

AUSTRALIA'S

HONEYBEE NEWS

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

Volume 14 Number 5
September - October 2021

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Apiary Site Permit Fee Waiver Pg 15
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Cover Photo

Using services of a commercial helicopter, Tumut Beekeeper John Casey rescues around 1200 hives stuck in a farm because of wet roads near Condobolin.

These hives were flown out to the drier ground just in time to bring them to the almond farms in Victoria and NSW for the yearly pollination.

Photo: Willy Tinoyan



AUSTRALIA'S HONEYBEE NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome to the silly season, Spring!! A very busy time for beekeepers, most would be on Canola after the almond pollination. With record plantings and perfect growing conditions, others have headed North to Macadamia, Blueberry and Avocado pollination.

By all reports the almond pollination went very smoothly, thanks must be given to the various government and State organisations for working as a team and sharing information in regards to border permits, Covid testing etc. Whilst there were some concerns with the wet start, some shuffling of hives from dryer areas to the early flowering areas were required. It then dried out enough to get out and onto the later blocks. A few reports of understrength hives, and small number of diseased apiaries, but the general consensus seems to be that it was a big improvement on previous years.

Whilst numbers were met, the feeling is with the increased plantings and the competition from Macadamias, Blueberry's and Avocados we may hit an undersupply in the very near future.

I have been informed that bees off one farm in Victoria have come off with the bees' showing signs of brood death, this is being investigated by the Victorian DPI.

It has been declared that we have a very strong chance of La Nina occurring for a second consecutive year, this will have some positive effects, particularly in the recovery of bushfire affected areas.

Caution will have to be taken for those planning to work the southern river areas for Rivergum, the storage dams are sitting just below full and the chances of a flood event are high.

The executive has been working with the BPass team and some promising steps have been made.

The transfer of LLS sites is still a concern, please continue to check all your sites and make sure that all have been transferred over to the BPass site. Please inform the state secretary of any unresolved issues, we will continue to work with the BPass team to try and rectify these.

We have unfortunately been unable to hold a face-to-face executive meeting as planned, however a Zoom meeting was held.

Discussions have been held in regards to waiving of site fees in fire affected State Forest areas.

Plans are underway for Honeyland to resume in 2022, I once again ask all to consider donating honey, so that the promotion of Australian honey and educating the general public can continue.

We plan on holding an Executive Meeting at Tocal in late November if possible

Yours in bees
Steve Cunial

NSWAA Executive Responsibilities

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Like most farming/livestock businesses, beekeeping has a clear need for a security camera to monitor bee sites and plant buildings, day and night.

Outdoor motion detection security cameras have traditionally been battery powered and the recording saved to a SIM card for later review. Generally attached to a tree, the movement activated camera worked well, however, the downside was that you had no live access and were only able to use the images after the event to pass on to police, if required, as well as the battery requiring recharging or replacing.

Later developments included solar power, battery charging and Wi-Fi access, however, unfortunately, many places don't have Wi-Fi or Internet access.

I came across the Arlo Go Wireless Security Camera and have never looked back. Arlo Go is a wire-free, weather resistant camera with 720p HD video, with night vision, that works with a mobile data plan. It has a long-lasting battery and a solar panel, to ensure the battery stays charged.



Photo courtesy of Ray Hull, taken at one of his sites with his Arlo camera

The camera is very robust and has a weather resistant rating. It has real time connection (live viewing) back to my mobile phone through the Arlo app. There is a built-in mic and speaker so you can listen and talk back also. The live video has a very clear picture and sound, both day and night. The camera initiates recording any time motion or audio are detected and alerts me via email or app notifications so I can check in on the app to see what is happening at my site, in real time. The recordings are also saved to the app so if you don't see the notification, you can still see what set the camera off, and look back on them anytime if you need to.

The camera and app are very easy to setup and use. My camera is hidden in a typical beehive whilst on site or on the truck. As it is

wire-free, I can simply pick it up and move it to wherever I want to put it, without any hassles. I can also have multiple cameras operating at different sites, all linked to the one app on my phone.

I sourced mine through Telstra. The app works with iOS or Android mobile devices. It will need its own data SIM plan.

Everyone has a story. Have a chat with your mates and share yours!



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Honey Bee Industry Development Officer Report

Madlen Kratz

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Daisies and their nutritional value

By Madlen Kratz

Weeds, especially this time of the year when spring is on its way, can provide a huge benefit for kickstarting the season, whether as a source of nectar or pollen or both. Weeds can also add nutritional variety to other major flowering crops allowing for nutritional diversity in natural or agricultural systems.

Honey bees need to meet their nutritional needs for macro nutrients (carbohydrates, protein, fat) and micro nutrients (minerals, vitamins) to be able to successfully rear brood, which starts with nurse bees being able to develop their hypopharyngeal and mandibular glands located in their head for jelly production. In fact, nurse bees feed all colony members whether the queen, other female workers, drones, or foragers begging for a little bit of jelly on their return flights.

Consequently, nurse bees are the largest consumers of pollen. However, not all pollen is the same in its nutritional value ranging in protein content from 7% to more than 35%. Kleinschmidt in 1976 found that honey bees required a minimum of 20-25% protein for brood rearing. Fat content can also vary largely from lower than 2% for some eucalypts to around 20% for some *Brassica* species to which canola and mustard belong.

Four common weed species found in South-Eastern Australia include capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*), fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*), flatweed (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Flowering plants of the Asteraceae family. Capeweed (A), Fireweed (B), Flatweed (C) and Dandelion (D).

What the above 'weeds' have in common:

- Belong to the same plant family Asteraceae
- Have pollen of orange colour
- Are of poor protein value averaging around 12-18%
- Fat value of 2.4% - 10%
- Produce poor to average honey yields
- Produce average to good pollen amounts
- Some deficiencies reported in pollen for isoleucine and or valine (eg. flatweed and fireweed).

