication about why individual applicants were not successful.
- A desire for more information about the ballot process.
- The need for greater education about the Biosecurity Code of Practice and the additional obligations of Part C.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to apply and to provide feedback on the process.

We are currently working with the landholder agencies (NPWS, LLS, FCNSW) to identify sites for the next EOI releases as well as incorporating learnings from the EOI into our systems. Multiple locations around the state are likely. We are also hoping to release the first long-term vacant sites on a First Come, First Served basis once we can identify suitable sites.

To ensure you get the latest news and hear about upcoming releases, please send an email to [apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and ask to be added to our Apiary Program updates email list.





# **NSWAA**

# **BEE TRADE SHOW**

**When**

**16-17 May 2019**

**Where**

**Panthers Bathurst**

**132 Piper Street, Bathurst NSW**

**Sponsorship**

**Opportunity to secure your booth in a  
priority location**

**Conditions apply**

***Bee Trade Show entry included with conference registration***

***Wine & Cheese Night 16th May 2019***

**Further information**

**Contact *Therese Kershaw***

**Email *tradeshow@nswaa.com.au***

**[www.nswaa.com.au](http://www.nswaa.com.au)**

# CNR

## INSURANCE BROKERS

### FORMERLY AUSURE INSURANCE BROKERS GOULBURN

At CNR Insurance Brokers we understand the issues that Apiarists face in their day to day business.

Our Apiarist Insurance package now includes cover for pesticide contamination of your hives and bees.

We are also able to offer covers including Australia Wide theft and vandalism cover for your hives including the honey and bees along with all other insurances including property, business interruption, public liability, transit and motor vehicles.

For further information, please call our office on 02 4822 1320 or email at [info@cnrinsurance.com.au](mailto:info@cnrinsurance.com.au)

CNR Insurance Brokers are Authorised Representatives of NAS Insurance Brokers AFSL: 233750

## Valley Bee Keeping Supplies

SUPPLYING ALLIANCE WOODWARE & FRAMES  
SPECIALISING IN WIRED & EMBEDDED FRAMES  
ASSEMBLED, TREATED & PAINTED BOXES  
LIDS & BOTTOMS

A FULL RANGE OF BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

HONEY EXTRACTION, STORAGE &  
CONTAINERS

NSW AGENT FOR HIVEMIND NZ

MAIL ORDER WELCOME

OR

SHOP ONLINE

[www.valley-industries.com.au](http://www.valley-industries.com.au)



70 Whitbread Street, Taree NSW 2430

[nigel.powell@valley-industries.com.au](mailto:nigel.powell@valley-industries.com.au)

Phone 6552 8888 Fax 6552 5941 Mobile 0458 522 240



**Valley Industries Ltd**

"Helping People to Help Themselves"

## Honey Wanted

**We Look For:**

**100% Australian honey**

**Long term suppliers**

**Large quantity**

**Packed in IBCs**

**Call: 0430 112 002**

**Contact: Rosie**

**Auburn NSW 2144**

## APIARY COTS

Manufacturers and Suppliers of Beekeeping equipment

PO Box 5, Mt Nebo Road, Mt Nebo QLD 4520

***Buy Australian Made***

Hoop Pine Woodware - Frames - Supers  
Queen Cages etc

Or your special requirements

**Phone: 07 3289 8181 Fax: 07 3289 8231**



*"That's what it does"*

# HEAT YOUR HONEY PLANT FOR LESS THAN \$30.00 A DAY!!!\*



## SELF CONTAINED HOT WATER RECYCLING SYSTEM

- Thermostatically Controlled
- Running at 98° +/-2°
- Wash down hose & gun included in package
- Diesel Fired, Economical to run, 2Litres per hour
- Simple & Reliable! 20 plus years of field service and counting!
- Under 3 amps power consumption\*\*

### ENQUIRIES TO:

495 GRAND JUNCTION RD, WINGFIELD SA 5013

P: (08) 8244 0110 F: (08) 8244 0156

Email: [info@spitwatersa.com.au](mailto:info@spitwatersa.com.au)

130 GIPPS RD, SMITHFIELD NSW 2164

P: (02) 9725 4211 F: (02) 9725 2631

Email: [info@spitwaternsw.com.au](mailto:info@spitwaternsw.com.au)

\*Based on a 10 hour working day \*\* In our field tests



# Special prices

for all your  
beekeeping needs



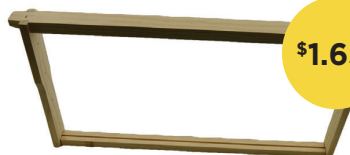
## Assembled and wired frames:

Minimum order quantity = 1000

**\$2.15**

## Assembled Double Groove Frames:

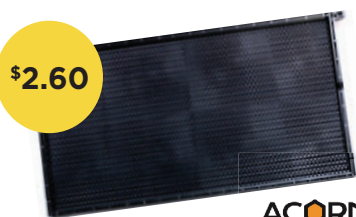
Minimum order quantity = 1000



**\$1.65**

## Plastic Frame Full Depth:

Minimum order quantity = 1000



**\$2.60**

**ACORN**  
BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

## Plastic Foundation Made in USA:

Minimum order quantity = 2000



**\$1.35**

## Box Full Depth 8/10-Frames. Finger Joints, screwed, wax dipped and painted:

Minimum order quantity = 150



**\$33.00**

**\$20.00**



**ALLIANCE**  
Beekeepers Woodware

## Box Standard Grade Finger Joint 8/10-Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 150

## Box Standard Grade Rebated 8/10-Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 150

**ALLIANCE**  
Beekeepers Woodware



**\$17.00**

## Drone Comb Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 1000

**ACORN**  
BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT



**\$2.85**

## Coloured Box Waxed Dipped and Painted 8/10-Frames:

Minimum order quantity = 150

**\$34.50**



**We can customise your boxes.** Your brand, your colour, your dimensions!!!



**\$125.00**

## Ventilated Suits:

**Call or visit us today.**

### Hornsby Branch

63A Hunter Lane Hornsby NSW 2077  
Phone: 02 9477 5569 | Fax: 02 9477 7494  
Trading hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm  
Sat 9am - 4pm

