

AUSTRALIA'S

# HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Volume 13 Number 6  
November - December 2020



## *Inside:*

*Honeyland 2021 Pg 11*  
*Honey Bee Vaccine Pg 14*  
*Honey Samples Needed for*  
*Aust. Honey Library Pg 37*

# DENMAR APIARIES

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***Cover:***  
***Merry Christmas***





# AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Robyn Lewis PO Box 117 Narellan NSW 2567

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Richard Willis 0428 323 812  
David Mumford 02 6959 2519  
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Miskell Hampton 0437 913 831  
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## AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL (AHBIC)

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**Executive Director:** Helen Goodall

Ph: 0402 467 780 Email: ahbic@honeybee.org.au Website: www.honeybee.org.au

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## 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

Congratulations to Therese Kershaw who was recognized by Agrifutures for the unselfish work she does for the Apiary industry. Well deserved. Congratulations also to Danny Le Feuvre who is now on the Agrifutures Board. Congratulations to Neil Bingley who is now on the Agrifutures Honey Bee & Pollination Panel. Thank you to those beekeepers who applied to be on the Agrifutures Honey Bee & Pollination Panel.

**YAHOO YAHOO YAHOO** NSWAA was successful with our Bushfire Industry Recovery Grant application. We will receive all the money that we asked for with the application. **\$1,942,629** spread across six different projects. For project details see the last edition of the HBN. The application was submitted by University of Sydney for the industry.

Three of the projects involve testing/analysis of honey samples. This requires beekeepers to collect honey samples and fill out a questionnaire ref the sample and mail in. Details will be provided.

I have been on ABC TV News along with the Lockwood's reference the recovery of bees after the drought and bushfires. I have also been on radio ABC Sunday afternoons with the Murrays, ABC with James Valentine and finally ABC South East with regard to bushfire recovery and also biosecurity. Listeners are keen to hear about our industry.

Most beekeepers are way up on honey production this year compared to last year due to good rainfall and resultant ground flora. Hives and bees lost due to the drought and bushfires have been replaced. This is great news for individual businesses. The honey bonus paid by two major packers for deliveries prior to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec has also helped business income. I am reliably informed one packer is paying \$6.80 kg – as normal honey payment – no bonuses involved.

Transfer of public land sites – anyone wishing to transfer public land sites please contact Nick Geoghegan and he will provide a form to fill out for the transfer. In time this will be self-service and done on line. That will not be the case in the short term. If you are having problems accessing BPASS please contact Nick and he will walk you through the process.

Madlen Kratz has been successful with a small smarty grants application for testing of commercially available pollen and pollen substitutes. I look forward to seeing the final report.

The executive continues to plan for 2021 Honeyland. This will depend on what the RAS COVID safety plan may be. We are also planning for a normal (??) conference at Tamworth in 2021. Numbers may be limited at the venue – if that is the case bookings will be first in get the tickets. At this stage there will be a honey competition in a smaller format than what was originally planned.

Zac Alcock will be attending the Marcus Oldham course in 2021. Thank you Zac.

The Agrifutures funded AHBIC review of the honey levy has been completed and is available on the Agrifutures website. The current honey levy is not sustainable to fund everything that the industry requires funded. One third of all honey produced is sold without any levy being paid. The cost of collecting honey levies is also quite high. These are big issues. Be prepared to discuss honey levies in the near future.

The NSWAA business plan is up for review. It was resolved at the November executive meeting to hold a workshop at Dubbo Monday 22 Feb 2021. Branch presidents plus one member from each branch will be invited to attend this workshop. The executive meeting will be on the Tuesday. Details will be forwarded when we have a venue booked.

Thank you to all our members who have given the executive a vote of thanks by paying your membership. We hope that you agree with the job we have done and will renew your membership in 2021. Spread the word about the benefits of being a member.

Lastly Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your executive. May honey abound in the year ahead.

Stephen Targett  
President

## Wanted Cover Photos

Do you have a bee related photograph that you would like to see on the cover of Australia's Honeybee News?

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## NSW AA Executive Responsibilities

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*A passion for honey bees is what drives  
Therese Kershaw to help the industry stay  
connected through tough times*

12.10.20 Courtesy AgriFutures



To celebrate International Day of Rural Women, we are shining a light on some of the incredible women from regional, rural and remote parts of Australia who we get to work with at AgriFutures Australia. One of these incredible women is Therese Kershaw.

The expression “runs in her blood” certainly applies to Therese and beekeeping. Therese is a fourth-generation beekeeper, as is her husband, Laurie. With their children now involved in the honey bee industry, beekeeping is undoubtedly a family affair for the Kershaws.

Therese is a dedicated supporter of the Australian honey bee industry, volunteering countless hours in support of the beekeeping community. Just recently she has helped the industry examine the impact of the 2019-20 bushfires on local beekeepers and the pollination industry, developing a six-point action plan providing a roadmap to rebuild the industry and its contribution to Australian agriculture.

Her extensive list of roles and volunteer positions includes Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) Executive Council Member, and Sponsorship & Trade Show Coordinator for both the NSW Apiarist Association (NSWAA) and the Australian Bee congress; to name a few.

“Bees have always been part of my life and I am passionate about the industry, it’s a small industry with a big impact on a lot of other industries. This passion is what drives to me to volunteer many hours of my time to support the industry,” said Therese.

Therese is a firm believer of the power of face-to-face in order to keep the industry connected, a challenging conundrum in the wake of COVID-19, and is passionate about using her business relations and sponsorship expertise to provide opportunities for beekeepers to come together.

“Beekeeping can be quite isolating, and it is vital for the

mental health and wellness of beekeepers to have the opportunity to communicate face to face,” said Therese. Drought, fire, flood and now COVID-19 have all posed serious threats to the Australian honey bee industry. Therese’s passion for the industry and its members has led her to take on a lead role in supporting her local branch to get through it all together.

“Laurie and I saw that our local NSWAA branch needed support and guidance to navigate these extremely tough times, so we decided to step up. We often organise meetings at our home and invite guest speakers and exhibitors to help each other manage our bees through whatever life throws at us,” said Therese.

When asked what inspired her to give back to the honey bee community, Therese had this to say: “I love to inspire people, share opportunities for people to learn and encourage others to share knowledge. It was so important for us to share positivity amongst the honey bee industry community, especially after the bushfires in 2019/20.”

While Therese believes that the honey bee industry is still very much a male-dominated industry, she has seen changes occurring and believes that women have a key role to play in the future of the industry.

“Women have always contributed and supported our industry, however, traditionally this was from behind the scenes. I look forward to a time when both men and women are considered on ability and are represented on this ability at the forefront of organisations and committees. It would be great to think that in the future we have women who fill the roles of Chair of industry organisations or committees. Currently, the AHBIC Executive has moved from a male dominated organisation to one where women are taking a leading role in holding executive positions, our CEO and two elected Executive positions are currently filled by women. Opinions are slowly changing, and roles are being filled based on skill set, rather than gender.”

Therese has paved a solid path for other women in the honey bee industry by going above and beyond to prove herself and her skills, working hard to make positive changes for the industry. Her advice to young women wanting to get involved in the industry is to take the leap.