All the above Asteraceae (daisy family) pollen types are orange in colour which makes it difficult to identify species visually, but also pretty safe to assume that orange pollen belongs to this family (Figure 2).

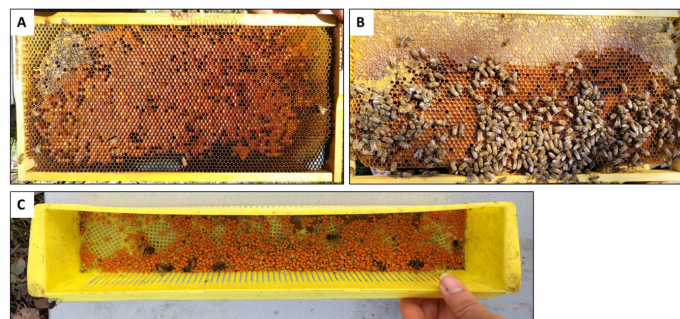


Figure 2. Asteraceae pollen collected by honeybees and stored as bee bread (A) capeweed, (B) fireweed, and (C) Asteraceae pollen collected in a pollen trap at the hive entrance. Photo credit: Rob Manning (A) and Stanislav Nenov (B).

While daisies may be of poor total protein content, it is also the quantity of pollen that matters. However, honey bees will need to collect much larger quantities of low protein pollen to be able to meet their nutritional requirements, compared with a higher protein pollen source. But that's not all! If a pollen is low in an essential nutrient such as a specific amino acid or fatty acid, then honey bees may not be able to consume enough poor quality pollen to meet their needs, regardless of how much is available. Especially in the absence of an essential nutrient, the 'rule of thumb' of quantity can make up for quality does certainly not apply. Honey bees have to obtain essential nutrients from their diet and cannot produce these from other precursors, as it can be the case for non-essential amino acids for example.

Three things to remember about pollen:

- Nutritional quality
- Abundance of pollen
- Nutritional diversity to help meet essential nutrient requirements

3kg of pollen at 20% total protein content

=

2kg of pollen at 30% total protein content

Additionally, the nutritional quality of a pollen source of the same species may be influenced by other environmental factors including soil type and the climate of different regions.

An interesting note on fatty acids!

Certain fatty acids in pollen can be highly attractive to honey bees. This can be the case for daisies, influencing floral choices of honey bees.

Some fatty acids also have antimicrobial properties. For example, capeweed and eucalypts are high in linoleic acid. Linoleic acid is highly antimicrobial and plays a crucial role in the fight against pathogens and disease for honey bees.

“Whilst pollen of the daisy family tends to be lacking in some essential nutritional components, it is nevertheless an important pollen source for honey bees. Make sure you tell your community “Pardon the weeds, we’re feeding the bees!” so they know their value as honey bee fodder.”

Photo credit: <https://www.blueskybeesupply.com/pardon-the-weeds-sign-stand/>



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Apiary site permit fee waivers for Forestry Corporation apiary sites that were severely damaged by the 2019-20 bushfires

NSW DPI and Forestry Corporation are finalising arrangements for waiving apiary site permit fees for the 2021/2022 permit period for sites that were severely damaged in the 2019-20 bushfires.

Invoices have recently been issued to the holders of permits for apiary sites on land managed by Forestry Corporation.

Initial analysis undertaken by NSW DPI based on aerial photo analysis of sites suggests approximately 10-15% of all sites could have suffered severe damage where the canopy was partially or fully consumed by fire. Work is being undertaken to identify these sites based on the aerial imaging and input from NSW Environment, Energy and Science on expected recovery timeframes. Beekeepers hold permits for sites they believe would fit in this category should not pay their Forestry Corporation invoice until they have received further advice from NSW DPI (expected by the end of September).

The NSW Government's Fire Extent and Severity Mapping will be used to identify sites that are estimated to have been severely impacted. The holders of apiary permits for these sites will be issued with a new invoice that includes a fee of \$0 for affected sites. Apiarists who have already paid invoices for sites which are identified as eligible for a waiver will receive a refund.

Beekeepers who hold permits for sites they believe suffered canopy loss in the 2019/2020 bushfires that are not identified in the analysis, or for sites which they cannot access because of damage from the bushfires, will be able to request a review by Forestry Corporation through BPASS.

Details about the process to be followed will be provided to all holders of Forestry Corporation permits as soon as they are finalised. This is expected to occur by the end of September 2021.

If you believe that your sites have been severely damaged you should NOT pay your Forestry Corporation invoice(s) for the October 2021 to September 2022 period until you are notified by NSW DPI of the waiver status of your sites.

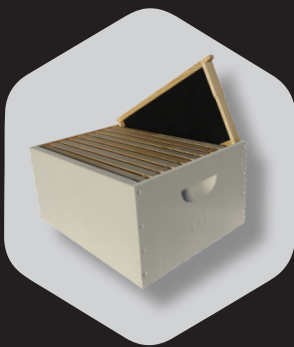
Closed Forests: In the last two weeks Forestry Corporation has reopened most of the forests which had been closed due to fire damage, with more being opened in coming weeks. Forests which remain closed, or are open with restrictions, are listed below. A separate communication regarding access to these forests will be sent to beekeepers who hold sites in forests which remain closed.