### Mt Druitt Branch

Unit 11, 71 Kurrajong Ave Mt Druitt NSW 2770  
Phone: 02 9625 5424 | Fax: 02 9625 7589  
Trading hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm  
Sat 10am - 5pm

info@hornsby-beekeeping.com | hornsby-beekeeping.com



**Hornsby**  
Beekeeping Supplies  
For all your beekeeping needs

**Don't forget to collect your \$5 hive tool at the conference.**

# BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

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



## ***Bitter Almonds! Some woeful hives seen on the almond pollination this year***

The annual almond pollination is a great sight to behold, with acre upon acre of flowering trees for as far as the eye can see and regular drops of multicoloured beehives scattered around these vast orchards. The trees are “a-buzz” with the activities of bees busily getting on with their paid business of pollinating almond trees.

To most of the almond farmers driving around the different apiaries they are happy to see the various assortment of hives varying from shiny new boxes all the way through to worn out gear that needed painting and repairs way back when Bob Hawke was still prime minister, as they are full of bees and those bees are pollinating rapidly.

To anybody that knows much about bees, visiting these hives sometimes shows a very different story - one that is not always a good one and for which many beekeepers should be rightly ashamed of.

### **Operation Dead Out (DO)**

I was invited to be an observer on week one of Operation Dead Out (Op DO) in Robinvale, Victoria, along with fellow Bee Biosecurity Officers and Compliance staff from other states.

The Victorian Apiary Team ran an operation to look for dead out beehives and American foulbrood (AFB). The reasoning for the operation was logical, as weak, diseased and dead out hives always seem to be the primary cause of AFB transmission during almond pollination. This is primarily due to the high density of hives in every orchard and the increased likelihood of ‘robbing’.

Reducing the occurrence of these high risk hives is crucial to ensuring that this event is safe and profitable for both beekeepers and the almond industry. Consequently, any steps implemented to minimise the presence of weak or dead out hives is always going to be positive for both industries.



*Hives being inspected...more than 60 from this beekeeper were burned due to rampant AFB! (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*

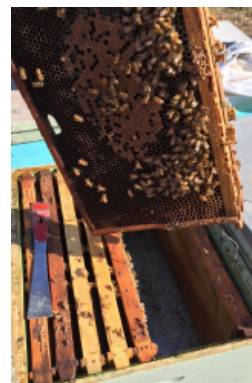
## **Don't bring 'junk' hives to the almonds!**

The person primarily responsible for ensuring that weak, diseased and dead out ‘junk’ hives don’t travel to the almond fields is the beekeeper. That job should not be fobbed off onto somebody else to do, such as a broker or biosecurity/compliance staff. Beekeepers should always do their own work to ensure that the quality of their hives is up to scratch for the job they are getting paid to do. If the beekeeper expects somebody else to be sorting out and cleaning up their junk, then they should also expect to be directly paying those people for doing that work for them.

It is common sense that weaker hives have issues and are not as viable as honey production hives. Instead of trying to make a “fast buck” on the almonds these hives should be left behind working on a good bee breeding pollen source and possibly prepared for re-queening.



*Who was this beekeeper kidding...not even worth putting in a nuc box let alone carting to the almonds. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



*Another weak colony that judging by the minimal brood and stores was probably improperly managed since autumn and should have stayed home. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*

Several consequences of sending weak hives to almonds are that they are often:

- weaker hives when they return, as Nosema thrives on stress,



- hives that are robbed,
- an increased spread of AFB within your own hives (your very own bees will rob out your weakened/dead out hives first) and,
- your personal reputation will be tarnished by showing just how little you care for the health of your own hives and those of other beekeepers located nearby.



*Diseased (live and dead) hives getting marked up for destruction in Victoria. 90 of the 600 hives (15%) from this operator went up in smoke. Would you want to be sitting bees anywhere near these hives? (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*

It is every beekeeper's responsibility to ensure that only viable hives of an adequate strength are loaded on the truck and delivered to almonds. Whether you run 50 or 10,000 hives, you should only have as many as you and your beekeepers can adequately manage. Otherwise, you run the risk of having unmanageable diseases in your hives and a low percentage of adequate strength production hives. Reducing the amount of "dead wood" hives within each load is far more profitable than running more hives with poor colony strength, as the successful beekeepers that reliably produce a lot of honey rightly know.

It's not all about how big you are and how many hives you run - it's all about what you can get out of each hive and what's inside them. If you cannot manage to pull dead outs or weak hives from your loads before you go to the almonds then your operation has room for improvement.



*Would you pay \$100+ for this hive (that's all the bees there)??? This hive has been weak for many months and was definitely not suitable for almond pollination (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*

### **Beekeeping husbandry**

There is no excuse for poor beekeeping. If you cannot get around all your beehives then you

obviously have too many and need to do something about it by either;

1. consolidating and re-queening weak hives (do that well before autumn)
2. destroying diseased hives (whenever you find them)
3. selling hives (not the diseased ones!) or
4. employing additional trained or trainable beekeeping staff

In the weeks prior to the almond pollination the main piece of hive work that needs to be done is to assess EACH and EVERY hive for hive strength. This can be undertaken very quickly as basically all you are doing is opening every hive and taking a quick look at the population of bees within it. For a single box hive it is just lifting the lid and mat, then looking down on the cluster of bees. On a double, you may need to lift the honey box and potentially the excluder and have a look at the bee coverage on the top of the bottom box and bottom of the top box.