“Just do it, gender shouldn’t be a barrier. We all see things differently, with our own special personalities and qualities, everyone has something to offer. Create a wish list of things you’d like to achieve and take small steps towards ticking them off and growing your vision.”  
International Day of Rural Women

We have launched a hashtag #hatsofftoruralwomen across our social media channels and encourage you to use this hashtag and share the stories of the rural, regional and remote women you work with and the reasons why they inspire you.

For more information about the United Nations’ International Day of Rural Women, please visit: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/rural-women-day>



**The Royal Easter Show is going ahead**

# **Honeyland 2021**

## **We are seeking honey donations from Association Members**

### **Straight Line Variety**

**Please contact Show Coordinator Debbie Porter  
[debbie.porter3@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie.porter3@hotmail.com)**

**By 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

#### ***Where did you say you went?***

Remember when we walked through the arts and crafts pavilion? You aren't alone if you said no. There are showgoers who love to check out creative handiwork but it's not the most popular pavilion.

The position of Honeyland has changed and it is not for the better - moved by the RAS, not by our choice, out of the well known Woolworths food pavilion and into the side pavilion dominated by arts and craft.

The driving force of Honeyland is our product - honey. We need donated honey to make the Royal Easter Show work to our advantage this year because with a new location, a much smaller crowd and tougher restrictions on health and safety we are going to struggle.

The majority of beekeepers have had a good season, and our executive have worked hard to get concessions for both members and non members. They campaigned for and achieved waived fees on public land sites saving many of us money.

Hosting a stall at the Royal Easter Show gives our industry exposure, educates the public and teaches kids (and some adults) the process to get honey from the bee hive to the breakfast table. It's not cheap. We pay for site fees, stall layout adjustments required by the RAS and this year the safety equipment that will be required for Covid. Donations of honey will allow Honeyland to be more confident of a positive outcome instead of worrying about a likely loss.

The biggest effect on our success will be the number of people allowed into the show itself. In 2019 there were 900,000 visitors. Attendance restrictions on smaller country shows have been announced, in some cases a reduction to less than half, but no final verdict on the Royal as yet. Without question the attendance will be drastically reduced combined with strict social distancing guidelines.

Honey tasting, a cornerstone of our stand is responsible for driving many sales. How often do we see kids taste something they love so parents buy it, or hear a loud wow that's amazing and suddenly you've sold half a dozen jars. We have not yet received approval that we can go ahead with honey tasting, and if we do there will be restrictions. This will affect our bottom line.

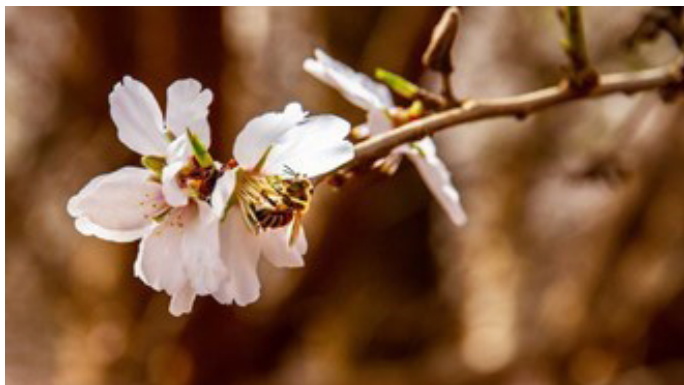
The Royal Easter Show is a chance to catch up with friends, educate the public and show off our amazing honey. It's also a great opportunity to show support for our Association. Our executive have had public land fees waived and we've had a good year. Donations of five straight lines of honey are critical so that not only can we attend, but we can have confidence we won't run at a loss. A new less popular location, compulsory expensive stand adjustments and greatly reduced attendance will all prove challenging, but as beekeepers we can use these challenging times to back the industry and each other and ease some pressure through honey donation. Without help and support Honeyland may not go ahead. Please talk to your branches and contribute to the donation of five straight lines of honey.



# CATCH THE BUZZ- POLLINATION LEVY ON BEEKEEPERS IN AUSTRALIA??

**Call for pollination levy in Australia  
as beekeepers turn away from honey  
production**

**By: Bridget Herrmann, Cherie von  
Hörchner and Eden Hynninen**



*Bees are important to our environment as they pollinate many flowers and crops. (ABC: Jennifer Douglas)*

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) is calling for apiarists who take part in pollination services to pay a levy.

Key points:

- The honey council says more levy fees are required to help tackle biosecurity threats
  - A pollination bee broker has questioned the proposal
- Currently under the Australian Constitution pollination services can't be levied
- The peak body for the sector has previously pushed for the fee, but with no success.

Chair Trevor Weatherhead said that it would bolster funds received from the current honey levy, which were declining.

"In recent times the beekeepers, instead of producing a lot of honey, are going and doing pollination and getting paid for that pollination service," he said.

"The honey levy covers things like getting ready for any exotic pests and being able to mount an incursion and the national residue survey.



*Executive director of the Australian Honeybee Industry Council Trevor Weatherhead. (ABC News: Ashleigh Stevenson)*

Mr Weatherhead said the survey was required for European honey exports.

"It also funds our research to AgriFutures Australia," he said.

"Our research funds haven't really gone up for many years now, so it would be good to be able to carry out more research."

The federal Department of Agriculture advised the AHBIC that a levy would not be within the Australia Constitution as it is a service, not a commodity.

However, Mr Weatherhead said he had been informed there would be a review and said there were examples of levies on services elsewhere.

"We know for instance in the horse racing industry when a stallion services a mare, there's a levy put on that," he said.

In a statement, a Government spokesperson said the department was currently streamlining and modernising agricultural levies legislation.

"This work will aim to ensure the legislation is fit for the future and flexible enough to meet industry needs and will include consideration of if and how new types of levies could be incorporated into the framework," it said.



*A canola field near Jamestown in South Australia. Many beekeepers send their hives to canola crops after the almond pollination season. (Supplied: Ian Symonds)*

## Balancing honey production and pollination

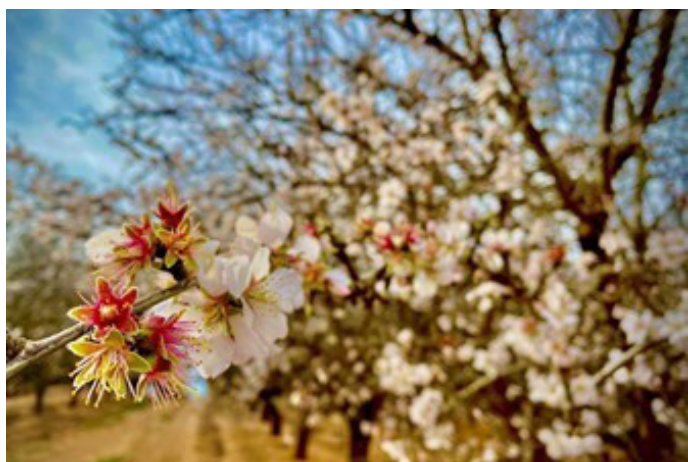
Mr Weatherhead said before a levy could be put into place, AHBIC would need to get agreement from the wider industry, including from beekeepers like South Australian Danny Le Feuvre.