Any questions about the above process should be directed to the NSW DPI Apiary Sites Support Desk. Information will be made available on the web site and the Support Desk can be contacted by phone or email:

www: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeping-on-public-land>

email: apiary.sites@dpi.nsw.gov.au

phone: +61 2 6391 3464



10 frame full depth box ready to go + 10 assembled frames + 10 plastic foundations

50-500	\$55.00
501-1000	\$52.00
1001+	\$50.00



8 Frame full depth box ready to go + 8 assembled frames + 8 plastic foundations

50-500	\$53.00
501-1000	\$50.00
1001+	\$48.00



Full depth box ready to go, 8 and 10 frame size

50-500	\$32.00
501-1000	\$30.00
1001+	\$29.00



WSP/Manley/Ideal box ready to go, 8 and 10 frame size

50-500	\$29.00
501-1000	\$27.00
1001+	\$26.00



Flat pack boxes rebated Full depth/WSP/Manley/Ideal 8 frame and 10 frame size

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501-1000	\$16.50
1001+	\$15.50



Assembled and wired full depth frame, 32+35mm side with stainless steel wire & inlets

1000-5000	\$2.20
5001-10,000	\$2.10
10,001-21,000	\$2.00
21,001+	\$1.90



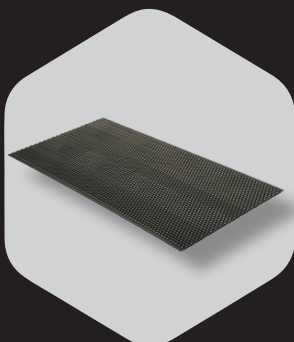
Assembled full depth frame for plastic foundations, 32+35mm sides

1000-5000	\$1.75
5001-10,000	\$1.65
10,001-26,000	\$1.55
26,001+	\$1.45



Full depth frame feeder with wooden cap and two plastic ladders 3.7L, 50mm wide

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501-1000	\$11.50
1001+	\$10.50



Plastic foundation, full depth/WSP/Manley/Ideal size. Made from HIPS food grade plastic

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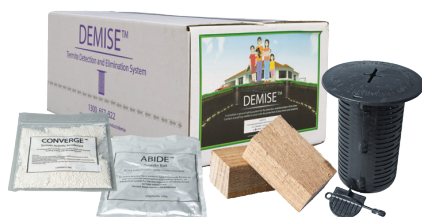
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Help Plan Bee build your national genetic improvement program

The National Honey Bee Genetic Improvement Program (Plan Bee) seeks feedback from industry on the most important traits in honey bee selection and how genetic improvement can best support individual beekeepers and breeders.



Please complete this five minute survey to help guide this program. You can take the survey by either scanning the QR Code below or going to survey writer Dr. Nadine Chapman's (University of Sydney) weblink: [https://](https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=TLMEYAP9NL)

redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=TLMEYAP9NL

The **Plan Bee Beekeeper Survey** is now open and we'd like to ask for your support in sharing the survey link with your fellow beekeepers as well as completing the survey yourself. Plan Bee is industry-led and so the more responses we get, the better the overall outcomes of the program will be for the entire industry.

Other than reminding us of the importance of modern genetic practices, surveys are a crucial tool to help us understand what is important to beekeepers. For example, the selection traits that Plan Bee has focused on have been determined based on what has been shared in previous editions of surveys. More info on the most recent survey here: <https://agrifutures.com.au/news/beekeepers-back-genetic-improvement-to-boost-honey-bee-industry-performance/>

Thank you so much for sharing a link to your survey with your networks, in your own communications channels or on social media.

Plan Bee Selection Manual published

The Plan Bee Selection Manual is now available free for download at AgriFutures Australia:

www.agrifutures.com.au/product/plan-bee-breeding-manual/

This manual has been developed in consultation with industry through surveys, interviews, and workshops. It is the culmination of all this feedback. The manual will be a 'living document' in that it will be updated to reflect feedback from those participating in the program and lessons that the project team learns from working with the diversity of queen breeders and beekeepers. Authors Dr. Nadine Chapman and myself would love to hear your feedback as you use the Plan Bee Selection Manual in your queen breeding this season. As my first bee boss Sue Cobey said after reading through the manual, "queen breeding isn't rocket science, it's hard work over a long period of time." Let's get to work!



Plan Bee Breeding Manual

by Nadine Chapman
and Elizabeth Frost
August 2021



Plan Bee (National Honey Bee Genetic Improvement Program) is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment as part of its Rural Research and Development for Profit program.

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500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg, 3kg, & 5kg Pail
(500gr, 1kg, 1.5kg available in clear as well)



Tamper Proof Pails

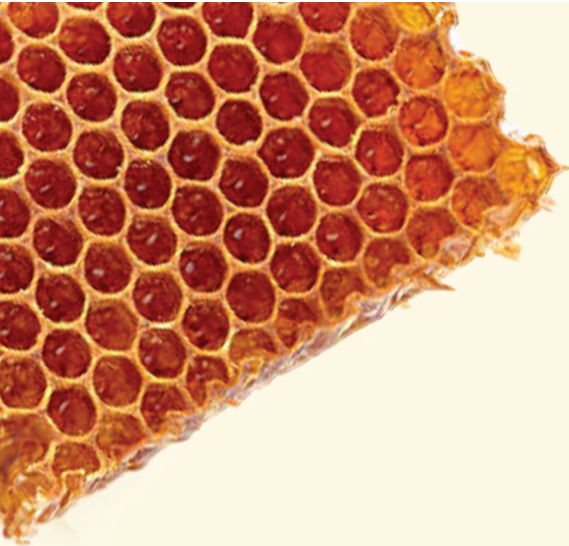
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2.2L, 5L Pails