This procedure is quick and does not overly damage or stress bees as long as you smoke any bees before closing up hives, especially the doubles. This practice is undertaken to minimise the squashing of bees, which can increase the level of Nosema. Generally, this procedure is undertaken during the warmer parts of winter days. The assessment standard is that one full-depth frame is three quarters covered with bees at 15 degrees Celsius. Once the temperature increases, the bees start to spread, so six frames of bees may look like seven or eight.



*7-8 frames of bees (Rod Bourke picture)*



*4-5 frames of bees. A hive may be ok looking like this in early June (perhaps?), but not in mid-August on the almonds. It is not strong enough for pollination and won't get paid for. (Rod Bourke picture, Robinvale)*



On a really warm day it can be beneficial to see how many frames have capped brood in a few hives too, as they will have all hatched out and added to the bee population within the next two weeks.



*Billy Weiss inspecting hives in July. A good beekeeper marks the weak ones and makes sure they stay at home when the good ones go to almonds. (Rod Bourke picture, Glen Innes)*

### **Think logically**

It pays to be hard when you assess your bees and only send the hives to almonds that definitely hit the mark. Your reputation as a beekeeper is only as good as your last load of bees!

When you do your cost assessment for the almond pollination don't just say "I have 480 bee hives so I'm sending 480 hives to the almonds and I will make \$50 000 + GST etc.", as that figure will be way off. Your first calculation should be how many hives are actually worth sending to the almonds, and many beekeepers that I saw this August it is around 50% to 75% of what they sent down, or even less for some! Every hive you send should be worth getting paid for.

Let's say 75% of your hives are strong enough to send, so gross revenue is already down to \$37K. All of your hives will need to be assessed for strength. It may take a good beekeeper three to five days to get around four loads/480 hives to assess and mark those that will not be moving to almonds. Depending on the work associated with cleaning up dead outs and diseased hives plus uniting or shoring up weaker hives, this process may take you even longer.

Get away from the mindset that a load of bees always stays together and cannot be separated and some left behind - this thinking is a crucial mistake when addressing bee biosecurity issues. Get junk out of your loads to protect the rest of those hives. At a rough ratio of 500 hives per full time commercial beekeeper you can work out pretty easily that all of this final preparation work for the almonds should be achievable in the weeks before loading up bees. It must be considered a priority job and not an optional extra that you may do "if I get around to it"! For many beekeepers this would just be a final assessment of the months of preparation work that they started in the early New Year to ensure their hives would be ready and strong enough for the almonds anyway.

You don't start preparing your hives for almonds the week before taking them to the almonds. That process should begin in Jan-Feb and it will require a lot of work to get them right.

### **Evaluation on the Almonds**

This year most brokers of hives requested that the bare minimum strength acceptable for the almond pollination was at least seven or eight frames of bees. This is primarily because hives weaker than this are ineffective pollinators. The average hive strength requested was eight to nine plus frames of bees and any hive weaker than seven frames was not welcome on almonds. Unfortunately, this message did not seem to get through to some beekeepers, who as well as loading up weak colonies of between one to six frames of bees, also loaded up lots of dead outs. It appeared that some of those hives had not even had resident bees in them since summer!



*An unhealthy five frame nuc. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



*Not much pollination potential in this dead out drone layer. (Rod Bourke picture, Robinvale)*



*Slimed out on the almonds in Victoria. This hive was from the North Coast of NSW. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



One hive auditor commented to me “If some of these guys can’t even tell if a hive still has live bees in it before loading it on a truck then how can they ever control their AFB or get enough honey to make a living?”

After what I saw on some Robinvale and Griffith almond orchards this year I have to agree with that statement, as it is obvious that there is some very poor beekeeping going on.

Don’t get me wrong, there were a lot of very good beehives on the almonds this year but unfortunately the event was still marred by the delivery of some terrible material by operators from Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

One operation with around 2500 hives had a dead-out rate of over 5% plus a far higher number of weak hives that also did not come close to the minimum seven to eight frames requirement.



*Judging by the top bars this was a 4 frame split gone wrong. Make strong splits up by Jan-Feb and either put them on good conditions or supplement feed them to stimulate expansion. Don’t make late splits and then do nothing to build them, or this happens! (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



*Another weak split. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



*Ample extra space in this hive where lots of extra bees could be living in...leave it at home next year. (Rod Bourke picture, Robinvale)*

Some operations running 150-300 hives had a smattering of AFB and enough weak hives that only around half their hives were being paid for pollination.



*It takes a lot of work to get a viable almond pollinating unit out of a single 8 frame over-wintered brood box. A lot of these hives were understrength and did not get paid for. (Rod Bourke picture, Robinvale)*

A number of operations were found to have widespread AFB, with over 90 hives from one operator and 60 from another being burned (in week 1 of Op DO). The common theme was that the beekeeper had not spent time looking to see if there were even any bees in the hive, let alone be thorough enough to ensure the hives sent were strong enough to make the grade.



*The boogeyman...weak, diseased and on the almonds. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*



*How could the beekeeper not have smelled that when loading it up... or maybe even looked inside the hive weeks earlier and actually seen/smelt it? Nothing less than bad beekeeping! (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)*

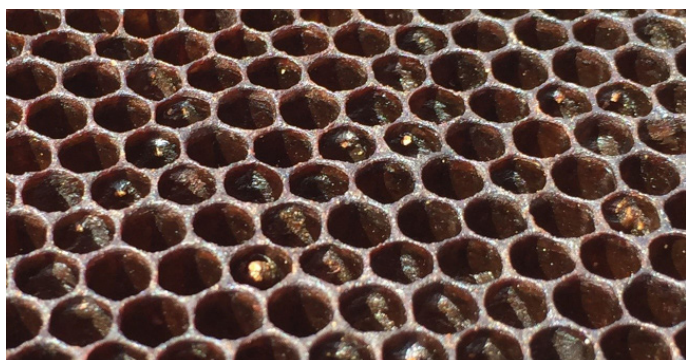
Probably the most stark reminder of how poor some of the beehives were was to find numerous robbed out two box hives from one operator that still had a full dose of what appeared to be OTC sitting above the excluder (later tested positive) and multiple



frames of clinical AFB brood and scale below it and no bees! Some of the hives had probably been robbed out months ago and at a later date the whole apiary had probably been blanket fed with antibiotics in a misguided attempt to treat AFB. If this beekeeper had spent more time actually looking at his bees and dealing with any hives showing AFB symptoms instead of misusing antibiotics and allowing AFB to spread, then the owner may not have had 90 hives burned by Victorian compliance and most likely have legal action to follow.