Mr Le Feuvre supported the idea and said pollination service provided half of his income.

“It’s about risk for us, and diversity of income,” he said. However, it has come at a cost for the Yorke Peninsula-based producer.

“Every week we’re on pollination is a week we’re not making honey,” he said.

“We could be making more [money] in an average year if all our honeybees were making honey but [not] in a really poor year, which is what we’ve had for the last few years.”



*Thousands of hives are sent to north-west Victoria for the almond pollination season. (ABC Rural: Cherie Von Hörchner)*

## Research and development a necessity

Victorian Apiarists’ Association president Phillip McPherson said many commercial beekeepers did not understand the importance of research and development and that it came at a cost.

He said, over the past 20 years, the focus of beekeepers had shifted away from honey production, reducing the levy contribution.

“It’s come at a timely phase because of the dry conditions in the 2000s that has meant that many eucalyptus trees didn’t flower as regularly as they should,” Mr McPherson said.

“A large section of beekeepers are making an income from this but not contributing to the research,” Mr McPherson said.

## Proposed fees aren’t straightforward

Sunraysia bee broker and north-west Victorian pollination coordinator for the almond season Trevor Monson, is not convinced.

He said applying the charges would be difficult.

“Who pays?” Mr Monson asked.

“It would come out of beekeepers pockets. Therefore, pollination fees would drop to them and then that would be passed onto almond growers,” he said.

“Then almond growers would be saying, ‘Hey wait a minute, we pay levies, so why should we pay more levies?’”

“It’s a complex issue.”

Mr Monson said the way to calculate levies was not as straightforward as it seemed.

“If you pay a pollination levy, what do you pay it on?”

“(If) someone does four pollination jobs like almonds, canola, apricots, watermelons or avocados — does that mean every time we do a pollination job we pay a levy on that job?”

Mr Monson said the idea was not new.

“It has been talked about for some years. They talked about \$1 a hive,” he said.

“To run 1,000 hives of bees, that’s \$1000 for almonds, and then you put 600 on canola, that’s another \$600.

“It’s complicated because I might pollinate apples, at a very reduced rate, because a guy has a farm he lets me put bees on.

“Do I still pay that fee on that?”

Mr Monson said paying honey levies was simple.

“When you sell honey to a packer there’s a kilo rate. It’s very simple. It might be \$500-\$600 a year. But with pollination, it’s all over the place.

## Biosecurity is everyone’s responsibility

“There should be a levy on imported stuff that are bringing these bugs in more so than penalising us,” Mr Monson said.

“It’s in the public interest to stop some of these bugs like fire ants. So, therefore it should just come out of the public purse.”

He said if the Government decided the pollination services were deemed to need a levy, then the industry would have to comply.

“I think if a levy comes in, it should be put to commercial beekeepers.

“Anyone with more than 200 hives of bees, ought to have the right to vote whether the levy is introduced or not.”

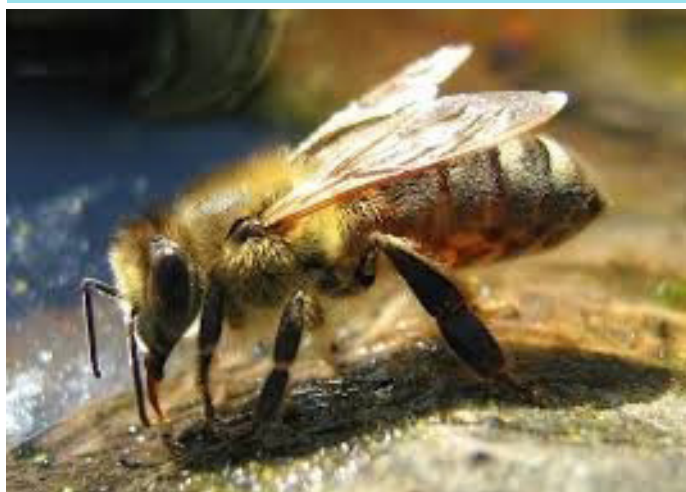
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-08/bee-pollination-levy-biosecurity-research-funding/12842508>





## CATCH THE BUZZ – HONEY BEE VACCINE

### First-ever insect vaccine helps bees stay healthy



The easily administered oral vaccine could keep pollinators safe from bacterial diseases and give invaluable support for food production worldwide.

Food and pollination services are important for everyone: humans, production animals and wildlife alike. Inventing something that guards against pollinator losses will have a tremendous impact.

The Dalan AH oral vaccine, previously called PrimeBEE, is the first-ever vaccine for honey bees and other pollinators. It fights severe microbial diseases that can be detrimental to pollinator communities. The invention is the fruit of research carried out by two former scientists in the University of Helsinki, Dalial Freitak and Heli Salmela.

The basis of the innovation is quite simple. When the queen bee eats something with pathogens in it, the pathogen signature molecules are bound by vitellogenin. Vitellogenin then carries these signature molecules into the queen's eggs, where they work as inducers for future immune responses.

Before this, no-one had thought that insect vaccination could be possible at all. That is because the insect immune system, although rather similar to the mammalian system, lacks one of the central mechanisms for immunological memory – antibodies.

“Now we've discovered the mechanism to show that you can actually vaccinate them. You can transfer a signal from one generation to another,” Dalial Freitak, researcher and now the CSO of Dalan Animal Health, says.

#### *From moths to honey bees*

Dalial Freitak has been working with insects and the immune system throughout her career. Starting with

moths, she noticed that if the parental generation is exposed to certain bacteria via their food, their offspring show elevated immune responses.

“So they could actually convey something by eating. I just didn't know what the mechanism was. At the time, as I started my post-doc work in Helsinki, I met with Heli Salmela, who was working on honeybees and a protein called vitellogenin. I heard her talk and I was like: OK, I could make a bet that it is your protein that takes my signal from one generation to another. We started to collaborate, got funding from the Academy of Finland, and that was actually the beginning of our oral vaccine for bees,” Dalial Freitak explains.

#### *Future plans: vaccinating commercially used pollinators against any microbe*

Dalial Freitak and Dalan Animal Health are the pioneers in a totally new animal health sector.

“I sincerely believe it is about time we start caring about our six-legged companions, whose work and contributions to our wellbeing have been neglected way too long. We take our bees for granted but this industry is a breaking point and it is high time that we find solutions to help to protect them. Vaccines have proven to be the most effective way to prevent and contain disease and most importantly, our approach is organic without the use of harsh chemicals,” Dalial Freitak says.

Dalan AH aims to develop a vaccine against American foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by the spore-forming *Paenibacillus larvae* ssp. *larvae*. American foulbrood is the most widespread and destructive of the bee brood diseases. “We hope that we can also develop a vaccination against other infections, such as European foulbrood and fungal diseases. The plan is to be able to vaccinate against any microbe”.

Now, the company has introduced the concept of an insect vaccine to the USDA and have filed a license application for the first ever honey bee vaccine.

“Our next goal is to launch our first vaccine product in the US and then the EU. Once we have tackled bee diseases we want to offer solutions for other commercially used pollinators such as bumble bees and other beneficial insects. Our goal is to offer innovative solutions in insect health in order to promote sustainable agriculture,” Dalial Freitak says.