10L, 15L, 20L Pails

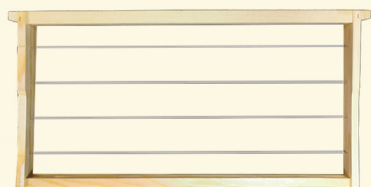
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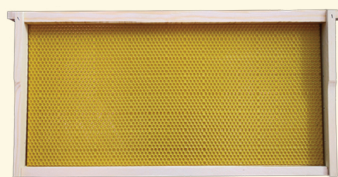
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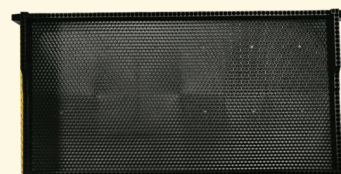
Bee Frames - Wood and Plastic



Wood Frame Full Depth
Assembled With Wire



Wood Frame Full Depth
With Plastic Foundation
(Not waxed)



Plastic Frame Full Depth

Plastic Beehive

Plastic Beehive with 10 Frames

Material: food grade polypropylene

Thickness: 30mm

Working life: 30 years

Packing dimension: 60x50x44cm 13.8/kg

Features:

- UV resistant
- Thermal insulated increasing honey production
- Light weight for easy lifting and carrying
- Antioxidant plastic material for longer life expectancy
- Holds standard and full depth frames
- Easily assembled
- Digital Thermometer
- Built in ventilation
- No painting required

What you get:

2 box hive consisting of:

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- 1 x full size super
- 1 x Queen excluder
- 1 x brood box
- 1 x bottom board (including 2 feeders and pollen trap)
- 1 x Entrance reducer
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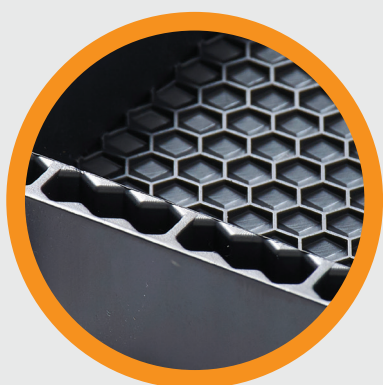
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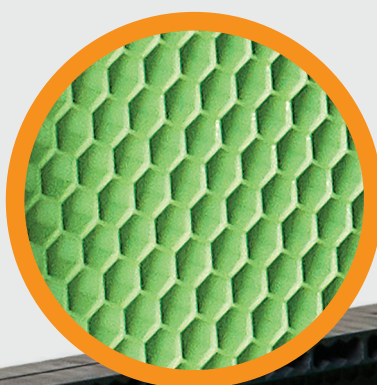


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*Allows bees to access
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as well as store honey*



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- ▶ Full Depth, WSP and Ideal Timber Frames
- ▶ Full Depth, WSP and Ideal Plastic Foundation
- ▶ Assembled Timber Frames with Plastic Foundation
- ▶ Assembled Wired Timber Frame
- ▶ Assembled Timber Frame with Plastic Foundation
- ▶ Assembled Wired Frame



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The vital importance of brood work.

It is often said that the brood box is the motor that runs your honey pump. It follows on from there that the better maintained a brood box is the better that hive will ultimately perform. Properly undertaken brood work takes time, so it is vitally important that you prioritise time in your schedule to do it instead of putting it off.

These day's qualified beekeepers often have high numbers of hives and so it is even more important to prioritise brood work.

A number of medium to largish operators took big numbers of hives to the almonds this season that consistently contained low numbers of bees (some averaged only 2-3 frames of bees). As a beekeeper you are currently only as good as your worst load of bees, so these operators have a lot of hard work (and soul searching) ahead of them this year to get their bees back into shape.

I also heard of other operators who took great bees into the almonds and every hive was paid for (including the "extras" that they took along) and some even received a hive bonus for consistently good bees. They probably started their almond preparations early in the new-year by building bees on good pollen and not running them into the ground asking too much of them on the Grey Box/Mugha late in the season.

For all successful beekeepers the aim is ALWAYS quality (of each colony) over quantity (total hive numbers), because good bees in spring results in great bees for the season (unless you then have a run of bad luck or do everything wrong).

The fixation by some operators on running large numbers of hives often results in insufficient work and management time spent on each hive (unless they have adequate qualified staffing levels), so ultimately by almond time their bees may not be worth much. Just as importantly putting weak bees on a pollination job is not fair on the farmer (who is expecting a good job and pollination result), increases the biosecurity risk for all other operators (whose strong bees may rob the weak loads) and is one of the factors keeping the almond pollination price lower than it should be for good bees.



A neglected brood box and insufficient bees made this hive unsuitable to have been on almond pollination. You have to wonder why it was even on the truck!

To have quality bees you need to regularly get into the brood box and look, have knowledgeable people looking and try to minimise nutritional and locational stresses on the hive.

The management of a brood box achieves;

- reduction in all brood diseases
- reduced incidence of and impacts from poor quality queens/drone layers
- increased brood laying ability, more free space and cleaner combs
- reduction in swarming
- increased population of bees in the hive
- increased honey production
- higher income generation per hive.

For the beekeeper this means that spending time and money on managing your brood box makes economic sense, and to neglect this work will cost you money. The aim of a business is to make a profit, so don't neglect priority work that can increase your profitability.

With spring here it is now an extremely important time for all beekeepers to be getting right into their brood boxes to do this very important hive management. You should thoroughly inspect all frames in the brood box (shake the bees off first) and at the very least be looking to replace 2 or 3 older brood combs in each with either new wax foundation or pre-drawn wax coated plastic foundation.



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.

Every beekeeper has a different opinion on which type of frame is best, so here are some pros and cons of the 3 main types used;

Wired frames with beeswax foundations – can be the most expensive but often also the most attractive for the bees to draw out when introduced directly into the brood box. They may have the lowest available space for laying brood if the front and bottom of the wax foundation gets chewed out. It can often be harder to see queen cells hidden in the bottom of the comb (where it can also be very messy and with a lot of drone brood etc.) so shaking the bees off is very important. The foundation can often get chewed out by bees, mice and is the least resistant to wax moth attack plus may melt and warp. When undrawn they may be fragile during transportation (especially in extremes of temperature). For cheaper quality frames the wire can be less rigid and stretch, but on the upside they are also the easiest to burn or melt down and could be irradiated many times.