OTC, AFB and Dead! This junk should not get put on a truck destined for the almonds! (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)



AFB scale on the frame. OTC will never fix this. (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)



This one has bees in it, but not nearly enough of them. Relying on antibiotics to make up for bad beekeeping does not work! (Rod Bourke picture on Op DO)

I saw hives at one orchard near Griffith which were horrendous. As soon as I approached the first thirteen pallet drop it was plain to see dead outs and exposed and robbed equipment everywhere! Five minutes of walking around showed seventeen dead outs, considerable honey exposed to robbing and many substandard strength colonies.



Weak/dead hives dropped and left with exposed honey boxes...lazy beekeeping. (Rod Bourke picture, Griffith)



Lots of hives, but very few bees in them. On this day they should have been working hard, but hardly a bee in sight (or in the hives). This guy gives beekeepers a bad name. (Rod Bourke picture, Griffith)

At a second drop of 13 pallets I found two pallets where three out of four hives were dead-outs. Another pallet was four dead outs, which was all plainly visible even before lifting a lid! There were mouse nests and ant nests in hives and it was obvious that this gear had not been worked in a long time. There were 5 different beekeepers within 1.5km of these loads, and one was only 100M away!



Four dead outs with obvious signs of being robbed out. This junk should not have been taken to the almonds! (Rod Bourke picture, Griffith)

Whilst it has been a dry year it is not realistic to just blame all of your sub-strength bee colonies and dead-outs on the drought!

### What to do for next year

As beekeepers we need to take a serious look at how we are approach almond pollination. Actions that may have improved your performance at almond pollination include:



- If your bees are not getting sufficient pollen by February then supplement their nutrition going into autumn. You are better off keeping bee numbers high over winter than to try to build them up again when the bees find it hardest to do so.
- Keep feeding bees pollen patties right through winter if they need it - high fat and high protein bees always win!
- If your bees aren't going to get any more honey after Christmas then leave the last box of honey on them. You can always take the honey off after the almonds if they don't need it anymore (or right before almonds if pushing them down into a single box with enough honey in it). Demoralised bees without honey and no honey flow will very quickly tank and crash before almond time.
- If the bees are starting to drop off in numbers and the queen is not laying well then feed them light sugar syrup well before autumn to encourage extra laying so that they will have more bees (and younger bees) through winter
- A good practice is to requeen early in the New Year. These hives tend to do the best for almonds as the younger queens lay well going into autumn and can keep good bee numbers. By hitting them with some 1:1 sugar syrup in the weeks after the shortest day you can add extra frames of young bees to the hive strength by almonds, as opposed to leaving them alone and doing nothing. Note that if the hive appears to be suffering from Nosema the syrup will probably do nothing to improve them. Don't send hives to almonds if they are too badly affected by nosema.
- Pollen patties and 1:1 sugar syrup can work well. Spending just \$10-25/hive on these items can make a huge difference to building a hive ahead of going into almonds and has added rewards after it comes out. An extra box or two of honey from a very strong hive definitely covers that pre-almond build-up cost.
- Cull out every diseased hive as soon as you find AFB. Kill the colony and irradiate anything too good to burn. Don't use OTC to tackle AFB.
- Inspect weaker colonies as soon as they appear. Burn and irradiate these hives if they have AFB, requeen if required or add pollen/syrup if they are just lacking in stimulation to

do any better!

- Unite weak hives if they decline below four to five frames of bees. Letting them slip further often results in dead-outs and robbed hives. Do this well before autumn for best results.
- Chalkbrood, EFB and Nosema affected hives may not be strong enough to send, so don't send them if below eight frames of bees!
- Don't send a hive you would not be proud of.
- Learn from your mistakes and do something to improve for next year.

At the end of the day successful beekeepers realise that their main aim is to breed bees and breed lots of them at strategic and important times of the year. If you have lots of bees you will get the honey when it is there, or produce the nucleus hives or packages, or continue to get opportunities to pollinate crops. For the beekeepers that cannot manage to propagate enough bees they need to modify their management, educate themselves or get out of the industry and stop affecting hardworking beekeepers who continue to catch AFB from their weak and dead hives.

### **BOLT course & change of details**

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](mailto:rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au) listing your brand, individual or company name and I will get this out to you.

For all beekeepers use the following link to access the course. <https://honeybee.canopihr.com.au>

### **Barrier Systems & AFB management**

Any NSW registered commercial beekeepers who would like assistance in setting up a barrier system within their operation or whom have AFB issues that they would like help in minimizing please contact me at [rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rod.bourke@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call 0438 677 195. Don't feel embarrassed or ashamed about contacting me...I will not judge you on the past and am here to help you with your beekeeping future, so I look forward hearing from you.





### Tour 1

San Francisco CA to Minneapolis MN

18th May to 8th June 2019

18 Beekeeping Visits

*Tour Guides*

Dave Mendes & Mary Toggweiler-Kerr



### Additional Tour 2

Lewisburg PA to Buffalo NY via Canada

6th June to 11th June 2019

3 Beekeeping Visits plus Niagara Falls

*Tour Guides*

David & Linda Hackenberg



Adee Honey Farms

*Olivarez Honeybees*

Brownings Honey

Jackie Park- Burris

Rufer Apiaries Inc

Heitkam Honey Bees

Munro Honey & Mead

Hackenberg Apiaries

CF Koehnen & Sons

Miller Honey Farms

.....plus more



Dr Marla Spivak  
Minnesota University

*Guest Speaker Will Robinson  
Yellowstone National Park*

Cold Storage for Bees

*36 years since last tour organised*

Limited seats available



### Further Info Contact

Kevin MacGibbon VAA & AHBIC

kevinmacgibbon@gmail.com

0418 577 788

Therese Kershaw—NSWAA

theresekershaw@gmail.com

0428 857 634





**They know me.  
They know my farm.  
That's why I'm  
insured with WFI.**



At WFI, we take the time to thoroughly understand your business and how it operates. Because when we get to know a business, we can protect everything that matters.