#### *Being a pioneer is inspiring*

The journey towards the vaccine has so far been immensely inspiring.

“Writing the roadmap for insect vaccination and filing the clinical protocol with the regulator was super exciting. The other inspiring moment was seeing my idea come to life and seeing a prototype vaccine formulation in a bottle had been a dream come true. Now we have to get it approved and onto the market so others get to participate in changing the way we care for our insects.”



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*The COVID-19 situation has been the biggest challenge for the company so far.*

“The lock-downs and travel restrictions have definitely slowed us down. But we have a creative team and we are doing everything we can to make up for the slowdown. Here probably the good thing has been that Dalan AH has been from the beginning a virtual company, so having several online meetings and brainstorming involving people around the globe has been a routine for us from the get go,” Dalial Freitak says.

***Commercialisation has been the goal right from the beginning***

“The Dalan AH oral bee vaccine is a great showcase of the variety of innovations coming from the University of Helsinki. It has been inspiring and rewarding to see how the Dalan team has expanded and advanced the technology and business further continuously improving our response to the declining bee populations.” says Jari Strandman, CEO of [Helsinki Innovation Services](https://www.helsinki.fi/en/innovation-services), company responsible for technology transfer and spinout company creation from the University of Helsinki.

<https://www.miragenews.com/first-ever-insect-vaccine-helps-bees-stay-healthy/>



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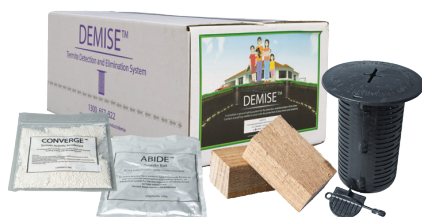
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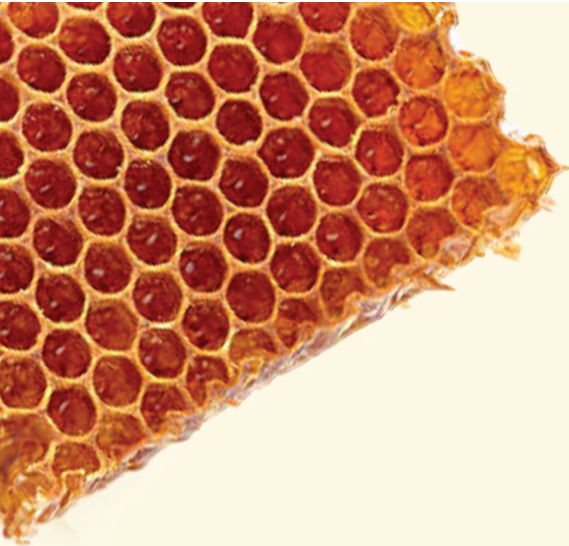
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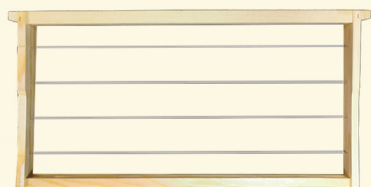
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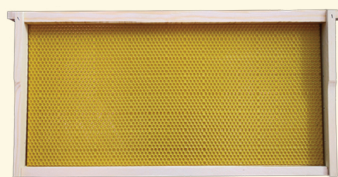




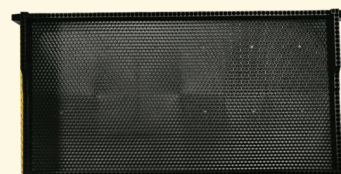
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## DPI Plant Biosecurity

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Like your bees, we like the sweet business of working together, but we do use our sting when things turn foul.

To support best practice beekeeping, people who keep honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) in New South Wales must be registered with the NSW DPI. This requirement is legislated under the Biosecurity Act 2015, and registration conditions are consistent with the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (the Code). Annual conditions include honey testing for American Foulbrood (AFB) for beekeepers managing 50 or more hives. You are required to have one test conducted on a pooled honey sample representing at least 20% of your hives.

Samples are submitted to NSW DPI's Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute. EMAI diagnosticians continue to monitor the development of alternate testing methodologies; however, testing honey for *Paenibacillus larvae* (AFB) spores by culture remains the most reliable and recommended method to monitor for AFB in large apiaries. A scoring system has been developed for *P. larvae* spore culture of honey, where test results of '1+' indicates 60% likelihood of AFB disease in the hives from which the honey was extracted, '2+' indicates 80% likelihood, and '3+' indicates virtually 100% likelihood.

These results give you confidence you are managing AFB well. But every now and again, someone is found that is not working in the bees' interest. In November 2020, 281 AFB infested hives were seized by NSW DPI Compliance officers in Central West NSW. The diseased Bees were euthanised on site, and the hives were removed and destroyed.





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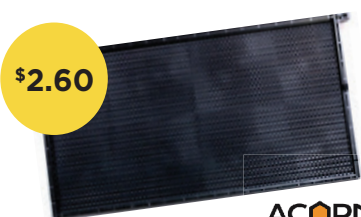
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# Technical Specialist, Honey Bees Report

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## Meritorious Service to Apiculture: History of the Goodacre Award

The Goodacre Memorial Award is the peak national award bestowed upon individuals who have provided significant service to the Australian beekeeping industry.

The Goodacre Award was created to perpetuate the memory of the late Bill Goodacre who provided 35 years of meritorious service to the beekeeping industry in his employ within the NSW Department of Agriculture.

Thirty-five recipients, beekeepers, bee researchers and dogged industry advocates among them, have been awarded this recognition for their substantial service to the beekeeping industry from around the nation, starting in 1956 with Morris Morgan and most recently with Dr. Ben Oldroyd in 2018 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bee Congress.

Nominations can be submitted by individuals to the Goodacre Award secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> of April every year. A nomination must have six supporters who are willing to provide evidence preferably in the form of a support letter or reference on the merits of the nomination. The person coordinating the nomination should compile a citation of the nominees' attributes clearly providing evidence of the reasons why the award is deserving. The submissions should be written with the presumption that the committee making the decision does not have a complete prior knowledge of the nominees' achievements.

The nomination process is confidential and any persons other than the referees are not made aware of the proposed nomination. A committee of three comprising the President of the NSW Apiarists' Association, Chairman of AHBIC and the Chief Apiary Officer in NSW will make the decision. This panel is accountable to the Australian Beekeeping Industry and as such the citation associated with any award is required to clearly reflect the depth and commitment to the beekeeping industry of the nominated person or organisation. In other words, the award will not be granted to persons unless the committee is satisfied the nominee is of an extremely high calibre.

If you've read this and had a light bulb moment about someone whose service to the beekeeping industry fits this bill, I encourage you to organise six letters of support or references and send them to me as the Goodacre Award Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> of April any year.