Timber frame and plastic foundation- these are often the medium price point and do need wax applied (additional time and wax cost), but the flat foundation can be run through an automated waxing machine which saves a lot of time. It is the most rigid frame and can have very high area for brood laying (if drawn out properly in the honey box first) and be scraped back to foundation (or pressure washed) and reused. Compared to wired-wax foundation frame they are often not as well drawn out if the new frame is placed directly in a brood box. Generally it is easiest for chasing and squashing beetles (less places for them to hide) and suffers less damage by wax moth, mice and bees. Having a plastic component it is harder to dispose of or burn, but can generally withstand 3-4 irradiations before plastic foundation starts to lose structural integrity.

Full plastic frame- often the lowest priced frame, needs wax applied (additional time and wax cost) and the foundation cannot be run through automated waxing machine so must be applied manually (or frames bought pre-waxed at a higher cost). Full plastics are not always a very rigid frame and can flex a lot and are “slippery” in the box and during uncapping/extraction. They can have very high area for brood laying (if drawn out properly in the honey box first) and be scraped back to foundation (or pressure washed) and reused. Compared to wired-wax foundation frame they are often not as well drawn out if the new frame is placed directly in a brood box. They are the hardest for chasing and squashing beetles as there are many places for them to hide and spotting them is harder when made out of black plastic (the most commonly supplied colour). They suffer less damage by wax moth, mice and bees but are harder to dispose of or burn. They can generally withstand 3-4 irradiations before end lugs and foundation starting to lose structural integrity.

As you can see there are many strong and weak points for each different style of frame, so the frame that you choose is whatever you feel suits you best. When it comes to new foundation frame selection the single most important thing is that you do regularly use them to replace the older brood frames, and you go through your brood box regularly to assess frames, bee health and strength.

As brood frames age the amount of stored pollen (that may never get used) increases, which will just sit there taking up space. This stored pollen will only get used if there is inadequate amounts of fresh pollen coming in, so for most operators this old pollen becomes a drawback in spring when they are working good quality fresh pollen sources. This situation is particularly demonstrated with good bees on canola, where it is vitally important that you work your brood box regularly (every 7-10 days once they get going). Without adequate available space in the brood box they will swarm, even if they have plenty of room above the excluder to store honey, so if you want good bees for the season then work your brood box regularly.



This frame offered little space for laying brood this spring. Tight bees head for the trees!



This frame was fully drawn and laid out in hardly more than a week. Note the bottom front area of wax foundation that bees often chew out.

Regularly working your brood nest and rotating out old combs can also greatly reduce your chances of an AFB outbreak occurring from a previous robbing event

(where bees had stored contaminated honey around the brood nest). AFB spores will happily sit in old honey for decades and still burst back into life if fed to a young larval bee, so you should always look at brood frames full of old honey as a potential biosecurity threat to you. There may be no AFB spores in that old honey, or there could be BILLIONS, so get rid of that honey as soon as you can in spring and get a new clean work space into the brood box. Removing these old honey combs has averted many AFB outbreaks from ever occurring, so by making it part of your seasonal management you will have better bees.

I have often observed that weak to medium strength colonies prefer drawing and laying out new wax foundation over moving back into old brood combs that they retreated from over winter. Sometimes these old brood combs seem to act as a barrier for their expansion (perhaps too much mould or work to clean them up), so by getting a new foundation in between them and the edge of their brood nest you can often coax weaker colonies to start laying more brood. If there is no nectar flow when this is done then light sugar syrup feeding may need to be used (sparingly), however for many areas there is always something good happening that means that syrup is not required.

There are beekeepers out there that rarely replace old combs in their brood boxes because they believe it is either "too expensive" or feel that queens prefer laying in older combs (weaker failing queens definitely do). The facts do not support their theory. Over time they will end up with smaller bees that were reared in smaller brood cells, due to successive layers of cocoons from previous generations. The cost of a new comb can often mostly be covered by any honey recovered from old frames that were removed, and the increased numbers of fat bees

produced from those new foundation will kick-start that colony and enable more honey to be produced than the colony otherwise may have.

I have frequently observed on DPI apiary operations that problem beekeepers had very few (or any) newer frames in their brood nests, which definitely indicates a trend.



Don't expect much (good things) out of your bees if you keep them in this!

If you manage your brood nest well then you will have better overall bees, so if you don't have enough time to manage those brood nests properly then you are probably running too many hives and also not getting nearly enough out of every hive as you possibly could. Quality over quantity is very important, so to increase the profitability of your business you should aim to run better bees that generate more income per hive (perhaps same yearly revenue but with 60-70% of the hives you used to run). Better bees also pose less of a biosecurity threat to others than weak colonies, so by keeping good colonies you are doing your bit to help reduce disease occurrence throughout the industry.



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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SPITWATER distributors in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney and dealers Australia-wide are proudly promoting a new look logo, colour scheme and brand promise on their buildings, vehicles and, indeed, the **SPITWATER** pressure cleaners themselves.

"It's been some decades since we've updated the brand. We are doing it now because we want to create a new and exciting future for the next generation," says Prue Martinotti, General Manager of the Spitwater Australia factory in Albury, NSW.

The new branding is being launched with marketing campaigns celebrating the 'Same rugged reliability. Brand new look and just how "Tough + Ready" a **SPITWATER** is to do the dirty work.