**Call 1300 934 934 or visit [wfi.com.au](http://wfi.com.au)**



To see if our products are right for you, always read the PDS from the product issuer, Insurance Australia Limited ABN 11 000 016 722 AFSL 227681 trading as WFI (WFI).



***farm insurance***

# POLLEN



## **100% PURE NATURAL POLLEN**

Just as the bees collect it for themselves!

We have irradiated pollen as per AQIS standard

Just the right thing to get a broodnest started

for almond pollination

Pollen available in 5kgs bags

1 x 5 kg bag		\$16/kg
4 x 5kg bags	1 Box	\$14/kg
20 x 5kg bags	5 Boxes	\$13/kg

*Plus freight*

Contact: Browns Bees Australia  
Terry Brown Ph: 02 6886 1448  
Email: [brownsbees@gmail.com](mailto:brownsbees@gmail.com)

## **Bees For Sale**

Central West  
100 + 10 Frame x 2  
Price Negotiable

Phone  
**0427 658 506**

## **For Sale**

**Douglas Loader**

**\$7,500**

Phone  
**0428 434 081 or 0401 675 718**





RL Dewar T/A

## Bee Build

**It does what it says- Builds BEE\$  
a Complete Pollen Replacement based on  
Scientific Honeybee Industry Research  
(Fat Bees, Skinny Bees- RIRDC Pub No. 05/054)  
Visit: [www.beebulld.com.au](http://www.beebulld.com.au) for full story  
and how to feed. Available in 10 kg, 20kg  
(post or coach) and 25kg bulk buying**

**Bee Build Protein Sausage: 500gm and 1kg  
(Also available at good Beekeeping Suppliers)**

**Bee Boost: 500gm- a probiotic for bees**

**Enquiries & Sales Contact: Laurie Dewar  
Ph: 0427 725 802  
Email: [beebulld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:beebulld@optusnet.com.au)**



**Inseminated  
Breeder Queens  
(DGQ's- Dewar Gerds)**

**Produced from tested Hygienic  
(Cleaning Gene) Stock for Rapid  
Response Behaviour**

**Ex National Breeding Program. All profits  
invested in ongoing research  
Visit: [www.dewarcorp.com.au](http://www.dewarcorp.com.au)**

**Open Mated Lines tested by: Lindsay  
Bourke (Tas.) and Mal Alroy (Qld) for  
geographical variation; also tested in  
the UAE against varroa**

**Enquiries & Sales Contact: Laurie  
Dewar Ph: 0427 725 802  
Email: [dewarqueens@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dewarqueens@optusnet.com.au)**

## BEE ENGINEERING

MANUFACTURERS OF



**WE SPECIALISE IN THE MANUFACTURE  
OF**

**STAINLESS STEEL**

**UNCAPPERS AND DEBOXERS**

**6 MODELS OF UNCAPPERS  
TO SUIT EVERY APPLICATION  
DEBOXERS**

**TO SUIT ALL BOX AND FRAME SIZES**

**Phone (08) 9259 0676**

**Email: [bee@bee-engineering.com](mailto:bee@bee-engineering.com)  
PO Box 126 Parkwood  
Western Australia 6147**

**Manufacturers of  
Wire Queen Excluders  
Tobin Escape Board Corners  
Gal Lid Covers  
Metal Vents  
Tobin Hive Tools  
Gal Cut to Size**

## COTTESBROOK HONEY

**David and Tracey Parker  
Fitzgeralds Mt Blayney 2799**

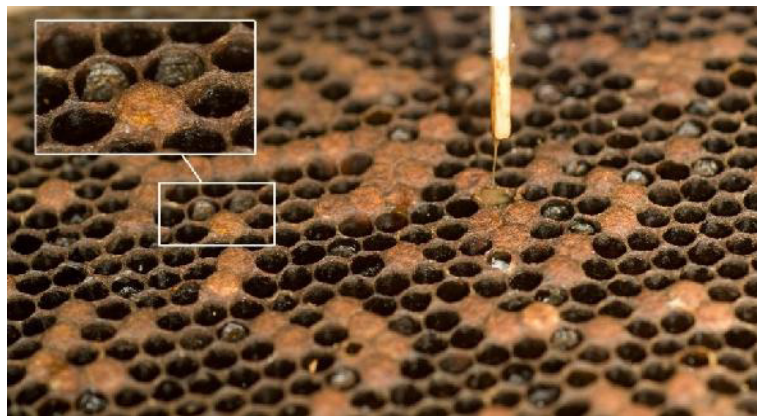
**Ph: 02 6368 5889**

**Fax: 02 6368 5989**

**Email: [cotbrook7@bigpond.com](mailto:cotbrook7@bigpond.com)**

*This business was previously  
owned by EC Tobin and Son*

# Could this be happening to your beehives?



Disease in bee equipment can be a major problem if left untreated.

The devastating effect diseases such as American and European Foulbrood can cause is a constant concern for beekeepers.

Treatment using Gamma Irradiation is a well established and proven method for eliminating pathogens from bee equipment and killing all forms of insect and pest contamination.

Irradiation also assists with increasing honey yield.

## Is sterilisation a key step in your production process?

Gamma Irradiation provides the most effective sterilisation solution for manufacturers of medicinal honey products.

Sterilisation ensures a quality product that meets all regulatory and business requirements.