*The previous Goodacre Memorial Award design. In future, you'll see an updated award design.*

For those interested in the award constitution, please find it for your reference below:

### Goodacre Memorial Award Constitution


1. **Name:** The name shall be the Goodacre Memorial Award.
2. **Purpose:** The purpose of this award is to preserve the memory of the late William Alexander Goodacre by way of recognition of persons who have rendered meritorious services to Australian apiculture. The late William A. Goodacre served the beekeepers of New South Wales as apiculture officer of the Department of Agriculture for thirty-five years.
3. **Awards:**
  - a. An award shall be the conferring of an honour and may take the form of a permanent sign of the making of the award and, or a badge.
  - b. Awards may be made from time to time to persons, firms, organisations who have rendered meritorious service to Australian apiculture.
  - c. These services may be in any category relative to Australian beekeeping.
  - d. In considering the making of awards, the beneficial impact of the person or services upon the industry should be a first consideration. After recognition of this factor, the contribution made in relation to production, marketing, economic value, research and invention, dissemination of information, organisation, long service, beneficial results for those engaged in the industry should be considered.



- e. Any person may make a nomination and submit a case supported by six persons (referees). The Administrative Committee may make such enquiries as it wishes and make its decision on the basis of its enquiries, the submission and the reports of the six persons (referees) who also sign the nomination.
  - f. Nominations must be sent to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> April for consideration by the administrators.
  - g. Awards should be made at intervals of not more than four years and as frequently as annually.
  - h. Awards may be made to persons, firm or organisations anywhere in the world, providing their efforts have shown beneficial impact upon the Australian Honey Industry.
  - i. The names of those considered for the award, apart from those to whom an award is made, shall not, in any circumstances, be revealed.
  - j. A person whilst currently in office as an Administrator may not be a recipient of the Award.
  - k. Those making a nomination must provide any details required.
- 4. Administration:**
- a. Administration of the Award shall be solely by an Administrative Committee, which shall consist of a representative of the New South Wales Apiarists' Association INC., a

representative of the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the principal or senior apicultural officer of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture or his/her nominee.

- b. The Administrators shall elect at the annual meeting which shall be during the first five months of the calendar year, a chairman, an honorary secretary and an honorary treasurer from amongst their own ranks and an auditor from elsewhere.
  - c. Funds shall be invested; bank accounts operated and payments made as directed by the Administrative Committee and any two members of the Committee shall sign all cheques and financial documents.
  - d. The financial year shall conclude on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in each calendar year.
  - e. Thirty days' notice of any meeting shall be given by the secretary, the meeting date to be subject to the approval of the Chairman or failing this approval, by the other Administrator except that if there is unanimous agreement by the members of the Committee, the notice of a meeting may be less.
- 5. Amendment of Rules:** These rules may be amended by agreement between the New South Wales Apiarists' Association INC., the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and the Administrative Committee but any requirement not provided for



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in the rules may be the subject of a rule or rules by unanimous decision of the Committee but if such are to become permanent they shall become subject to approval by the bodies represented on the Administrative Committee.

6. **Termination:** This Award may only be dissolved by recommendation of the Administrative Committee which has the agreement of the two organisations represented on the Committee and the New South Wales Department of Agriculture and any residue funds at such time shall be distributed in supporting dissemination of useful technical information to the industry. (End).

The Goodacre Memorial Award Honour Roll has been transferred from the previous Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Doug Somerville to the current Secretary/Treasurer Elizabeth Frost. The Honour Roll currently resides at Tocal Agricultural College where visiting beekeepers can view it during Australia's longest running Beekeepers Field Day or when it is displayed at beekeeping conferences around the nation. Current administrators of the award, as dictated in the constitution are the NSWAA President (Stephen Targett), Australian Honey Bee Industry Council representative (Trevor Weatherhead) and NSW DPI representative (Elizabeth Frost).



*Goodacre Memorial Award Honour Roll Part I.*



## GOODACRE MEMORIAL AWARDS

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 2013 JOHN RHODES, PHD  
 2015 DOUG SOMERVILLE, PHD  
 2016 ROB MANNING, PHD  
 2018 BEN OLDROYD, PROF, PHD

*Goodacre Memorial Award Honour Roll Part II. To be continued.*

Again, to anyone wishing to nominate someone whose meritorious service to beekeeping is second to none, please gather letters of support or reference from six people and forward those to me (Award Secretary/Treasurer) before 1<sup>st</sup> of April in any year. Letters of support or reference can be posted or emailed to me:  
 Elizabeth Frost  
 815 Tocal Road  
 Paterson NSW 2421

E-mail: [elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.frost@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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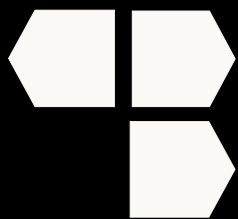
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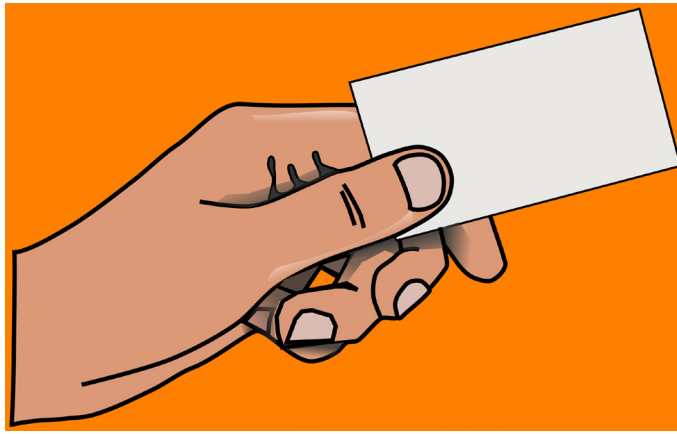
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## Business Cards

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If you are a commercial beekeeper and **DO NOT** have a business card or clearly give property owners your contact details and name –sell your bees. You are not suitable to be running a business or managing livestock.

Beekeepers who do not leave business cards **OR** their name and contact details with property/orchard owners are not professional and are detrimental to our industry. The NSWAA business plan number one priority is resource access, yet we have industry cowboys who continually do the wrong thing and get industry banned from properties.

I have had phone calls from two orchardists asking, ‘did I know the beekeepers who had hives on their property?’. They had no name or contact details for the beekeeper. Both orchardists wished to spray insecticide and wanted the hives moved. My advice – if there was going to be insect damage to the crop – then spray. It is the only way some beekeepers will learn – the hard way. I did inform the orchardists how to get the beekeepers registered number and gave them DPI contact numbers to get name of beekeeper.

Property owners should not have to go to this much trouble to find the name and contact details for the beekeeper. Contact details should be on the business card and also on the honey jars property owners were given.

Business cards cost very little to have made and they show professionalism. Not only should commercial beekeepers have business cards but any beekeeper that use others properties for their hives. A little common sense and courtesy goes a long way.

Advantages of business cards:

- \* Make one look professional;
- \* Good way to start/continue long term bee site arrangement; and
- \* Easy to contact you if owner:
  - notices something amiss with your hives;
  - wishes to spray; and
  - if there are fires nearby.

Please get business cards and use them. Have some in every vehicle that you use.

Stephen Targett





23 November 2020



Robyn Lewis  
State Secretary  
NSW Apiarists Society  
PO Box 117  
Narellan NSW 2567

Dear Ms Lewis

**RE: NARROMINE TO NARRABRI (N2N) PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) is seeking approval to construct and operate the Narromine to Narrabri section of Inland Rail.