SPITWATER is an enduring manufacturing success story in Australia, where most competitor products are produced offshore and made with global markets in mind.

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The **SPITWATER** factory is undergoing a rebrand too and name going forward will be **OTTICO Equipment**, a blend of the founders' family name 'Martinotti' and the word 'company', representing the innovative culture originally created by the Martinottis and continually shaped by the collaborators and contributors that have made **SPITWATER** what it is today.

The new **OTTICO Equipment** name creates a distinct identity for the factory so it can broaden its product scope and develop its other brands, the likes of **JETFIRE** space heaters, **VACSTORM** vacuum cleaners and so on, whilst still innovating and improving the jewel in the crown, **SPITWATER**.

Of pride is the number of small Australian family businesses built on the back of a **SPITWATER**. Seeing the likes of roof cleaners, rural contractors and even bee keepers start successful family enterprises using something originally created in Albury is particularly rewarding for everyone involved.

Even with the brand changes and innovations, the core of **SPITWATER** remains unchanged. Same owners and the same teams, producing the same ruggedly reliable quality Australian manufactured products and solutions.

[END]



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Brand new look

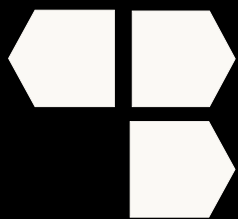
Since 1982, we've been helping hard-working Aussies clean machinery, mines, farms, factories, and fleets of vehicles. Our brand now has a fresh new look while we continue to work tirelessly to exceed your reliability expectations.



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North Coast Branch Report

Our branch has not had any meetings lately due to the current restrictions.

In July, however we held a very successful Pests & Diseases course, conducted by Mark Page and Rod Bourke from NSW DPI, with 45 participants.

Steve Fuller

North Coast Branch President



WANTED

Articles on what your branch has been doing

Upcoming meetings or events

Articles you would like to see published

Photographs for the cover

Email to honeybeenews@icloud.com

Branch Meeting Dates

Sydney Metro

First Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at Chifley College Bidwell Campus, Daniels Road, Bidwell.

Central Tablelands

January - third Tuesday

April - third Tuesday

July - third Tuesday

October - third Tuesday

Riverina

Our meeting dates are usually in the first week of February, May, August, and November each year. Lately our meetings have been held alternatively between Wagga Wagga and Griffith.

Usually on the first Monday, when held in Wagga Wagga and on the first Thursday, when held in Griffith.

The venues change to suit availability.

North Coast

Meetings are generally held on the fourth Friday of every second month from February onwards (excluding December).

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Vale

It is with great sadness, I write to advise our members of the passing of QBA Life Member Alf Rosser. Alf joined the Queensland Beekeepers Association in 1965, later awarded with the prestigious honour of being inducted as a Life Member of the QBA in 1993, for his extensive contributions to our organisation.

Those members who have been with our association for some time will have fond memories of Alf, and the significant contributions he made to the QBA and greater industry during his time as a member of our organisation.

Trevor Weatherhead has kindly prepared a written tribute, acknowledging Alf's involvement with our organisation. We would like to express our thanks to Trevor for putting this fitting tribute together.

Alf was a life member of the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA), was president for 3 years from 1973 to 1975 inclusive, was Secretary of the Brisbane Branch from 1970 to 1978 and again in 1982 and commenced a period as the Branch President in 1983 for at least 3 years.

Alf came from a beekeeping family. His father John, a First World War veteran, was a commercial beekeeper base at Benowa on the Gold Coast, long before the development took place. John looked after the hives of Tim Smith when he went to the Second World War and the money from the sale of the honey was put into a bank account for Tim to use when he came back from the war. Alf's mother came from the Stephens family of the Albert River who were also beekeepers.

When Alf was a child his family used to move from Benowa up to the head of the Albert River in late spring and summer to work the flora in that area.

His bother John, also known as Jack so as not to confuse him with his father, was a beekeeper also based on the Gold Coast. Jack used to supply the tea tree honey sold at

the Ekka for many years. Jack was also associated with the establishment of the Gold Coast Amateur Beekeepers Society after he ran a beekeeping course at the Gold Coast TAFE in 1979.

Alf was well educated having an Agricultural degree from the University and was always willing to share his beekeeping knowledge.

From 1951 to 1972 when the QBA Honey Court was in the Fine Arts Pavilion at the Brisbane Show (Ekka) Alf was very active and was involved in the live bee demonstrations.

On a personal note I purchased my first bee loader from Alf in the 1980's when he was based at Kingston. This was a boom type loader which was different to the Rosser loader that many beekeepers had on their trucks. It had two arms, one on either side of the truck, which were used to load and unload hives. This did away with the hand loading of bee hives. Alf also made other equipment such as hive barrows.

Many will have other memories and stories about Alf and I am sure they will come to the fore at the next Brisbane Branch meeting.

As can be seen Alf was a big contributor to the QBA and our industry.

Vale Alf Rosser.

Alf's funeral service was held Monday the 23rd August 2021.

On behalf of the QBA Management Committee and our members, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Alf's family and friends at this very sad time.

Kind regards,

Jo Martin
State Secretary
Queensland Beekeepers' Association Inc.

Cover Photos

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

Email it to
honeybeenews@icloud.com



New Members

Derek Seam
Peter Chatzi
Noel Gogerly
Craig Hargreaves
Robert Butler
Angus watt

OM21/2213

Mr Stephen Targett
President, NSW Apiarists Association Inc
PO Box 117
NARELLAN NSW 2567

info@nswaa.com.au

Dear Mr Targett

Thank you for your letter of 9 December 2020 regarding your proposal to charge beekeepers with an annual administration fee for burnt public land bee sites. I note you have also written to the Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade, and the Hon Matthew Kean MP, Minister for Energy and Environment on this issue. I have been asked to respond on their behalf and I apologise for the delay.