Steritech has been a provider of Gamma Irradiation services to the medicinal honey industry for many years. Using our expertise and knowledge we can assist you with your sterilisation requirements.

***YOU CAN RELY ON IRRADIATION – YOU CAN RELY ON STERITECH***



### *Your bees are calling out to you!*

Steritech has been providing Gamma Irradiation to the beekeeping industry for many years. In fact, the irradiation of bee equipment was pioneered in Australia!

Whether our service is used to eliminate current contamination or is used as a preventative measure, Steritech is always happy to help our beekeepers.

From beehives to medical applications, Steritech is there for you.

**Steritech is a proud member of the NSWAA**



### **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.

We are constantly trying to develop ways to utilise our processes to help your industry in lots of new ways.

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*



[www.steritech.com.au](http://www.steritech.com.au)

#### **STERITECH NSW**

Jamie Crighton

National Business Development Manager

Tel: 02 8785 4400

Email: [jcrighton@steritech.com.au](mailto:jcrighton@steritech.com.au)

#### **STERITECH QLD**

Glenn Robertson

QLD General Manager

Tel: 07 3293 1566

Email: [grobertson@steritech.com.au](mailto:grobertson@steritech.com.au)

#### **STERITECH VIC**

Raymond Bryden

VIC Sales Executive

Tel: 03 8726 5566

Email: [rbryden@steritech.com.au](mailto:rbryden@steritech.com.au)



## BECOME A BERRINGA BEEKEEPER

All Berringa, we proudly support Australian beekeepers for 80 years and we always on the lookout for new suppliers.

What are the advantages of being a Berringa beekeeper?

We're 100% Australian owned and operated

✦ All Berringa products are 100% Australian sourced.

✦ From Berringa and Marulan to home and overseas, we believe Australia is unbeatable.

✦ Based in Melbourne, the Berringa team is always on hand to answer your queries.

We're transparent

✦ All literature is independently tested.

✦ We pay our beekeepers based on independent laboratory results. Our quality standards include AGO, Codex, BSA and FGA.

We care about our beekeepers

✦ Durn and BSC supply is free for our regular Marulan suppliers.

✦ Our dedicated procurement managers and friendly customer service team are on hand to offer beekeeper support.

Be part of a company that gives Australian honey to the international and domestic markets. Talk to our friendly procurement and supply team today.



Contact:  
David Lind - Procurement Manager  
tel: +61 3 417 638 291 t: +61 3 468 3645  
or david.lind@berringa.com.au  
Berringa Customer Service  
t: +61 3 468 3545 or linda.gunn@berringa.com.au  
berringa.com.au

**BERRINGA.**



Australian Organic Honey Company Pty Ltd  
24 Wattle Dr Laverton North VIC 3205, Australia

# DEMISE™

Termite Detection and Elimination System

## DIY TERMITE BAIT STATIONS



- Easy to use in-ground traps
- Very low toxicity to humans and pets
- Complete bait & monitoring system

**PHONE 1300 657 822**  
**pestcontroldirect.com.au**

## HYDES CREEK WOODWORKS ALL AUSTRALIAN HOOP PINE

FRAMES  
FULL DEPTH  
WSP  
IDEALS  
HONEY COMB  
QUEEN CAGES

BOXES  
LIDS  
CLEARER  
BOARDS  
BOTTOM  
BOARDS  
RISERS & MORE

Contact: Phil Kethel  
15 Crawford Close Bellingen NSW 2454  
Ph/Fax: (02) 6655 1385  
Mobile: 0428 960 917  
Email: philkhydscreekww@bigpond.com



A home fit for a Queen  
Give your bees the best  
Australian owned & manufactured  
Quality Hoop Pine



**Manufacturers of Quality Woodware  
from Australian-Grown Hoop Pine**

- Buying all grades of wax
- Large range of beekeeping supplies

- Phone, Email and Bulk Orders welcomed
- Postage and freight options available

*Manufacturing & Supply*

806 River Road  
Kingaroy Q 4610  
Main 0427 946 614  
0429 130 167

bbeesupplies@bournet.com.au



*Supply Outlet*

Shed 9B Industrial Avenue  
Morayfield Q 4125  
Main 0484 598 580  
0411 251 901

bbeesuppliesmorayfield@hotmail.com

Website: www.burnettbeekeepingsupplies.com.au

## TOPBAIT™ PLUS

FOR THE CONTROL OF COCKROACHES AND  
**SMALL HIVE BEETLE**

Our APIS Traps in conjunction with either our  
Sticky Boards or New Topbait Plus will help  
put you back in control of your hives again.



### THE TRAP:

- Minimal stress to the hive
- 4 beetle entry points
- Non toxic
- Sturdy and Reliable
- Cheap and Effective
- Allows the beetles to enter but is too small to allow bees entry.

### THE BAIT:

- Kills Small Hive Beetle
- Cost Effective
- Low Dose Rate
- No Mess DIY Application
- Low Water Solubility
- APVMA Approved

### THE STICKY BOARD:

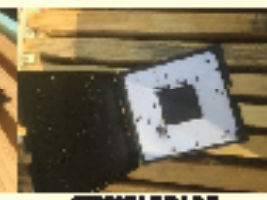
- ★ New entry tacky boards with a stinging surface and easy tear off tabs boards are in stock now.



TOPBAIT PLUS



SET APIS TRAP



STICKY BOARD

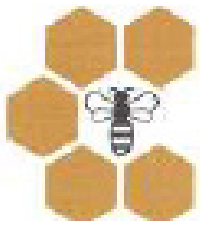


**1300 657 822**  
**pestcontroldirect.com.au**

APVMA Approved for 4125/10/2013







# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

## PARLIAMENTARY MEETING ON RFAs

On 27 November, 2018 a meeting, to discuss the history and current status of Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) in Australia, was held with one of Minister Littleproud's advisors at Parliament House in Canberra. This was as a result of meeting with Minister Littleproud earlier in the month. Present were Ian Cane, Chair of the AHBIC Resources Subcommittee, Neil Bingley, President of the New South Wales Apiarists Association, Sarah Paradise, the incoming AHBIC CEO and Trevor Weatherhead.