ARTC has lodged an Application for State Significant Infrastructure, Number SSI 9487. The proposal is subject to assessment under Part 5 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. The capital investment value of the proposal is estimated to be over \$50 million, and as a result the proposal is *State Significant Infrastructure under State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011*.

The proposal is therefore subject to Part 5.2 of the EP&A Act and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared addressing the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The proposal consists of about 306 kilometres of new single-track with seven crossings loops. It includes bridges over rivers and floodplains, roads and rail lines, new level crossings, road realignments and ancillary works.

You are receiving this notification as you have been identified as a key stakeholder of the proposal. ARTC encourages you to view the EIS that will be on public display and available on the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) Major Project website from 8 December 2020 until 7 February 2021.

To view the Application or the SEARs please visit <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10211>.

**Contact us**

ARTC remains committed to open and ongoing engagement. Should you have any questions about the EIS or the project please don't hesitate to contact either Louise Johnson, Stakeholder Engagement Lead on 0417 622 303 or Nelson Wallis, Stakeholder Engagement Lead on 0447 817 142. Alternatively you can reach us via email at [inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au](mailto:inlandrailnsw@artc.com.au)

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The Australian Government is delivering  
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partnership with the private sector.

# BEE BIOSECURITY OFFICER REPORT

NATIONAL  
**BEE**  
BIOSECURITY  
PROGRAM



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



## Why having too many hives to manage makes AFB worse (for everyone)

It is a common human trait that we want more, bigger, faster and fancier things. In the beekeeping world that commonly equates to an ongoing expansion of hive numbers, sometimes without putting in place any real planning or intended outcome from that activity, it's just "MORE HIVES!"

There has been a lot of this occurring in NSW in recent years, often linked to the requirements to pollinate the expanding almond plantings. The extra hives are justified by contributing to a paying job for that month of the year, but then you do also need to think about managing them for the other 11 months too.



*What happens when there are more hives required than almonds to pollinate. Better managed hives will get the job and \$*

Very importantly linked to operating larger numbers of hives is the need for genuine ability to manage these hives properly. There is a rough figure that a beekeeper can run "around 500" hives for honey or 1000 for "pollination only" operations etc. These figures should at best only be taken as rough guidelines, as there are MANY factors which can influence your own individual ability to manage your bees, such as;

- You (your drive, passion, financial and family support)
- Your personal level of experience (beekeeping ability and intergenerational experienced of trees/flowering events in your area)
- Your region/state and what it offers close to home
- How well trained/capable are you and your staff

(you are only as strong as your weakest link)

- Exposure to disease and how well you manage it.

Whatever the situation it remains critically important that you can adequately manage the number of hives that you do run, and unfortunately I regularly hear of and see situations where the beekeeper simply cannot achieve this. When you hear of one person running 600, 700, 800 or even more hives you should start to question their ability to manage them. When their name is routinely brought up with regards to rough gear, dead-outs, robbing and diseased hives in their apiaries then that is a good indicator that they are not managing their business to a good enough standard. This starts a snowball effect whereby their problem becomes self-fuelling and gets bigger and bigger!

### Warning signs

The very first signs that you are probably not able to manage your hives properly is an increased number of work hours required each week (and weekend) to even get around all the bees, or when you reach your set weekly work target (some beekeepers do choose to only work 5 days or 50-60 hours a week etc.) and you did not get everything done.

It must be acknowledged that beekeeping is definitely a hard job and you must be prepared to work bees all day and drive half the night when the work or honey is on, but when you are routinely getting so far behind the eight-ball you may have an escalating biosecurity problem developing.



*When you are too busy to remove a hive earlier than this then you are getting too far behind. (Photo from Commercial Beekeeping Australia FB group).*



## The problem

The major concern here is that once you have a problem then anyone around you also starts to get a problem (that you gave to them), so you then also become a biosecurity issue.

It is saddening to hear that some beekeepers seem to have absolutely no regard for others around them and routinely enable diseased hives to exist (often for prolonged periods of time, which increases the overall risks even further), instead of following their legal requirements to get rid of them promptly.

Others probably don't intend to allow their weakened hives to fail and be robbed, or their disease be unmanaged, but simply due to their limited ability or time availability it occurs (often regularly). In all scenarios the critical point to remember is that beekeepers have a responsibility to manage their beehives, which importantly includes following some critical points listed in the Code to manage disease, weak hives and prevent robbing.

## Everybody has a "General Biosecurity Duty"

To minimise the risk of spreading disease it is vitally important that every beekeeper follows the regulations (law), which in relation to AFB includes to euthanize the colony within seven days, bee-proof all associated diseased equipment and then either burn (as in fully incinerate, not just scorch), irradiate and/or hot wax dip the various components to sterilize before reuse.

There is nearly always other beekeepers' apiaries or feral colonies around an area and within flying distance. By following the proper steps, the risks to others around you is reduced to a point where hopefully there are no robbing opportunities and the chance of spreading disease is minimised, so you have fulfilled your general biosecurity duty.

If you do not adequately follow these procedures then the risks of disease spreading will increase, and unfortunately some operators ignore the law and use a range of other methods.

Some of the ineffective (and often unlawful) processes utilised by various beekeepers include;

- "Hospital yards"
- scorching and/or repainting of boxes
- Antibiotics to briefly mask the disease
- packaging up bees from infected colonies to "clean them up"
- shaking bees onto new gear
- improper hot wax dipping processes at lower temperatures and exposure times than the required minimum of 150 degrees C/10 minutes

In NSW none of these other processes are legally acceptable for dealing with hives already afflicted with AFB, and the reason for that is that the science does not support them being adequate methods of effectively eradicating the disease.



*Hospital yards can get pretty messy!*

## My recommendation

My primary role is to assist beekeepers with their bee biosecurity issues and give advice that improves their management practices in this area of their operation. With regards to better managing AFB I can comfortably say that the very reason why NSW (and most of Australia) requires AFB hives to be euthanized, burned/irradiated etc. is that this is a 100% EFFECTIVE method of controlling AFB, so it works. Unlike some of the "other" methods listed above it is guaranteed to stop the AFB infection within that hive and very importantly stops it from spreading further. Those other methods are far less effective and as such greatly increase the risk that the

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AFB will continue to propagate within colonies and also be spread further afield, so they don't manage the disease very well and are therefore not DPI-supported processes.

To stop AFB you need to deal with it properly, not play around and just chip away at some of the problem whilst at the same time also helping the AFB to remain alive and thriving within your own bees!

### The real costs of AFB

Many beekeepers complain about the high price for irradiation plus how much it "costs them" to destroy "a perfectly good" (AFB infected hive) that they believe is still worth money. The reality is that once a colony breaks down with AFB it should no longer be considered an asset (of any value) to your business, but instead be identified as a major biosecurity risk to the wellbeing (and profit) of your entire operation.

The colony of bees within that hive (as well as the infected brood frames) no longer hold any residual value to you and if not dealt with promptly could actually start to increase your financial losses (plus those of nearby beekeepers) if they spread the infection further. Once a colony gets AFB it is only worth the recoverable hive equipment and extractable honey in it, and that's sad, but true, and if you ignore that fact you are only going to

make your own AFB problem worse!