Please be advised that the NSW Government will continue to waive annual fees for sites that are not useable due to fire, for a period based on the estimated damage to each site.

As you are aware, apiary site fees have been fully waived for all existing apiary site permits and licenses since September 2018 when the drought relief funding was announced, with the first permit fees for existing sites likely to be invoiced in June 2021 for travelling stock reserves.

Many apiary sites in State Forests and National Parks and Reserves were damaged in the 2019/20 summer fires, with 45 per cent of total public sites estimated to have been affected. Damage varied from minor damage of ground cover to complete destruction of the canopy and trees. Due to the heavy damage to some sites, the waiving of fees for sites may be extended to additional years depending on the estimated level of damage.

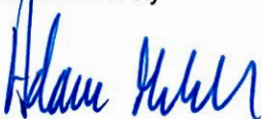
The details of this assessment process and the analysis of sites (along with the preparation of these waivers) is planned to be completed by the end of July 2021, before the invoicing in September 2021 for sites managed by Forestry Corporation, which holds the largest number of sites.

Due to the large number of sites impacted by fire, the approach to assessing future fire damage to sites will need to rely on remote imaging and estimates of damage and recovery timeframes based on advice from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. This approach could result in situations where the desktop assessment of damage is not consistent with beekeepers' experience. A process will be put in place to manage such situations and agencies will continue to work with industry to address these issues as they arise.

I trust this is of assistance, however, if you have any further enquiries, I have asked Mr Nick Geoghegan, Apiculture Resource Coordinator with NSW Department of Primary Industries, to be available to answer any questions you may have. Mr Geoghegan can be contacted on (02) 6391 3669.

Thank you for contacting me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Adam Marshall
MINISTER

CC: The Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW, Industry and Trade
The Hon. Matthew Kean MP, Minister for Energy and Environment

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Department of
Primary Industries

ALERT: Dwarf honey bee

Report suspect dwarf honey bees

NSW DPI urges all beekeepers in the Port Kembla and Wollongong area to keep an eye out for suspect nests. Swarms typically look for nesting sites on branches surrounded by foliage.

Include a photo of the suspect bee/ nest as part of your report.



EMAIL - biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au



PH - Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: **1800 084 881**

See it. Report it. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/report

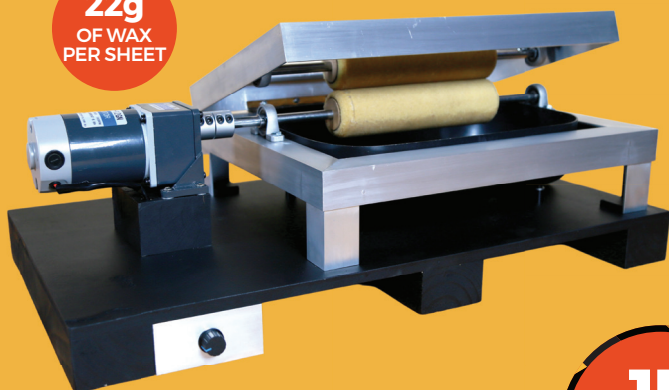


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1/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon honey
4 cups Corn Flakes

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3. Melt butter, sugar and honey together in a saucepan until frothy.
4. Add Kellogg's® Corn Flakes and mix well.
5. Working quickly spoon into paper patty cases.
6. Bake in a slow oven 150°C for 10 minutes.
7. Cool.



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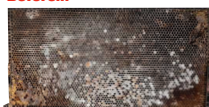
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Ph: 0402 467 780

www.honeybee.org.au

Friends of AHBIC Voluntary Contribution Form

Supporting Australia's national beekeeping industry with a voluntary contribution

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BSB: 633 000

Account No: 150 976 405

Reference: Please include your NAME as the reference

2. CHEQUE: Please post cheque with this form to PO Box 42 Jamison Centre Macquarie ACT 2614

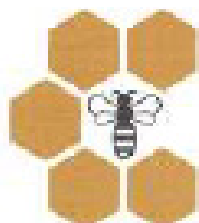
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AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC (AHBIC) UPDATE

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

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR, Trevor Weatherhead AM

1. As I write this most hives will have been removed from the almond pollination. Another successful year. The National Working Group that met regularly to make sure that beekeepers were able to get their hives in and out of the almonds without having to quarantine has functioned well. It consists of representatives from the State beekeeping associations, AHBIC, State Department representatives, Almond Board of Australia and brokers.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the working group. A good example of how our industry can achieve things when we all work together.

I am sure that those beekeepers who took hives to the almonds would say thanks to those who put in the effort to make sure that all went well.

2. With the Proof of Freedom stage being achieved in the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program (NVMEP) it meant that collecting and examination of rainbow bee eater pellets would not be carried out anymore. As explained further in this newsletter this is a very valuable tool in checking for the presence of Asian bees who may be carrying Varroa.

AHBIC consulted with Plant Health Australia (PHA) about whether a variation to the contract with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) was possible so that the collection and examination of rainbow bee eater pellets could continue as part of the National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (NBPS). I am pleased to report that this has been achieved and as well as the collection and examination of the pellets there will also be ballooning to check for the presence of Asian bee drones. AHBIC thanks PHA and QDAF for making this work.

3. There are a lot of reports around about how our beekeeping industry is aging. Is this the case? In the rounds of conferences that I was able to attend it was pleasing to see the number of younger beekeepers present. I wonder if the way statistics are collected do not really reflect the current age of our industry. Think about it. If there is a father and sons/s beekeeping operation usually the age of the beekeeper is the father. So naturally the figures show up an older population. The question is how do we collect data that also reflects these situations where the business will be carried on by the son/s?