Ian Cane had prepared a short paper on the current situation of the RFAs in Australia for the advisor.

We outlined the history of the RFAs in Australia and how they did not do the beekeepers any favours. In fact, in some cases, they are detrimental to beekeepers.

We discussed the current situation in the bush and, in particular, the current review of the RFAs being conducted in several States. The level of consultation in some of these reviews is not satisfactory. The advisor asked for some more information, which will be supplied. I feel it was a productive meeting and the advisor had a good understanding of our problems and will look to have input into the current and upcoming reviews.

## AGM DATES

Annual conferences for 2019

NSW Apiarist Assoc 16 & 17 May – Bathurst  
WA Farmers – Beekeeping Section 24 & 25 May – Perth  
QLD Beekeepers Assoc 30 May & 1 June – Bribie Island  
Victorian Apiarists Assoc 4, 5 & 6 June – Mildura  
SA Apiarist Assoc 13 & 14 June – Adelaide  
Tasmanian Beekeepers Assoc 28 June – Launceston  
Honey Packers & Marketers Assoc TBA  
National Council of Crop Pollination Assoc TBA  
Aust Queen Bee Breeders Assoc TBA  
AHBIC 29 June – Launceston

Due to AHBIC having to have their changes to the Constitution lodged with the Western Australian Department of Commerce by 30 June 2019 the Tasmanian Beekeepers Assoc conference & AHBIC AGM have been brought forward a week from original dates.

## EXERCISE BORDER BRIDGE

When AHBIC received information that Exercise Border Bridge was to be held, see <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/borderbridge> a note was sent to the organisers re what would happen if there were bee hives on a property that was the subject of a quarantine standstill order.

In the foot and mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom many years ago many beekeepers lost hives because they were quarantined on infected properties and they were

not allowed access to the hives for many weeks.

The answer that came back from the organisers of Exercise Border Bridge was:-

*"The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council raised questions prior to Exercise Border Bridge in regards to the unintended consequences for the Bee Industry by way of quarantines imposed for Restricted Areas (RA) and Control Areas (CA). Whilst bees were not affected by the animal or plant disease in the Exercise, if a beekeeper had beehives in the RA or CA, there could be damaging consequences to the individual/industry if they could not access their hives."*

*Based on this enquiry we included an input into the Exercise to identify whether an RA or CA restriction would impact the movement of bee hives. It was determined during the exercise in NSW :*

- *Bee hives were not subjected to any special restrictions.*
- *A permit was required to move the hives from an IP, but this is the same as any movements from IPs.*
- *The conditions for movement were more related to biosecurity implications of the truck*

*Hives located within the restricted area would not be subjected to any specific movement conditions."*

So this is good news and makes liaising with these Exercises worthwhile in identifying unintended consequences that can be sorted out now and not in the heat of an outbreak.

## B-QUAL

The B-QUAL Board has met and two (2) Directors have resigned. Dr. Nicholas Chantler AM and Martin Drake felt they could not commit the time that was needed to the Board. Thank you to Nicholas and Martin for your service to the Board.

Rodney Ruge has been appointed as a Director. So the full Board is:-

Wayne Fuller – Chairman  
Don Muir  
Paul Costa  
Rodney Ruge  
Peter McDonald  
Trevor Weatherhead AM - Secretary

The B-QUAL newsletter has been published. If you are not in B-QUAL I would urge you to have a read of the newsletter. It can be found at <http://www.bqual.com.au/Assets/files/BQUAL%20Newsletter%20-%20SEPT%202017-2018.pdf>

# HUNTER VALLEY APIARIES

Col & Linda Wilson PO Box 180, KURRI KURRI NSW 2327 Ph/Fax: (02) 4930 4950

## FOUNDATION

### PLASTIC

The Best Plastic Foundation  
You Can Buy  
Dominates Sales in  
USA and CANADA  
Sizes, FD, WSP, Manly, Ideal

Full **PLASTIC FRAMES**  
available

### WAX

We can mill to the thickness  
you require  
Have your own wax milled or  
exchanged for foundation in  
stock

**DRONE COMB FOUNDATION**  
available

Wax bought or exchanged for  
bee goods

**FRAMES Mahurangi NZ**  
**Premium Quality**

For Plastic and Wax Foundation

**BEE BOXES**

**WEATHERTEX** Lids & Bottom  
Boards

**QUEEN EXCLUDERS**

**FRAME FEEDERS**

**QUEEN CELLS**

**AFB**  
**TEST KITS**

Quick and easy to use  
Results in just 3 minutes

**SWARM ATTRACTANTS**  
**APITHOR** for Small Hive Beetle

**NOZEVIT**

HIVES CAN BE TREATED FOR LESS THAN \$1

**Healthy** bee colonies build brood faster in the  
Spring, and will winter extremely well when  
their intestinal integrity is intact. By using all  
natural Nozevit as a food supplement for intestinal  
cleansing for internal ailments.

i.e. nosema

**For All Your BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES**

Email: [honeybee100@skymesh.com.au](mailto:honeybee100@skymesh.com.au)

Phone: 02 4930 4950





## Supporting Aussie Beekeepers Since 1953



**100%**  
Australian  
Owned &  
Grown

For more than 60 years Capilano Honey has grown from a small beekeeping cooperative into Australia's and one of the world's largest honey packing companies. Domestic and international demand for Capilano branded honey is very strong and we are actively seeking to expand our supplier network, sourcing quality honey and beeswax from new and existing beekeepers. Capilano Honey does not require suppliers to be shareholders in order to conduct business, so give us a call to discuss your interest in supplying Capilano.