Look at how COVID was managed...all the problems occurred when infectious persons were able to interact with others. It's the same problem when prolonging the existence of an AFB hive, because if it's still there then it can still infect others.

It costs you a lot when you get AFB, so that is actually a great reason why you should spend time, money and effort during your normal beekeeping processes to minimise AFB (barrier systems etc.) and quickly eradicate it instead of always taking short-cuts and allowing it to prosper within your operation (and eventually cost you more).

So if you are noting that you have too many hives to deal with then do something about it...whatever your individual situation is please don't just bury your head in the sand and do nothing, or even worse do all the wrong things. You doing that is likely affecting other hard working beekeepers who were doing a great job of controlling disease in their apiaries before your infectious hives came along. If you can't run that many bees properly then stop keeping that many...it's a pretty simple fact and one that a lot more beekeepers should think about.



*The National Bee Biosecurity Program is funded by the honey bee industry through a component of the agricultural honey levy, with state governments contributing in-kind resources. Plant Health Australia manage the program on behalf of Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.*

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# Honey Bee Industry Development Officer Report

**Madlen Kratz**

Honey Bee Industry Development Officer  
Tocal Agricultural College, NSW Dept. of Primary Industries  
T: 02 4939 8948 273 E: madlen.kratz@dpi.nsw.gov.au



## What's the attraction of honey bees to blueberry flowers?

Sophie Parks, Melinda Simpson, Leanne Davis and Madlen Kratz (NSW Department of Primary Industries)

The European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) plays an important role in the pollination of blueberry flowers, required for the flowers to develop into fruits, but what has the flower got to offer this humble bee? Furthermore, how can we protect or even enhance any bee-attractive properties that the crop may possess? These questions are being addressed as part of current research which aims to optimise pollination within berry crops. We are particularly interested in berry crops grown under protective covers such as bird netting, hail netting and high tunnels as these structures can affect the flight path of honey bees and potentially limit pollination.

Pollination occurs when bees move through a flowering crop. A blueberry flower visit, such as in Figure 1, can result in pollen grains being released from the flower and attaching to the honey bee. The pollen is then inadvertently transported by the bee on its visit to another blueberry flower where the pollen may attach to the stigma of the flower from the bee's legs, head or body (Hoffman, Land and Rao, *Pollinator Ecology and Management*, 47:1465-1470, 2018). Once on the stigma (a female part of the flower), the pollen grain (a male part of the flower) then enters the ovary fertilising the ova (egg) which eventually will become a seed of the developed blueberry fruit.

The attraction of honey bees to blueberry flowers is nectar. Unlike flowers of other species, the honey bees are less likely to be actively collecting pollen from blueberry flowers and more likely to be collecting the nectar present in the base of the flower where the nectar is produced. Therefore, nectar-collecting honey bees are mostly responsible for the transfer of pollen among blueberry flowers. Honey bees consume nectar as their source of energy and excess amounts are stored as honey inside the colony. Previous research shows that at least for highbush blueberry, honey bees have to go elsewhere to forage for pollen to meet their nutritional requirements (Dogterom and Winston, *The Canadian Entomologist*, 131:757-768, 1999).

Part of our research aims to evaluate some blueberry varieties used in Australia in terms of how likely they are to be pollinated by the activities of honey bees. One element of this work is assessing the morphology or the

shape of blueberry flowers. It so happens that access to the nectar at the base of the flower can be limited by the shape of the flower. Previous research with four blueberry varieties has shown that the one with the widest flower opening or throat, was more likely to be visited by bees (Courcelles, Button and Elle, *Journal of Applied Entomology*, 137:693-701, 2013).

Potentially, pollination may be improved by the selection of varieties with flowers of larger throat size or improved by breeding varieties with this characteristic. However, for the blueberry varieties used in Australia, the morphological characteristics of their flowers have not been evaluated, so this is the topic of current research. The way flower morphology is being assessed is shown in Figure 2. In brief, the flowers are collected in the field and placed in a vial of preservative for later assessment. Each flower is mounted under a microscope to view the flower throat, and a digital program is used to calculate distances between the flower structures and to calculate the area of the throat. Up to 10 varieties will be assessed in this way. Future work will assess the likelihood of honey bees visiting varieties that differ in flower shape.

We will also investigate how varieties differ in terms of their pollen and nectar production, and how these factors may relate to bee activities within covered crops. Of interest is the quantity of pollen and nectar that different blueberry varieties may produce as well as their nutritional value. The importance of honey bee nutrition was highlighted by Steve Fuller, who supplies honey bee colonies for berry pollination to most growers in the Coffs Harbour area. Nutrition is key in the lead up to pollination as well as during the pollination period in maintaining colony health and strength.

Steve emphasizes that he would like to see a closer relationship between beekeepers and growers as well as the chemical companies, working towards a goal of "getting pollination right". There is still a lot to be learnt about the pollination side of things, but just as much about the right fertilizer applications and chemical sprays. We are privileged to be able to work in close collaboration with people like Steve Fuller as well as growers and our industry partners and collaborators.

This work is part of the collaborative project *Novel technologies and practices for the optimisation of pollination within protected cropping environments* under the Australian Government Department of Agriculture

and Water Resources' Rural R & D for Profit Programme, coordinated by Hort Innovation. Partners include NSW Department of Primary Industries, Plant and Food Research Australia, the University of Adelaide, the University of New England, the University of Tasmania and other representatives including the beekeeping and netting industries, and several horticultural industries (Berry, Apple, Onion, Sweet Cherry). It addresses some pollination issues that limit the optimal production of some horticultural produce under cover.



Figure 1. A honey bee visiting a blueberry flower. Photo credit: Madlen Kratz, NSW DPI.

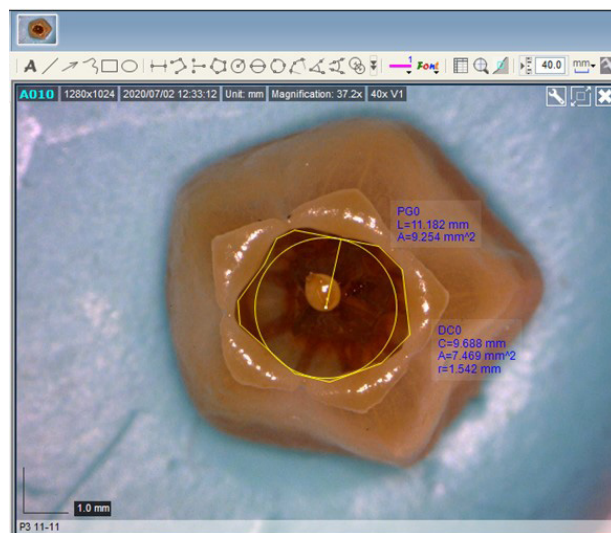


Figure 2. A preserved blueberry flower and its throat as viewed under the microscope. The top of the stigma can be seen at the centre of the flower throat. Digital measurements allow for the throat area to be calculated as an indication of how accessible the flower opening is to its base where the nectar is produced. Photo credit: Leanne Davis, NSW DPI.