4. A report has gone out to the AHBIC Council members and secretaries of the AHBIC member bodies on consultation on the "Final Report of the Independent Review of the Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory System in Australia". Steve Targett and I took part. Unfortunately only two (2) reps

from AHBIC were allowed. We raised several issues which will need to be followed up on. The correct use and labelling of chemicals is a continuing task that AHBIC has to undertake.

NOTE FROM CEO, Helen Goodall

AHBIC invests considerable resources into managing the levy income on behalf of industry to fund honey bee research, biosecurity and honey residue testing. Biosecurity is one of the priorities for AHBIC and we continue to work at a national level to protect the Australian honey bee industry. So much of the work happens behind the scenes and we often do not see the results. However, please see an update from the Chair, Trevor Weatherhead on the National Varroa Mite Eradication Program on page 6. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibly, so please be reminded that the Biosecurity Beekeepers online course is a free course for all beekeepers. The Biosecurity Beekeepers course is delivered by Plant Health Australia through funding from state and territory governments and AHBIC. <https://beeaware.org.au/training/>

Following several news articles reporting deaths of bee colonies in New Zealand and the cause of death not being identified, AHBIC was quick to contact the Head of Biosecurity, Andrew Tongue at the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment. We outlined our concerns and requested immediate action as it was a potential biosecurity risk to our beekeeping industry in Australia. There have been several updates and as of the 16 August 2021 Andrew Tongue has confirmed: the most recent discussions with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) was that the recent colony losses were varroa and pesticide-related; there is no indication of a new or emerging threat. When MPI receives notification of significant losses, these are investigated to a point of diagnosis. MPI also conducts routine surveillance and research as part of their ongoing biosecurity activities.

As is well known the Australian Manuka Honey Association (AMHA) is currently in a legal battle with New Zealand to maintain the right for Australia to continue to use the term 'manuka'. AHBIC have kept updated on the situation and supported the AMHA as required. For your information the most recent occurrence is the Manuka Honey Appellation Society (MHAS) in New Zealand has appealed the Intellectual Property granted to an individual beekeeper in Australia for use of the word 'manuka'. This now requires the individual beekeeper to fight this appeal. Further updates will be provided on how this can be supported.

CATCH THE BUZZ HONEY BEE NOSEMA PARASITE HIJACKS IRON



*New studies show that *Nosema ceranae* hijacks the pollinator's iron, diverting it to the parasite's own needs.*

Parasite Hijacks Iron in Honey Bees

BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND, February 18, 2021—An Agricultural Research Service entomologist has discovered the *Nosema ceranae* parasite that causes major problems and death in honey bees works by hijacking its host's iron for itself.

Iron is as essential a micronutrient for honey bees as it is for people. Honey bees usually get enough to meet their needs from their flower pollen diet. They use iron in their immune system and for reproduction and development. As does *Nosema ceranae*.

“In a number of mammal species, there is an iron tug-of-war between host and pathogen that is part of the central battlefield that determines the outcome of an infection. But this has not been explored before in honey bees and not with *Nosema*,” explained entomologist Yan Ping “Judy” Chen. She is with the ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland.

When Chen tracked iron in *N. ceranae*-infected honey bees, she found iron is also a part of the honey bee's physiological struggle with the parasite, as it is in the mammalian system.

If honey bees lose the battle of infection with *N. ceranae*, the gut parasite begins to hijack the iron in the flower pollen that the honey bee has eaten before the bee can absorb it, diverting the iron into its own spore reproduction.

How the *N. ceranae* does that involves a protein called transferrin that, in honey bees, is responsible for binding and transporting iron from pollen out of the gut and throughout the bee. *N. ceranae* uses the honey bee's transferrin to divert the iron to its own use, causing the honey bee to produce more and more transferrin as the bee's system becomes more and more starved for iron.

“This only results in greater iron deficiency for the honey bee as the increasing transferrin level just gives the *N. ceranae* the opportunity to scavenge even more iron from the bee host for its own proliferation and survival,” Chen said.

She further found that reducing transferrin production was accompanied by reduced iron loss and improved immune function and improving survival of *N. ceranae*-infected bees.

Since there is no truly effective treatment for *N. ceranae*, this study suggests a welcome possibility for a new treatment that might be based on regulating iron or the synthesis of transferrin, Chen added. This will be of interest for beekeepers, researchers, and policymakers worldwide.

I. ceranae is one of the major parasite problems causing beekeepers' colony losses today. It is a microsporidia, a member of a group of single-celled parasites closely related to fungi. Originally, *N. ceranae* was a parasite only of Asian honey bees (*Apis cerana*). But in the late 1990s, it jumped species to the European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) that we have in this country.

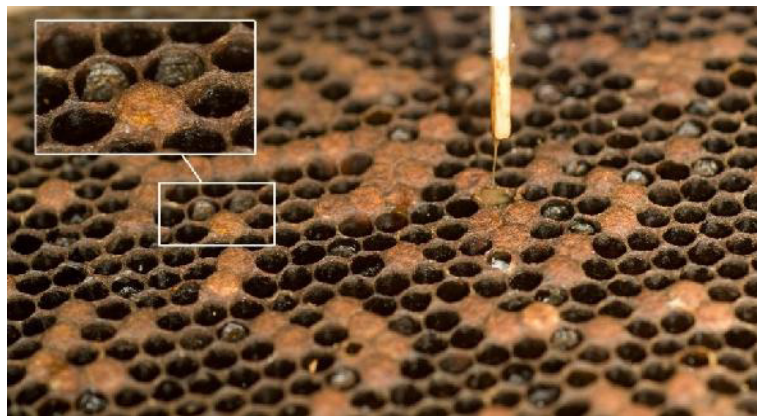
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