**Contact: Ben McKee**  
Managing Director  
Phone: 1800 350 977  
Fax: (07) 3712 8285  
Email: b.mckee@capilano.com.au

**Contact: Bill Winner**  
Beekeeper Services Manager  
Phone: 1800 350 977  
Fax: (07) 3712 8285  
Email: b.winner@capilano.com.au

**Contact: Michael Bellman**  
Branch Manager, Western Australia  
Phone: 1800 350 977  
Fax: (08) 9271 1025  
Email: m.bellman@capilano.com.au

**Australia's favourite honey, naturally!**  
**www.capilano.com.au**





# BEEKEEPING JOURNALS

## AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

For beekeeping information read  
The American Bee Journal

Editorial emphasis on practical-down-to-earth material,  
including questions and answers.

1 year US\$52.00, 2 years US\$99.00

Digital Edition price US\$16.00

Please inquire for airmail - VISA, MasterCard accepted

For more information or free sample copy, write to:

51 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hamilton, Illinois, 62341

Tel: (217) 847 3324 Fax: (217) 847 3660

Email: [abj@dadant.com](mailto:abj@dadant.com)

Website: [www.americanbeejournal.com](http://www.americanbeejournal.com)

The American Bee Journal is the largest monthly  
apiculture magazine in the world.

## BEE CULTURE

The Magazine of American Beekeeping

Published Monthly - Free Calendar with Subscription

[www.BeeCulture.com](http://www.BeeCulture.com) for details

## AUSTRALIAN BEE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Victorian Apiarists' Association Inc.

Published monthly

Annual subscription: \$82 Australia / \$120 overseas

For more information and a free sample copy

Contact: The Editor

PO Box 42, Newstead VIC 3462

Email: [abjeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:abjeditors@yahoo.com)

## THE BUZZ!

South Australian Apiarists' Association Newsletter

Published 5 times annually

Included in annual membership subscription to SAAA  
(minimum subs \$88.00)

For further information please contact:

The Secretary, SAAA

1 Parma Street, Pt Broughton SA 5522

Phone: (08) 8635 2257

Email: [secretary@saaa.org.au](mailto:secretary@saaa.org.au)

## THE AMATEUR BEEKEEPER

Bi-monthly newsletter for

The Amateur Beekeepers' Association Inc..

Editor: Sue Carney

Email: [susancarney@me.com](mailto:susancarney@me.com)

## THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPER

Official Journal of Apiculture New Zealand Inc. - [www.nba.org.nz](http://www.nba.org.nz)

Accounts & Subscriptions: Pauline Downie

PO Box 25207 Wellington 6146 New Zealand

Phone: 04 471 6254

Email: [secretary@nba.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nba.org.nz)

Advertising: Certa Solutions

PO Box 2494, Dunedin 9044, New Zealand

Ph: 0800 404 515

Email: [beekeeper@certasolutions.co.nz](mailto:beekeeper@certasolutions.co.nz)

# ADVERTISERS

Apiary Cots	33
Aussie Hives	11
Australian Queen Bee Exporters	5
Australian Queen Bee Line Pty Ltd	11
Avant Equipment	7
Bee Engineering	44
Beechworth Honey Pty Ltd	12
BeePlas Australia	28
BeeWise	30
Berringa	46
Blue Bees Producers	12
B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd	17
Browns Bees Australia	43
Burnett Bee Keeping Supplies	46
Capilano Honey Ltd	49
Clayton Plastics	18
CNR Insurance Brokers	33
Cottesbrook Honey	44
Covey Queens	2
Dalrymple View Apiary Supplies	28
Demise	46
Denmar Apiaries	2
Dewar Apiaries/Bee Build	44
Ezyloader	8
FeedBee	12
Gustare	28
Honey Down Under	2
Honey Wanted	33
Hornsby Beekeeping Supplies	35
Hummerbee Forklifts	9
Hunter Valley Apiaries	48
Hydes Creek Woodworks	46
Lyson Beekeeping Supplies	16
NUPLAS - Plastic Hives	26/27
Penders Beekeeping Supplies	8
Prestige Stainless	12
SA Beekeeping Supplies	17
SCHÜTZ	52
Simons Boiler Co	15
Spitwater	34
Steritech Pty Ltd	45
Superbee	51
Top Bait Plus	46
Valley Industries Ltd	33
Wellbees	17
WFI Insurance	43
<a href="http://www.candlemaking.com.au">www.candlemaking.com.au</a>	21

As one of Australia's largest  
packers of pure Australian honey,  
Superbee Honey Factory is  
**LOOKING FOR SUPPLIERS**  
to support our increasing demand  
for Australian Honey



CONTACT US TO REQUEST A QUOTE OR BOOK A DELIVERY T. 02 6851 1155  
BEN SMITH - E. [ben@superbee.com.au](mailto:ben@superbee.com.au)

**WE HAVE NEW IBC'S FOR SALE TO OUR SUPPLIERS AT \$335 (INCL).**  
*We can deduct the price directly from your honey delivery,  
so you can take them home when you drop off the honey!*

**PAYMENT IN 30 DAYS OR LESS**



Bee Wonderful Pty Ltd  
ABN. 37 113 160 571  
Cnr Newell Hwy & Landrace Rd  
Forbes NSW 2871  
T. (02) 6851 1155  
E. (02) 6851 1177  
[www.superbee.com.au](http://www.superbee.com.au)



# THE HONEY INDUSTRY IS SWARMING TO **SCHÜTZ ECOBULK**



## FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Economically designed for the safe transport and storage of honey – at least 25% more efficient than traditional packaging
- Can be easily stacked up to 3 ECOBULK high
- Capacity MX ECOBULK – 1,000L (275 Gal)
- Manufactured under HACCP conditions in a clean environment

**CONTACT SCHÜTZ TO ORDER YOUR ECOBULK TODAY** AT [SALES@SCHUETZ.NET](mailto:SALES@SCHUETZ.NET) OR ON 03 9360 9291