## Honey samples needed for the Australian Honey Library

To establish the reference database for our Honey Assurance program, we are looking for NSW beekeepers to work with us to create the Australian Honey Library for your State and other areas that are important to you.

Please see our web page <http://www.crchoneybeeproducts.com/crchbps-honey-traceability-project/> for the background to the Australian Honey Library.

When you volunteer to become one of the Honey Library beekeepers, a web app link will be sent to you as well as honey collection containers. With each sample you collect and register, we need to know some details. Please be assured that these details are under the University of Western Australia ethics so no individual data (especially GPS location) will be released. What will be released is honey sample information from all honeys collected within a NSW sub-biogeographical region (<https://www.environment.gov.au/land/nrs/science/ibra>).

The information that concerns us when we do our chemistry analysis is whether the sample was taken from a frame that had no residual honey from a previous site, the filtering or heat treatment. There is no right or wrong, we just need to know as this may affect the analytical results.

If you would like to become an Australian Honey Library beekeeper, please contact Liz Barbour at the [CRCforHBP@gmail.com](mailto:CRCforHBP@gmail.com) or call 0406 505 525 if you would like to know more.



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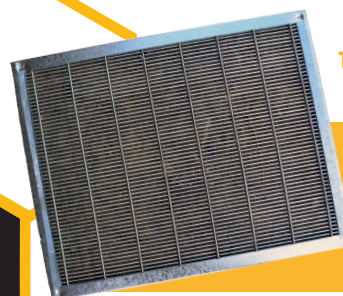
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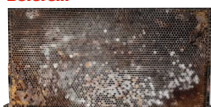
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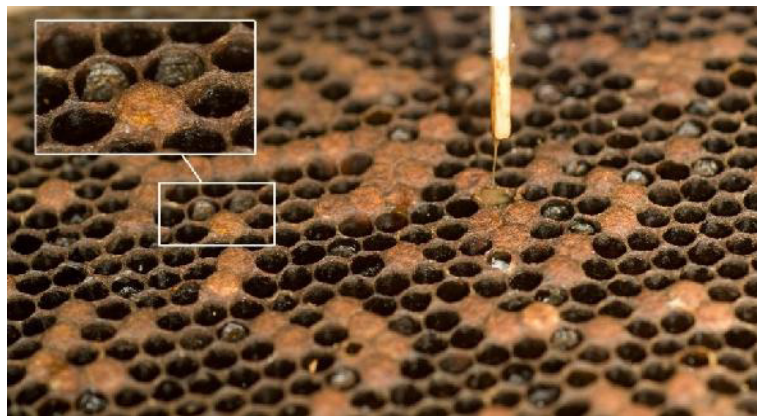
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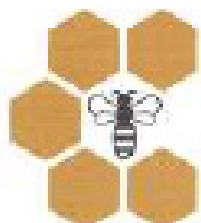
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It is gratefully appreciated.



# AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

1. This month we have had a round of Plant Health Australia (PHA) meetings plus the AGM. As we have become accustomed to they were virtual meetings. We still continue to discuss the Owner Reimbursement Cost (ORC) in the event of an incursion. I have been looking at these and I am suggesting our Biosecurity Sub-committee should get involved in this discussion. By doing this there are more in our industry who know how it will work in the event of that unwanted incursion. I have been part of a PHA Issues Resolution Group (IRG) looking at some aspects of when ORC's start and what is included and what is not.

2. This past month we had our annual Biosecurity Roundtable. Normally it is held in Canberra but with the travel restrictions, as they were at the start of the month, it was a virtual one. There were many presentations. Of great interest was the new technology being used to detect pest when they arrive in Australia.

3. A couple of the presentations at the Roundtable centred on trying to detect pests at the port of embarkation before they get to Australia. This is something that I have been raising with the Federal Agriculture Department for many years now and it looks like we may now be able to progress this.

4. Dr Andrew Tongue has taken over from Lyn O'Connell as the Deputy Secretary, Biosecurity and Compliance Group, in the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Our CEO, Helen, and I had a virtual meeting with Andrew and the Chief Plant Protection Officer, Dr. Gabrielle Vivian-Smith, as Andrew wanted to introduce himself to the various industries that he will interact with in his new role.

We were able to fill in Andrew on the biosecurity issues affecting our industry and he said that he had not fully realised the role of the honey bees in pollination in Australia. I believe that we will have a very good relationship with Andrew.

## NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

In addition to our monthly newsletter you would have received news updates on 5th and 16th of November on the recent interception of the red dwarf bee *Apis florea* nest on a container in Brisbane (please refer to page 10 of this newsletter if you have not seen the updates). Thank you to Trevor for working closely with the department and the team. This is a prime example of the importance of undertaking inspections at the port of embarkation, as the nest of *florea* was on the container while the container moved between ports overseas before arriving in Brisbane. We should not be relying on the pest being detected when it arrives at our Australian ports. We will keep you updated how this is progressed further with Government.

Still on the subject of biosecurity please see the link to a podcast developed by the National Varroa Mite Eradication

Program (NVMEP) and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the interests of raising awareness of the issue among beekeepers and the broader Australian public for eradicating-varroa-mites.

AHBIC continues to campaign for beekeepers and the Australian public not to buy imported beeswax. We have received the results from a testing that was undertaken on imported beeswax foundation and as suspected the beeswax was adulterated with paraffin wax. AHBIC will now progress this further with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and request them to investigate. If you have samples that you can supply to AHBIC, we will arrange for the testing. We urge beekeepers not to buy imported beeswax foundation.

Our monthly newsletter is how we keep you updated on the activities of AHBIC and the industry news. We frequently receive questions requesting information, that has more than often been reported in our newsletter. Please take the time to read the newsletter each month and thank you if you are reading this now. Remember you can access past copies of newsletter at <https://honeybee.org.au/category/news/>.

We are always looking at expanding the reach of our monthly newsletter, so if you know people who would benefit from keeping up to date on what is happening in the industry, please encourage them to subscribe to our newsletter.

As you may be aware an industry stakeholder mapping exercise funded by AgriFutures was undertaken in the middle of the year which will now be used to shape an industry wide communication plan. AHBIC is working with AgriFutures to undertake the implementation of the communication plan that will promote the crucial role of the honey bee in food production. It is expected that this work will commence in early 2021.

Please note the 47 th Apimondia Congress has been postponed until 2022.

Again thank you to our 'Friends of AHBIC' for their continued support and welcome to our new friend this month, Ugis Lauberts. As you would be aware there are many issues that face the honey bee industry on a national basis and, as AHBIC is solely funded by voluntary contributions, we highly value the voluntary contributions of our 'Friends of AHBIC' to help us deal with these issues. With food industries dependent on pollination for crop production, the annual contribution to the Australian economy of our honey bees is estimated to be \$14.2 billion. This is in addition to the \$147 million in farm gate value (gross value of production) generated by honey and bees wax and an estimated \$77 million in additional hive products such as queen bees, packaged bees, propolis, paid pollination services and honey from small commercial producers. Your contribution as a 'Friend of AHBIC' means you are playing an important role in the protection and promotion of our honey bee industry.



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